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SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

VOLUME I

Aurora Inn
Nome, Alaska
September 22, 2004
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Grace Cross, Chairman
- Peter Buck
- Thomas Gray
- Leonard Kobuk
- Jake Olanna
- Elmer Seetot, Jr.
- Myron Savetilik
- Regional Council Coordinator: Tim Jennings (Substitute for Barbara Armstrong)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 9/22/2004)

(On record)

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I will call the meeting of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order. Today is September 22nd. It is now 9:05 a.m. Roll call please.

MR. KOBUK: Grace Cross.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Jake Olanna, Sr.

MR. OLANNA: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, here. William Johnson, absent. Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Myron Savetilik.

MR. SAVETILIK: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MR. KOBUK: Charles Saccheus, Sr., absent. Thomas Gray.

MR. GRAY: Yep.

MR. KOBUK: Vance Grishkowski.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Excused.

MR. KOBUK: Okay.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, here we are again and I welcome everybody that came to our meeting. As usual let's do introductions, we'll start from Leonard.

MR. KOBUK: This summer's been pretty good except for our moose season started a little late

1 because of the smoke, you couldn't see. Hunters couldn't
2 go out for two weeks some days. And we had a lot of
3 salmonberries at home this year. I haven't seen so many
4 since I was a kid. Had blueberries, blackberries are
5 starting to come back but they're still gone in some
6 places. And I've been talking to the moose hunters and a
7 few of them expressed that they would like to have, since
8 they couldn't go out hunting when moose season opened for
9 over two weeks, that they would like to see if they can
10 be extended two weeks. Some have gotten their moose,
11 they said they're seeing a lot of female and yearlings.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard, can we just
14 introduce ourselves and then go to village reports after.
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. KOBUK: Okay, I'm sorry. My name is
18 Leonard Kobuk from St. Michael. I represent St. Michael
19 and Stebbins and this may be my last and final meeting
20 because of health problems.

21
22 MR. OLANNA: Jacob Olanna, Sr., Nome.

23
24 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck from White
25 Mountain.

26
27 MR. GRAY: Tom Gray from White Mountain.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Grace Cross, Nome.

30
31 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Brevig
32 Mission.

33
34 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik,
35 Shaktoolik.

36
37 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings, Office of
38 Subsistence Management, Fish and Wildlife Service in
39 Anchorage. I'll be helping out today as your stand-in
40 Council Coordinator. Your normal coordinator, Barbara
41 Armstrong, had a family medical emergency yesterday with
42 her mother and so we wish her and her mother well today,
43 but, Barb can't be with us today.

44
45 REPORTER: My name is Tina and I'm the
46 court reporter.

47
48 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch
49 with the National Park Service in Anchorage.

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
2 Park Service in Nome.
3
4 MS. PERSONS: Kate Persons, wildlife
5 biologist for Fish and Game, Nome.
6
7 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter,
8 resident of Nome.
9
10 MR. TOCKTOO: I'm Fred Tocktoo, National
11 Park Service, Nome, Subsistence.
12
13 MR. CHEN: Good morning, my name is Glenn
14 Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Staff
15 Committee member.
16
17 MR. DENTON: I'm Jeff Denton with Bureau
18 of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office.
19
20 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn. I'm a wildlife
21 biologist with Fish and Game in Nome.
22
23 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm Jim Magdanz with Fish
24 and Game, Subsistence out of Kotzebue.
25
26 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean with National
27 Park Service in Nome.
28
29 MR. KROEKER: Tim Kroeker here, I'm a
30 biologist at Kawerak.
31
32 MS. FOSDICK: Rose Fosdick, I work at
33 Kawerak, National Resources Division.
34
35 MR. FRIED: Steve Fried, fisheries
36 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management in
37 Anchorage.
38
39 MR. JOLY: Kyle Joly, Bureau of Land
40 Management, Northern Field Office.
41
42 MR. BRELSFORD: Good morning, I'm Taylor
43 Brelsford. I serve as the Staff Committee member for the
44 BLM.
45
46 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning, Chuck
47 Ardizzone, wildlife biologist with OSM.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. I welcome
50 all of you again. Review and adoption of agenda. I have

1 could provide a briefing on that.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. We'll take that
4 up too so we don't take subjects and come back to them
5 and we can deal with these issues that are similar and
6 then move on along to the next issue. Thank you.

7

8 Any other issues we need to discuss.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MR. GRAY: I move to adopt the agenda as
13 revised.

14

15 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that motion.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
18 the floor to adopt the agenda as amended, there's a
19 second. All those in favor signify by stating aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
24 same sign.

25

26 (No opposing votes)

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

29 Review and adoption of the minutes, Leonard.

30

31 MR. KOBUK: Okay. Our last meeting which
32 was held on February 19th, 2004, members present, Grace
33 Cross of Nome; Jake Olanna, Nome; myself Leonard Kobuk,
34 St. Michael; Vance Grishkowski, Unalakleet; Elmer Seetot,
35 Jr., Brevig Mission; Myron Savetilik, Shaktoolik; Peter
36 Buck, White Mountain; Tom Gray, White Mountain; Charles
37 Saccheus, Sr., Elim. And Federal agencies present were
38 Helen Armstrong, acting division chief; Barb Armstrong,
39 Regional coordinator; Steve Klein, chief FIS; Jerry Berg,
40 fisheries biologist; and excuse me if I pronounce names
41 wrong, Chuck and I don't know how to pronounce his last
42 name so I'm not going to bother to.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. KOBUK: Randy Brown from Fairbanks.
47 BLM was Jeanie Cole, wildlife biologist Fairbanks; Thomas
48 Sparks, Nome; Taylor Brelsford, Anchorage; BIA Warren
49 Eastland, Juneau. State ADF&G, Kate Persons, wildlife
50 biologist, Nome. Organizations, Sandra Tahbone, Kawerak;

1 Rose Fosdick, Kawerak; Tim -- sorry, I can't pronounce
2 his name, from Kawerak; Julia Dunlap, KNOM, Nome.
3 Public, Teller IRA, BIA teleconference. And court
4 reporter was Nathaniel Hile.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Can we go page by
7 page, please?

8
9 MR. KOBUK: Okay. Does anyone see any
10 correction on Page 1 that need to be corrected.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none I'll move to
15 Page 2.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 MR. KOBUK: Is there any corrections that
20 need to be made on Page 2?

21
22 (No comments)

23
24 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 3.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 4. Let me
29 know again if I'm going too fast please.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 5.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 6.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 7.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MR. KOBUK: Hearing none, Page 8.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MR. KOBUK: And I guess that's the last
50 page.

1 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I make a
2 motion we accept the minutes of the last meeting.

3
4 MR. SAVETILIK: I second that.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
7 the floor to adopt the minutes and it sounds like, as
8 written, all those in favor signify by stating aye.

9
10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
13 same sign.

14
15 (No opposing votes)

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Well,
18 we'll go to village concerns now, Leonard.

19
20 MR. KOBUK: Okay. As I said it's been a
21 good summer, everything came early, everything left
22 early, the snow geese, didn't get a chance to get what I
23 need but I at least got a few.

24
25 The moose population from hearing from
26 hunters, they're saying they're seeing a lot of females,
27 yearlings and bulls they're having a little hard time
28 trying to find, I guess the bulls know that it's open
29 season for them. But they've gotten -- a few hunters
30 have gotten what they've wanted but like I said because
31 of the bad smoke we had that lasted for over two weeks
32 some weren't able to go out until it cleared up.

33
34 And as I stated this will be my last
35 meeting because of health so I'm hoping that someone from
36 Stebbins will get a chance to be on this board. It's
37 been a pleasure, it's been an honor to meet every one of
38 you, especially those from the villages, so I wish
39 everyone the best.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

44
45 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, we've had a
46 good summer fish wise and everybody's real happy about
47 the humpy run we had, it was pretty decent this year. I
48 haven't talked to very many people in the Nome area so
49 I'll refer the questions to you, Grace.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Peter.

4

5 MR. BUCK: The humpy season was -- we had
6 quite a run of humpies at White Mountain. The most
7 humpies we've seen for a long, long time. But the
8 silvers weren't running very good. Moose hunting hasn't
9 been very good. The salmonberries, it was too hot for
10 the salmonberries, they all dried up before we even
11 picked them. But all in all it was a pretty good summer
12 with the fish coming in.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

17

18 MR. GRAY: I'm from White Mountain also
19 and I need to add to Pete's comments. The chum run was
20 terrible, very few chums came in. I'm a fishing guide
21 and I have people that come in just to fish chums, I bet
22 they didn't get 20 chums this season, terrible, terrible
23 chum run.

24

25 The silver run, you know, this is
26 supposed to be our four year high and according to Fish
27 and Game there was 1,200 silvers went by the fish
28 counting tower and out of the 1,200 they actually saw a
29 third of that so that run was terrible.

30

31 The moose population, you know, I told
32 Fish and Game close the moose season down, we need to get
33 these moose back. I'm out in the country more than a lot
34 of people in this region and there's hardly any moose
35 around. So, you know, hunting is getting tougher and
36 tougher with 4-wheelers and pushing and displacing
37 animals and so on and so forth.

38

39 People are shooting reindeer and calling
40 them caribou in our area, and this is an issue that we
41 need to deal with and Fish and Game is talking to us now
42 and, you know, you guys, the Federal people, also, I
43 think need to be incorporated into these talks. But we
44 can't have people shooting reindeer out there.

45

46 It's been a good season, a good year.
47 People, I think subsistence wise have had a good season.
48 I know seal hunting last spring was tough. And for the
49 last, how many years, weather has played a factor in our
50 lives and our lifestyles and sometimes it's had a

1 negative effect like seal hunting, but fish -- during the
2 fish time, thousands of fish dried perfect this year so
3 the people in our area got a really good fish crop.

4
5 I'm concerned about subsistence, I can
6 take a net and go seine all the fish I want and some of
7 these species there isn't enough for us to go seine, so
8 subsistence needs to be looked at again and critical
9 areas we need to set our foot down and say you can't take
10 fish out of this area and set some parameters. And I've
11 harp to Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
12 about no bait in our river, only take female silvers and
13 going to one fish, and I keep harping to deaf ears. And
14 it's our resource up here, if we don't manage it we're
15 not going to have it, and that's what's happening. We've
16 gone -- 12 or 14 years ago we had a chum run of 80,000
17 chums, this year we don't have a chum run.

18
19 I could keep going but I'm going to stop
20 here.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll do my report when
25 I do the Chair's report. Elmer.

26
27 MR. SEETOT: Our summer was pretty dry,
28 we had an abundance of fish. The only difference I
29 noticed is that chum run was either slow or down from
30 last year because the summer chum and the fall chum were
31 pretty abundant in our area. No harvest of muskox yet
32 and then no word of caribou.

33
34 Other than that, subsistence activities
35 went, I think, a little earlier than what they're used
36 to.

37
38 That's all I have, thanks.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.

41
42 MR. SAVETILIK: Just like everybody was
43 saying that our subsistence was a little early this year,
44 it seemed like you have to watch out for everything that
45 comes and goes, some of the years that we've been seeing
46 they come and go and you have to be ready for your --
47 what you have to get. And, you know, this year our
48 subsistence was, like everybody was saying, was quick.

49
50 The fish, there's a slight decline in

1 some of the fish species that we've been seeing but we
2 were able to get them. And we're still, you know,
3 continuing to do our subsistence and way of life. And
4 then like a speed to where you have to catch up to where
5 you're going but everything's just been going our way for
6 -- you know, the things that we need, and I think the
7 hierarch, he watches over us to do it.

8

9 That's all I have, thanks.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any
12 questions from anybody.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Hearing none, we'll
17 move on to the Chair's report. I attended the Federal
18 Subsistence Board meeting as usual. All our proposals
19 were on the consent agenda so there was very little work
20 to be done and we really didn't need to discuss them,
21 they were already passed. So all the proposals that came
22 from this Council and from the region, they just went.
23 And I attribute that to people working with each other
24 and I really appreciate that. And I appreciate the
25 Council members that have devoted time to these proposals
26 that are presented and have worked with their communities
27 or near their communities to make things very smoothly
28 and of course ADG&F [sic] working with the appropriate
29 Federal agencies really help. So it just makes the job
30 so much easier when you go the Federal Subsistence Board,
31 you basically listen and don't have to argue with
32 anybody.

33

34 So I thank everybody that helped with
35 that.

36

37 The .804 letter and the annual report
38 response are in your packets so I'm not going to go over
39 them. I'm sure you've read them. But I do need to go
40 over a few things from the last meeting that we had.

41

42 A letter was sent regarding our
43 composition that the Council wanted to have that done and
44 a letter was sent again expressing we want our
45 composition to be raised to 13 from 10. And it was
46 acknowledged and today's the date that we will look at
47 our charter and recommend changes.

48

49 The Chair of the Federal Subsistence
50 Board, Mr. Mitch Demientieff, visited Nome 22(C) this

1 summer along with Carl Jack, he's the Native liaison.
2 During the Federal Subsistence Board Area M meeting we
3 were kind of not included because we had very little
4 Federal lands and Mr. Demientieff's resolution or I'm not
5 sure, but he wanted to come visit the region. He did
6 that and I had very little participation with it, namely
7 because I had a family emergency, however, Kawerak, Nome
8 Eskimo, National Park Service contributed a bit of work,
9 I think, into his visit over there and it was, from my
10 understanding, very productive. And I would like to ask
11 the Council if we could write a letter thanking him and
12 Carl Jack for visiting our region. One of the arguments
13 that I keep hearing is we have very little Federal lands
14 so not much attention is given to us so it was very
15 enlightening to have him come here and take a look at
16 22(C). He was able to go visit the fish camps and talk
17 with people who fish from 22(C). He went up through the
18 Park Service lands and I'm not sure how far he went, but
19 he went up there and met with Nome Eskimo and Kawerak
20 took him around, drove him around so he could see
21 firsthand what was going on.

22
23 And this year being a good fishing year I
24 think he thoroughly understands that we had humpies
25 humping everywhere so I think, though, it was conveyed to
26 him that this was kind of an unusual year for us to have
27 fish hanging on our racks and I think most everybody
28 emphasized that to him. It was kind of he came when we
29 had fish hanging on our racks but everybody else talked
30 with him about the fisheries issues which was good and
31 I'm glad he came.

32
33 I so I would like to ask the Council if
34 we could write a letter from the Council thanking him for
35 his visit and I could have that drafted by Barb when she
36 returns and send it out to him and Carl Jack. I thought
37 it was a very good gesture on his part to come. Somebody
38 needed to come and see firsthand what was going on.

39
40 We have a lot of moose issues that came
41 up and I think we will be spending a bit of time on those
42 issues. We don't have any fisheries proposals so Kate
43 Persons, I moved her up so she'll be updating us on
44 what's been happening throughout the region. There's
45 been a number of special actions, emergency orders
46 regarding our moose situation. So I think it's very
47 important that we, as a RAC, listen very careful and
48 perhaps make recommendations or whatever we need to do to
49 have this, in some instances, a very dire issue at this
50 point.

1 MR. OLANNA: Do you want a motion on
2 that?
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: On the letter?
5
6 MR. OLANNA: (Nods affirmatively)
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.
9
10 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, I make a
11 motion that we draft that letter that you requested and I
12 would support that. I so move.
13
14 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that motion.
15
16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. This is
17 regarding the letter to Mitch?
18
19 MR. OLANNA: Yes.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
22 the floor to write a letter to Mitch and Jack, Carl Jack
23 thanking them for their visit to our region, all those in
24 favor signify by stating aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
29 same sign.
30
31 (No opposing votes)
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.
34 Basically in the Nome area, I think, we had a very good
35 year for fish and we've yet to see what happens with the
36 moose, but that's basically all I have unless somebody
37 has any questions.
38
39 MR. GRAY: Yeah.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, by the way Wales
42 had their celebration and I understand it was a great
43 success this year and we will hear from Park Service as
44 to their special moose and special muskoxen a little bit
45 later.
46
47 Okay, Tom.
48
49 MR. GRAY: Okay, Madame Chair, before we
50 get away from this fishing proposal I wanted to throw out

1 this issue of fish in our region and what is our
2 biologists doing to address this disaster we're having.
3 Not only are we having a disaster with chums, in my eyes
4 we're having a disaster with silvers in my river. You
5 know, I think every two years we have a disaster with
6 humpies in our river because we don't have a humpy run.

7
8 I was a little shocked when I read
9 through the proposal and we're studying whitefish. I
10 mean why are we studying whitefish when we have disaster.
11 My community seines sacks and sacks and sacks, thousands
12 of whitefish and so whitefish to this region really isn't
13 an issue. And I think more importantly what I'm after is
14 how do we get the subsistence -- the fish crises that we
15 have in issue an get funding to address some of these
16 areas and get projects going to address our needs here.
17 I mean when the community says we have a disaster, this
18 region says we have a disaster on salmon it seems to me
19 we should be focusing on that resource. And.....

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom, can -- Steve
22 Fried, you'll be addressing fisheries proposals, right?
23 Where is he?

24
25 MR. FRIED: Study proposals.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Study proposals. So
28 can we pick that up when -- would that be an appropriate
29 time to pick this up?

30
31 MR. FRIED: Sure.

32
33 MR. GRAY: Okay. That would be fine.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. And that will
36 be No. 10.

37
38 MR. GRAY: I think I've said what I
39 wanted to say now I'll wait for a response I guess, but
40 that's fine.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But we can bring it
43 back up again.....

44
45 MR. GRAY: That's fine.

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:because we'll be
48 talking.....

49
50 MR. GRAY: Yep, that's fine.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:about what you
2 were reading.
3
4 MR. GRAY: Yep. Yep.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And on the agenda it's
7 No. 10, but actually I think it's No. 11.
8
9 MR. GRAY: But -- okay, and that's fine.
10 But what I'm after more importantly is, you know, the
11 whitefish thing, that's fine study them. But let's focus
12 our attention on some disaster issues and address those
13 issues. So anyway, go ahead.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. We had a
16 change in the agenda, if there are still no fisheries
17 proposals Tim Kroeker a Kawerak biologist wants to give
18 us an update on Pikmiktalik River groups. He has a
19 meeting this afternoon so we'd like to hear from him now.
20
21 MR. KROEKER: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
22 just wanted to briefly update everyone on how the
23 Pikmiktalik River enumeration project's been going.
24
25 2004 was a great year on the Pikmiktalik
26 River. Everyone kept safe and I guess that's the most
27 important thing, but fish wise we had a good count of
28 fish, 8,000 chum, 50,000 pink and under 12,000 coho. The
29 first page in front of you shows just daily counts from
30 compared to last year and this year. And the second page
31 is a communal graft on total fish compared to last year
32 and this year. As you can see August 12th was the start
33 of a high water event, pretty much throughout Norton
34 Sound, just about every weir. And then the Norton Sound
35 was out for a week or two and some data was lost,
36 obviously we couldn't count at that time.
37
38 And I guess that brings me to the second
39 thing I wanted to talk to you about and that's basically
40 Kawerak is looking for support for an amendment to our
41 current proposal that we have with Fish and Wildlife
42 Service, and that is having to do with I guess a little
43 bit with the high water event. That whole event could
44 have been changed with a boat. The crew out there has no
45 boat, they basically are sitting there and they get
46 supplies in once a week. We are requesting funds for a
47 16 foot boat and a jet motor that would be used not only
48 for doing age, sex and length samples for fish but would
49 also be for cleaning off the weir. The weir basically
50 crashed because a beaver dam blew out and the guys were

1 unable to get to the weir and clean it off.

2

3 It's also a safety issue. It would be
4 nice to have a boat out there so that we could also
5 travel the river and determine locations for spawning
6 areas as well. We also currently are talking about
7 future projects on the Pikmiktalik looking at beavers and
8 their abundance and their effects on chum and coho salmon
9 on that river.

10

11 We're also looking for an amendment so
12 that we can pay for overtime hours and an extended season
13 for the Pikmiktalik. This year we counted until the end
14 of August and we could have probably counted for another
15 two weeks to record what is actually going up that river.
16 And also due to, as you know, especially in the
17 communities outside of Nome fuel prices are getting
18 ridiculous and the current proposal at Fish and Wildlife
19 doesn't have enough funds for the increase in gas and
20 heating oil and we're also looking to amend that.

21

22 So I guess we are asking for RAC support
23 for these amendments. Other than that, yeah, we had a
24 great year counting and had a lot of fish and we hope
25 that happens every year and we'd like to continue to
26 record that.

27

28 That's all I got to say, thank you.

29

30 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, I have a
31 question for him.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

34

35 MR. KOBUK: Like we've been stating
36 earlier that everything came early and everything left
37 early, I was kind of wondering is there any studies going
38 to be done on the kinds? I know you guys were too late
39 for it because everything was early, the ice left early,
40 everything got rotten early. What I was hearing from
41 down Yukon, they were saying that some of the kings were
42 going up river under the ice and they were catching some
43 up river. I don't know if that's true or not.

44

45 I've always been wondering if kings do go
46 up. I know they do go up the Pikmiktalik River. And as
47 you stated for the fuel prices, gas now at St. Michael's
48 is now \$3.50-some a gallon. It's gone up in Stebbins
49 also from what I know. And I see that probably will most
50 likely be going up again. Gas and oil seem to affect

1 everything in the villages with prices, not only for
2 subsistence hunting but also what we buy in the stores.

3
4 So for his proposal and requesting for
5 more money, how would -- being from St. Michael and
6 representing Stebbins and what they're doing has really
7 gave us a lot of knowledge of how much fish go up the
8 Pikmiktalik River. I know Pikmiktalik's not the only
9 one, but Nunotkok and Guoyuk is what I'm hearing, they do
10 -- there's a guy there that has a camp right there at the
11 end of the big lake and where the river begins, he says a
12 lot of fish wait for the tide to come way up and then
13 they go up and he said one time that as he was going up,
14 as you go up, fish would just start moving aside. So
15 there are a lot of things that we, as Natives, see in our
16 region and know about. But I was kind of curious because
17 I was told that it was going to start early but to me it
18 seemed like it was -- because everything came and went
19 early, and left early, it would sure be nice to see how
20 much kings go up the Pikmiktalik also.

21
22 MR. KROEKER: Currently at Kawerak we
23 haven't talked about doing any king projects but that
24 doesn't mean that we won't, especially if the community
25 need and want is there. That's something we can always
26 look into. The fish did arrive early on the Pikmiktalik
27 early this year and I was also told that, you know, there
28 was kings there before we got there this year.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

31
32 MR. GRAY: What is your -- how much are
33 you asking for in an increase? And is this a combined
34 deal between Kawerak and whoever you're asking funding
35 from or who's paying for what you got right now?

36
37 MR. KROEKER: Well, currently this is a
38 project with Stebbins and St. Michael's IRA with Kawerak
39 and we receive funding from the Fish and Wildlife Service
40 to do this project. Currently we ask for 142,490 for the
41 2005 season and we're requesting, I believe, here an
42 increase -- actually that's the total after an increase
43 of \$29,867 up from just over 112,000.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further questions.

46
47 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

50

1 MR. SEETOT: You mentioned that during
2 the high water the count of the fish passing through the
3 weir was uncertain. Biologists, regulators, you know,
4 they have everything set in stone, you know, on
5 regulations, we know when to set and then pull out our
6 net, but do you have an estimate when the water is not
7 clear and then when the water is high how many fish pass
8 through. When we go seining in the Agiapuk River we do
9 not seine too much, you know, when the water is high
10 because the fish make a dash to their spawning grounds
11 and then they're pretty hard to spot. When the water
12 surges -- or when the tide goes in I know from the
13 Agiapuk River that, you know, pretty much the fish are
14 traveling but either the average number or maybe a little
15 bit higher number than low water, do you have an estimate
16 of, you know, on a daily count? Do you use a formula
17 that you use, you know, for counting fish during high
18 waters or waters that are just not clear?

19
20 MR. KROEKER: Absolutely there are some
21 formulas used looking at the run before and after the
22 high water event to make our best guess/estimate of what
23 has gone through. I'm not the fisheries biologist at
24 Kawerak and that would be a good question for her as
25 well, but, yes, there are ways of trying to figure out
26 what that is and I don't know off hand what we did during
27 that time, but we did miss a few fish moving through
28 there, quite a few actually.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The request that you
31 made is recent, right, from the increase?

32
33 MR. KROEKER: Yes.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was trying to find
36 the original proposal in the Fisheries Resource Managing
37 Plan, Steve, is it in here or am I just missing it?

38
39 MR. FRIED: It's an ongoing project.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

42
43 MR. FRIED: We will consider that request
44 when it comes in.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

47
48 MR. FRIED: It wouldn't be treated like a
49 new project.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I know we addressed it
2 but I thought maybe it would appear here but it's so
3 recent it's not in there.
4
5 MR. FRIED: (Shakes head negatively)
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.
8
9 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.
12
13 MR. GRAY: I move that we support this
14 proposal.
15
16 MR. KOBUK: And I'll second it.
17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
19 the floor to support the proposal and seconded. All
20 those in favor signify by stating aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
25 same sign.
26
27 (No opposing votes)
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.
30
31 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, I'd like to say
32 one more thing though. This is more for you than
33 anybody, the bureaucracy likes to study, study and in
34 some cases nothing comes of it and I would push these
35 agencies to make sure you have an end project you're
36 shooting for, if it's enhancing the fishery or whatever,
37 and make sure that they follow up, you know, a study on
38 this river is great but where are we going with it. And
39 I've seen, for example, on my river, study, study and
40 that's all they're doing is studying and there's no end
41 result, so push for an end result.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.
44
45 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, the only reason
46 we requested this study be done in Pikmiktalik River was
47 because we were concerned about having other residents,
48 other than St. Michael and Stebbins fishing in that area
49 but since Kotlik admitted to it that was one of the
50 reasons why we pushed for this study and I've been

1 hearing nothing but good reports from the villages of
2 both saying that they're very happy that this study is
3 being done. Because that was our main concern at the
4 beginning, was overharvest of our fish resources because
5 we're the only two villages along the Bering Sea that
6 don't do any commercial fishing. We tried at one point
7 in time to open up a commercial just for pinks but we
8 were turned down by Yukon and Kuskokwim because they say
9 that we would intercept their fish. And a lot of us in
10 both villages know, even Kotlik knew that we have our own
11 fish stocks that go up our rivers and creeks, whatever
12 you want to call them, so I'm very glad.

13

14 My other question was it says counting
15 tower inoperable so I was kind of wondering what kind of
16 study was being done when this counting tower was
17 inoperable?

18

19 MR. KROEKER: During that high water
20 event when the counting tower was inoperable it's
21 virtually impossible to see anything passing by.
22 Basically the guys were there making sure of very little
23 actually, they were waiting for the water to go down and,
24 yeah, a beaver dam broke and the weir went out and that
25 caused more problems later on. But that high water event
26 is -- yeah, on a counting tower you can't see a lot,
27 there's a lot of stuff in the water, silt and stuff.

28

29 MR. KOBUK: So that is now in place and
30 have you guys found a way to keep this from happening so
31 you always have the right amount, what's going up the
32 Pikmik?

33

34 MR. KROEKER: It's very, very difficult
35 to count during high water events. It's just one of
36 those things, it happens. It happened to Fish and Game
37 in the Norton Sound this year and even with a full weir
38 where we catch every fish, these high water events are
39 devastating, they'll wash out weirs and what not
40 especially if a beaver dam breaks and plugs up your weir.
41 It's an ongoing battle to keep a weir going.

42

43 MR. KOBUK: Well, for myself I'm glad the
44 beaver dam broke because that's one of the things that we
45 were mainly concerned in both villages, are beaver dams
46 are causing problems for a lot of the fish, especially
47 when the water is low when we don't have hardly any rain.
48 Because I know when it rains a lot, I know that river is
49 going to be hard to see the fish in because it gets dirty
50 and a lot of stuff coming down that river.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. SAVETILIK: I got one question for
4 you. You said you were inoperable for almost two weeks,
5 was there an aerial survey done before the high water
6 came and after?

7

8 MR. KROEKER: I don't believe there was
9 any aerial surveys done. I might be wrong, if somebody
10 in the room knows, but I believe there was no aerial
11 surveys taken before or after.

12

13 MR. SAVETILIK: It seems like it would be
14 a good idea to like get your numbers when you're
15 counting, like even before high water you know the number
16 that have already passed through a counting tower and
17 then after like for a period of time to where you're
18 looking at the fish and you definitely know how many fish
19 that's been going up after a certain event that happens
20 like the water's too dirty or you get your high water to
21 where you can count. I think that would be logical for
22 something like that, you know.

23

24 MR. KROEKER: (Nods affirmatively)

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: For quick information
27 for Tom, the Pikmiktalik River groups, the counting
28 started some years ago. When certain rivers start
29 crashing the number increased, the closer villages to
30 Yukon started fishing those so there was a proposal that
31 was submitted to restrict those river groups to actually
32 two villages. It took about three tries to get that
33 proposal through the Federal Subsistence Board to
34 restrict the user amounts and one of the problems we had
35 is we had no numbers to present so the counting towers
36 were funded and they're still ongoing which is very good.
37 They're one of the healthier rivers we have in the region
38 and we didn't want anything else to happen so the
39 counting is continuing.

40

41 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, in this process
42 did the river get restricted to the users of those two
43 villages only or is that still ongoing?

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Three. It's three
46 user groups.

47

48 MR. GRAY: Three user groups.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, all within a 50

1 mile limit, that's Kotlik, St. Michael, Stebbins.
2
3 MR. GRAY: How do I get this for my
4 river?
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess we're going to
9 have to talk about that eventually, uh? Any more
10 questions for Mr. Kroger, Kruger, we'll pronounce your
11 name eventually right okay.
12
13 MR. KROEKER: Kroeker.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Kroeker, okay.
16 Questions or comments, any more for him.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything to add from
21 the State or from the Feds.
22
23 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, are you a
24 biologist or are you just a flunkey or what are you?
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. KROEKER: A bit of both, actually.
29 I'm a fish and wildlife biologist there at Kawerak.
30
31 MR. GRAY: Okay.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It seems like we're
34 kind of losing our audience, why don't we take a very
35 short break, maybe 10 minutes and continue because people
36 are moving around and getting their coffee and RAC
37 members are moving around, get a little bathroom break or
38 something, so a 10 minute break.
39
40 (Off record)
41
42 (On record)
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, well, let's get
45 ready to start the meeting again.
46
47 (Pause)
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Where did Tom Kroeker
50 go, oh, there he is, Tom do you want to get back in your

1 not so hot seat, there may be some more questions or
2 comments. I'll call the meeting back to order, it's now
3 10:20 and we'll continue with Tim -- sorry, I either
4 mispronounce your last name or call you by the wrong
5 name.

6

7 MR. KROEKER: You can call me Kroeker.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Kroeker, okay. I'll
10 remember that, okay. Is there any more comments or
11 questions for Mr. Kroeker.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I don't see anybody
16 waving their arms up and down, but thank you so much for
17 your report.

18

19 MR. Kroeker: You're welcome.

20

21 MR. GRAY: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: BLM, I believe it's
24 either Taylor or Kyle or both on the Unalakleet meeting
25 last summer, or recently, about two weeks ago I think it
26 was. I ran into the group that was holding a meeting
27 when I was in Unalakleet or on the way back at the
28 airport so it was kind of an enlightening conversation at
29 the airport but we'll have Taylor or somebody update us
30 on that.

31

32 And I'd also like to call Charlie Lean to
33 the table also, you have some knowledge about this.

34

35 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, very much,
36 Madame Chair. I'm Taylor Brelsford and I'm happy to
37 bring you a little bit of an update on some conversations
38 by Henri Bisson, the BLM State Director and June Bailey
39 the field office manager for the Anchorage Field Office
40 resulting from a meeting in Unalakleet about two weeks
41 ago.

42

43 And at this stage it's very simple, as
44 you all know the community has a lot of concerns about
45 the status of some of the fish populations in the
46 Unalakleet River, focused pretty intensely on king salmon
47 at this stage but there have been other species people
48 have been worried about, including cohos over the last
49 several years, and there are very strong concerns in the
50 community of Unalakleet about a lot of non-subsistence

1 fishing in the lower portion of the river. That lower
2 portion of the river near the village is not under
3 Federal jurisdiction, Federal jurisdiction is limited to
4 the wild and scenic river that begins about 20 river
5 miles up stream. So very strong community concerns in an
6 area where the Federal government, where the Federal
7 agencies don't exercise direct jurisdiction.

8

9 When Henri Bisson got back from
10 Unalakleet he said I promise that we will pay some
11 attention and look for some way to resolve these issues
12 in Unalakleet. I got a phone call two days later from
13 Art Ivanof from Unalakleet and he asked for the proposal
14 form to submit a fishing -- a subsistence fish regulation
15 proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board. This is not
16 the right time of year, we're not taking new proposals on
17 fish regs, that comes up later, but so far that's the
18 only action that Art and some people in the village are
19 drafting, are thinking about a regulator proposal to put
20 before the Federal Subsistence Board.

21

22 Now, I wanted to -- when I sent Art the
23 form, he asked for the form, of course, we sent him the
24 form and we, you know, encourage the community to submit
25 proposals to try and address real issues. I did suggest
26 a little bit of caution and a little bit of history on
27 this. You all probably recall that a year ago in the
28 fish regulation cycle, Weaver Ivanof, from village of
29 Unalakleet submitted a proposal to close the wild and
30 scenic river, this up stream portion in order to
31 strengthen the priority for the subsistence fishers down
32 stream and there was a lot of discussion before the Board
33 meeting, before things moved very far and it became
34 pretty clear that closing the up stream waters after all
35 of the fishing has occurred down stream is not going to
36 have an effect on those down stream waters or those early
37 fisheries so the proposal wasn't going to achieve the
38 goal that Weaver was reaching for and Weaver withdrew
39 that proposal. So my comment to Art was basically let's
40 take into consideration what we tried last year and
41 basically the idea is not do the same thing again, let's
42 think about new and effective solutions, let's just not
43 go through the motions of a closure action that doesn't
44 hold up when you look at it.

45

46 So I also suggested that we wanted to
47 work cooperatively with ADF&G, the primary manager in the
48 waters where the dispute really does arise. But we
49 needed to bring all the players together to look
50 comprehensively at some solutions.

1 So that's really the status. My boss
2 tells me we're going to work pretty hard at this. I
3 think we want to do smart things, I think we have to
4 coordinate among the neighboring land managers and not go
5 through the motions of something that didn't work a year
6 ago.

7
8 I have kept Charlie current on this and
9 encouraged Charlie to be a part of this kind of
10 coordination, planning exercise thinking together in the
11 Unalakleet River and he, of course, has a lot more
12 history on the management, all the things we've been
13 trying to do for conservation and to protect the
14 subsistence opportunity on the Unalakleet. So I think if
15 there's any questions about what have we tried before,
16 where are we in terms of the status of the fish runs,
17 Charlie is far better versed on that than me so questions
18 of that sort I would encourage us to direct those to
19 Charlie.

20
21 So that's my report, Madame Chair.
22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: For the RACs
24 information this issue with Unalakleet wild and scenic
25 river has been ongoing for a number of years. For those
26 of you that are new, BLM has been conducting a series of
27 meetings with Unalakleet people and they're still
28 ongoing. Like I said I accidentally ran into them about
29 two weeks ago and I'm not sure how much -- I think
30 originally Kawerak was involved with it, I'm not sure if
31 they are now, there must be some correspondence, but
32 there are a number of key players that have been involved
33 in this and those mainly are the land owners, and it's an
34 ongoing situation, ongoing conflicts that BLM is working
35 hard to resolve at this point.

36
37 And they are working with people who have
38 been submitting proposals. We've been running into some
39 problems with that, mainly because like he said the
40 portion of the land that the Federal government has
41 jurisdiction is very small. But I think at some point in
42 time -- the issue is not going away, all the parties are
43 working on it, hopefully in the near future there will be
44 some resolution that will be workable for everybody. At
45 this point we've been keeping track of it very closely.

46
47 Can we hear from Charlie and ask
48 questions later.

49
50 MR. GRAY: (Nods affirmatively)

1 Charlie.

2

3 MR. LEAN: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'm
4 Charlie Lean and I'm the Federal subsistence analyst
5 that's responsible for management of fish in Northwest
6 Alaska, west of the pipeline, north of the Yukon. The
7 wild and scenic river corridor in Unalakleet is something
8 that I pay attention to as I do Pikmiktalik and places
9 further north.

10

11 This year the Unalakleet River king run
12 started out early, it looked really strong at first and
13 then gradually dribbled away. The Fish and Game guys and
14 I were talking a couple times a week on this subject.
15 This is a situation parallel the Fish River where some
16 stocks are doing poorly. Kings in the last five or six
17 years in Unalakleet have not done as well as average or
18 as we had hoped. Kings on the Yukon have gradually come
19 back from a low point. So we are watching.

20

21 On July 9th we closed the Unalakleet
22 system to king salmon fishing, subsistence, sport,
23 commercial never opened, we had red flags up two weeks
24 before that in our minds. By July 9th the subsistence
25 nets in the Unalakleet River were pretty much out. I
26 think there were three nets left in the river when we
27 shut it down. And to me that means that people either
28 believed that the fish had already passed or they met
29 their need.

30

31 It was apparent that we weren't going to
32 make the goal by that point. We came in at about 80
33 percent of the escapement goals. So we were
34 significantly short of our escapement goal. And on a
35 normal year kings would have continued to trickle in for
36 another week but this, as we all heard, was an early
37 year, I think everybody agrees with that, so we closed
38 it. We left subsistence beach seining opening, we left
39 hook and line for other species open. Hook and line is a
40 legal subsistence gear in the Federal waters but not in
41 the State waters in Unalakleet. That's not true here on
42 the Seward Peninsula. So that's one possibility they
43 might consider there at Unalakleet, is trying to change
44 the State regs to allow hook and line fishing as a
45 subsistence gear, that would allow for a sport closure
46 with subsistence still open for kids or for elders that
47 can't run big nets.

48

49 But I think in truth we gave a pretty
50 fair opportunity for subsistence, pushed it a little bit

1 further than we should have, didn't quite make our
2 escapement goals. But, you know, given the huge pink
3 salmon run and barely adequate chum run I think we
4 behaved in a pretty good manner. That's my
5 interpretation of what went on. I was the Federal rep
6 that endorsed this course of action. I helped talk to
7 the State and I was in full agreement with their actions.
8 So I went to the BLM, asked them to go along with it,
9 it's their land, the wild and scenic corridor and
10 although my boss is the one that signs the special action
11 or the emergency order for the Federal government they
12 agreed with me. So I'm probably the person that people
13 have heartburn with and I'd be glad to answer questions
14 at this point.

15

16 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

19

20 MR. GRAY: I represent the guides and
21 stuff on this board and so I've got to ask the question,
22 are you guys working with fishing guides and those folks
23 also in developing, if you're going to change the
24 regulations or whatever, it's very important that you
25 incorporate their concerns. A good example would be,
26 we're going to shut down subsistence fishing in the Fish
27 River but we're going to leave it open to catch and
28 release and the sports guides, I mean we would just --
29 we'd love that, that's fine. You can't catch fish within
30 10 miles of the ocean, we don't have a problem with that.
31 But we need to be able to at least have our say,
32 especially if it's going to address, you know, if my
33 community lost the fishing in my area that's quite a bit
34 of money going out of that local region. It's just like
35 guiding, I mean that's thousands and thousands of dollars
36 that's going out of that region that catching and
37 releasing salmon isn't, to the salmon, a big deal, but if
38 I can't take people out and catch them and say, hey, at
39 least you can catch and release them, I won't have people
40 coming.

41

42 So there's that issue.

43

44 And you know, a biologist once told me,
45 hey, we close silver salmon fishing, go trout fishing, if
46 you catch a silver turn it loose. Well, you know, that's
47 fine and it works but, you know, we need to address the
48 real issue and work and make sure the regulations fit
49 everybody's needs and not just the sportfishing, the
50 guiding side of it and not the subsistence side of it.

1 Now, I'm going to get everybody mad at me
2 here at the table because I think that subsistence needs
3 to be reevaluated. A good example is I can go down and
4 seine every silver in the Fish River and because of
5 subsistence I can do it. Well, is that really fair? You
6 know, that's not fair. So I think subsistence needs some
7 guidelines also. And if we're going to manage something,
8 if we're going to manage a resource, the guidelines have
9 to -- everybody has to be incorporated in that management
10 plan, my seining whatever.

11
12 So anyway, with that said I'll be quiet.

13
14 MR. LEAN: I hear what you're saying. And
15 in many ways the catch and release option was still open
16 at Unalakleet. That's because hook and line fishing was
17 legal for pink salmon and for chum salmon and later coho
18 salmon. But the fact was that if you did hook a king you
19 had to release it. We were not encouraging people to
20 catch kings. There is a little bit of mortality
21 associated with catch and release, it's a small number,
22 you know, like five percent die because they got handled.
23 It depends a lot on the person that's handling the fish.

24
25 Your suggestion to set reasonable limits
26 on subsistence is something that's done through Tier I,
27 Tier II fishing permits. In the Nome subdistrict there
28 are exactly those kinds of limits that you're suggesting,
29 20 coho in this stream, 40 chum in that stream. And that
30 can be done but that has to be done with advisory
31 councils or advisory committee approval and suggestion
32 the Subsistence Board or the Board of Fish. Those are
33 recipes for management that must be endorsed by the
34 regulatory bodies. If you believe that those are things
35 that are needed, that would be a proposal that you might
36 put forward. And certainly, I think, there's places
37 where that's appropriate.

38
39 But both governments recognize
40 subsistence as the primary -- the priority fishery, the
41 priority consumptive use, so it's law that subsistence
42 gets the fish beyond sport, that's the rule of the land.

43
44 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

47
48 MR. GRAY: And I agree subsistence should
49 get priority to the sportfishing, I don't have a problem
50 with that. But it never fails every time I talk to a

1 biologist, whether it's hunting or fishing or whatever,
2 your idea is fine but go submit a proposal. Biologists
3 should take that step or take that for food for thought
4 and you guys submit proposals. Kate has authority to
5 set, as a manager, a wildlife manager or a fish manager,
6 you guys should be submitting stuff to manage that
7 resource and don't leave it up to the common Joe Blow,
8 Tom Gray or whoever to -- because what happens, I feel
9 what happens is then we wind up in this Tier II
10 situation. This management should be long before we get
11 to the Tier II.

12

13 I don't want to get in a heated debate
14 here but anyway I won't talk anymore on this.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead, Charlie.

17

18 MR. LEAN: You know, I have been a fish
19 manager in Norton Sound since 1981. I don't know how
20 many Board of Fish meetings I've been to and several
21 Federal Subsistence Board meetings, and when I went to
22 the Board with suggestions like setting allocative limits
23 between subsistence and sport or subsistence and
24 commercial I have been, you know, thrown out of a meeting
25 with a footprint on my pants.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. LEAN: I'm sorry I disagree with you.
30 As a biologist, I think Kate will say the same thing as a
31 wildlife biologist, that allocative decisions have got to
32 go through the advisory councils and I think that's
33 appropriate. I'd be glad to talk to you about the number
34 of fish I think that could be harvested in a given place
35 on a biological level but who gets them, that's a
36 decision for local people to make.

37

38 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

41

42 MR. GRAY: I was not going to talk but
43 you guys, Kate, all you biologists are out there, you
44 have jobs to manage the resource and I'm going to rape
45 that resource if I can rape it, that's human nature. So,
46 you know, like I say, I feel you guys are charged with a
47 little bit more as far as managing something than the
48 common Joe Blows. And, you know, I agree we all should
49 have a shake in this, but you more so, you're the
50 biologist. You guys are paid to manage this resource.

1 And in some cases it's not happening.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have two questions.
4 One for Taylor, you said new and effective solution when
5 you were referring to Unalakleet wild and scenic portion
6 of the river, I imagine, so what are we talking about
7 when you say new and effective solution?

8

9 MR. BRELSFORD: Grace, what I mean in the
10 first instance is we're not going to retreat a proposal
11 that went nowhere, we're going to look for something that
12 answers the question in a more focused and direct way.
13 And I think that has to be done in coordination with
14 ADF&G. I don't have a recipe, a sort of secret plan to
15 solve the Unalakleet River, I think some very smart
16 people have been working on this for several years. I
17 did consult with Charlie, his best picture of this is
18 there's an adjustment that's doable in the near term,
19 it's what he just referred to here that hook and line
20 gear could be recognized as a subsistence use under the
21 State system, that is done in some other parts of the
22 state, it's not done in this part of Norton Sound. That
23 might be a small change that would help. So far that's
24 the only specific that I'm aware of among people who
25 really know this system pretty well. That's the one
26 concrete change that I've heard and made notes about.

27

28 I know we're not going to close the wild
29 and scenic river up stream. We went through that. And
30 I'm urging Art and others to sort of take that into
31 consideration and to keep thinking for better approaches
32 to it. But I don't have a sort of full scale secret idea
33 in the back of my mind. I think what's critical here is
34 that the key players, the community, the State and the
35 Federal managers really work on it in the same way that
36 we work on cooperative moose management or a lot of these
37 other cooperative management schemes. Sometimes it takes
38 meetings over the course of a year to come up with the
39 conservation goals and the allocation goals and then the
40 regulatory steps. That's kind of my picture here that we
41 haven't really convened the players and set about a
42 systematic consultation and management planning exercise.

43

44 So when I said new and effective I was
45 really thinking about how we ought to go about it, that
46 it had to be done in this kind of focused coordinating
47 fashion and the only concrete measure that I've heard
48 about is this one over subsistence gear types including
49 hook and line.

50

1 Thanks.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Because it seems like
4 it's been -- Unalakleet wild and scenic -- well, the
5 Unalakleet River, period, the entire river throughout the
6 number of years were going through different species of
7 salmon and now we're up to king salmon, it's not getting
8 any prettier, I don't think, when we started with chum
9 and now we're -- the problem is expanding to other
10 species of fish. And I do realize that BLM and other
11 land managers are working on it, but this thing is not
12 going away and I would really encourage that we continue
13 to work on it. We need to come up with solutions that
14 will ease the concerns of the people, number 1; you need
15 to look at catch and release very seriously from both the
16 Federal and the State portion of it.

17

18 From the earlier meetings that we had in
19 Unalakleet wild and scenic river there was also concern
20 about transporters coming in and having an impact on the
21 river and people seeing dead fish coming down the river
22 and they were attributing that to catch and release, so
23 it seems to me the problem is not getting better, the
24 problem seems to be increasing because every time we come
25 to a meeting a new species has been effected, so
26 something really needs to be done and I'm glad BLM is
27 having meetings with it. I'm glad people in Unalakleet
28 are now expressing their concerns, they have an avenue to
29 do that, it was long coming and it was very enlightening
30 to see the BLM Staff over there and had come up with new
31 concerns and are addressing them right away. So work
32 hard with the State to come up with a solution because I
33 know this problem is not going to go away, we'll be
34 hearing it next year.

35

36 Any other comments or questions for
37 Charlie or Taylor.

38

39 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig. When
44 organization or individual submits proposals, do they
45 know that they have two different land managers, one
46 Federal, one State? Are they aware of, you know, people
47 making proposals -- they might be talking to the wrong
48 person, you know, like you were talking about Unalakleet,
49 the State regulates down stream and then wild and scenic
50 river is on the Federal side.

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Yes, that's a very real
2 question and that's the first clarification that any of
3 us would try and make. When somebody calls and says I
4 want to change the regulations we got to think about is
5 it Federal waters or State waters. So I actually was --
6 when Art was talking, I was thinking I got to dig around
7 to find a State proposal, I don't have one at my finger
8 -- a State proposal form. I said, Art, you're talking
9 about Alaska Board of Fish, right, down stream, that's
10 the management dilemma you want to address, no, no, no, I
11 want something up stream, I want it in the Federal
12 waters, I want the Federal Board. So we really did talk
13 specifically about which regulatory system he wanted to
14 go.

15
16 I think, you know, sometimes if you
17 haven't had a happy experience in one channel you try and
18 switch channels and maybe that's going to move somewhere
19 and maybe it's not. I'm saying none of us can solve this
20 problem in isolation, the Feds can't do it alone, we're
21 going to have to work together. And Art's hope is to go
22 to the Federal Board and get a sort of new sweeping
23 change. I'm trying to say I think we're all going to
24 have to sort this out together no matter what. So I did
25 try to be real specific about where he was going, what he
26 wanted to do and I sent him the forms that he asked for
27 but I think the real solution has to do with coordinating
28 some management adjustments by both State and Federal
29 managers.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

32
33 MR. SEETOT: Another comment was to Mr.
34 Lean. You mentioned about escapement goals for any
35 waters. Are these numbers constant or do you amend or
36 change the escapement goals? Because I think one year
37 might be good, other years might be bad. You look at
38 past weather conditions, commercial activities, human
39 intervention, you know, stuff like that, do you take that
40 into consideration when you're setting escapement goals
41 for future years?

42
43 Maybe like four years ago, maybe
44 pollution in the waters probably beaver blocking the dams
45 or making dams up stream, do you have a constant number
46 that you use, you know, either for the Federal or for the
47 State regulatory agencies?

48
49 MR. LEAN: Elmer, the question is -- I
50 guess the answer is they're reevaluated every year. In

1 fact I'm at this meeting instead of the escapement goal
2 meeting this year and it's going on right now in
3 Anchorage. Kawerak has a representative there, Fish and
4 Game's there. The goals generally are a range of numbers
5 that we'd like to see the escapement back at, the lower
6 number is the bottom line of how many fish we think are
7 needed to spawn. The upper number is a number above
8 which we think is just too many and there's no real
9 purpose to be served by putting that many fish in there.

10

11 We make concessions for things like pink
12 salmon that have this odd and even cycle, this really
13 strong and really weak cycle and even years when they're
14 really numerous we have a little bit higher number than
15 we have for the low years because we're used to it. But
16 for most other salmon species, the one number -- one
17 range fits all. In extreme cases like say the chum
18 salmon here where the chums have been, you know, at
19 statehood they were far more numerous than they are
20 today, the numbers have been adjusted down dramatically
21 from what they were even 10 years ago and escapement
22 goals are now based on a different formula than they were
23 then. And the thought is that the world's changed and
24 the mix of fish in the streams is different and we're
25 accepting a lower number than we used to.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: One thing that I'd
28 like to make a comment and that is like proposals that
29 come to this body that we review and make recommendations
30 to the Federal Subsistence Board comes in a yearly bases
31 whereas the State it takes longer. We all know that and
32 it's -- what, is it like three years?

33

34 MR. LEAN: (Nods affirmatively)

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Every three years
37 they're heard. So in the same river system or in the
38 same area, it doesn't make sense when their problem is
39 acute to wait three years to submit something when you
40 already have a system, and regardless of how small that
41 area may be, to submit a proposal and some entity that's
42 going to hear you first, present your arguments at that
43 entity and then move on through to another entity that
44 takes longer. I don't think it would hurt if there were
45 proposals that were heard by the Federal Subsistence
46 Board for 20 miles out of that river. It's very
47 difficult -- I have found throughout the years that it is
48 very hard for people to submit proposals. Proposals are
49 hard to devise, even when it came to -- like if there's
50 special actions that need to be done I look at, you know,

1 like even the proposal form in this one, I looked at it
2 and I said I'll call somebody and say, look, this is what
3 I'd like to see and somebody will devise that for me
4 making sure that all the components are met. A lot of
5 times I will see proposals rejected because not all the
6 components that are requested are made because people
7 don't know.

8
9 We're just not that familiar with it. I
10 think our fish and game problems, especially our game
11 problems are fairly new and it's going to be difficult
12 for people to get used to submitting proposals and
13 getting used to it. We're just not individuals that are
14 familiar with it. A lot of our problems are new. I
15 would not discourage anybody from any community
16 regardless of how much Federal land there is for them to
17 submit proposals to the Feds whether they have 20 miles
18 of the river system, I would not discourage them, I would
19 encourage them and say, look, you know, let them know
20 like you -- it's not going to resolve the problem because
21 a major portion of the river is not on Federal lands, it
22 is only going to affect -- but ask them to go ahead. I
23 think it's -- well, one it's a good exercise, you're
24 learning the system, you'll be learning a lot before you
25 submit it to the land owner that has more -- that could
26 have more effect, but you're learning something from it,
27 you can always bring it back up. But whether it's 20
28 miles or 200 miles, I think I would encourage people to
29 do that. If that portion of the battle is done then you
30 have more leeway with the other entity.

31
32 To me that's the way it would make sense
33 so make sure, like you've been doing, to make sure that
34 people thoroughly understand that it's only going to
35 affect 20 miles of your 200 mile river, but there's still
36 going to be a feeling that something has been
37 accomplished. People are going to learn from it and it's
38 going to be one portion of the battle that's done or
39 they'll learn enough of it from their experience to -- if
40 it's not given, they'll learn enough to go on with
41 further accomplishments.

42
43 But I think, you know, last year when we
44 had a proposal there were certain things that were wrong
45 with the proposal, if I understood it correctly, so he
46 withdrew it, there's going to be -- there were problems
47 with the proposal in the first place and it was only
48 going to affect 20 miles, but still 20 miles is 20 miles
49 to me.

50

1 But I would encourage, you know, not to
2 discourage people from submitting proposals regardless of
3 how little Federal land or water there may be. I think
4 it would be beneficial for them in the long run that
5 somebody's hearing about it and would be taking action on
6 it, it's a learning experience and people will have a
7 sense of accomplishment and will know how to do it better
8 the next time.

9
10 That's my comment.

11
12 MR. BRELSFORD: If I may, Madame Chair.
13 I want to agree wholeheartedly that our job in the
14 Federal agencies is not to give you a mailing address and
15 say now I'm done, we're here to work for solutions, we're
16 here to provide technical assistance to the general
17 public in developing proposals. This is a comment that
18 Tom made a minute ago and I think Charlie said he's
19 ready, willing and able to sit down and talk about what
20 the right allocation form -- what his thoughts are on
21 some of the allocation issues, so I want to really agree
22 with you that we're not doing our job if we're not
23 sitting down and helping as technical assistants to come
24 up with solutions.

25
26 And I could promise you my boss expects
27 an active role from the BLM Staff in trying to convene
28 people and keep working towards those solutions. If I
29 told him, yeah, I sent them the form and then I was done,
30 I can promise you that would not be considered, you know,
31 an adequate level of professional work on my part so
32 we're going to stay on it. We owe the public the benefit
33 of our expertise, our knowledge about how the system --
34 the rules and all of that function, that's our job and we
35 better do it well. So I think you make the right point
36 that we have to work with the public to help put together
37 proposals that are complete and can be successfully
38 considered on the merits.

39
40 Thanks.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm sure BLM is doing
43 that and I've seen the Federal Staff work very closely
44 with people who are submitting proposals and this Council
45 have asked individuals to go work with somebody just like
46 we did with the Wales group with the Park Service. And
47 BLM, I have seen them do it in the past.

48
49 But what I am trying to encourage is that
50 regardless of how very little land, the Federal lands

1 there may be, and how little impact it may have in the
2 community if a person was to submit a proposal, go ahead
3 and let that person or entity do it, it's going to be an
4 exercise, it's going to be a learning experience, and it
5 may come up with a positive outcome at their benefit and
6 they will see something working for them. And then they
7 can move on forward with maybe the larger problem. But it
8 will be a learning experience, people will have some
9 result whether it may have a major impact or a small
10 impact but in the long run they learn a lot from it and
11 continue to work for the bigger change in the picture.

12

13 I find working with the Federal
14 Subsistence Board much easier than the other entity and a
15 little more receptive in more than one way whether or not
16 the impact is large or not. That's all I wanted to point
17 out.

18

19 But I know BLM is working hard and BLM
20 has held a lot of meetings and I think a lot of people in
21 Unalakleet also appreciate that, is there's meetings, the
22 river system is getting attention, the BLM is the lead
23 entity to begin those meetings. So I'm very glad that's
24 happening, I'm sure they'll continue to work with people
25 that are concerned with that river.

26

27 Elmer.

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Elmer with Brevig Mission.
30 Just a comment, she was mentioning if you go to an agency
31 to submit proposals, I think also you have policies or
32 mission statements that maybe restrict what that person
33 or individual is asking for and then you say go to a
34 certain agency, that certain agency, you know, might be
35 less willing to work with you and then I think
36 coordination within the agencies of the Federal
37 government or the State government, you know, they should
38 be coordinated with all the parties involved so that the
39 proposal or action can be successful. And I think that's
40 where the main sticking point is sometimes, is when we
41 request something through this body it goes to an agency
42 that may be restricted -- that may restrict them through
43 their policies or regulations. We can do this but we
44 can't do that, we have to refer you to a certain agency
45 or a different agency, then they also have their own
46 policy or mission statements and they might not be as
47 diligent as, you know, what we're asking the primary
48 person behind the agency. So I think that's where some
49 of these issues they get kind of laid back or, you know,
50 they just kind of stall before they get picked up again.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions.
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Charlie.
6
7 MR. LEAN: Mr. Seetot, I agree with you
8 and that's the role I've tried to fill. Often times -- I
9 think we did fairly well with the Stebbins, St. Michael
10 Pikmiktalik fisheries issue. We went down and we helped
11 them right that proposal, we saw it through -- they
12 didn't get exactly what they wanted but they got some
13 satisfaction.
14
15 It gets more complicated with the less
16 Federal lands that are involved, the less leverage we
17 have as Federal reps to do things. And so I've seen my
18 role as one of trying to better state the local folks
19 concern to the State often times and I try to find a
20 common ground. And so sometimes it's very much like
21 being a politician and trying to get something going, and
22 that's less satisfactory and it's often very frustrating
23 for me and the people involved.
24
25 But I will try to write you a proposal,
26 be it a Federal or State, I'm fairly experienced at
27 either one. And if people do want some assistance in
28 that way I'd be glad to and if you -- in the case of
29 Unalakleet, I've been trying to suggest that we have a
30 meeting on king salmon management, the entire issue and I
31 think Shaktoolik might want to be involved in that.
32 Although we don't have Federal ground there or Federal
33 water, I think that the issue is the same. So I would --
34 like I say, I'll do my best.
35
36 Thanks.
37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any further comments
39 or questions.
40
41 (No comments)
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thanks you guys.
44
45 MR. GRAY: Thank you.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, now we're on No.
48 9, Chuck Ardizzone and a special wildlife action request
49 and then I think our work will begin after that.
50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning, Madame
2 Chair. Council members. My name is Chuck Ardizzone, I'm
3 a wildlife biologist with OSM. I'm going to present the
4 draft Staff analysis for Special Action WSA04-02.

5
6 Proposal WSA04-02 would reduce the total
7 harvest quota for moose on Federal public lands in 22(B)
8 west of the Darby Mountains from 48 down to 30. And I
9 forgot to say that this is on Page 16.

10
11 The effect of this action will only be on
12 the January hunt. This proposal is a companion proposal
13 to WSA04-01 which addressed the need to reduce the moose
14 harvest quota for the same hunt area during the August
15 10th through September 23rd hunt. The moose population
16 numbers are well below ADF&G management's objective based
17 on recent March 2004 census. This represents a
18 conservation concern therefore there's been a significant
19 resource abundance and there needs to be reduced harvest
20 to avoid additional adverse effects on the moose
21 population.

22
23 On the 25th of May 2004, the Norton Sound
24 Advisory Committee had a meeting to discuss the State's
25 most recent survey results and a proposed quota change.
26 The advisory committee members were quite supportive of
27 retaining a winter hunt. After discussion the committee
28 supported a 23 fall/seven winter split for the quota
29 which was actually an increase in the winter allocation
30 by one moose.

31
32 A moose census of 22(B) and 22(C) was
33 completed March 6th through the 17th, 2004. The Unit
34 22(B) census area encompassed approximately 2,400 square
35 miles a portion of Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains
36 which had been previously censused in 1987 and 1999.
37 Unit 22(B) yielded an estimate of 586 moose. It appears
38 that there has been a 64 percent decline in the
39 population size since the 1987 census and a 27 percent
40 decline since the 1999 census. The calf/adult ratio was
41 10 calves per 100 cows and the recruitment rate was
42 approximately nine percent. The lower number of calves
43 is consistent with fall composition and spring
44 recruitment surveys that have been conducted over the
45 last decade which have repeatedly found fewer than 10
46 percent calves. The continued decline in 22(B) is a
47 serious concerns and steps to further protect this
48 population need to be considered.

49
50 The effects of this proposal, the Unit

1 22(B) moose population of 586 is substantially depressed
2 and well below ADF&G's management objectives of 1,500 to
3 2,500 moose. And that definitely represents a
4 conservation concern. Limiting the number of moose that
5 may be harvested should aid in the recovery of the moose
6 population allowing the population to recovery more
7 quickly ultimately conserving the resource for future
8 potential harvest opportunities.

9
10 The proposal would also align State and
11 Federal regulations eliminating differing regulations
12 that could be problematic.

13
14 Are there any questions.

15
16 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: On the 1,500 to 2,500
21 management objective, is that numbers for subsistence?

22
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: I believe -- I'd ask
24 Kate, but I believe those are the numbers that the State
25 would like to see.

26
27 MS. PERSONS: Population.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: Or I mean the population,
30 but that would be kind of concurrent with numbers for
31 subsistence use?

32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think that's just.....

34
35 MR. SEETOT: You know, you're going to
36 get a certain amount of them for subsistence you have to
37 have a certain amount of animals?

38
39 MR. ARDIZZONE: You could say that. I
40 think in general that's the number the State would like
41 to see the numbers in there.

42
43 MR. SEETOT: Uh-huh. So the State is not
44 satisfied with just the population is?

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So Kate can you --
47 yeah.

48
49 MR. SEETOT: And then so you have a
50 management objective or number of population for that

1 certain area, you're not satisfied with the number of
2 animals, you know, or number of animals in that area but
3 you're looking at pretty much where the -- the subunit,
4 and then that's kind of what I was -- kind of puzzling.
5 I think that's where most of the biologists issues or
6 problems come, they have management numbers that they
7 want, the numbers don't come up, they restrict the number
8 of moose to be taken by residents and that's where that
9 clash is, pretty much unrealistic goal -- or number for
10 the game and for the fish and then some factors need to
11 be taken into consideration, why is numbers so low, why
12 do they not come back in line and I guess most of your
13 decisions are just based on the science of fish and game
14 and not, you know, not in other issues.

15

16 MS. PERSONS: Madame Chair. Elmer. This
17 is Kate Persons with Fish and Game. Our management goal
18 is based on the number of moose that we believe that the
19 habitat possibly could support. And there was a time
20 back in the mid-80s when that area had over 1,800 moose
21 and that was clearly more moose than that area could
22 reasonably support. There were hard winters that
23 resulted in massive starvation and it's unrealistic to
24 try and achieve 1,800 moose in that area again. It's
25 just there's not the habitat to support it.

26

27 Once moose declined by about 50 percent
28 over a two year period we believe and I mean this isn't
29 proven, but we believe since then bear predation on
30 calves has been able to suppress the moose population and
31 there just aren't enough calves in this area that are
32 surviving to reproduction age to replace those that are
33 dying in a year and so the population is declining, but
34 we believe that about 600 moose in that area -- the area
35 habitat could support more moose. And by state law we're
36 actually required to manage resources for maximum
37 sustained yield and when we have an area like that that
38 we believe and we actually did some habitat work over
39 there this summer for the first time, and have every
40 reason to believe that the area could support more we try
41 to do what we can to increase moose numbers.

42

43 MR. GRAY: I have a question here.

44

45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

46

47 MR. GRAY: I read the current regulations
48 that we have right now, can Tom Gray go to 22(B) and
49 shoot a moose and claim it as subsistence and be legal;
50 that's the first question?

1 You know, I understand that the State has
2 emergency regulations stating that we're only shooting 30
3 animals this year but we have a Federal subsistence
4 regulation that's in place that could shoot 42 animals,
5 for example, if I went out the door and went to Fish
6 River and shot a moose and said, hey, I'm shooting a
7 subsistence moose, it says right here in the regulation
8 that I can shoot 42 moose according to this regulation,
9 is it legal?

10

11 MR. ARDIZZONE: If you look on Page 95 of
12 the regulation it actually says 23, you need to read the
13 red print.

14

15 MR. GRAY: Okay. So it's taking into
16 account the State -- okay, now the other thing that I
17 want to throw out on the table is Kate came up and talked
18 to me a little while ago about proposing new regulations
19 for 22(B) and going September 1st to September 15th and
20 if we push and adopt what's proposed here we're already
21 outdated if hers goes through.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: This is a special
24 action.

25

26 MS. PERSONS: We're not proposing to
27 eliminate the winter hunt, that would stand as it is with
28 the quota of seven moose. What I'm wanting to talk about
29 in a little bit is a proposal to change the fall hunt and
30 maintain the quota -- the total quota of 30 moose for
31 Western 22(B) but it wouldn't affect the winter season
32 which is something that has been made very clear to us by
33 the people in Golovin and White Mountain that that winter
34 hunting opportunity is very important and we have a
35 commitment to maintain that opportunity.

36

37 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm just a little
38 unclear, the August 10th to September 23rd hunt was what
39 we originally had here and you're going to talk about
40 September 1st to whatever, this -- this special action
41 proposal you're talking about is adopting just the seven
42 winter moose or what is that?

43

44 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah, if you look on Page
45 96 of the regulations, I think you have them right there
46 that it would just be adopting basically like you said
47 the seven winter moose for Golovin and White Mountain.

48

49 MR. GRAY: And that's it?

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: And that's it. This is
2 just temporary, it's.....
3
4 MR. GRAY: So for the future, I guess, we
5 would be coming back to the table.....
6
7 REPORTER: Tom, your microphone.
8
9 MR. GRAY:if her proposal is
10 adopted.....
11
12 REPORTER: Tom, your microphone.
13
14 MR. GRAY: Let me turn this on. If her
15 proposal is adopted, we would be coming back to the table
16 and trying to push something to align with her system
17 here?
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Not.....
20
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Not necessarily.
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Not necessarily. I'll
24 give you a little bit of history. This special action
25 gave me a lot of heartache, it was on an emergency basis
26 and it gave me heartache. I had heartburn over this.
27
28 What I originally wanted was to have in
29 Unit 22(B), because this came up before August 10th to
30 September 23rd was closed and I wanted that Federal
31 public lands closed to taking of moose except the
32 residents of White Mountain and Golovin on the emergency
33 action as included as part of the action on the fall
34 season. Then we all decided -- we had a run around over
35 it for a little bit and then decided that it should come
36 to the Council in that cycle as a possible proposal from
37 this Council before these regulations are reestablished
38 again for the next hunt, August 10 to August 23rd hunt
39 next year, that regulatory changes, they can come in
40 before the Council and we can discuss it then and make
41 that change and then whatever changes we need to make
42 that may align with the State.
43
44 So this issue will come up again when
45 it's time for us to face wildlife issues again when they
46 come up at the next meeting and one of the things that I
47 will be discussing is restricting the August 10th to
48 August 23rd hunt to the residents of White Mountain and
49 Golovin only. We will discuss it then. But it may be
50 something you guys can think about.

1 But in the mean time the special action
2 affects only the winter because that other period is
3 gone. The numbers have decreased from 48 to 30 moose and
4 I don't know if Kate has enough numbers right now, that's
5 a combination of the State and Federal hunt or whether or
6 not there are numbers left over to even do a winter hunt
7 is what I'd like to know from Kate at this point. I
8 don't know if your numbers came in.

9
10 MS. PERSONS: We did exceed the quota by
11 at least four moose and it's possible that some others
12 may shake out of the wood work. However, we did make a
13 commitment that we would reserve seven moose for the
14 winter hunt. This question came up at the advisory
15 committee meeting and we did say that regardless of what
16 happened in the fall season we would have a seven moose
17 quota for the winter hunt and so we are going to stand by
18 that. But hopefully make some changes next year so that
19 we don't run into this situation again.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

22
23 MR. GRAY: Okay, my question, though, is
24 -- and Kate brings out a really good issue on this thing,
25 she's trying to align the open season that we have so
26 that we don't have people running from Pilgrim to Council
27 to outsiders coming up and hunting certain areas and one
28 area get overwhelmed with hunters and for example White
29 Mountain be open, our area be open and everything else
30 closed around us. I, personally, would rather see
31 everything closed together in this region so we don't
32 have people coming that have been pounding the Kuzitrin,
33 Kougarak area come racing down and hunt our area, so
34 we're all aligned the same. And the thing I'm a little
35 unclear of is how the process goes here so we make sure
36 that our guidelines, the subsistence guidelines mesh with
37 hers so that we're not stumbling over each other here.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I think all of
40 us need to understand in Unit 22(B) West of the Darby
41 Mountains, the first one, it says fall season is moot
42 because it's past September 23rd, it's a moot issue at
43 this point. It's already done and over with so the
44 question we have at this point is the winter hunt.....

45
46 MR. GRAY: Okay, why.....

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:that is
49 restricted to the residents of White Mountain and
50 Golovin.

1 MR. GRAY: Okay, Madame Chair.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.
4
5 MR. GRAY: When is this body here going
6 to meet again to evaluate the new game regulations?
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: When it comes up in
9 the next -- go ahead Jake.
10
11 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.
12 Tom, I've been listening to you since we've been here as
13 you know -- I don't know if you're familiar with Title
14 VIII of ANILCA which requires that subsistence harvest a
15 first priority before any other consumptive use. And the
16 way these proposals and what these people are talking
17 about is in the area in your village, per se, only the
18 residents of that community can hunt for subsistence, if
19 I'm right -- no, not in the Federal system, I mean unless
20 there's a regulation or a proposal. But there is, in the
21 regulation, that only the residents of this subunit or
22 unit will be allowed to subsistence harvest that
23 resource, and it's a Federal regulation and it's got CFR
24 regulations that you have to live by. These were
25 entitled by Title VIII of ANILCA. I don't know if you're
26 familiar with ANILCA but if you look at the regulations
27 it's in the front third or fourth page that describes and
28 tells you why we're here.
29
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.
33
34 MR. ARDIZZONE: I just wanted to point
35 out that this is the time that if we want to make
36 regulatory changes for next year, we need to discuss
37 those. If Kate has some changes the State's going to
38 make and we want to make parallel changes now is the time
39 because the wildlife cycle proposal, you know, ends
40 October 22nd. If we make a proposal now we do an
41 analysis and then at the next meeting it would be
42 discussed by the Council. But if we want to make any
43 changes it needs to be -- in permanent regulation, it
44 needs to be brought up today or by October 22nd.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, excuse me,
47 then.....
48
49 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:I misunderstood
2 something. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair. And this is
5 what I'm trying to bring out is next fall I hate to see
6 us scrambling trying to do emergency orders or whatever
7 trying to come in line. But the other thing that I'm not
8 real positive on this, I was talking to a guy this
9 morning and he said there was a couple of people here in
10 Nome, went out and got subsistence moose last winter and
11 maybe Kate can answer this, these seven moose that are
12 available, are those open to the public?

13
14 MS. PERSONS: Under State regulation,
15 they're available to any Alaska resident, yes, on State
16 lands.

17
18 MR. GRAY: So it just goes to show that
19 this winter hunt also has avenues for other people to get
20 their foot in the door.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But this is just with
23 respect to Federal lands.

24
25 MR. GRAY: Yeah. So anyway I'll quit
26 harping on it. I just was trying to figure out how we
27 were going to align ourself with the State if this new
28 proposal goes through, which I think it will. We need to
29 make sure we propose the same things. I mean the opening
30 and closing.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Personally I think I
33 would disagree on aligning and if we're going to be
34 submitting a proposal I will make a recommendation on
35 that when we're ready for that one -- when we're ready to
36 submit a proposal for the regulatory season next year.

37
38 My perception is probably going to be
39 different than yours but you live over there so your --
40 what you have to say will be very important because I had
41 a different perception on a proposed Federal regulation
42 that would be permanent.

43
44 MR. GRAY: Well, Madame Chair, the
45 concern that I have is I'm not so concerned about my
46 people hunting in the village, Golovin and White
47 Mountain. As far as I'm concerned if we only have 23
48 moose we can hunt year-round, I don't care. But the
49 concern I have is if the State is going to come in and
50 say -- we're going to have the season open certain times

1 of year and all of a sudden we have a big influx of
2 outside people, from Nome or wherever it may be, that
3 concerns me.

4
5 And this -- I'm sure it happened this
6 year. So anyway, I'll quit harping. And excuse my
7 ignorance because I just -- I don't understand this
8 system of what -- of what we're doing here and you're
9 going to have educate me a little bit.

10
11 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Chuck.

14
15 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think what we have, we
16 have two issues, we have this issue in front of us now
17 which is the January season we need to take care of and
18 then what I think Tom brought up is.....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Regulatory
21 proposal.....

22
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. Which will come a
24 little later.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, so let's finish
27 this one first and then you can -- and then we'll go to
28 the other issue that you're bringing up.....

29
30 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'll make a.....

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:on this special
33 action.

34
35 MR. GRAY: This is Tom Gray. I make a
36 motion that we adopt whatever we need to adopt here.

37
38 MR. JENNINGS: We need to finish the
39 process, Madame Chair, first.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, I think we do.
42 We're not ready for that.

43
44 MR. GRAY: Okay.

45
46 MR. BUCK: I'd like to ask a question.
47 You said you had a census taken in 1987 and 1999 and you
48 also had a census taken in March 2004, how extensive was
49 these census? I mean were they pretty accurate or did
50 you cover the whole area or did you cover -- I know you

1 covered 22(B), 22(C), but how extensive was that survey,
2 how were they censused?

3

4 MS. PERSONS: Okay. The area for -- that
5 was covered in 22(B) was all parts of 22(B) west of the
6 crest of the Darby Mountains and it's about a 2,400
7 square mile area. And then all of 22(C) was censused,
8 but that was a separate estimate which was determined for
9 22(C).

10

11 MR. BUCK: Okay. Okay.

12

13 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

16

17 MR. SEETOT: So the low numbers might be
18 attributed to predation by bears mostly on the young?

19

20 MS. PERSONS: We believe that bear
21 predation on calves is certainly a very large factor.
22 There may be other things involved. We've had an
23 increase in the number of wolves since caribou have
24 wintered on the peninsula, the number of wolves has
25 increased and that is probably also taking a toll.

26

27 We have a problem on the Seward Peninsula
28 with the moose have cracked teeth and nobody knows why
29 and it's not something that's found anywhere else in the
30 state. We're working now with researchers from the
31 University of Alaska trying to get to the bottom of that.
32 But it's possible that whatever is causing the teeth to
33 crack may somehow result in lower productivity for these
34 moose. I mean there are a lot of different factors that
35 could be involved but from a radio collar study that was
36 done in the early '90s -- or I'm sorry, the late '90s, we
37 do know that 75 percent of the calves that were born in
38 that area disappeared within the first month of birth and
39 it was believed to be primarily by bear predation.

40

41 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

44

45 MR. KOBUK: We talk about bears, wolves,
46 and I was kind of wondering how about don't wolverines
47 play a part in killing young moose? Because that's never
48 mentioned and I know they have to have some wolverine
49 around and they're pretty viscous animals.

50

1 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, in fact wolverine are
2 quite abundant right now. I'm not really, you know,
3 aware of observations of that. I am aware of
4 observations of wolverine taking caribou and caribou
5 calves but I've never really heard of it with moose, so I
6 don't know.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So with Kate being up
9 there does that constitute the number 2, Alaska
10 Department of Fish and Game comments, or do you have
11 anything further to say or do you have anything more to
12 say about this Chuck?

13
14 MR. ARDIZZONE: I have nothing more. I
15 think we need public comments.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No, I mean you, I'm
18 going to go down the list.

19
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Oh, okay.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Did you have any
23 comments, Kate, for ADG&F?

24
25 MS. PERSONS: Just that I would hope that
26 you would support this proposal.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Now, the seven moose
29 that you're talking about would be in both -- one would
30 be counted on either Federal or in State lands?

31
32 MS. PERSONS: (Nods affirmatively)

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Do we have any
35 other agency comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nobody's jumping up
40 and down. Inter-Agency Staff comments.

41
42 (No comments)

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fish and Game Advisory
45 Committee comments, other than us.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Are there written
50 public comments, Mr. Jennings?

1 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, no written
2 public comments on this special action request.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any public testimony.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. We're down to
9 number 8, Regional Council deliberation, recommendation
10 and justification and we're only dealing with the second
11 portion on Page 21, it says: Unit 22(B) West of the
12 Darby Mountains winter season, and that's the seven
13 moose, that area is closed to taking of moose except by
14 residents of White Mountain and Golovin and this is a
15 special action. The special action will go away on its
16 own, and then we -- after lunch, perhaps we can entertain
17 a more permanent regulation regarding this one. But in
18 the meantime any discussions from the Council.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any recommendations.
23
24 (No comments)
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Peter.
27
28 MR. BUCK: I wish to accept this
29 proposal.
30
31 MR. OLANNA: I second it.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
34 the floor to accept this special action request and been
35 seconded. All those in favor signify by stating aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
40 same sign.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And I
45 think we should go to lunch now and come back at 1:00
46 o'clock because the other portion we're going to be -- if
47 we get into it I don't think we're going to stop for
48 lunch for awhile. We got some pretty controversial
49 issues that are going to be coming up. One of these is
50 going to be looking to see if we can make permanent

1 regulations out of this. I'm sure Tom's going to have a
2 lot to say about it, I will and then we'll be going into
3 the East of the Darby's so more problems are going to
4 come, BLM will be in the hot seat. So let's take a break
5 for an hour and a half, be back at 1:00 and then we'll
6 continue with our moose problems.

7

8 See you promptly at 1:00.

9

10 (Off record)

11

12 (On record)

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It is now 1:15, we
15 will continue with our meeting. We were still on the
16 moose in 22(B) [sic]. We were down to -- where were we
17 on it, on 22(B) West. We went through -- there were no
18 public testimony, we were down to Regional Council
19 deliberation, recommendation and justification or did we
20 do that?

21

22 MR. SEETOT: We already did that, we're
23 going to talk about the second one.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. I still want to
26 continue with this, that was on the special action. My
27 recommendation was to work on a proposal to make a
28 permanent recommendation.

29

30 My recommendation would be moose Unit
31 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains, fall season with the
32 same dates August 10th to September 23rd, fall season one
33 bull by State registration permit, the combined State and
34 Federal harvest may not exceed whatever the State amount
35 number is, that the Federal public lands are closed to
36 the taking of moose except by the residents of White
37 Mountain and Golovin and leave the winter season as is in
38 the special action.

39

40 Any comments.

41

42 MR. GRAY: I second that.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It wasn't a motion, it
45 was a recommendation.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I didn't make a
50 motion, it was a recommendation, should we have some

1 discussion on it for those individuals that are affected
2 by this. And the arguments on the days or whatever can
3 be decided when it's time to -- when we address -- when
4 all the work on this proposal would be done, it would
5 just be a proposal that we can discuss when it's time to
6 discuss it which would be in our next meeting, right, for
7 the fall?

8

9 MR. JENNINGS: (Nods affirmatively)

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm correct about that
12 so right now all I want to do is entertain a motion
13 reflecting what I said before. And the only change would
14 be that the Federal public lands are closed to taking of
15 the moose except by residents of White Mountain and
16 Golovin in the fall season August 10th to September 23rd.

17

18 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

21

22 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.

23 Did we get a recommendation from ADF&G on this one
24 already?

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Not yet but I am sure
27 that they will have their say in the fall time but Kate's
28 welcome to say something.

29

30 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 Council. I'd just like to let you folks know what the
32 State has in mind for doing with the moose seasons along
33 the Nome road system next fall and this would be an
34 action taken by emergency order for the coming year and
35 then depending on how it played out it might become a
36 proposal before the Board a year from now.

37

38 Last week we concluded the registration
39 moose hunt along the Nome road system and that included
40 Western 22(B) which is the Golovin, Council, White
41 Mountain area, 22(C) here around Nome, 22(D) Southwest
42 which is the area along the Teller road and then 22(D) in
43 the Kuzitrin drainage which includes the Pilgrim and
44 Kougatok drainages. And when those registration hunts
45 were established three years ago we set different seasons
46 and different harvest quotas in the different areas
47 because there were different situations with the moose
48 population and different harvest patterns. And so it
49 seemed reasonable to try and accommodate those
50 differences with the different seasons and quotas. But

1 as things have shaken out it really hasn't worked very
2 well and this year we had to close the season in 22(D)
3 early and even doing that we exceeded the harvest quota
4 by at least seven moose. We exceeded the harvest quota
5 last year also by four moose. And it just seems that the
6 season there is too long for the quota that we've
7 established and for the number of moose that we feel can
8 be taken out of that area. In 22(B) West this year we
9 also closed the season 10 days early and exceeded the
10 quota by at least four moose.

11
12 And what we are thinking of for next year
13 is to put the entire Nome road system on a two week
14 hunting season, it would be the 1st of September through
15 the 14th, it would be exactly what we have in Unit 22(C).
16 And this would prevent the type of thing that Tom
17 referred to earlier where one area closes and then
18 everybody rushes to the areas that are still open and
19 greatly increases the pressure in those areas that just
20 can't take anymore pressure.

21
22 And then another thing that we've been
23 seeing more and more of is spoiled meat and it's like the
24 weather patterns seem to be changing in August, it's
25 awfully darn hot and we're aware of, you know, meat that
26 ends up in the dump and our thought is by having the
27 season later in September we may avoid some of that
28 waste.

29
30 So that's what we're aiming for next
31 year. The winter hunt in 22(B) we would leave as is, a
32 quota of seven the month of January and the quotas in the
33 areas would remain the same and in place unless actually
34 -- in 22(D) if our composition surveys this fall show a
35 big improvement in calf recruitment, it's possible that
36 we might relax that quota just a little bit but it will
37 be basically the same.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So in reference to
40 22(B), if it's closed in the fall season just for the
41 residents of White Mountain and Golovin and for the time
42 period August 10th through the 23rd, what will your
43 comments be?

44
45 MS. PERSONS: In terms of limiting
46 harvest to -- and I'm not going to comment on terms of
47 limiting the harvest to residents of the area, that's
48 really your business but I would feel a lot more
49 comfortable if the season mirrored the season that's
50 adopted by the State.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So I'd like to
2 restrict the conversation to the season, the season would
3 be September 1st to.....

4
5 MS. PERSONS: September 1 through 14th is
6 what we're thinking at this time. And, you know, we're
7 going to be discussing this with the advisory committee,
8 I mean we are going to do something along these lines and
9 it probably will be that but, you know, we are leaving
10 the door open to other bright ideas at this point that
11 may come along but we definitely are going to align the
12 seasons in all the areas to something much shorter than
13 exists now.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So I guess I have
16 another question for Chuck then, even if we wrote a
17 proposal that reflects August 10th to September 23rd we
18 will still have opportunity to discuss it and reconsider
19 that proposal and make changes when it's time for us to
20 discuss it at that time when we address the proposal.

21
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: (Nods affirmatively)

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So even if it -- it
25 can change?

26
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct.

28
29 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

32
33 MR. GRAY: The proposal that you're
34 proposing us to write and draft and do, when would that
35 go before the real Board and it be acted on?

36
37 MR. ARDIZZONE: I believe that would be
38 next May.

39
40 MR. GRAY: This coming spring?

41
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct.

43
44 MR. GRAY: Okay.

45
46 MR. ARDIZZONE: So it will take effect in
47 July.

48
49 MR. GRAY: So I guess my comments on the
50 dates I think all of us would agree that when the --

1 whatever dates, you filled your season or your quota at
2 what date this year, Kate?

3

4 MS. PERSONS: In 22(B) we closed the
5 season on the 13th but actually the quota had been
6 reached before that but we didn't know that because of
7 the three day reporting requirement.

8

9 MR. GRAY: Okay. This is Tom again. I
10 guess a point I would like to make from, at least, myself
11 and representing my township, what has happened here this
12 year with this moose hunt, the majority of the moose went
13 to Nome, my community didn't get a whole lot of moose.
14 Last year they did get a lot of moose but this year they
15 didn't. If we do what she's proposing here it would give
16 a better opportunity for the local people in that region
17 and that drainage to access that moose and utilize that
18 moose. I don't know if that's going to happen but I
19 would vote in favor of that. I would be supportive of
20 that because it's going to the subsistence users in that
21 region.

22

23 But as far as the tail end of it, you
24 know, I don't think it's going to make the 23rd. I think
25 the Nome guys are going to come in and they're going to
26 shut that program down. So I think the last date of the
27 hunt should coincide with what they're proposing because
28 I think it's going to -- there's going to be no leftover
29 animals.

30

31 But, you know, I'm in favor of my people
32 having a fair -- you know, more of a chance than let's
33 say people that are making 80, \$90,000 a year that have
34 4-wheelers and boats and you name it they've got it to go
35 get, quote, their subsistence animal and they don't
36 really need it. And then I've got people on welfare that
37 need these animals that don't have a chance at it.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we're talking about
40 September 13th is what you're talking about?

41

42 MS. PERSONS: 14.

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: 14, sorry, where did I
45 get the 13th. So you're saying that the proposal would
46 read from August 10th to September 14th -- restricted
47 to.....

48

49 MR. GRAY: No matter what, I'd support
50 anything, I -- but I want my people to have a better

1 advantage like you're suggesting.

2

3

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

4

5 MR. OLANNA: Are we set on the opening
6 date of August 10th? Like Kate was saying earlier, that
7 the weather patterns in Nome area mainly are warming up.
8 Is it feasible to change the date to August 15 so that,
9 you know, the time of the rut starts right about the last
10 part of August and I'm talking about getting good clean
11 meat early in August. You suggested September 1 through
12 September 14, is that what you're saying -- is that
13 possible to allow the last week of August to be an
14 opportunity to be able to get good meat, could you flex
15 the times? I mean could we make it August -- what is
16 August 10 -- August 20 perhaps? Because I know the moose
17 start rut earlier to the east of us. I'm from Shishmaref
18 and the animals up there start rutting later than they do
19 around here because they're further north and everything.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think the main thing
22 to remember is we're talking about 22(B) West of the
23 Darby's.

24

25

MR. OLANNA: Right. Right.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And it would affect
28 the villages of White Mountain and Golovin and Nome. In
29 the fall season we'd be eliminating Nome and the proposal
30 would be to eliminate Nome and restrict the hunt to
31 residents of White Mountain and Golovin as it is in the
32 winter hunt.

33

34

MR. OLANNA: Go ahead, Tom.

35

36 MR. GRAY: Okay, Madame Chair. I think,
37 Jake, the thing that I have a problem with is right now
38 the State has a program that -- or their hunt dates let
39 people come crashing down on our moose down there and
40 what they want to do is align it so everything shuts down
41 at one time, that's fine, let them do that. But what
42 she's proposing here is on Federal lands we'll open it up
43 just to White Mountain and Golovin people earlier than
44 when her season opens and I'm in support of that. I like
45 that. That's good for my people.

46

47

48 But what's going to happen when that
49 proposal comes there's going to be a whole bunch of Nome
50 people out here next time and we're going to have to
justify it.

1 MR. OLANNA: Okay. Thanks for the
2 clarification.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So I think that
5 everybody else will have an opportunity to -- this is
6 what I would like to see a proposal coming out of the
7 RAC, I wasn't making a proposal. The proposal would read
8 that moose in Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains in
9 the fall season, one bull by registration permit, the
10 combined State and Federal harvest may not exceed
11 whatever number is -- I guess we should say by either
12 permit because if the State season is not open then the
13 Federal government will have to issue -- there's a
14 possibility the Feds will have to issue the permits, it
15 depends on how the State wants it handled.

16
17 MR. GRAY: If you keep it open to the
18 23rd that way if there's leftover moose.....

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And that the combined
21 State and Federal harvest may not exceed whatever that
22 amount that the State believes it should not exceed and
23 that the Federal public lands are closed to the taking of
24 moose except by the residents of White Mountain and
25 Golovin, the time period would be from August 10th to
26 September 23rd and the remaining winter hunt would remain
27 as worded on Page 21.

28
29 MR. SEETOT: In this analysis, I guess
30 the Federal lands comprise 22 percent of subunit 22(B),
31 how much of Federal land is there west of the Darby
32 Mountains, do you have an estimate? With this so small
33 amount of land in some of these subunits, sometimes the
34 moose are not there maybe because of temperature, maybe
35 because of other factors. And also we in these
36 organizations set dates for harvesting wildlife or for
37 harvesting fish. The moose or the wild animals do not
38 know, you know, they don't know the dates that we harvest
39 these animals, but what I'm thinking is that they go
40 through their natural cycle, going with the phases of the
41 moon for them to go into rut and do these things. We set
42 a date, okay, that might be outside of the moon phase and
43 then we might miss out on harvesting, like Jake was
44 saying, good clean animals for subsistence.

45
46 With this small amount of Federal lands
47 and then only restricted to qualified Federal residents
48 in a community, do these regulations have to mirror the
49 State because State lands are pretty much outside of the
50 Federal agencies and then the Native corporation lands

1 and that's where the majority of the Alaskans hunt, you
2 know, under State regulations? What I'm trying to say is
3 residents that hunt in Federal land, you know, they
4 comprise a small amount of land, yet, they do not
5 coincide with the -- or the season dates do not coincide
6 with the -- maybe they go by the moon cycle to go into
7 rut. The animals know what they have to do. We make
8 arbitrary dates for harvest, yet we may not harvest these
9 animals at a prime time, you know, when they're for
10 subsistence. And if it does so what effect did the fires
11 have, you know, on the wildlife, are they migrating
12 outside of the Fairbanks area or are they just going to
13 the outskirts and hoping to -- you know, that burned out
14 area.

15
16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Elmer, I'm not sure of
17 the exact percentage of the Federal lands west of the
18 Darby Mountains, but if you say 22 percent of the whole
19 area is Federal lands, if you look at the map it's going
20 to be at least probably less than half of the -- that 22
21 percent will be west of the Darby Mountains.

22
23 And the other question I guess I can
24 answer is, no, we don't have to mirror the State. It
25 makes things a little nicer, a little cleaner, but, you
26 know, there's plenty of areas in the state that our
27 regulations don't mirror what the State has on their
28 books.

29
30 I'm not sure what else, I'll pass the
31 mike.

32
33 MS. PERSONS: I'd just like to point out
34 -- I mean as Chuck said, you know, certainly the
35 regulations don't have to mirror each other but it makes
36 it a lot easier for the users when they do. In Western
37 22(B) there isn't very much Federal land and what there
38 is there's very little of it that would probably be, you
39 know, fall moose habitat, there is some but it's quite a
40 ways up river from White Mountain and certainly from
41 Golovin. And it's just a patchwork and so it would make
42 enforcement very difficult.

43
44 MR. GRAY: This is Tom, Madame Chair.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

47
48 MR. GRAY: Who enforces Native lands?
49 Who -- we have State and we have Federal, who is
50 responsible for animals on Native lands?

1 MS. PERSONS: The State manages wildlife
2 on Native lands.

3
4 MR. GRAY: Okay. Is it possible for a
5 Native corporation, let's say, to request that the
6 Federal people manage those animals or is it cut and dry?

7
8 MS. PERSONS: It's cut and dry but I mean
9 lands can be closed to non-shareholders.

10
11 MR. GRAY: Okay. Okay, the reason I'm --
12 I'm sitting here thinking to myself where the moose are
13 in my area and in looking at this area some of these
14 places are -- there's pockets in this thing that have
15 lots of moose in them but they're real hard to get to.
16 Reality is they're going to be hard to get to. But the
17 simple fact -- I mean I sit here and I think about it,
18 you know, the simple fact is how can my people have an
19 advantage to get some of these animals and it's through a
20 process like this that they're going to get the upper
21 hand finally.

22
23 It's like the Tier II program, you know,
24 the muskox. 10 years it's going to be a whole different
25 program. But today the local villages have the upper
26 hand on it, you know, 10, 15, 20 years from now it's
27 going to be a statewide lottery.

28
29 You know, I think my mission, so to
30 speak, sitting here is subsistence and when you talk
31 subsistence I need to look at who is a subsistence user,
32 who's a true user and, you know, somebody making 60,
33 \$80,000 a year is really not a subsistence user in my
34 mind.

35
36 So that makes Golovin and White Mountain
37 people subsistence users and how can we give them the
38 benefit. I mean to me a proposal like this where we open
39 an area up and say, all right, go do it, let's see what
40 happens, you know, my feeling is let's do it, let's open
41 it up, let's see if the people capitalize on it. If they
42 don't capitalize on it we can always go back to base one.
43 That's the first thing I say.

44
45 Number 2, those 23 animals are going to
46 get killed whether or not we kill them or Nome people
47 kill them so we're not losing anything. I mean the
48 program's going to go through anyway.

49
50 So I was going to try and not talk too

1 much this afternoon but.....

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I had threatened to
6 pinch him before but I guess there's no need to.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We can do further
11 discussion in this. We can let the proposal -- we can
12 submit a proposal and then vote on it and reserve the
13 discussion when it's time to address the proposal when
14 its analysis and everything is done.

15

16 So I will move that -- go ahead.

17

18 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, this is
19 Leonard. I would like to hear what Peter Buck has to say
20 just for the record since it concerns his area, too,
21 also.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Peter.

24

25 MR. BUCK: I believe this proposal is
26 pretty fair but like Tom said, I'd like to see the
27 subsistence users of White Mountain and Golovin get a
28 priority. That's my main feeling.

29

30 The moose are declining, I mean, you
31 know, we had a hard time this year getting moose so it
32 will concern me and it's a big part of White Mountain
33 subsistence. So I'd like to support this proposal. But
34 then further on into it, getting into the formal proposal
35 then I will probably make more comments on it.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead, Chuck.

38

39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, Madame Chair. I
40 just wanted to point that this is all leading towards an
41 .804.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: And I was just going to
46 read the criteria to some of the newer members so they
47 have a good idea how this works if that's okay.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sure.

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: So the limitations are
2 based on the application of these following criteria,
3 there's three. Customary and direct dependence upon the
4 populations as the mainstay of livelihood, local
5 residency and availability of alternative resources. So
6 when this proposal gets looked at, these criteria will
7 also come into play. So to limit to White Mountain and
8 Golovin, usually the anthropologist will go through these
9 criteria and make her, I guess, recommendation to the
10 Regional Council on what she thinks. I think you could
11 make a recommendation and I could help write this up and
12 then get Grace to sign it.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So I haven't
15 made a motion, I was making a recommendation that the RAC
16 make a motion. I was making a recommendation on the time
17 and what the restriction would be, the .804, so do you
18 guys want me to make the motion or somebody make a motion
19 to submit this proposal?

20
21 MR. GRAY: I'll make the motion, she can
22 say the motion or whatever, but the date, I'll reiterate
23 the dates are August 10th to September 23rd and what this
24 will do will give people in White Mountain, Golovin a
25 chance, first crack and they'll be able to clean up any
26 leftover animals after the State closes their dates.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. The only
29 difference is going to be the fall hunt would, the bottom
30 portion would say Federal public lands are closed to
31 taking of the moose except for residents of White
32 Mountain and Golovin and Ardizzone will be doing the fine
33 work on that. Is there a second on the motion.

34
35 MR. KOBUK: I'll second the motion,
36 Leonard.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, there's a motion
39 on the floor, it's been seconded. All those in favor
40 signify by stating aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What?

47
48 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, just a
49 point of clarification we wanted to add Federal or State
50 registration permit in the language?

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, yeah, that's
2 right. All those in favor signify by stating aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
7 same sign.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. So
12 Chuck will give us something to sign a little bit later
13 on when the proposal gets written.
14
15 And then comes 22 East, the moose in 22
16 East and it's about the two permits and BLM is going to
17 be giving us information on that. We were not aware of
18 this situation. I think most of you are not aware maybe
19 except those from Shaktoolik and who else was there,
20 Shaktoolik and Koyuk, this is something new. I didn't
21 get any information about it until late yesterday morning
22 so I've asked BLM to give us a summary as to what's going
23 on so we can all be aware of what's going on in that
24 region, where they are at, what they can do next or what
25 other procedure the two villages may have. Maybe submit
26 another proposal but let's see where we are at now, we
27 need that information.
28
29 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.
32
33 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, before Kate gets
34 away from us I wanted to make sure she was done. The
35 deal you sent out and put before us, were you finished up
36 with that?
37
38 MS. PERSONS: I was just addressing the
39 moose along the road system.
40
41 MR. GRAY: Okay.
42
43 MS. PERSONS: And Tony will be giving our
44 final report that will cover caribou, bear and muskox at
45 a later time in the meeting. I was just addressing moose
46 issues.
47
48 MR. GRAY: Okay.
49
50 MS. PERSONS: But at some point I did

1 want to mention something about 22(A) but not at this
2 moment.

3

4 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, I just wanted to
5 make sure that the proposal on the September 1st to 14th,
6 that I support that for Fish and Game and if this Board
7 needs to act on something on that proposal we need to do
8 it but it sounds like Tony's going to do that?

9

10 MS. PERSONS: There's nothing really to
11 act on as far as that at this time. I mean we haven't
12 even -- I mean we're just putting this out publicly for
13 the first time today letting people know that is what we
14 are planning. There will be an advisory committee
15 meeting to address this. On the State side what would
16 happen is we would issue an EO next year, probably close
17 to the first of the year so that the season could appear
18 in our regulation book and everybody would know right up
19 front what it was. If we decide that it's been a good
20 deal then we would go through the whole Board of Game
21 proposal business and actually present it to the Board a
22 year from November.

23

24 So there'll be lots of time to take
25 action on supporting this.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Kate. BLM.

28

29 MR. SPARKS: Thanks, Madame Chair. This
30 is Thomas Sparks with the Nome BLM office. Grace, you
31 asked permit wise?

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, actually what
34 happened was yesterday Kawerak called kind of late in the
35 morning regarding two permits that were issued to two
36 game guides and I'm not exactly sure, it sounds like they
37 were allowed to be on Federal lands and hunt moose and
38 caribou and bear and wolves and they were expecting
39 discussion on this. It sounded like an ongoing thing and
40 it had gone to appeal. I'm totally lost and I think that
41 this is the first time the rest of the RAC, other than
42 Myron's going to be hearing, but we wanted to give some
43 kind of background and let us know where it is at so
44 we're aware of it.

45

46 MR. SPARKS: Okay. One of the things
47 that the Bureau does is looks at proposals on Federal
48 public lands for commercial use. Those are submitted
49 into either my office or the office in fairbanks for the
50 Northern Field Office and that's basically all of Seward

1 Peninsula. Our line, management wise, basically stops at
2 Unalakleet so anything south of Unalakleet is submitted
3 into the Anchorage Field Office, anything north of
4 Unalakleet goes into Fairbanks or an applicant could
5 apply to me here in Nome.

6
7 Currently there's 18 what we call special
8 recreation permits. Those are permits for commercial use
9 on Federal lands. All of those are for guiding
10 activities. Currently out of those 18 there are seven
11 that are on the Seward Peninsula. And those, I could
12 list for you verbally if you'd like, Madame Chair, or
13 whatever way that could be conveyed, what that be
14 appropriate?

15
16 MR. GRAY: That's appropriate.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think there's
19 interest from the RAC.

20
21 MR. SPARKS: Okay. Those seven currently
22 are Mark Sandlin, he's on the Shaktoolik River, he's a
23 bear hunter basically. Bob Hannon (ph) out of Koyuk, he
24 hunts the Inglutalik, Ungalik and Koyuk Rivers. Keith
25 Koontz in Death Valley. Robert Cower, he hunts in the
26 Fish River area, Wagon Wheel. Tom Gray on your Board
27 here, Death Valley and Fish River area. And the two
28 permits that were recently approved Mike C. Vanning on
29 the Ungalik River and also Mike H. Vanning on the Koyuk
30 and Inglutalik Rivers.

31
32 I'll give you some background on the two
33 Vanning permits, that seems to be the issue at hand here,
34 although, if there is some questions about the other
35 permittee's activities I'd be happy to answer those
36 questions as well.

37
38 Both Vannings had applied to BLM at the
39 Northern Field Office for permits to hunt on Federal
40 lands. What we do with those permits internally is they
41 go through a review based upon the National Environmental
42 Policy Act, NEPA for short, and we entertained from the
43 villages of Shaktoolik and Koyuk some response about
44 those proposals, which they sent in to us. The decision
45 was made to approve those two permits and both villages
46 appealed the decision from the Fairbanks district manager
47 to approve the permits.

48
49 Quite recently on the 20th of this month,
50 which today is the 22nd, so just Monday, the villages

1 both asked for two things. One was a stay of the
2 decision which means to postpone the approval of the
3 permit and that stay was recently denied and, again, that
4 was denied on the 20th, which was Monday. The regular
5 appeal will be ongoing. Generally it takes the Interior
6 Board of Land Appeals, that's where things are appealed
7 to if a party feels grieved by a decision made by the
8 Federal manager, generally those take up to a year or two
9 before it works through the system.

10

11 So as it stands now the two guides will
12 be allowed to conduct their activities on Federal lands,
13 however, the Ungalik permit, that individual will not be
14 able to guide moose hunters there because all Federal
15 public lands are closed to the taking of moose by action
16 from this Board.

17

18 So that's where they stand now. I'd be
19 happy to entertain any questions about that, Madame
20 Chair, that you may have or members of your Board.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I guess I do have a
23 question. One question that was proposed to me yesterday
24 was whether or not something else can happen while this
25 appeal process is going on. I only work with criminal
26 cases so I'm familiar with how appeal cases do in
27 criminal cases. As long as a criminal case is in appeal
28 no other action -- whatever actions are applied to the
29 court are in stay until the original appeal is done and
30 over with then other issues can be addressed.

31

32 Is it similar when it comes to U.S. Fish
33 and Wildlife issues pertaining to game with permits for
34 example? That the appeal process has to be exhausted
35 before anybody makes any kind of action or even if
36 there's an action made will any decisions be held until
37 -- say, for example, if somebody from the village of
38 Shaktoolik submitted a proposal to close Federal public
39 lands to subsistence users only? If somebody were to
40 make that proposal, how would that proposal be handled?
41 Would it be put on stay by the Federal Subsistence Board
42 until the appeal process is done or would it still be
43 considered?

44

45 MR. SPARKS: Our permits are for
46 commercial use of the lands so BLM does not regulate the
47 harvest, seasons, methods or means of the wildlife. So
48 if, for example, a guide was permitted in a particular
49 area to conduct guiding activities and then the Federal
50 Subsistence regulations changed where guiding was no

1 longer allowed because of the regulation then his clients
2 could not hunt on the Federal lands, could not take an
3 animal on Federal lands. Does that answer your question?
4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So it doesn't prohibit
6 anybody from submitting a proposal closing the Federal
7 lands to taking a moose?
8

9 MR. SPARKS: No, they're two.....
10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And being considered
12 by the Federal Subsistence Board and possibly saying they
13 are now closed and it would just seize that portion of
14 game hunting.
15

16 MR. SPARKS: Those are two unrelated
17 actions.
18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Yeah, I got
20 that one. Did you want to say something Taylor?
21

22 MR. BRELSFORD: That was actually the
23 point I wanted to underscore. What Tom's describing is a
24 BLM land management decision. It has to do with
25 authorizing a land use, a camping permit really, it's the
26 right to occupy this site for the purpose of taking
27 people out. That's what the BLM does. The decision-
28 maker is the BLM Field Office manager. The appeal
29 process goes up to this kind of formal board in the
30 Department of Interior and that train started down the
31 track and it's going to keep going down that track.
32 That's really not -- that's BLM acting as a land manger,
33 it's not even touching on what the Federal Subsistence
34 Board does.
35

36 So the Federal Subsistence Board still
37 manages subsistence uses on those lands. The Federal
38 Subsistence Board could still hear a proposal that says
39 there's not enough moose for subsistence users plus a
40 bunch of other users. To protect the subsistence
41 priority the Federal Board ought to be closing those
42 Federal public lands, that's a proposal this Council
43 could put forward and that's going on a separate track.
44 That's going in front of the Federal Subsistence Board.
45 And just like Tom said, there's no interference between
46 these two tracks. The appeal of the land use permit is
47 going to go on down its path. But you have the same kind
48 of opportunity to look out for the interest of
49 subsistence users, to make proposals to the Federal
50 Subsistence Board regarding Federal Subsistence

1 management just like you do in any other part of the
2 Seward Peninsula area.

3
4 Thanks.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.

7
8 MR. SAVETILIK: So if I were to make a
9 proposal and was saying that if we want to get these
10 guides out I would have to omit game guides in my
11 proposal for a hunt, right, on Federal lands? Are you
12 getting my drift?

13
14 MR. SPARKS: Through the Chair, I believe
15 I understand what you're saying and, again, they're two
16 unrelated items. If this Board closes Federal lands to
17 anyone but a Federally-qualified subsistence user it
18 automatically closes those lands to any guiding
19 activities, harvest of moose by a non-resident of Alaska
20 basically.

21
22 MR. SAVETILIK: That's what I wanted to
23 ask. Thanks.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

26
27 MR. SPARKS: Just one other thing I'd
28 like to add. We did make some copies, I had a little
29 problem with the copier down there, I couldn't do front
30 and back for you and so I apologize for that so there's a
31 little bit more trees that were killed in the endeavor
32 but nonetheless you have a copy there. One is a letter
33 -- actually they're both the same letters but it's from
34 the Northern Field Manager, Robert Schenider, to the
35 villages explaining his decision to authorize the two
36 guides. And then the other copy that I provided to you
37 all there is the recent order of the decision by the
38 Office of Hearings and Appeals with the Department of
39 Interior out of Arlington, Virginia that basically denied
40 the petition for a stay from the communities about the
41 two guides.

42
43 I thought the Board would like copies of
44 those and perhaps if you have any questions on those they
45 can be asked later or whenever you feel appropriate.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

2

3 MR. GRAY: These guides that got these
4 rec permits, recreation permits have to conform to
5 whatever rules and regulations the State comes up with.
6 A good example is I have a permit that I got some years
7 ago for my area and I assumed I -- I asked for whole Unit
8 22, not only just Fish River drainage, I'm a little bit
9 surprised he said Fish River because I have three guide
10 use areas and two of them I've taken in my area -- one in
11 my area and one in the Koyuk drainage and it goes all the
12 way over to the Ungalik River. And in my mind I could
13 guide in that area. I still have one more guide use area
14 that I didn't even file on, I could take it in Kotzebue,
15 I could take it in this area, but if I went to Kotzebue I
16 knew I'd have to apply for another permit.

17

18 But anyway what you were talking about,
19 eliminating guides out of an area and, you know, if you
20 eliminate guides out of an area that's going to be all
21 guides, that's not just going to be this guide, that
22 guide, the other guide. If you say we're going to
23 eliminate guides from guiding on this land, I mean that's
24 me, that's everybody, all the guides.

25

26 You know, as far as managing the guides,
27 you know, I would suggest you manage it through the
28 regulations. And a good example is I can't guide for
29 moose in my area because it states in the regulation book
30 that non-residents can't guide in that area. And so my
31 hands are tied, I can't do anything there.

32

33 I also have a concern of too many guides
34 coming into an area, you know, I'm worried that we're
35 going to overharvest animals, bears in my area. If three
36 or four guides come in and start guiding I won't be a
37 business -- a guide anymore. So, you know, it's kind of
38 a fine line of what we do and don't do here in this
39 guiding thing.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

42

43 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.
44 I have a question, Tom, do you guys have a copy of the
45 appeal submitted by Shaktoolik and Koyuk? I don't see it
46 in here.

47

48 MR. SPARKS: No. Once things are in an
49 appeal there are some sensitivities as far as what can be
50 released to the public.

1 MR. OLANNA: Okay.
2
3 MR. SPARKS: And we felt that because of
4 the ongoing appeal that it would not be appropriate to
5 release those. The order that you've received, that was
6 an order that was recently given on Monday which can be
7 released and then the other is a letter that came out of
8 the Northern Field Office manager's desk that happened
9 prior to the appeal.
10
11 So, you know, again once things go into
12 appeal there's some sensitivities there as far as what
13 could go out to the public because there are opposing
14 parties in this appeal which is the guide.
15
16 Did that help, Jake?
17
18 MR. OLANNA: Thank you, Tom.
19
20 MR. SPARKS: Thank you.
21
22 MR. OLANNA: Myron, are you familiar with
23 what's going on here?
24
25 MR. SAVETILIK: Pretty much. It's just
26 not in my mind what I'm going to be saying later.
27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake, I do have copies
29 of these -- probably almost -- I'm not sure how much of
30 the correspondence but I do have copies that were
31 provided, I believe, with the permission of the IRA
32 Councils that submitted those so if you're interested you
33 can get copies of it later or those of you that are
34 interested and Kawerak also has them.
35
36 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, could I
37 request that all the Board members get a copy of it?
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.
40
41 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What I'm not sure of
44 is whether or not I got everything but when -- maybe Rose
45 Fosdick is the appropriate place because they're the ones
46 that have been corresponding and helping both of the IRAs
47 and maybe Kawerak will be happy to provide the rest of
48 the Council members copies of these correspondence, Rose?
49
50 MS. FOSDICK: Well, I'll find out if we

1 can.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. She'll find out
4 and then we'll go from there. If we don't get them by
5 today call Rose or Austin and see where they're at.

6

7 MR. OLANNA: Thank you.

8

9 MR. SPARKS: Madame Chair, might I add
10 just one small tidbit there?

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

13

14 MR. SPARKS: The recreation permits that
15 we issue, there are new regulations promulgated last year
16 that allowed BLM to give up to a 10 year commercial
17 permit. And the permit that was issued to the Vannings
18 was for a one year duration only so that's one thing that
19 I want to point out.

20

21 The other is that there is some concern
22 in our agency about the moose population in that area and
23 a census has not been done in quite some time. And Kyle
24 Joly with some of his program funds is planning on
25 assisting with a moose survey this coming up year to get
26 a better handle on the numbers. And I just wanted to add
27 that.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 Is there anything else, Madame Chair.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anybody else?

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

38

39 MR. OLANNA: No, not me.

40

41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I thought you had your
42 hand up there. Not from me, how about the rest of the
43 Council.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, my understanding
48 is -- I want to make sure that I understand this very
49 clearly, these are two separate issues.

50

1 One is being handled by BLM, it's gone
2 through an appeal process, it's still an ongoing
3 situation with BLM and the two villages. What this
4 Council does or recommends to do would be a completely
5 different issue that we're able to do. But the one, the
6 permit system there isn't much we can do basically. We
7 can take an action by getting a proposal which we can do.

8
9 I just want to make sure I understand it
10 correctly.

11
12 MR. SPARKS: That's correct, they're two
13 separate issues, yes.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

16
17 MR. SPARKS: Thank you, very much.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Rose, did you want to
20 comment because Kawerak had wanted to speak to us, too.
21 Rose Fosdick.

22
23 MS. FOSDICK: Hi. Thank you, Madame
24 Chair, for allowing me to speak. I am Rose Fosdick. I
25 am here in my capacity as VP for Natural Resource
26 Division at Kawerak.

27
28 Unfortunately Austin Ahmasuk is not here.
29 He is the person that has been subsistence resource
30 director and has been providing assistance to both
31 Shaktoolik and Koyuk IRAs. And that technical assistance
32 has been in regards to requests that have been received
33 from those two communities asking for assistance in
34 process, procedure, timeline in opposing or submitting
35 some objection to issuance of permits.

36
37 What I received from Austin yesterday, he
38 had just received a copy of a letter that was sent to the
39 two villages and his comments that we discussed and
40 wanted to make sure that this Council is well aware of is
41 in regards to the communities of Koyuk and Shaktoolik,
42 they have had tremendous or enormous or community
43 consensus and that their views should not be ignored.
44 Although they were in relationship -- or their feelings
45 were response to a special recreational use permit, they
46 still feel like they have -- because of any kind of
47 resulting permit issuance may have an impact on
48 subsistence resource users, they feel like they want to
49 make sure this Council is well aware of their feelings.
50

1 The issue that the two communities are
2 bringing up relates to the concern expressed by
3 management decisions which affect moose harvest or
4 allocation and population. I understand that the
5 communities are going through the appeal process and it
6 may take several years.

7
8 The two recommendations that come from
9 Kawerak, I think, and maybe the communities as well and
10 Myron can bring up more about this topic is that, number
11 1, one of the things that they'd like to request is that
12 BLM share information on permits that may -- that are
13 within the area in which this RAC has some decision or
14 interest in some timely manner so that, although they are
15 not -- issuance of permits may be going down two
16 different tracks, the end result is that the populations
17 are the same that are being -- the resource is still the
18 same.

19
20 The other recommendation is that perhaps
21 this Council or one of the communities may want to submit
22 a proposal in regards to 22(B) East to open that GMU only
23 to Federal qualified users.

24
25 The two communities had very significant
26 numbers of people who submitted either signatures in
27 regards to a petition against the permits or else in the
28 appeal. For Koyuk there were about 45 adults that signed
29 the petition. And for Shaktoolik, I believe there were
30 about 60 -- over 60 adults signed the petition.

31
32 That's all I have to offer.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions to Rose or
35 comments.

36
37 Leonard.

38
39 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, since this
40 concerns two villages, my thought is why are we not --
41 why are they not speaking to us on teleconference to pass
42 out their concerns on this issue?

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a very good
45 answer to that. This information came to me late
46 yesterday morning. The decision was made the day before.
47 And the issue at the time yesterday was -- the issue is
48 actually when the permits were handed out and that's what
49 the two villages were appealing. Now, the two villages
50 through Kawerak has made two suggestions.

1 One, we do something about the permits
2 being handed out. It sounds like there's nothing much
3 that the RAC can do.

4
5 Or, two, that there be a proposal, either
6 from the RAC or some individual that would restrict
7 Federal lands to the taking of moose except for
8 Federally-qualified users.

9
10 Through Kawerak is what they're speaking.
11 And we do have Myron and he said he was going to do a
12 little more. I'm just about as new as this information
13 as everybody is. I got it yesterday morning and decided
14 that it's important enough that we bring it up to the RAC
15 so we can be aware of the issue. And if any action is
16 going to come out that I thought either of the villages
17 can submit an action later on or perhaps somebody that is
18 affected within our RAC can do that, which is Myron and
19 then, of course we have -- Saccheus is not here, so
20 that's why they're not here, this is just brand new.

21
22 It's been ongoing on the permit system
23 but this is the first that I've heard of it and this is
24 the first you all are hearing about it now, that's why.

25
26 MR. KOBUK: My next question, Madame
27 Chair, this is Leonard Kobuk, as a RAC committee do we
28 have -- how should I put it, do we have the power to put
29 rules and regulations also on the BLM lands? That is my
30 next question.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We could submit
33 proposals that will affect the regulations but they would
34 be proposals that would be decided upon -- not by us, we
35 could make a recommendation to the proposal, we just
36 can't make any changes.

37
38 MR. KOBUK: Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And if I'm wrong
41 somebody can correct me.

42
43 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

46
47 MR. GRAY: Rose's suggestion, I represent
48 the guides and whoever's -- fishing and whatever, but I
49 also am a guide and I have a heartache with BLM's
50 procedures because of the simple fact that anybody on the

1 Seward Peninsula can come in and guide. Any guide in
2 Alaska can apply for a permit and come here and guide.

3
4 Now, with that being said, the local
5 people, the local guides are at the whim of how many
6 permits are issued and how many people get these permits.
7 If I take somebody caribou hunting 99 percent of the time
8 those people don't want caribou meat and I give it to the
9 villagers. If I take somebody moose hunting it used to
10 go to the villagers. My area closed to moose so I can't
11 take moose hunters, but the local hunter, the local
12 guides are more sympathetic to the village's plea than
13 these outside guides are going to be. Bottom line. The
14 outside guides are -- they're here today, gone tomorrow
15 and they just rape that resource. But there's a loophole
16 in BLM through the permit system that lets them do that.

17
18 And what I'm leading up to here, you
19 guys, is you need to use your local guides and get them
20 in line with a program to try and plug that loophole in
21 these land manager's system so the local guides have
22 preference and then they look at how many animals are out
23 there and the local guides will say, Bob Hannon, you got
24 10 moose or Bob Hannon you got two moose, Tom Gray you
25 got three moose and that just shuts it down as far as
26 these guys walking in. And a good example is Granite
27 Mountain a couple years ago, a guide brought in 50 some
28 hunters into Granite Mountain and they took a few moose
29 out of there but it was a numbers game and guides will do
30 that. But the local guides aren't going to do that, and
31 you guys need to work with the local guides and with BLM
32 and the land managers to try and plug that loophole.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Tom. It
35 sounds like you need to meet with somebody from BLM and
36 talk to them expressing your concerns.

37
38 Kate.

39
40 MS. FOSDICK: Am I done?

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'm not sure. Can you
43 just sit there, Rose, in case somebody else has any
44 questions or comments for you. Kate raised her hand so
45 go ahead Kate.

46
47 MS. PERSONS: Well, I wanted to mention
48 that back in, I think in 1998 and I'm not -- Elmer you
49 were around then and Peter you were around, maybe Jake,
50 I'm not sure who else but this issue of closing Federal

1 lands to non-local people in Eastern 22(B) came up then
2 and it ended up not going very far because the Federal
3 lands were in places that were fairly inaccessible to the
4 subsistence users and the fear was that if the Federal
5 lands were closed it would just drive the users down into
6 the areas, the State managed lands close to the village
7 of Koyuk where they didn't want to encounter these
8 hunters or compete for the same moose at the same time.
9 And then what happened was at that time there was an
10 increasing number of non-resident hunters in the area and
11 in 1999 we put a proposal before the Board of Game that
12 cut the non-resident season in half and it made the non-
13 resident season in the months of November and December
14 and that reduced the non-resident harvest by more than
15 half and it's been consistent at that level and we've
16 been comfortable biologically with that level.

17
18 With these new guides moving into the
19 area it is possible that moose harvest numbers are going
20 to go up again at which point we're not going to be
21 comfortable with it anymore and the State would probably
22 look at doing something like what has been done with non-
23 residents up in Elmer's neck of the woods in the American
24 and Agiapuk where non-residents would be put on a
25 registration permit system with just a limited number of
26 permits and that would prevent the harvest from exceeding
27 what it is now but that's something, I mean we have to
28 see how it plays out. Whether these guys actually do
29 succeed and are operating successfully in this area.

30
31 But we would respond to that and limit
32 harvest if it does increase.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And if I remember
37 correctly what the RAC did at the time is you limited
38 your hunting in half and then we added a week, I think,
39 right after closed -- we added a non-resident hunt right
40 behind it on the Federal lands.

41
42 MS. PERSONS: Yes.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And it was restricted
45 to a certain portion of the area instead of -- there was
46 some kind of map.....

47
48 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:guideline.

1 MS. PERSONS: Your season, to this day,
2 does not match the State season over there. Yeah, you
3 provided.....
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It was back to back.
6
7 MS. PERSONS:opportunity in January
8 for the local users that we don't provide.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.
11
12 MS. PERSONS: Yeah.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Does anybody
15 have questions or comments to either people. Jake.
16
17 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, since we don't
18 have all the information could I suggest that we defer
19 this and discuss it -- I don't know who's our
20 coordinator, is it possible that the Board can deliberate
21 on this particular issue without the public; is that
22 possible? I mean could we have a closed session?
23
24 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, this is Tim
25 Jennings. No, this is an open public meeting.
26
27 MR. OLANNA: Okay.
28
29 MR. JENNINGS: I mean certainly you can
30 take a break and have a discussion but when you have --
31 the Council can't have a closed executive session to
32 discuss this.
33
34 MR. OLANNA: Thank you. Is it possible
35 to defer any action that might come out of this until we
36 get the paperwork -- I mean the request from those two
37 villages to BLM?
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There is a request
40 through Kawerak.
41
42 MR. OLANNA: Okay.
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: To do one of two
45 things. One is, to my understanding, is some how or
46 another connect theirselves to the permit system which we
47 cannot do, of my understanding with BLM. That process
48 has already gone and it's going to go through its course.
49
50 MR. OLANNA: Right.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's already started.
2 The second request was whether or not there should --
3 this body could submit a proposal restricting.....
4
5 MR. OLANNA: Right. Right.
6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS:the hunt area.
8
9 MR. OLANNA: But I'm leery to take any
10 action until which time we see the actual request from
11 those two villages Madame Chair.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We can ask Myron who
14 is from Shaktoolik and see if there's been a request or
15 he was going to be talking to us anyway so let's hear
16 from him and see where we go from there.
17
18 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, could I
19 suggest we take a break?
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, let's take a
22 break.
23
24 MR. OLANNA: Okay.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, okay.
27
28 (Off record)
29
30 (On record)
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let's get back to our
33 seats and continue on.
34
35 (Pause)
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, let's sit down.
38
39 (Pause)
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I'm calling the
42 meeting back to order, it's now a quarter to 3:00. We'll
43 go back to our discussion on 22 East moose.
44
45 Did anybody have any comments or
46 questions for Kate or Rose?
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: If not, did anybody

1 else want to address this issue.

2

3 MR. GRAY: I would like to address it and
4 I'm not sure who to address it to. I assume BLM would be
5 the one to address it to. And the question, I think,
6 would be is there a way that we could assign an
7 allocation of animals or a resource to individual guides?
8 And let me elaborate. Down south, let's say down by
9 Jerry Austin, for example, I know the Federal government
10 says you can take one bear out a year, five bears or
11 something and guide applies for that and he's assigned
12 that area and he has exclusive rights to that area for
13 bear guiding, let's say, and a number of animals are set
14 and in this case it would be for Shaktoolik and Koyuk
15 where moose, you know, a guide could only go in and take
16 whatever is on the permit, maybe two moose, maybe 10
17 moose.

18

19 But is there a system that the guides
20 could work with the community, the local guides, to be
21 assigned areas to guide in so we're not overharvesting a
22 resource and it's the local guides that are working with
23 the communities that are getting this benefit?

24

25 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair. Mr. Gray.
26 The question had to do with BLM authorities and the
27 answer is that the BLM manages the land uses and does not
28 have authority under its regulation to manage the harvest
29 activities of guides or individual hunters. So I think
30 the answer is pretty clear that the BLM does not exercise
31 the kind of jurisdiction or authority that you're talking
32 about. In our view on the BLM lands, all of the
33 management of guided activity occurs under State
34 regulations.

35

36 MR. GRAY: But you could issue a permit
37 that would say Tom Gray you can shoot two moose in the
38 Fish River drainage and that's it.

39

40 MR. BRELSFORD: That's not.....

41

42 MR. GRAY: No.

43

44 MR. BRELSFORD:the nature of the
45 permits that the BLM issues.

46

47 MR. GRAY: Okay.

48

49 MR. BRELSFORD: They're in the form of
50 you may occupy this acreage with a camp site and we

1 understand the proponent comes in and says the reason I
2 want to do that is because I'm taking X number of hunters
3 out for moose or for bear. Even the numbers of clients
4 are not a formal condition of the permit. We do not
5 break a permit or find a violation if an applicant takes
6 one extra client out, that's what I'm saying, that those
7 are not strict terms of the permit. The permit has to do
8 with the occupation of a patch of ground.

9
10 This is not uniform among the Federal
11 agencies, there are different authorities.....

12
13 MR. GRAY: Right.

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD:on a Park and on a
16 Refuge and on BLM.

17
18 MR. GRAY: Okay.

19
20 MR. BRELSFORD: So our situation is quite
21 different than a Refuge or a Park.

22
23 MR. GRAY: Okay, and I'm going somewhere.
24 I know I have a buddy guide out of Sitka that is assigned
25 an area and he's got this area for the rest of his life
26 and I think it's a wildlife Refuge and he has nine bears
27 assigned to him a year. And, you know, if I had nine
28 bears assigned to me a year in my drainage I'd dance on
29 this roof here.

30
31 But the point being is this would be a
32 workable solution with the local guides. It would
33 probably be a workable solution with the communities and
34 it would be a workable solution with this region. And
35 how do we get to the point where we can make this happen?

36
37 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, I think a lot of
38 folks who work as professional resource managers realize
39 that good fences make good neighbors. That careful
40 allocations are durable solutions. Philosophically I
41 think you'd find a lot of agreement. The regulatory
42 structure for the BLM doesn't permit that kind of close
43 management by the BLM on these special recreation
44 permits.

45
46 I guess what I would propose is to
47 provide some more information to the Council.

48
49 The Western Interior Regional Council
50 raised these same questions over a series of years and

1 the BLM Northern Field Office prepared a briefing paper
2 on the special rec permits on BLM lands and contrasts
3 with the comparable permits on Parks and Refuges. I'm
4 kind of kicking myself for not thinking ahead and
5 bringing copies of that this time, but I would propose to
6 mail that out to the Council so that we could have a
7 little more of the written background, and, Tom, if
8 you've got some more follow up questions in a more
9 focused way we could maybe take those up you and Tom
10 Sparks or if you wanted to call me we could continue to
11 pursue this discussion.

12
13 MR. GRAY: Okay. I would like to maybe
14 summarize in this fashion, is, you guys are issuing
15 permits that are affecting subsistence users in villages
16 and granted a lot of this is politics, a lot of it's -- I
17 don't know what you want to call it, but, you know, the
18 bottom line is you're issuing permits that manage a
19 resource. And the more streamlined and the more we work
20 within the region to protect that resource within the
21 region and the people of that region get that benefit,
22 the better off we are.

23
24 Like I say, guides are going to rape an
25 area. They're going to walk in and they're going to take
26 SuperCubs and fourwheelers and you name it and they're
27 going to -- he's not going to have any moose left.

28
29 So even though your permit system can't
30 stop, you know, different people from coming into an area
31 you guys have to recognize that you're part of this whole
32 big picture of managing that resource and you also need
33 to do your part.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anybody else want to
36 talk on this issue?

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do you have anything
41 to say on this?

42
43 MR. SAVETILIK: Tom said mostly what I
44 was going to say, too, it's just a matter of, you know,
45 how do we go about getting our resources, you know, for
46 our people? Are they going to come over and buy me a
47 steak, you know, that's what I'm going to ask, our
48 resources are limited in the areas that we live in. We
49 can't go out there and pay so much for gas and pay so
50 much for ammunition for our stomach, you know, it's just

1 to where we need to look at what's being brought to us on
2 the issues that are coming up and start backing the
3 people that needs backing up, too, and I think that would
4 be good to look for resources that are needed for some
5 issues like this.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was looking for the
8 October date deadline for proposals that can be submitted
9 to this, October 22nd is the deadline for wildlife
10 proposals. So if anything is going to come out of the
11 two affected villages, the deadline is October 23rd [sic]
12 regarding game management.

13
14 MR. ARDIZZONE: 22nd.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: October 22nd of this
17 year. So if either of the villages want to submit a
18 proposal it needs to be done before that date.

19
20 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

23
24 MR. GRAY: I would suggest while Myron's
25 here and the Staff is here and Rose is here that maybe
26 some of you guys sit down tonight, tomorrow, lunchtime or
27 something and help him put something together that we can
28 go with because these proposals are, you know, a pain in
29 the butt. And, anyway, I would suggest that all you guys
30 sit down together and go over this so you kind of know
31 what's going on.

32
33 You know, Rose, I think it's important
34 you're involved in it and maybe your biologist or
35 whoever, but it would be good for all of you guys to sit
36 down and help him with this thing.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Or at least something
39 that he can bring back to the communities that he can
40 say, well, this is what I found out and this is one
41 possible way we can address it.

42
43 Myron.

44
45 MR. SAVETILIK: Yeah, I think that would
46 be good right now for me to get a proposal here and go
47 back to my community and say this is what I've come up
48 with and, you know, I think there's always some changes
49 they can make if some of the wording that they don't
50 have.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So my understanding,
2 do you want to make a proposal now or do you want to have
3 a proposal written you can bring back to Shaktoolik and
4 run it over with the people there and then submit it
5 before the 22nd of October?
6

7 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, I'd like to
8 make a proposal now and bring it back and then that way
9 I'd have something to bring back to the community to show
10 what is being done and just go from there.
11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So did you want
13 somebody to help you with the proposal right now or do
14 you want to go ahead and submit a proposal and we can
15 fineline it with the Federal Staff?
16

17 MR. SAVETILIK: I'd like someone to help
18 me with this proposal, get it finelined and then I can
19 bring it back.
20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So then until
22 that comes can we just table this and come to it when
23 he's ready.
24

25 (Council nods affirmatively)
26

27 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So we'll go
28 ahead and move along. Chuck, can you help him with it?
29

30 MR. ARDIZZONE: (Nods affirmatively)
31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Ardizzone is already
33 doing that so we can go ahead and just move along with
34 the rest of our agenda while we're waiting.
35

36 The other was for informational purpose
37 only and I wanted to get all the moose things together,
38 and that's the one on Raymond Seetuk's proposal from
39 Wales last year that we had looked at, it was a special
40 action request. And Ken can you briefly tell us what
41 happened, I just want to make sure that -- you know, Park
42 Service has worked on this and he can update us on it and
43 this is just for information only, and it will be brief.
44

45 Ken or Fred can tell us a little bit
46 about it.
47

48 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council
49 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service with Fred
50 Tocktoo, National Park Service. I'll give you a little

1 background and then if you have -- Fred actually did a
2 lot of the work so if you have any questions maybe you
3 can also address them to him.

4

5 Basically Mr. Seetot requested a special
6 action to change the moose season for 22(E). Chuck
7 Ardizzone communicated with him. The proposal went
8 through the system and basically it was felt that it
9 didn't meet the criteria for a special action and there
10 were some questions about what it was Mr. Seetuk really
11 wanted and the need for that action.

12

13 Looking at some of the harvest data and
14 so forth and listening to some of the locals suggested
15 that potentially there was a problem or an issue that
16 might need to be addressed and perhaps the avenue to do
17 that was through the regular regulation process. Park
18 Service was asked to work with Kawerak and Wales in
19 developing a proposal. Sandy Tahbone, who was going to
20 work with us, basically left Kawerak, we sort of took it
21 on ourselves. Fred Tocktoo went to Wales, met with the
22 proponent of the proposal, Mr. Seetuk and also met with
23 the IRA, provided them information that we had on the
24 harvest data, the regulations, the seasons, you know, the
25 whole shebang, discussed it with them. And in a
26 nutshell, they said, thank you, we'll talk about it some
27 more and maybe put a proposal in.

28

29 To date they haven't done that. I talked
30 to a member of the Wales IRA a few days ago and it was
31 still pretty problematic. I guess the sum of it is my
32 guess is it's not a burning issue with the community.
33 Probably the existing regulation meets most of their
34 needs. I still have a few questions and it's possible
35 we'll touch base with them at least once more before the
36 proposal period closes.

37

38 And, again, for the second or third time
39 offer them assistance in developing a proposal if they
40 wish but my guess is it's probably just quietly die.

41

42 If you have any questions for me or Fred,
43 who actually talked to Mr. Seetuk and talked to the IRA
44 please feel free to ask.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I just wanted this
47 brought up because it was an issue that we worked on last
48 year and I wanted everybody to be updated in the issue
49 that there's been contact and it's still kind of in the
50 works and we'll just see.

1 Any questions for Park Service guys.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, we're moving
10 along to the Fisheries Service information, Steven Fried.

11

12 MR. FRIED: Thank you, Madame Chair. My
13 name's Steve Fried with the Fisheries Information Service
14 Division within the Office of Subsistence Management.
15 And I'd like to bring to your attention the draft 2005
16 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, it starts on Page 23
17 in your books. I think maybe I should probably do a
18 little kind of background summary of the program so
19 people have a better understanding of it.

20

21 Basically the Federal government took
22 over fisheries management on Federal public lands in
23 Alaska in 1999 when the State and Federal laws couldn't
24 be brought into compliance. And shortly thereafter in
25 2000 the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program was set
26 up. And basically this is a program that does research
27 on fisheries and the mission is actually to collect
28 information that's of use in Federal management of
29 Federal Subsistence fisheries.

30

31 There's five Federal agencies involved
32 with it. And basically what happens is that there was
33 Federal monies put forward for this program, I think it's
34 around \$7 million each year that's available and this
35 program is used to fund studies for up to three years and
36 then at the end of three years the study ends or
37 sometimes it's reevaluated and maybe they get some more
38 funding. And so each year you have a combination of new
39 studies that are just funded for that coming year as well
40 as ongoing studies, so that \$7 million is not all
41 available for new studies every year, it just depends on
42 how many other studies are ongoing so the amount goes up
43 and down.

44

45 To select which studies are funded there
46 is a system in place in which each year a call for
47 proposals goes out, usually around November 1st and this
48 is open to anyone that is qualified and is interested in
49 putting a proposal in. And the call gives people
50 directions, you know, on how to submit a proposal, how to

1 write it, what the important issues are in each of the
2 regions, how much money is available for that year. And
3 these proposals are pretty short, they're only about two
4 or three pages usually. They're evaluated by a Technical
5 Review Committee which is comprised of representatives
6 from each of the five Federal agencies which is Fish and
7 Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National
8 Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Forest
9 Service as well as three appointees from the Alaska
10 Department of Fish and Game. One represents the Division
11 of Commercial Fish, Sport Fish and Subsistence. And as
12 it's name indicates it's a technical review committee.
13 They look at the proposals and decide which ones to
14 select for further consideration.

15
16 And what they do is they use factors and
17 on Page 25 it shows you the general factors they use. I
18 mean the first thing is if a project is a go or a no go
19 is whether or not it really has a link to the Federal
20 Fisheries Subsistence Program, if it doesn't then there's
21 no sense in going any further with it. The other things
22 that are looked at is, you know, how important is the
23 issue that it addresses. You know, is there a
24 conservation problem, allocation problems, you know, is
25 it going to fill an information gap that's needed. They
26 look at the scientific merit of the proposal, you know,
27 are they using proper methods, does it look like they can
28 really get the answers to the questions that they're
29 posing by the methods that are being used. Look at the
30 investigators to see whether or not they're qualified.
31 Look at partnership capacity building. So, you know,
32 using all these things they sort through these proposals
33 that they get and select a suite of proposals for further
34 consideration.

35
36 At that point they ask people to put in
37 what is called an investigation plan, which is actually a
38 more detailed proposal that actually goes into a lot of
39 detail on the methods and a detailed budget and, you
40 know, a schedule and things like that.

41
42 Once these investigation plans are
43 available, they're again reviewed by the Technical Review
44 Committee. They make a recommendation on which ones they
45 think are more worthy of funding and then it goes out for
46 public review, Council review and finally the Federal
47 Subsistence Board, who actually approve a suite of
48 proposals to fund for that year.

49
50 There's some guidelines and some side

1 boards on the program. There's some tables on Page 26/27
2 that sort of indicate a guideline about, you know, out of
3 this chunk of money you start off with a certain amount
4 that's allocated to each region, usually based on the
5 amount of Federal land in a region, the fisheries
6 problems in the past, you know, how complex the fisheries
7 are to manage. And, again, this is a guideline, they
8 start out with that, it doesn't necessarily mean that
9 they end up with that when the Board finally selects a
10 suite of proposals.

11
12 There's also some care taken in that, you
13 know, not all the money is just spent on maybe fisheries
14 monitoring, there should be some money spent on harvest
15 monitoring, some money spent on documenting traditional
16 knowledge and using that for management.

17
18 So all trying to have a well-rounded
19 program.

20
21 There's also some activities that aren't
22 eligible for funding under the program. And these
23 include things like habitat protection, restoration and
24 enhancement. Hatchery propagation, restoration,
25 enhancement supplementation. Contaminant assessment,
26 evaluation and monitoring. And the Federal Subsistence
27 Board has decided that these types of activities are more
28 appropriate addressed by the land management agencies,
29 they already have programs in place to do this rather
30 than using money from the Fisheries Monitoring Program.

31
32 Also there's a policy that a minimum of
33 60 percent of the program funding should be dedicated to
34 non-Federal sources, so this is to avoid, you know,
35 taking this money and then just funneling it right back
36 into the Federal government just to build a bigger
37 bureaucracy. And if you look on Page 28 there's a little
38 pie chart and it does show that, you know, we have been
39 pretty successful in doing that and there's a fair chunk
40 of the money that goes to the State and also Alaska
41 Native and rural organizations.

42
43 So basically that's the background of the
44 program in a nutshell so maybe that will help people
45 understand it better.

46
47 I can take questions on that if there are
48 any on that or I can go right along to the 2005
49 Monitoring Program.

50

1 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, this is Tom
2 Gray, I do have a question. I sit here and listen to
3 this process of how you're going to decide where you're
4 going to work on projects and it sounds like it's a
5 pretty elaborate process to go through to get to the
6 point that you're going to fund a program.

7
8 What I don't understand is we've got a
9 disaster, a chum disaster up here. If you look at the
10 numbers, at the various counting towers our numbers are
11 just crashing. And you would think that there would be
12 some priority given to do some projects up here and some
13 hands on projects. I mean we have had 15 years on my
14 river of study, study, study, document, document,
15 document, and I talked to Fish and Game this summer, you
16 know, there's going to be a coho study next year, there's
17 going to be this and that and the other, you know, it's
18 fine to study but at some point we got to start doing
19 something.

20
21 And, you know, I was going through this
22 thing and we're looking at whitefish somewhere, I mean,
23 you know, whitefish to somebody might be a big issue but
24 we go through thousands of whitefish, we seine thousands
25 of them in the fall time and they're just a trash fish,
26 you know, that we have for kwock (ph) in the winter time
27 and there's no end to whitefish. I mean we've got tons
28 and tons of whitefish, but we do have a disaster in the
29 salmon stocks.

30
31 I guess where I'm going here is how do we
32 get to the point that we can get some hands on whatever
33 it takes to restock the salmon in this area. You know
34 we've studied this issue to death and Charlie -- Charlie
35 Lean told me that they've got some project going that
36 it's a real step in the right direction and I take my hat
37 off to him, you know, it's taken 20 years to get there
38 but at least we're getting somewhere. But on the other
39 side of the coin what you're talking about, you know, I
40 think we need to focus on -- especially if we have a
41 region that's crying disaster, we've got to focus on
42 that, that's a subsistence issue and it should be a
43 priority in the system. I mean if you have five guys
44 that are from the different agencies deciding what's
45 going to get funded and what's not and then three
46 whoever's from Fish and Game, you know, it shows me that
47 their priorities are completely different than our
48 priorities are here, especially when they're funding
49 projects that don't coincide with our disaster here.
50

1 So I'll be quiet for a little while.

2

3 MR. FRIED: Okay, you're not going to
4 like my answer, I'll tell you that right now. This
5 program is very focused. It's focused on Federal
6 Subsistence management on Federal public lands and of all
7 the areas in the state unfortunately Norton Sound has
8 very little public lands that we do have any authority on
9 the fisheries with. And that's the big problem with
10 funding a lot of the things up here through this program.

11

12 Essentially what we have are some of the
13 streams around Stebbins, St. Michael because they're in
14 the Yukon-Delta National Wildlife Refuge. We've got the
15 80 miles on the Unalakleet River, that's a wild river,
16 and except for some Park land in the headwaters of some
17 streams in the northern part of this area, we don't have
18 any Federal jurisdiction on most of the other -- on any
19 of those other major streams that are having big
20 problems. So that's not where the program's going to
21 focus money on.

22

23 And the other thing is we also don't fund
24 rehab, you know, hatchery type things, you know, like
25 stocking and lake fertilization, egg boxes, egg
26 incubation, that sort of thing either and that part was a
27 policy call by the Board so.....

28

29 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, it's fine, I
30 guess to say, well, that's not my jurisdiction, that's
31 not my area, but bottom line subsistence is your area,
32 subsistence, whether or not you own land in a certain
33 area or not you're still charged with the issue that you
34 have subsistence. And, you know, this falls back to the
35 same issues that we all struggle with, agencies need to
36 work with agencies to make sure that the big picture is
37 taken care of. You know, a lot of people like to look at
38 the small little picture and, oh, I got this river to
39 take care of and I got that river to take care of but
40 subsistence goes all over the state of Alaska and there's
41 a big picture out there and these agencies need to work
42 together to say, all right, well, we don't have any --
43 and a good example is we don't -- with the reindeer
44 industry BLM doesn't have a whole lot of land in my area
45 and the State doesn't have a lot of land but they work
46 together to get my reindeer management plan done, they
47 work together to get issues taken care of. And this goes
48 back to fish too.

49

50 I mean the fish thing, you know, we can't

1 just walk away from just because I don't have land there,
2 you can't walk away from it. And that's why the
3 fisheries in this region is failing is there's no
4 support. Charlie fought that battle for years. He
5 doesn't have the support, you guys should be supporting
6 him, long ago, you should have been supporting him,
7 Kawerak, State, Feds, everybody should have backed him
8 and we probably wouldn't be in this dilemma. But the
9 agencies need to work together for a common goal whether
10 or not you have whatever.

11

12 I'm almost done here.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was going to say,
17 Tom, I think we came a long way with these fisheries
18 projects. Originally when it first started we had
19 nothing, zero dollars and then with the help of Kawerak
20 and which is kind of what you're saying right now, we
21 ended up having projects. Originally we had no funding
22 in the region. Now, we have gone a little more forward
23 and have certain projects funded. Granted we don't get
24 as much money as Yukon or Kuskokwim River but we are at
25 the point where we are getting some monies within the
26 region and it took a lot of battle in order to get over
27 here, I think, and a lot of communication with Kawerak
28 communicating with the Department that he works with and
29 we are making some headway in terms of getting some
30 monies through the Federal program that he's under even
31 though we, like you say, we do have very few Federal
32 lands, but we did get attention for the Pikmiktalik River
33 groups, we did get attention in the wild and scenic
34 river. And it appears that there's some things that are
35 going to be -- he will go through the projects that are
36 currently managed.

37

38 Originally, though, all of the bulk of
39 the money that went to the three regions, this region,
40 North Slope and Kotzebue area, the majority of the money
41 went to Kotzebue, they have a lot of Federal lands over
42 there, it's finally, throughout the years, has been
43 trickling down to us.

44

45 And I do understand what you mean and
46 it's always been -- the fact that this region has very
47 little Federal lands has been plaguing us. And I have,
48 you know, literally chastised people over it and even
49 during the Federal Subsistence Board meetings because I
50 think it would behoove everybody to study what happened

1 to us and maybe it will find answers for the other
2 places.

3

4 But currently I would like us to hear
5 what the draft proposals are now and where we are and be
6 able to support what we have coming at this point and
7 then we can still reiterate what our concerns are,
8 encourage the Federal Staff, the Federal government and
9 State and other entities to work together to improve
10 what's happening to a region which is not getting any
11 prettier. I mean now it's the king salmon, what next?

12

13 But anyway can we just continue and then
14 we'll go on with it.

15

16 Steve.

17

18 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I mean we do work
19 together but realize that this is a statewide program and
20 that money doesn't go very far and when you're battling
21 against regions like the Yukon and Kuskokwim, you know, I
22 mean it's just hard and that's why I think there are
23 guidelines set out to start out with every region got
24 some money to spend because otherwise it could be that
25 this whole program could be a Yukon River program or a
26 Kusko program. So I mean we try our best to spread the
27 money around and we do talk and I think we're all about
28 as frustrated as you are that there's so many different
29 agencies involved in fisheries because it makes it tough,
30 it really does.

31

32 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, I think the
33 point that I -- I get real frustrated because I live off
34 of the resource. But the point that I'm trying to make
35 is no matter who is charged with managing that resource,
36 all of you guys got to work together. And the bottom
37 line is Federal dollars is going to fix this program,
38 it's going to fix the problem, the resource, but the
39 State isn't going to come in and fix it. So all you guys
40 got to work together and strive together to address it.

41

42 And the point I'm trying to make is in
43 all of Alaska this region is the only region that has a
44 real, quote, disaster, on our hands. I mean there's
45 other areas that are hit but we have a disaster and
46 nobody's paying attention to it. So with that go ahead
47 and finish your presentation.

48

49 MR. FRIED: Okay. Well, if you want to
50 take a look at the history of the program there's a table

1 on Page 30 that shows all the projects that have been
2 funded, you know, since it started in 2000 and it's
3 broken up by the three regions within the study area,
4 North Slope, Northwest Arctic and Seward Penn and you can
5 see, you know, Northwest Arctic has gotten the bulk of
6 the funding. But, you know, Seward Penn has gotten five
7 projects so far and they've got two of them that are
8 going on right now and that will go on in 2005 and one of
9 them in 2006 and those are the Pikmiktalik River salmon
10 tower project and there's another project on customary
11 trade of fish on the Seward Peninsula.

12

13 So I mean there is some efforts to try to
14 understand the entire subsistence fishery, you know, on
15 and off Federal lands.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let me add something
18 real quick for Tom's benefit. Every time that we had a
19 meeting, when we expressed some concerns that we felt or
20 a Council member brings up an issue that they felt that
21 needs to be funded, Kawerak has been very responsive and
22 have helped or have submitted a proposal to this program
23 addressing an issue. Not all of the proposals that were
24 submitted were funded but there were some.

25

26 Like the Pikmiktalik River counting --
27 the Pikmiktalik fish counting came because Leonard was
28 expressing concerns about it, Kawerak took the lead, I
29 think with the State and they submitted a proposal which
30 is still funded. And the same thing happened with the --
31 we felt there was a problem with displaced Nome
32 fishermen, you know, impacting the other areas of the
33 region and that -- Kawerak took on the lead and had a
34 funding, did a study and similar things have happened
35 with the Unalakleet River.

36

37 I just wanted to point that out and I
38 think in many ways I'm very glad that we bring this issue
39 up in our meetings because there's always somebody that
40 listens and responds to them and I really appreciate you
41 bringing these out. And I think in bringing these issues
42 out it takes our Native entity powers in order to act
43 upon them and they have been, especially Kawerak.

44

45 Continue.

46

47 MR. FRIED: Okay. Well, unfortunately
48 this year for 2005 there was only one study proposal
49 submitted, just one for the whole entire northern region,
50 that includes not only this region but Northwest Arctic

1 and the North Slope so I see that as a problem right away
2 that people aren't submitting study proposals.

3

4 MR. GRAY: And you have \$7 dollars to
5 throw at that proposal?

6

7 MR. FRIED: That's statewide and that's
8 not -- you know, we don't have -- some of that money is
9 being used for funding studies that are already ongoing.
10 So, no, there wasn't \$7 million available this year,
11 there was a quite a bit less than that.

12

13 For this year there was -- oh, what was
14 it, I think about \$2 million that we had and the other
15 money was already tied up in ongoing projects and also
16 our partner's program so -- but what we did have for this
17 region was quite a bit more than that one proposal, you
18 know, needed -- the proposal was to study coho salmon
19 abundance and distribution in Unalakleet River.

20

21 And essentially what it is it's a -- it
22 would be a radio tagging study and they'd be capturing
23 coho salmon in the lower part of the Unalakleet River
24 below the North River and they would follow these fish
25 through a system of shore-based monitors and also some
26 aerial surveys. And they'd have, basically a shore-based
27 monitor below the tagging site so they can keep track of
28 the fish that might drop down out of the river after they
29 were tagged and maybe come back in or maybe not come back
30 in. One at the North River tower site to figure out how
31 many tagged fish go up there. There'd be one just past
32 the mouth of the North River to get an idea of what's
33 going up the main stem and there'd be another site that
34 would be at the beginning of the wild river to get an
35 idea of how many fish are either utilizing that stretch
36 of river or going up through it.

37

38 And through this information and having
39 the information from the towers at the North River you
40 can actually get an estimate of what the total coho
41 escapement is since you know what the number is there at
42 the tower, what proportion of radio tagged fish are in
43 that system and you can expand it from there. And you'd
44 also get an idea of where the fish are distributing
45 themselves and, you know, where the spawning areas are.

46

47 There was a similar program, not funded
48 by us, but I think it was funded -- it was conducted by
49 the state of Alaska on chinook salmon, I think they're
50 doing some chum salmon work in that system also.

1 So basically that proposal has been
2 forwarded and recommended for funding by the Technical
3 Review Committee and it's up for, you know, public
4 comment, Council comment to the Board and the Board, when
5 they meet in January 2005, will make a decision on which
6 ones to fund but essentially this is the only proposal in
7 this entire area for this coming year.

8
9 So that's going to be -- I don't think I
10 mentioned the investigators, but basically it would be
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Sportfish Division
12 program with some help through Bureau of Land Management
13 and also coordinated through the Native Village of
14 Unalakleet. And so there's a little -- on Page 35
15 there's some more information on the program, the costs,
16 what issues, what it's supposed to do. But if you've got
17 any more questions I can answer those now.

18
19 MR. GRAY: I talked to Fish and Game in
20 Anchorage this summer and I forget who I talked to and
21 they were talking about doing a coho survey like you're
22 talking about on the Unalakleet River on our river system
23 next year and they were looking at funding. You guys
24 weren't part of that process, I take it?

25
26 MR. FRIED: This is probably the study, I
27 bet, because this would start in 2005 if it's funded so
28 it would start next year.

29
30 MR. GRAY: Well, you're talking the
31 Unalakleet River, though, and I'm on the Fish River. I'm
32 way.....

33
34 MR. FRIED: Oh, sorry, yeah, no, that
35 would be something different. That's probably another
36 study that they're doing.

37
38 MR. GRAY: Is that different money
39 Charlie?

40
41 MR. LEAN: The Fish River system was
42 funded largely through NSSI, Norton Sound Salmon
43 Initiative monies and that's been a five year and \$5
44 million allocation by NOAA, a Federal agency that's in --
45 I'm the Federal rep that sits on the steering committee
46 of that and we, the steering committee, determines who
47 gets funding to do what and so there's been a number of
48 projects that Kawerak, Fish and Game, BLM, NSEDC and some
49 consultants have done in this area. A lot of it's
50 academic research but some of it's real practical stuff.

1 So that coho study on the Fish River was one of those.

2

3 MR. GRAY: And that's going to happen?

4

5 MR. LEAN: I think it was put off this
6 year due to a technical problem, but, yeah, that's.....

7

8 MR. GRAY: Because they were wrapping up
9 the chum study. They had a chum study that was going on
10 right now and that's wrapped up this year and he was
11 talking about starting up a new coho study next year.
12 And I guess what I'm kind of after, and I was looking
13 through here, through all these projects, there's
14 assessment, assessment, assessment, feasibility,
15 identification, genetics, you know, all these projects
16 have nothing to do with reestablishing any -- like us,
17 we're having a problem with stocks. We don't have a
18 resource and we need to reestablish it and we need to
19 find funding to help us reestablish those resources.

20

21 And, you know, whether or not your
22 program, per se, can help, your program can surely vouch
23 and help Charlie go get funding somewhere. I mean some
24 how, some way you can help in the system. But what I'm
25 looking for and what I am trying to reach for is how can
26 we get people moving to restore these fish stocks that we
27 need restored and start working, I mean we've studied
28 this to death.

29

30 MR. LEAN: There's a couple other pools
31 of money happening. The NSEC deserves big credit. I
32 mentioned this to you already but there's a new kind of
33 technology for incubating eggs, it's called mistechnology
34 and it's real promising and they're running a test to
35 prove it on Hasting's Creek this year. Eggs were taken
36 out of the Nome River, it's part of the high school
37 project and that's a spin off of one of these research
38 projects.

39

40 I know there's a great deal of
41 frustration how to make salmon come back and the truth is
42 many times we just don't have a really good idea and
43 we're floundering around. That's not what you want to
44 hear. But I think this mistechnology is really
45 promising. We're also looking into coho rearing
46 investigations and that sounds a little bit too academic
47 for many people's taste but that would help us figure out
48 where the bottleneck is in coho production and how many
49 eggs we need to produce the number of fish that we want
50 to see and without that information we don't know whether

1 it's a rearing problem that would be treated with, say,
2 habitat, beaver ponds, or fertilization or is it just the
3 number of eggs not being laid. And there's two very
4 different solutions there, you know, how do you want to
5 spend your money.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was going to make a
8 suggestion. I think one of the things, if the RAC agrees
9 with me, that ought to be done, perhaps for our next
10 meeting, is to have somebody outline to us what projects
11 are going on within our region that address our fisheries
12 problems and where does this funding come from. I think
13 it would really help. Because I think a lot of times we
14 all get confused because we hear about this project and
15 that project and all of us really do think there ought to
16 be combined monies in order to make a better effort. And
17 we'd like to see enhancement projects coming up.

18
19 It would really help this Council, I
20 think, if somebody during our next meeting would sit down
21 with us and make a report as to what projects are going
22 on within our region to help us with our fisheries
23 problem, who's funding those projects. Then we have an
24 idea as to what's going on.

25
26 I do know with these projects that we
27 have within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, we do get reports
28 about those as to what's going on, but, you know, like I,
29 too, you know, we all get frustrated because we'd like to
30 see somebody come up with coordinated funding to help us
31 with our fisheries problems. Because one, we don't know
32 what's going on out there and I think that my
33 recommendation, and I want to see that happen during the
34 next meeting whether it's out of cycle or not, that
35 somebody come up with -- sit down with us and tell us,
36 these are the things that are happening within your
37 region, those things are being funded and by whom and
38 what are those projects addressing in terms of our
39 fisheries. I think that would really help us and I think
40 and I'm hoping that the rest of the RAC would agree with
41 that.

42
43 So if somebody would take on that project
44 for our next meeting we would really appreciate it.

45
46 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I mean that's an
47 excellent idea and we are trying to do that region wide,
48 you know, I'll talk a little bit more about that later
49 but it's actually not a small undertaking trying to get
50 all that together but it's very important that we do have

1 all that information. So I'm not sure how good of a
2 summary we'd have, you know, by the winter meeting but we
3 can -- we always can give you a report and we always do
4 about, you know, the projects that are funded under this
5 program, under the monitoring program, it's just the
6 other ones, bringing all that in, that would be important
7 too, so.....

8
9 MR. LEAN: I'd like to put a plug in for
10 Kawerak, they're hosting a salmon enhancement summit
11 November 4 and 5 here in Nome and that's going to be a
12 discussion with presenters from different parts of the
13 state, experts in salmon enhancement and I think it will
14 be a real educational discussion about the pro's and
15 con's of different enhancement and what you could do for
16 different species of fish because it's not the same for
17 everything. So if you're at all interested, this is a
18 unique opportunity to educate yourself about the issue.
19 I think the intent is to get people to think and then we
20 need to sit down and think where we can most effectively
21 spend our money and where we want to spend it on bringing
22 back the fish in Norton Sound.

23
24 MR. BUCK: I'd like to also, since yours
25 is a statewide program, I'd like to see what studies are
26 being done in terms of what happens to the fish between
27 Area M and by the time they get to Kuskokwim area and to
28 our region, if it's -- if there's anything being done in
29 that area about our fish.

30
31 I mean when we get our report, we need to
32 know what's happening in the other areas that affect our
33 region, too.

34
35 MR. FRIED: So are you asking to get
36 information on the Area M fishery and what the harvest
37 were or are you looking at doing studies down in Area M?

38
39 MR. BUCK: Well, is there studies going
40 on?

41
42 MR. FRIED: (Nods affirmatively)

43
44 MR. BUCK: Okay. That's what I'd like to
45 know. I don't.....

46
47 MR. FRIED: There have been studies and
48 we could, you know, we could probably provide results of
49 those studies. There have been, you know, a bunch of
50 tagging studies and some genetic studies down there to

1 look at the stocks and things like that in the past. I'm
2 not sure if there's anything planned, you know, recently
3 but there's been some big changes in that fishery that
4 some people like and some people don't so.....
5

6 MR. BUCK: Yeah, but then we should know
7 about these studies and how they could possibly affect us
8 in this area.
9

10 MR. FRIED: Yeah, we could provide
11 information on that.
12

13 MR. LEAN: There's another group, the AYK
14 Salmon Initiative, it's very similar to the Norton Sound
15 one except it takes in the whole West Coast of Alaska,
16 North of the Alaska Peninsula and they're studying not
17 just Area M but other things like the trawl fishery and
18 climate change and that project is not as far along as
19 the Norton Sound one but I believe their next big public
20 meeting is in Anchorage in the middle of December. I
21 don't have the dates right off the top of my head but
22 that's -- last year they pulled together some really
23 interesting speakers. They're doing a lot of research on
24 the ocean effects whereas -- that's what you're asking
25 about.....
26

27 MR. BUCK: Yeah. Yeah.
28

29 MR. LEAN:is what's happening in
30 the ocean. And I think finally there is some work
31 happening. I'm less up to speed on that than I am with
32 the Norton Sound stuff.
33

34 MR. BUCK: Okay.
35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.
37

38 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.
39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.
41

42 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, Leonard. This
43 summer or I should say just recently I read in the
44 newspaper about what kind of studies is the Russian and
45 the Ameri -- they had this ship that was anchored out
46 here, I read it in the news, when will that study be made
47 available and what's happening in the Bering Sea or in
48 the waters between Alaska and Russia?
49

50 MR. LEAN: There was that Russian research

1 vessel and then there's the Icebreaker, the American
2 Icebreaker, the Hensley, I can't say the name. But
3 they're both concentrating on global warming, the decline
4 of the Arctic ice cap and the effects of that. The
5 Russian ship's a little more about the Bering Sea. But
6 they're looking at plankton and things, they're not
7 necessarily looking at salmon. I mean there are -- and
8 the reports typically come out three or four years later.
9 And so I don't know the answer to be honest, but that
10 would be my guess.

11

12 MR. FRIED: Isn't the International
13 Anadromous Fish Commission, I think they're doing some
14 high seas salmon studies, they're trying to coordinate a
15 little bit more on that, too. There's a bunch of things
16 that are going on. There's been a lot of research money
17 put into, in the last few years, looking at salmon, you
18 know, on the high seas as well as in fresh water but I
19 don't know when those results are going to be available.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let's go back to what
22 we're doing today and then if people have any questions
23 about something else we can redirect it at a later time,
24 but at this point let's go ahead and finish what we have.

25

26 MR. FRIED: Okay. Well, I guess we can
27 get back to that coho study on the Unalakleet. As I
28 indicated it was recommended for funding with some
29 modifications by the Technical Review Committee. And
30 it's my understanding that those modifications have
31 already been agreed upon by the investigators. I think
32 one of them was just to put a receiving station up in the
33 wild river portion to get a better idea of fish moving in
34 there, but I guess I'd ask the Council whether or not
35 they'd agree with that funding recommendation or whether
36 or not there are any other changes to the study they'd
37 like to see.

38

39 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, this is Tom
40 again.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

43

44 MR. GRAY: I would like to see you
45 funding projects here in this disaster area. And, you
46 know, granted you put out the word for proposals to come
47 in and you wait for proposals to come in and then you
48 close the date and you look at the proposals and so on
49 and so forth. There's nothing to stop you guys from
50 soliciting proposals, calling up people and saying, hey,

1 we're looking for something, we want to help, we want to
2 be a partner in this thing, how can we partner together.

3
4 We have a disaster here and you guys need
5 to help with it. And so I would suggest some how, some
6 way you guys be a partner in this even though -- let's
7 look at my area, you know, if you look at the map there's
8 some Federal land up there, whether or not it's wildlife
9 or BLM or who it is, it's still Federal land. And if you
10 need justification there it is right there.

11
12 So like I say, I would like to see you
13 guys spending some money in this region addressing this
14 disaster.

15
16 MR. FRIED: I think we'd like to help as
17 much as we can and we've done that and we do try to
18 partner, that's an important part of our program and we
19 do work with people and when they ask for help we give it
20 to them. We, you know, try to get proposals and it's
21 just, you know, some -- this is probably about the worst
22 year there was as far as proposals for this area. So I
23 kind of share your frustration on that and I guess we
24 just need to try harder.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, let's just move
27 along.

28
29 MR. FRIED: Well, I guess I leave it up
30 to the Council as to whether or not they have any
31 comments on this coho salmon project in Unalakleet.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Elmer.

34
35 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig. Like Tom
36 mentioned there's a disaster in the southern portion,
37 however, in our area I think due to non-commercial
38 fishing, fishing's been pretty good. Maybe, like TEK,
39 you've heard many times from me, TEK, you argue about
40 resources, you know, they won't be there for you. Maybe
41 there was just too much argument in the Nome, Norton
42 Sound area about Area M about their fishery disaster.
43 One component of that -- many communities -- many persons
44 do not like to talk about their own personal problems or,
45 you know, something that affects them but when people
46 from outside, you know, I can look at it from
47 perspective.

48
49 One, I live in Seward Peninsula, I'm
50 halfway -- I'm halfway between -- people really use the

1 resources from within the Seward Peninsula, yet, fishery
2 resources has been abundant for our people. One, we are
3 restricted by weather, primary fish are kind of used for
4 winter use and we dry a lot. Hardly any mining activity
5 in our area. And other places, you know, they have an
6 abundance of fish resources. Maybe outside of the region
7 there are other factors that kind of destroy the small
8 fry or the smolt when they go out into the ocean.

9
10 This past summer I noticed on the
11 northern -- or on the southern shore of Grantly Harbor
12 there was thousands, millions, I would say of small fry
13 or whatever you call it, you know, those small fish that
14 maybe hatched from last year, they were there all summer.
15 Just last month I went to our fish camp which is near or
16 inside Grantly Harbor along the slough, thousands of
17 small fry, yet, they were being eaten by, what you call
18 cisco, what we call whitefish, real whitefish or the
19 Bering Sea cisco and then the Lee cisco, you know, they
20 were pairing up, you know, you see these small fry on
21 both sides of the river -- I mean on the slough. When
22 it's calm, you know, you see that happening. And also
23 this past summer, this was the first time that that
24 occurred in Grantly Harbor where the algae came in from
25 Imruk Basin and it kind of settled on the eastern shore
26 of Grantly Harbor. That is usually reserved for the
27 Imruk Basin, but with warming temperatures, I would think
28 that the sun did its magic on the water producing algae.
29 It was pretty nice for at least two months, nice hot
30 weather and this was the first time that I seen algae get
31 into Grantly Harbor, usually it's reserved for the Imruk
32 Basin area and there's a fine line pretty much a point --
33 or the eastern half of the Imruk Basin it's kind of -- it
34 has algae and then the rest is clear because it's going
35 in and out.

36
37 We had a bad fall storm last year. What
38 effect does it have on the fish that go out to feed, the
39 smolt or the fry, whatever you call them, that go out
40 there and then come back. I think studies like that
41 should be made.

42
43 Like I said earlier Nome is a mining
44 town. Pretty much over the years they kind of mined the
45 streams. We don't know what kind of chemicals they left,
46 they put into those streams and that might be one of the
47 factors involved in why the fish do not come into these
48 areas. We go after meat that is clean, like Jake said,
49 we do not want -- it might be a fine fat bull that we go
50 after but it's certain times of the year that we go after

1 them. We just get what we need during the fall before
2 rut and then, you know, if we don't utilize that
3 resource, it's pretty much -- it's going to eat itself,
4 you know, from that area.

5
6 So I think there's a fine line between
7 using the resource and then just kind of leave them
8 alone.

9
10 In the area that I live we just pretty
11 much kind of go after whitefish, Bering Sea cisco, early
12 spring and then early winter and then the way I seen
13 those fish go after the small ones, you know, I think
14 that's -- predation is a big problem. So the problems
15 that are associated with the disaster in the Nome area,
16 it happened 10, 15, you know, you before our time, I
17 think, when we started to decline. But, you know,
18 there's a lot of factors you have to consider, was there
19 a rate of predator fish that are out there that eat the
20 smolt. The ice didn't freeze up for a long time, did the
21 ice freeze all the way to the bottom in the river systems
22 because last spring when I was up in the American River,
23 you know, the ice was all the way to the bottom but it
24 was just where it emptied out of water so it was kind of
25 strange, you know, to see the river dry after seeing it
26 frozen with water, you know, during the whole winter
27 season. But if you're going to do studies you need to
28 look at other factors that are associated from the time
29 they lay their eggs to the time they return, not just
30 looking at certain areas and saying, oh, we have a
31 disaster we just don't know what caused the disaster.

32
33 For me, this area is a disaster but for
34 me living in Brevig there's always a surplus here, we
35 hardly have a closing announcement from Fish and Game in
36 our area because I -- I think we are limited in the
37 number of fish that we catch on marine waters through the
38 channel and through the Agiapuk it's pretty much you get
39 what you can take care of. And for those other surplus
40 fish, you know, it goes towards feeding other types of
41 sea mammals because the spotted seals this past summer
42 were having a field day every day because the number of
43 pinks that were coming, they were coming 10 strong, you
44 know, just corralling the fish in, you know, that's
45 something I never seen in a long time.

46
47 But even though it might not pertain to
48 what we're talking about I thought I better add some
49 comments. You should go outside what you're studying and
50 at least, you know, try to come up with what made the

1 fish disappear in the southern portion of the Seward
2 Peninsula. It didn't happen over night it happened over
3 a number of years.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MR. FRIED: Yeah, I mean do try to
8 partner with other funding programs if we can. And the
9 thing is, you know, if something maybe is -- not have a
10 very strong link to subsistence but there's some link, I
11 mean it would mean that we wouldn't fund the whole thing
12 but we might fund five or 10 percent of it. I mean it's
13 not like we're just saying, no, it's totally out of our
14 bailiwick, we're not going to look at it but, you know,
15 it's frustrating because there's just so many different
16 agencies and there's so many different programs and
17 they're often not very well coordinated and we just, you
18 know, try to do what we try to do but hopefully we're
19 going to be able to do it better as time goes on.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do you have more on
22 your report?

23
24 MR. FRIED: Well, I was just looking for
25 either a thumb's up or a thumb's down or any other
26 suggestions for this coho project and then I'll move on.
27 I mean is it something the Council supports?

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think we've gone
30 beyond that and we're ready to move on.

31
32 MR. SEETOT: I forgot to mention where is
33 the Federal jurisdiction in the waters -- I mean in these
34 marine waters?

35
36 MR. FRIED: There isn't much, it doesn't
37 go out very far.

38
39 MR. SEETOT: Oh, there's no -- so.....

40
41 MR. FRIED: No, in fact the Federal
42 government has pulled back, you know, as far as marine
43 jurisdiction in a lot of places.

44
45 MR. SEETOT: So we would have to pretty
46 much contact the state of Alaska, Fish and Game, to at
47 least try to do studies in the marine waters because I
48 think that's -- I mean within those four years or how
49 many years it takes for the salmon to mature and then
50 return to a stream a lot of things can happen out there.

1 MR. FRIED: Well, marine studies are
2 expensive and I think it's going to take probably a
3 combination of agencies and pots of money to do a good
4 job. I think that the Norton Sound Initiative was
5 looking at that and there's some other things that are
6 doing that also so -- just once you start looking in
7 marine waters you start needing bigger boats and, you
8 know, it just gets more spendy.

9
10 MR. SEETOT: I don't think it requires a
11 bigger boat, I think you just need to ask more questions
12 of the people that use the resource. Because what I seen
13 it doesn't take a biologist for me to say, oh, last year
14 was a good year because thousands of millions of fry were
15 just jumping around whenever someone came to the beach
16 and seeing them eaten by other fish so it's just a matter
17 of maybe asking the right questions to certain people,
18 you know, that hunt outside before the fishing season
19 begins. Because when we're out marine mammal hunting
20 we'll see schools of salmon coming in from the Bering
21 Sea, you know, heading toward the river system.

22
23 MR. FRIED: Well, we certainly would
24 consider funding studies by, you know, basically using
25 traditional knowledge and trying to get some idea of
26 what, you know, sort of factors had been important or
27 might be important so it's within the bounds of the
28 program, certainly.

29
30 Do you want me to move on to.....

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: (Nods affirmatively)

33
34 MR. FRIED: The only thing I'd bring to
35 your attention as far as studies is there's an inter-
36 regional study on whitefish. Inter-regional means that
37 it just covers more than one region or it's a statewide
38 study.

39
40 And this study would look at whitefish
41 basically over a large portion of the state using samples
42 that have already been collected and also they'd probably
43 go out and collect some more. Generally what they're
44 looking at would be -- I think this one was focused on
45 humpback whitefish for the most part, looking at whether
46 or not they can distinguish any kind of differences
47 between stocks, you know, within regions, outside of
48 regions. And they were also looking at different species
49 for diagnostic markers because it's pretty difficult to
50 identify juvenile fish. And, you know, this concerns

1 this region just because it's a statewide effort.

2

3 I just wanted to bring that to your
4 attention. It would be done, if it's funded, by the Fish
5 and Wildlife Genetics Lab and also Randi Brown in
6 Fairbanks with Fish and Wildlife Service and Ken Harper
7 would probably help coordinate some of the field
8 activities, if they're needed, and also take a look at
9 the information to see if it made any sense.

10

11 I don't know if there's any questions
12 about that or comments. But aside from that coho project
13 this would be the only project that is up for funding
14 that would concern this region in 2005.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MR. FRIED: Okay, lastly I just wanted to
19 bring to your attention, if you look at Page 43 called
20 strategic planning update and it actually does touch on a
21 lot of the things we've already discussed.

22

23 Basically, you know, every year before
24 the call for proposals we do ask the Councils to go over
25 their list of issues and information needs and see if
26 they're still up to date and see if there's ones that
27 need to be taken off, ones that needed to be added and
28 basically, you know, that's what goes out to the people
29 that are sending proposals in so they get an idea what
30 sort of topics need to be addressed.

31

32 And what we thought was that we could
33 probably do a better job in identifying these things and
34 also making sure we're better coordinated with other
35 agencies and other funding programs by doing a little bit
36 more of a formal process and we've started this in
37 Southcentral and Bristol Bay and hopefully get started in
38 this region also. Part of that process would actually be
39 collecting or identifying all the studies that have been
40 done, are ongoing in different region by different
41 agencies and applying that to the information needs to
42 actually see what really should be funded, making sure
43 we're filling the gaps and hitting all the high points on
44 it.

45

46 So we're trying to get better coordinated
47 and we've had some interesting meetings in Bristol Bay,
48 have a couple meetings and then come out with a more
49 focused plan and hopefully that would, not only, update
50 the issues and information needs but also brings people

1 together from these agencies and hopefully it will help
2 us coordinate a lot better and, you know, in the studies
3 that we fund and make sure we get the most important
4 ones. We don't really have a date for the one for this
5 area but I'm hoping we can start on that fairly soon,
6 probably next year.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, actually we had
9 a request to get something started soon, that we would
10 like to get a report from somebody what projects are
11 ongoing in this region and who's funding them. And
12 hopefully we'll have that by the next meeting, at least
13 the beginning of one which I don't think we need to wait
14 until next year for that project, we've already requested
15 it.

16
17 MR. FRIED: That kind of fits in with
18 this planning process and that's exactly what we're
19 trying to do right now in Bristol Bay and Southcentral is
20 gather that information and put it together so it would
21 help to get a head start in that for this area also.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

24
25 MR. FRIED: I'm done unless anybody else
26 has any more questions.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions or comments
29 for Steve.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. I don't
34 plan on going beyond 5:00 so do you guys want to take a
35 little break here. Let's take a little break, let's take
36 a about five to 10 minute break.

37
38 (Off record)

39
40 (On record)

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Let's get back to our
43 seats.

44
45 (Pause)

46
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I'm calling the
48 meeting back to order it's now 4:15. We are going to go
49 back to 22(E) moose.

50

1 MR. OLANNA: 22(B).
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Excuse me, 22(B) East
4 moose, whatever.
5
6 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, Myron
7 Savetilik, Shaktoolik.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.
10
11 MR. SAVETILIK: 22(B), I'll be submitting
12 a proposal and it's already in writing right now and
13 that's all I have to do.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You need to act on the
16 proposal so is Chuck here to -- do you got the wording
17 for the proposal that he's talking about?
18
19 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes.
20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And Myron had seen it
22 so can you read to us the proposal that he's proposing?
23
24 MR. ARDIZZONE: Surely.
25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: You're making a motion
27 for the proposal, right?
28
29 MR. SAVETILIK: Yes, Madame Chair, I am.
30 I'll be taking it back though for a review.
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So you want to
33 make it now and go back for review?
34
35 MR. SAVETILIK: Do you want me to make
36 the proposal now and then go back to Shaktoolik with it
37 and -- I know it's going to be ongoing, all right, but
38 I'm just saying what I was going to do now is submit this
39 proposal right now and then let the Council know what I'm
40 going to do with this right now.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.
43
44 MR. ARDIZZONE: So the new language would
45 read, Unit 22(B) remainder, one bull August 1 through
46 January 31, Federal public lands are closed to the taking
47 of moose except for residents of Koyuk and Shaktoolik.
48
49 MR. SAVETILIK: Yeah.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So that's your.....

2

3 MR. GRAY: I have a question, maybe for
4 Fish and Game. Have you guys done surveys, I'm at -- I'm
5 curious what the population is and why would BLM issue
6 permits if there wasn't enough animals out there. What's
7 the moose population doing there, can it justify these
8 additional hunters or where are we at on that?

9

10 MR. GORN: Tom and Committee members,
11 Tony Gorn from Fish and Game. There hasn't been a moose
12 census completed in 22(B) East in many years. But as
13 Kate discussed earlier when we look at moose harvest from
14 the area over the last 20 years, for many years prior to
15 the late '90s it was like three or four moose a year
16 taken by non-residents which is completely sustainable.
17 And then what we saw in the late '90s was that harvest
18 spike to seven moose a year and that was addressed with a
19 Board of Game action, a new regulation passed by the
20 Board of Game, I think it was in 1998, that changed the
21 moose season, from the fall to November 1st to December
22 31st. Basically what that did is it made it very
23 difficult for a non-resident moose hunter to come to
24 22(B) East and hunt moose just because of the
25 environmental conditions and logistics and everything
26 that goes into play for hunting moose.

27

28 So after that regulation went into effect
29 the non-resident moose harvest went back down to three
30 moose a year and that's what the average annual harvest
31 is right now for non-residents in 22(B) East, it's three
32 moose a year.

33

34 Now, if this passes and we would see a
35 spike again in non-resident moose harvest back up to
36 seven or more animals a year, the State would make the
37 necessary adjustment to try to reduce that harvest.

38

39 MR. GRAY: Back to three?

40

41 MR. GORN: Back to around three or four.
42 And what seems natural to do would be to go through the
43 same process that we just went down or the same road that
44 we just went down in Elmer's country in 22(D) remainder
45 in the American and Agiapuk where there'd be a non-
46 resident registration moose hunt where we'd only give out
47 so many non-resident permits a year. So, you know, in
48 that country in 22(B) East for a non-resident moose hunt
49 we'd have a season, November 1 to December 31 and we'd
50 only give out three permits a year so we would know that

1 harvest wouldn't -- or we might give out four or five
2 permits a year, assuming that one or two of those guys
3 are going to be unsuccessful so we would know every year
4 what the harvest would be and that's how we would address
5 that.

6
7 But, again, to go all the way back now
8 full circle, the answer to your question as far as what's
9 the population doing in 22(B) East, we're really pretty
10 much uncertain at this point because we haven't completed
11 a census in that country in a long time.

12
13 MR. GRAY: Myron, I'm caught in a hard
14 place here because I represent guides and fishing guides
15 and so on and so forth, that's my position on this Board
16 and so I've got to kind of weigh and make judgments on
17 their behalf so to speak. And what I'm thinking in the
18 back of my mind here is we're going to -- Bob Hannon has
19 taken hunters and that's exactly what he's talking about
20 is Bob Hannon, he's kept him at three and I'm trying to
21 think of a way that we could satisfy you in Shaktoolik
22 and yet satisfy -- keep Bob Hannon in the game, so to
23 speak, and if the proposal was drafted so it addressed
24 the rivers that you're concerned with for your community,
25 would that fix your problem? Would you be happy with
26 that, for example, the Ungalik River, and, the, I don't
27 know, Shaktoolik River, whatever rivers you deal with and
28 yet leave the Koyuk River alone for Hannon so he can do
29 his hunts? Is that something we can do? And maybe I
30 should throw that out to everybody here so we're not -- I
31 hate to shut Hannon down but on the same token, believe
32 me, I don't want to see these new guys get a foot in the
33 door and they're going to. I mean they're going to.

34
35 So if we can address keeping the rivers
36 you're concerned about shut down on Federal lands and,
37 yet, let Bob Hannon stay the way he is, I would really go
38 that route and I would suggest that we go that route.

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: What we did years ago
41 when this issue came up because we've addressed this
42 before, a very similar one, we were having a meeting in
43 Unalakleet and we then we had a little conciliatory
44 meeting while our meeting was going on, the two opposing
45 parties came up with back to the RAC where they had a
46 consensus where both parties were a little more happier
47 than what the proposal was originally and then the new
48 proposal, which was amended was passed. I don't know if
49 that would be possible, we've done it before in many
50 respects, like we've done it between the reindeer herders

1 and the caribou hunters in Shishmaref, we've done that
2 similar except it was like a special meeting of its own.

3
4 There was a proposal but it changed
5 substantially by the time that it came to us and then it
6 was changed. But it took the two opposing parties to
7 meet together away from the RAC and then they brought it
8 to the RAC. It was kind of like an informal meeting
9 where they were hashing out issues and then they came
10 back, and you were a participant in that. That was a
11 similar thing that happened in Unalakleet. I don't know
12 if that's possible but the original proposals were very
13 different from what were passed and presented to the
14 Federal Subsistence Board. Everybody, by the time they
15 were done, they were in consensus so they became a
16 consent agenda item and we've done that a number of times
17 with fisheries, et cetera.

18
19 We come up with this broad proposal and
20 then we get the two parties together and it would have
21 been in a meeting at that time in Unalakleet, that they
22 came up with a solution and presented it to the RAC.
23 They came up with another proposal which met both halfway
24 there.

25
26 You know I'm not going to say that that
27 kind of thing works all the time but we have done it in
28 the past and I think the Federal program is very
29 receptive to it. And there's been some that were done
30 informally through -- there's some issues that we've done
31 informally through teleconference, talking to people, the
32 Federal Staff has worked with people and they'll come up
33 with something and by the time the proposal comes to us
34 it's substantially changed from the original because the
35 affected parties have worked on it.

36
37 MR. GRAY: I guess what I'm doing, I'm
38 trying to read between the lines and between these
39 agencies and what we can do and can't do and what he
40 wants and what the guides have at this point and, you
41 know, there's several ways we can address thing. The
42 rivers that your community is concerned about, we can
43 shut down the Federal lands and I would be in favor of
44 that. The Koyuk River itself, if Fish and Game is
45 willing to take the stand and say, okay, we've had three
46 animals killed by non-residents in a year and we're going
47 to take the stand that we're going to declare an
48 emergency order and shut down non-residents after three
49 animals in the Koyuk River, then I think we've solved
50 everything here. Everybody should be happy.

1 You know because these hunters aren't
2 going to come in, these outside guides aren't going to
3 come in and try and set up for just a few animals.
4 They're there to take 15, 20 animals if they can. And,
5 you know, I think this is another deal where the agencies
6 need to work together guys, but maybe my idea is out in
7 left field, I don't know. But what I'm thinking and what
8 I'm proposing here, Myron, is if you would say that the
9 Shaktoolik River drainage and the, whatever river
10 drainage, is you want shut down for non-residents, closed
11 to non-resident hunting, we include that in your proposal
12 and then leave the Koyuk River alone. But we know that
13 the Koyuk River is going to get shut down at three non-
14 residents.

15
16 MR. SAVETILIK: My thinking is, is he
17 hunting on State or Federal lands, that's one of my
18 questions right now? Is he hunting on State or Federal?
19 See it's going to make a difference even though -- or
20 it's still going to go as like, you know, I know for a
21 fact he goes into Ungalik River also, in that area where
22 I'm from too and he just doesn't go to the Koyuk River
23 either, too, so I'm looking at that where is he hunting,
24 you know?

25
26 MR. GRAY: Well, I didn't realize that he
27 was hunting the Ungalik River. You know the thing of it
28 is if we shut down the Ungalik River and the Shaktoolik
29 River, the Federal lands on those two rivers, that's
30 going to protect you guys in that area and he doesn't
31 have any choice he has to go up the Koyuk River.

32
33 But I have to -- I represent the guides
34 and fishing guides and so on and so forth and so I've got
35 to say my peace and try and protect what little we have
36 and yet, you know, I understand I want to satisfy you
37 guys too.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think getting a
40 proposal in at this time would be a beginning to start
41 having dialogue between people that are opposed to it.
42 Like I said before, we had some doosey proposals come to
43 this Board, sometimes it had taken a couple years to get
44 them to the point where people are pretty much
45 comfortable with them, but sometimes it takes a couple of
46 meetings, but it takes some entity to coordinate the
47 differences and have people voice each other's concerns
48 and come up with a solution that they're both comfortable
49 with and it looks like this is one of those issues that
50 you need to participate, that he needs to participate in

1 because both of you are going to be affected by whatever
2 the outcome is. And to begin that process my
3 recommendation would be to go ahead and get the proposal
4 in and then have the Federal Staff work on getting a
5 solution by getting parties together. Whether that be
6 done at a meeting somewhere, teleconferencing, some how
7 get communication together so people can start airing out
8 what's bothering both parties and come up with their own
9 proposal as to how they believe this situation is going
10 to help everybody in general that's affected by it.

11

12 We've done that before in the past and
13 this would only be the beginning and your concerns would
14 be able to be heard with the people that are proposing
15 something differently from your idea. And whatever the
16 work product is that comes back to this Board would not
17 be -- this Council will probably be very different. But
18 this would just be the beginning portion of it so all
19 that dialogue can start beginning.

20

21 MR. GRAY: Okay, the other thing that I'd
22 really like to point out, too, and sometimes it takes me
23 a little while to get my brain going here, Fish and Game
24 in this whole open area that is open right now has only
25 taken three animals out of there and they've gone on
26 board to say that if they take three animals out of
27 there, if it gets to be too much more they're going to
28 shut it down. So why don't we circumvent this whole
29 arena and say that only three non-resident animals can
30 come out of this area, we step forward with it, Fish and
31 Game will buy into it, they'll enforce it and we're
32 there.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: See that's what I
35 mean. It's going to take coordinated efforts of people
36 talking to one another, a proposal is there and people
37 talk with one another expressing their concerns,
38 expressing their ideas on how they feel this is going to
39 work best. And when you were in Shishmaref during those
40 meetings, you were the chair of the Reindeer Herder's
41 Association. With the hunters and the Reindeer
42 Association, it would be reindeer herders would meet by
43 themselves, the hunters would meet by themselves and then
44 they'd meet together, the rest of us stayed outside and
45 then you guys all came back, you had identified areas
46 where you think the hunt should be and had time periods
47 that both parties had come up with on their own. The
48 original proposal totally changed, but both parties were
49 okay with it so we came up with something that was
50 workable, up to date. But the original proposal was the

1 one that started the dialogue, that's what I was
2 mentioning.

3
4 And Fish and Wildlife has been very, very
5 receptive and so has the State, they've always been
6 involved when these kinds of issues came in. The State
7 entities and whoever else is affected get together and
8 they have always worked out some kind of a solution to a
9 problem. If it isn't then it becomes a battle. But the
10 majority of the time, by the time the proposal comes back
11 to us it's changed and we, as a body, act upon a product
12 that most people were comfortable with and went along.
13 So it seems to me this is going to be one of those, and
14 if the people don't come to a consensus it's going to be
15 up to this body to say no we're against it, yes we are
16 and maybe work towards a more amenable approach. But
17 this would begin a dialogue.

18
19 Okay?

20
21 MR. GRAY: Okay, I guess the question
22 needs to be asked, you know, I was involved in the
23 Shishmaref deal and so on and so forth, right now I'm
24 going to vote against that thing because it's -- I don't
25 have any -- I have to. But on the same token if I was
26 him I'd vote for it. But the thing I'm scared of is once
27 a proposal's in place, if somebody doesn't taken and go
28 to Koyuk or if somebody doesn't take and go to Shaktoolik
29 or White Mountain and talk to the guides and say, hey,
30 guys, this is the issue, if that doesn't happen this
31 thing's going to blow right through and it will be before
32 the big Board there and it could fly and all of a sudden,
33 you know -- and so anyway somebody needs to run with this
34 thing and do a formal process so there can be some
35 intervention.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, the last time
38 this issue came up from that same region all the players
39 were involved. Hannon was involved in it, the
40 individuals that were key people were involved, in fact,
41 they were at the meeting when we had our meeting and we
42 were addressing the issue in Unalakleet and it was
43 purposely that we had the meeting in Unalakleet because
44 it was cheaper for people to go over there versus coming
45 to Nome because we were going to hear that issue over
46 there. It was easier and cheaper to go over there for
47 people that needed to be heard so that's why it occurred
48 there.

49
50 Chuck.

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Like Grace said this is a
2 good starting point. What will happen, this will go back
3 to the analyst, the analyst will talk to the individuals
4 involved, it should be the guides, it should be the
5 communities, the analyst will come with a recommendation,
6 it may not even be what's on paper here, it may be
7 something like this modified. It will come back to the
8 RAC at the next meeting and then you guys can discuss it
9 more there and there should be, hopefully, some public
10 testimony there, some written testimony and then the RAC
11 will decide from there before it even goes to the Board,
12 I mean you'll see it again.

13

14 MR. GRAY: And I understand that.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And what's happened in
17 the past, too, is that when we come up with issues like
18 this and there was no consensus we just table them to the
19 next. We don't act upon it, we move it along if there's
20 just not enough to make a decision.

21

22 Jake.

23

24 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. Did someone
25 entertain a motion? You did, didn't you, Myron?

26

27 MR. SAVETILIK: I just said that I was
28 presenting a proposal and I was bringing it back to the
29 community and have them look at it and then if it was all
30 right with that proposal, if there was any additional
31 changes for that proposal we'd make additional changes
32 and get it sent in.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

35

36 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So in other words,
39 we're talking about this one that may change so.....

40

41 MR. OLANNA: Whenever it comes to
42 subsistence I've worked in Kawerak for so many years and
43 based on what I've heard so far on the request from
44 Shaktoolik and Koyuk I would support this proposal
45 subject to amendments, like Grace was saying, Tom. So I
46 make that motion.

47

48 MR. SAVETILIK: I second.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, there's a motion

1 on the floor. You got it Chuck?
2
3 MR. ARDIZZONE: (Nods affirmatively)
4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor
6 signify by stating aye.
7
8 IN UNISON: Aye.
9
10 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
11 same sign.
12
13 MR. GRAY: Aye.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.
16
17 (Laughter)
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, what I'm.....
20
21 MR. GRAY: Can I say something?
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Sure.
24
25 MR. GRAY: I think it's really important
26 that we make sure the local guides are made aware of
27 what's going on on this issue and are incorporated to
28 these new amendments because, you know, it's our
29 livelihoods too. And this decision that's happening here
30 is made -- it's been based on no formal counts. Fish and
31 Game has stood in front of us and said we can shoot three
32 outside animals so it's important that the guides have a
33 say in this too.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So noted. Jake.
36
37 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. Tom, this
38 proposal, both Chuck and the Federal Subsistence Board
39 Staff will be analyzing this proposal and your guides
40 will be notified. And, of course, like Chuck said, you
41 know, everybody will be made aware of this current draft
42 which is subject to amendment. So I'm pretty sure your
43 guides will be communicating with Chuck or whoever is the
44 coordinator on this proposal.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Mr. Ashenfelter.
49
50 MR. ASHENFELTER: Madame Chair. I'm Roy

1 Ashenfelter from the general public. One of the things
2 that I see here that needs to be addressed or somehow
3 answered is what's going to happen in the meantime while
4 this proposal's being addressed, you know, between now
5 and whenever? You have two permitted people by BLM right
6 now. And that's the other issue is somehow BLM needs to
7 get in the picture of not just saying, well, all our
8 responsibility is on the land and everything else is up
9 to somebody else to deal with and somehow they need to
10 get a grip on their decisions in terms of how they issue
11 permits. There has to be a better process than the one
12 they're using right now.

13

14 The other thing that was mentioned is
15 there is no census in this area so to add more guides
16 doesn't seem to make any sense without any data. So
17 there's a couple of issues there that I think needs to be
18 answered between now and whenever you guys deal with the
19 proposal.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

22

23 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair. Roy, this
24 proposal speaks to the harvest of the animals. Now, the
25 BLM that we addressed earlier just reflects the land use
26 of establishing a camp there so it doesn't -- I don't
27 think it's intended to reflect the harvest that is
28 intended in that area. But this proposal will limit
29 Federal subsistence users in those lands. Is that right
30 Taylor?

31

32 MR. BRELSFORD: (Nods affirmatively)

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Not for this year.

35

36 MR. BRELSFORD: I'd like to offer two
37 reassurances to the Council and to Mr. Ashenfelter, the
38 concern about the policy framework for BLM special rec
39 permits has been raised in several parts of the state in
40 very forceful terms. Some of the Regional Council
41 members on the Western Interior Council are quite
42 articulate. They've met directly with the Alaska
43 Resource Advisory Council, the BLM's advisory body to
44 press exactly the same issues. I will go back after this
45 meeting and say once again that this policy framework
46 leaves a lot of disappointment in the region. I'm not
47 going to suggest that there's not a lot of willingness in
48 the BLM at this point to revisit the basic policy
49 framework but I think it is my job to continue to say how
50 the public is reacting to that and I will do that. I

1 will go back and report about the continuing disappoints
2 that have been raised in this meeting.

3

4 The other point I want to reassure on is
5 to mention again that we've already begun the planning
6 for a moose survey effort in the Koyuk drainage in 22(B)
7 East as soon as the snow makes it possible to conduct
8 that survey. So I think we all share, we literally share
9 the same frustration about limited data in a controversy
10 area. We need to do better on that and we're committed
11 to doing that. So Kyle has actually begun the planning
12 process, has about half of the resources in place to
13 conduct the survey work and we will see that through, we
14 will conduct moose survey work in Unit 22(B) East as soon
15 as it's possible with the weather conditions this coming
16 fall and spring.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Hang on. Tom.

21

22 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair. I think I would
23 like to throw it back on the table again for you guys and
24 for BLM and for all the agencies, it's very important and
25 Roy brings out a good issue that, hey, we got two new
26 guys coming in this area that's going to hammer a
27 resource. You guys are giving out permits to hammer a
28 resource that there's no -- nobody really knows what that
29 resource is, you know, Fish and Game says, well, three is
30 the number so we're going to give them three but I can't
31 say it strong enough that you've got local guides here
32 and I'm one of them, you have local guides and we all
33 need to work together in managing this resource because
34 that resource is going to feed me for the next 20 years.
35 If there's no moose there I'm not going to make a living.
36 If there's no bears there I'm not going to make a living.

37

38 So I think the Native community, the
39 local villages, to a point need at least to support their
40 local guides. We all need to work together in coming up
41 with a common goal. I don't want to see outside guides
42 come in just as bad as Shaktoolik, I don't want to see
43 it. But on the same token there's guides that are making
44 a living out there that need to be able to work and use
45 that resource also and I think they manage it a whole lot
46 better than, you know, these outsiders that are coming
47 in. And your permit system is opening those doors for
48 those people.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I have a question for

1 you. Would it help if we, as a Council, write a letter
2 expressing the concerns that were discussed over here to
3 BLM from different entities that were here from different
4 people and letting them know that our concern that some
5 of the -- some of the concerns that we're hearing? I
6 think with the help of the Federal Staff we can come up
7 with a letter that we can fax or send to the RAC members
8 to review to be sent out to BLM expressing the concerns
9 that we have heard today and I would really like to see
10 this really looked at in some way by Bureau of Land
11 Management. There has to be a mechanism if the appeal
12 portion has been denied.

13

14 I don't know if there's an avenue, maybe
15 it's something that you can look at because it sounds
16 like immediate relief is vital because of our moose
17 situation, because there's no counts. You heard through
18 our meetings tonight, even the time period in other
19 parts, the west of the Darby Mountains, that moose
20 hunting season is growing smaller and smaller, the
21 numbers are not getting any better throughout 22(C). I
22 think it's really critical because we don't know the
23 numbers in that area that there has to be a mechanism to
24 relook at it at least hold off for the remainder of this
25 hunting season.

26

27 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, at the risk of kind
28 of repeating a lot of the detailed discussion from this
29 afternoon, I do feel a certain need to say the Department
30 of Fish and Game will manage the harvest of these
31 hunters, period. If that collective -- if that total
32 harvest is bumping up against an unsustainable level the
33 Alaska Department of Fish and Game has all of the legal
34 authority necessarily to intervene. The BLM does not
35 have the legal authority to intervene over harvest
36 levels. So the legal authority to do what you're asking
37 rests with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

38

39 On your point about asking how to draw
40 attention to the Council's concerns, I think the
41 suggestion that -- the question of whether a letter might
42 be helpful is a good one. I think given the amount of
43 conversation, discussion in the Council meeting and with
44 the public it is important to bring this forward to the
45 attention of the BLM as a Council correspondence. I know
46 that you all have been paying attention to the new
47 Council correspondence guidelines and this would be an
48 example of a situation in which you would want to draft
49 it and it would be subject to some review in the Office
50 of Subsistence Management. But I think given the level

1 of concern and discussion today it would be worthwhile to
2 forward that in the form of some correspondence to the
3 State Director of the BLM.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, another avenue
6 that you might want to talk with is a special action
7 maybe. That you might want to talk with Myron at a later
8 point, maybe a special action, which may be another
9 avenue.

10
11 Mr. Ashenfelter.

12
13 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Madame
14 Chair. Just a couple things while we're talking about
15 BLM and its policy. You know, these policies, I hope
16 there's a way that we could talk to BLM in understanding
17 how the policy is developed, who develops it, could
18 public have input in that and if they could when is that
19 allowed so that we could get to the bottom of making sure
20 that these announcements whenever they're going out for
21 permitting is is addressed right from the very beginning
22 so that you don't have a -- you're not trying to stop a
23 permit, but what you're trying to do is get a way in
24 which the public has input into this process so that
25 there is a better way of dealing with permitting instead
26 of having to do what's now as being left for Shaktoolik
27 and Koyuk to do a legal thing to find out what's left for
28 them to do. The permits have been let but I think the
29 way to get around that or get to it is understand how the
30 policy is developed and work with it from there.

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: Madame Chair. I'd made
33 the offer previously to provide the briefing paper
34 prepared in the BLM Northern Field Office concerning the
35 policies on special rec permits to the Council, I would
36 be happy to provide that to Mr. Ashenfelter directly or
37 to others that would be identified, interest groups,
38 participants in these discussions in the region.

39
40 Kyle reminds me that the Kobuk Seward
41 Peninsula Land Use Plan is currently in its initial
42 stages, this is a BLM land use plan and many of the long-
43 term decisions regarding land use -- the framework for
44 land uses on the BLM lands in the Kobuk and Seward
45 Peninsula will be discussed and alternatives and analysis
46 of impacts laid out in the course of this land use plan
47 -- within the land use plan it is possible to identify
48 recreational objectives that would represent some
49 thresholds or some guidelines for the kind of
50 recreational use that is appropriate on the BLM lands.

1 The amount, the seasonal configuration, those
2 recreational objectives are a discussion item in the land
3 use plan. So Kyle will say a little bit more about that
4 in the BLM agency presentation later in the agenda. But
5 I guess I want to mention that again here. That this
6 concern about recreational uses and avoiding conflicts
7 with other uses on the BLM, that's a classic land use
8 plan problem and that plan is under way now in this area,
9 in the Kobuk, Seward Peninsula area.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Leonard.

14

15 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, are we going to
16 go past 5:00 p.m., or should we continue this.....

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: No. I plan on.....

19

20 MR. KOBUK:tomorrow?

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I plan, whenever
23 somebody makes a motion, to -- well, actually I plan on
24 continuing tomorrow at 9:00. I don't plan on going
25 beyond 5:00. So we can recess until 9:00. Do we have
26 any more questions for Taylor regarding BLM issues or we
27 can continue tomorrow like you said.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: I just have one follow up
32 item, Madame Chair, for Mr. Gray, to request, Tom, that
33 you work with us, Federal Staff, to ensure that as we
34 move forward with this proposal, that we have a complete
35 record of contacts that you think are appropriate for the
36 local guides and others so that we insure that we have
37 notification to the people who need to be involved in the
38 process.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

41

42 MR. OLANNA: I make a motion we recess
43 until tomorrow morning.

44

45 MR. GRAY: Second.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion on the floor to
48 recess until tomorrow morning, all in favor say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1
2 same sign.

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,

3

(No opposing votes)

4

5

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tomorrow morning, 9:00

6

7 o'clock.

8

9

(PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

