

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

2

3

REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

4

5

6

PUBLIC MEETING

7

8

9

VOLUME I

10

11

February 23, 2006

12

10:30 A.M.

13

Aurora Inn Conference Room

14

Nome, Alaska

15

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17

18 Grace Cross, Chair

19 Peter Martin, Sr.

20 Michael Quinn, Secretary

21 Clifford Weyiouanna, Vice Chair

22 Peter G. Buck

23 Myron Savetilik

24 Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.

25 Charles F. Saccheus, Sr.

26 Thomas Gray

27 Vance E. Grishkowsky

28

29 Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44 Recorded and transcribed by:

45

46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC

47 3522 West 27th Avenue

48 Anchorage, AK 99517

49 907-243-0668

50 jpk@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 2/23/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I'll call the meeting of the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council to order. It is now 10:30. Today is February 23, 2006.

You have to excuse me, I've got a cold, so my voice is kind of funny, so maybe I'll keep quiet most of the time.

So the meeting is now in order. And Barb can do the roll call.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Grace.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Peter Martin.

MR. MARTIN: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Michael Quinn.

MR. QUINN: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Clifford Weyiouanna.

MR. WEYIOUANNA: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Myron Savetilik.

MR. SAVETILIK: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Elmer Seetot.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Charles Saccheus.

MR. SACCHEUS: Here.

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thomas Gray.
2
3 MR. GRAY: Here.
4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Vance Grishkowsky.
6
7 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Here.
8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Wow. Chair, you
10 have a full board.
11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Which is kind of
13 unusual.
14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.
16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I welcome everybody to
18 our meeting this morning, and I certainly hope we'll
19 have a productive meeting. Since we have so many new
20 people, we'll introduce ourselves, starting with Peter
21 Martin.
22
23 MR. MARTIN: Peter Martin from
24 Stebbins. I'm in place of Leonard Kobuk Place.
25
26 MR. QUINN: Okay. Mike Quinn, I live
27 here in Nome. I don't know if I'm taking anybody's
28 place. It's a comm/sport seat though. Most of you
29 know me.
30
31 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, for those that
32 can see me, I'm Cliff Weyiouanna. I'm from Shishmaref,
33 and I represent Shishmaref area along with Elmer
34 Seetok, so -- and also I'm a reindeer herder. Used to
35 be. I'm a recreational herder.
36
37 Thank you.
38
39 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Vance Grishkowsky
40 from Unalakleet representing sport fishing and
41 commercial use as well.
42
43 MR. GRAY: Tom Gray, I'm from White
44 Mountain. I represents the guides. And I think
45 everybody knows me. I'm kind of an all-around flunky.
46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Grace Cross, the
48 current chair. I live in Nome.
49
50 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig

1 Mission. I represent subsistence.

2

3 MR. SAVETILIK: Myron Savetilik,
4 Shaktoolik.

5

6 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck, White Mountain.

7

8 MR. SACCHEUS: Charles Saccheus, Sr.,
9 Elim, and I represent the subsistence hunters of Elim.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And would everybody
12 else in the audience please introduce themselves, too.
13 With Barb.

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm Barb Armstrong,
16 Coordinator for Seward Pen and North Slope.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong, I'm
19 the cultural anthropologist that serves this Council.

20

21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone. I'm
22 the wildlife biologist for this Council.

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, the chief
25 of Resource and Subsistence Program manager for the
26 National Park Service.

27

28 MS. CLARK: My name is Maureen Clark.
29 I'm the public affairs person from the Office of
30 Subsistence Management, Anchorage.

31

32 MR. BOS: Good morning. I'm Greg Bos
33 from the Fish and Wildlife Service in Anchorage. I'm
34 on the Staff Committee.

35

36 MR. HAYNES: Terry Haynes, Department
37 of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Division in
38 Fairbanks. I work with the Federal subsistence
39 wildlife process. Tony Goren and Kate will be over
40 here off and on throughout the meeting, too.

41

42 MR. DENTON: Good morning. I'm Jeff
43 Denton, I'm with the Bureau of Land Management out of
44 their Anchorage field office. I'm a biologist.

45

46 MR. MAGDANZ: Good morning, I'm Jim
47 Magdanz with the Subsistence Division, Fish and Game,
48 out of Kotzebue.

49

50 MR. AHMOSUK: Austin Ahmosuk, Kawerak

1 subsistence director.

2

3 MR. KRAEGER: My name is Stu Kraeger.
4 I'm a biologist at Kawerak.

5

6 MS. PETRIVELLI: I'm Pat Petrivelli.
7 I'm an anthropologist with the Bureau of Indian
8 Affairs.

9

10 MS. FAUSDIK: Good morning. I'm Rose
11 Fausdik. I work in the Natural Resource Division at
12 Kawerak.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you everyone,
15 and welcome. Review and adoption of agenda. Do we
16 have any new items to add to the agenda.

17

18 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Madame Chair, like I
19 mentioned the other -- I'd like to -- some language on
20 the definition of proxy hunting somewhere added on the
21 agenda for a short discussion, of especially muskox
22 proxy hunting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We're talking about
25 the State, right?

26

27 MR. WEYIOUANNA: It's for discussion
28 purposes. I'd like to hear what the board has to say
29 and what the departments have to say about proxy
30 hunting, because I know there is some -- a little bit
31 of discretion on proxy hunting, especially on ox,
32 muskox in 21E for the future. There's no problem this
33 year, but for the future we need to start thinking
34 about it anyway.

35

36 MR. GRAY: Okay. Madame Chair, I think
37 also i haven't read in the paper about what's going on
38 with this proxy hunting, but I guess it's kind of a hot
39 issue all over Alaska, so it would be good if we could
40 air that here in this meeting from the agencies, where
41 their stand is on this issue, and any suggestions how
42 we can help with this issue.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I thought maybe we
45 would add that under C, between C and D when they --
46 under agency reports, and that will give the State a
47 chance -- a whole day to prepare for it, and perhaps
48 Ken Adkisson can also speak on it. So that would give
49 you guys a chance to have a hold day. Go ahead, Ken.

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I guess just as a
2 point of information, I mean, the whole subject of
3 proxy hunting, this -- we can put it under some general
4 discussion. You have a proposal before you this cycle
5 that deals with a Federal proposal for establishing a
6 designated hunter program for muskoxen, and if you'd
7 like to know what happened on the State side with
8 respect to that single species, at that point. The
9 rest of the topic may be more complex and can be
10 treated separately like, you know, as a further
11 discussion item.

12
13 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, what I'd like to
14 see is like printed in black and white so we can live
15 with it for two or three years instead of every year.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Then maybe it
18 will be a good idea to put it under 14, other business.

19
20 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair, we'll get
21 the regulatory language for you later today or
22 tomorrow.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. And so
25 we'll stick it under other business.

26
27 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any other additions or
30 requests for the agenda.

31
32 MR. HAYNES: I'd just -- I'd like to
33 request something. I can do that under other business
34 though when we get to that point. Is that okay?

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's going to be added
37 on under.....

38
39 MR. HAYNES: I just want to request a
40 vote on a proposal that the State committees have
41 before the Board of Game this upcoming meeting, just
42 whether or not this Council would support that
43 proposal. Or, you know, recommend, obviously we don't
44 have any say.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is that in our
47 proposals?

48
49 MR. HAYNES: No, it's a State proposal,
50 but I wanted to bring it up at this meeting, and ask

1 this Council to either support or not support it, just
2 to.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. So we can bring
5 it in as -- under other business.....
6
7 MR. HAYNES: Yeah.
8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS:as an
10 informational item.
11
12 MR. HAYNES: Yeah.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And you'll be here
15 tomorrow, right?
16
17 MR. HAYNES: Yeah. Okay.
18
19 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We can ask Kate
20 Persons to bring that up.
21
22 MR. HAYNES: Okay.
23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You can talk to Kate
25 and ask her to bring that up in -- when she discusses
26 with the Council, and then it will be there. She
27 usually does that anyway with the State proposals.
28 She'll come forward before the board to discuss the
29 proposals and what the Councils have -- what their
30 advisory committees have supported.
31
32 MR. HAYNES: Okay.
33
34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thanks.
35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So at that point you
37 can speak with her.
38
39 MR. HAYNES: You bet.
40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes, Jim.
42
43 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz. I have some
44 information to present information about muskox harvest
45 subunit by subunit. The Board of Game is interested in
46 amounts necessary for subsistence determinations
47 subunit by subunit instead of the whole unit. So I've
48 put together a little chart and I wanted to hand that
49 out during agency -- our agency report, so just to give
50 you a heads up that I did want to talk a little bit

1 about muskox amounts necessary during the agency
2 reports.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We'll add your name
5 right under K.

6
7 MR. MAGDANZ: Sure, under K, that would
8 be perfect, Madame Chair.

9
10 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, I would like
11 to add moose and Arctic Caribou Herd report under
12 National Park Service under agency reports.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. So we'll write
15 you as E, Elmer. Any other additions.

16
17 (No comments)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You got all of that,
20 Barb? Okay. I guess we need to wait. We'll go ahead
21 and do review and adoption of the minutes. I guess
22 Barb's not here, so I'll go through the last minutes.
23 We'll go page-by-page until she comes. Beginning on
24 Page five, is there any corrections.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 6.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 7. There was
33 something that confused me on Page 7. It's under
34 Shishmaref. It says, as Mr. Kobuk reported on diseased
35 snow geese probably migrating over from Siberia,
36 Wrangell Island, what about the crane? That sentence
37 didn't quite make sense to me.

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
40 bird flu likely. Bird flus, whatever.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Maybe it can be
43 clarified a little bit. Was it clear to everybody else
44 except me?

45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. We'll just
49 leave it as is. Page 8.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 9.
4
5 (No comments)
6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 10.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 11.
12
13 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, under the
14 one -- almost next to the last paragraph, Robert Cower,
15 is that supposed to -- is that a typo? Next to the
16 last.
17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, yeah, Kauer. It's
19 K-a-u-e-r.
20
21 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.
22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 12.
24
25 (No comments)
26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Page 13.
28
29 (No comments)
30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The minutes are fine I
32 guess except for Robert Kauer. C-O-W-E-R, it's K-A-U-
33 E-R.
34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Page.
36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: 11 I guess.
38
39 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Madame Chair, I'd like
40 to make a motion that approve the minutes as corrected.
41
42 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Second.
43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
45 the floor and been seconded. Call for question.
46
47 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.
48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All is in favor of the
50 motion signify by stating aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
4 sign.
5
6 (No opposing votes)
7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Barb.
9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.
11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Onto chapter --
13 charter I mean.
14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, there's your new
16 charter. It's in your book on Page -- under Page 14.
17 And this is the new charter that you -- it's a driving
18 force of your course. We can't meet unless we have our
19 charter in place. And every two years we can make
20 changes, request to make changes -- oh, I'm sorry.
21 Request to make changes on the charter, is to change
22 our name, the size of the board, and one other thing
23 that I just mentioned earlier. But this is the charter
24 that we have right now, and statewide we've sent out
25 all the charters with the booklet.
26
27 And that's about it, Madame Chair.
28 Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: This is something that
31 we're reviewing now? We can make the changes now? I
32 mean, ask for changes now?
33
34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's even numbers,
35 2007 -- the next time that you make -- request to make
36 changes is 2008. So at your winter meeting of 2007.
37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. So we're just
39 -- this is just.....
40
41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: So this is just
42 informational type thing we put in there, because we
43 haven't done that in a while. But then in winter 2007
44 is when you make a request, and then bring it up again
45 in your fall meeting, and then it goes in for a change.
46 Whatever request that you make.
47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Previously when they
49 were changing the numbers, we had asked to have us
50 raised to 13 members. Then 2007 would be the time to

1 do it. But I still think that it should be an area of
2 concern for us that our number had decreased since we
3 -- when they changed the numbers, our number decreased.
4 I think we should just mention it in our annual report
5 that it is still an area of concern, that we will be
6 making that request.

7
8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. We can do
9 that, and if you wish to do that, to make that request
10 again, we can do it again then. Thank you.

11
12 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Madame Chair, also on
13 the support services, I think we ought to take a look
14 at -- oh, sorry. On the support services, that we
15 ought to take a look at who all is supporting us, so we
16 can know. It just says U.S. Fish and Wildlife,
17 Department of Interior, and there is the State Fish and
18 Game, and then that -- a little better definition of
19 that would be good language in the next change of our
20 charter.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Barb, can you address
23 that?

24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I didn't quite get
26 his question, then changing of.....

27
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's talking about
29 this.

30
31 (Whispered conversation)

32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Well, Fish
34 and Wildlife Service, like earlier we mentioned, we are
35 the main support people for the Counsel. There's
36 myself, Chuck and Helen are the main people that work
37 with you for any questions that you might have. And
38 then we go out to the other agencies to ask for further
39 help if we need to get information from the other
40 agencies. Like Park Service, we would get in contact
41 with Ken Adkisson, and BLM. We have all the people
42 that we need to contact from the other regions, from
43 the other regions to get help to help you answer any
44 questions that you might have, but we are the main
45 people with Fish and Wildlife Service. Right now we
46 have that process in place that Fish and Wildlife takes
47 the lead in working with all the Council members
48 statewide. So we are the people that you need to
49 contact with to start with, because if you call anyone
50 else, they'll say, you've got to call Barb, and that's

1 where it starts, and then we go out to find the answer
2 for your question or whatever concern that you might
3 have.

4
5 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Well, my concern is
6 that anybody can read the document, but you and I,
7 Barb, understand that we represent Kate Persons, Tony
8 and Ken Adkisson, but whoever picks this document up is
9 who do these guys represent? Who does Elmer or Cliff
10 represent. So it would be nice to have a little
11 definition of better language in the charter for the
12 future anyway.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think what we're
15 going to do is we'll all take these charters when we go
16 home before we actually discuss it at 2007, right?

17
18 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We can put in our
21 ideas and see if there's any changes that we would like
22 to have. And then everybody bring in -- if you have --
23 if you can think of a way that should be added to our
24 charter, we can do it then. Is that okay with
25 everybody? Like, Cliff, you can, you know, put in
26 whatever and then we can discuss it at the time we need
27 to discuss it, okay? I don't mean to interrupt you,
28 but do you have anything further?

29
30 MR. SEETOT: I think it's just that we
31 as a Regional Advisory Council, we pretty much deal
32 with issues that pertain to Federal land, and that's
33 what -- that's how come we have all I think different
34 agencies here. They have different proposals,
35 recommendations for things on state lands, so they're
36 pretty much here, they'll -- in, you know, the Federal
37 Subsistence Board and Alaska Board of Game and Fish
38 pretty much determines our regulation on, you know,
39 their lands. So I think that's what -- or at least
40 that's how I define it, that we -- I represent only --
41 in my subunit, I only represent only about 13 percent
42 of Federal land, while State land is pretty much
43 dominant in our subunit. And I think that's the way I
44 understood Clifford's question, was that we represent
45 our region no matter what, whatever the issues are,
46 whether we like the recommendations or justifications,
47 I think we still have to, you know, act accordingly.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, and you not
2 only represent just your village -- I keep not missing
3 it, or not pushing hard enough -- is that you not only
4 just represent just Shishmaref or Nome or Brevig,
5 you're the whole Council for the whole Seward Peninsula
6 area, for the region. And if anyone from anywhere,
7 like from Koyuk, we don't have anyone here from Koyuk
8 -- we try to spread these Council members out through
9 the whole region, but if anyone from like Koyuk and the
10 villages that don't have any representatives approaches
11 you and has a concern or an issue, you need to bring
12 that forward. You need to bring that out to us, and so
13 that we can start talking with -- because it's very
14 easy and good to work with the IRA council, the tribal
15 offices in this region, and then we can start working
16 with those issues from our end, and then probably get
17 back to you and get -- or get to the specific person
18 that would be close to that area and understands that
19 region, because I don't. And we'll find someone though
20 that does, and to help that area and concern.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Chuck just reminded me
23 we didn't adopt our agenda.

24
25 MR. GRAY: Let me talk to you on this
26 issue before we get away from it, and then I'll move to
27 adopt the agenda. I think Tom Gray is sitting here
28 representing guides, but Tom Gray also represents the
29 reindeer industry. I represent -- I'm a commercial
30 operation. I do hunting and fishing, and, you know, I
31 represent a lot of things at this table, probably more
32 so than anybody else at this table, because of what I'm
33 involved in. So I bring a lot of different hats to
34 this table. But I do agree that these positions need
35 to be separated out. Even though I bring a lot of
36 different pictures to the table, I'm here representing
37 the guides, and it needs to be dictated somewhere that
38 Tom Gray is representing the guides, and this is his
39 turf, and he's responsible for these people. And I'm
40 going to represent my people at home, I'm going to
41 represent other people anyway, but we do need to put it
42 in black and white.

43
44 With that said, I move to adopt the
45 agenda as revised.

46
47 MR. SAVETILIK: I second.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
50 the floor to adopt the agenda as revised.

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The question has been
4 called. All those in favor signify by stating aye.
5
6 IN UNISON: Aye.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
9 same sign.
10
11 (No opposing votes)
12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries.
14 Sorry. Any more discussion on our charter.
15
16 MR. QUINN: Madame Chair.
17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.
19
20 MR. QUINN: I just -- I've got a
21 question for Barbara. I was interested in number 7 on
22 the charter, the estimated operating costs. So
23 obviously the one person year of staff is you, correct?
24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
26 (Affirmative)
27
28 MR. QUINN: Are we able to do two
29 meetings and provide for you with this kind of money
30 every year?
31
32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, so far it's
33 working that way.
34
35 MR. QUINN: Really? We're able to do
36 it for 100 grand?
37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No. No, that's the
39 thing that they.....
40
41 MR. QUINN: Well, that's what I mean
42 is.....
43
44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, that's the
45 monies that they put forward way back when we started
46 from, and then a lot of -- we had a lot of questions
47 that were coming in to say, well, we have \$100,000
48 there. And then that's put out with me working in
49 there with my salary, along with the meetings, and then
50 the Staff support. The three of us are in with that

1 100,000, and it just about covers it. I think that's
2 about all that we can say on that. And there's a
3 write-up that was put out there. If you have more
4 questions, you can send me an email and I can forward
5 it to you from my office.

6
7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, I'm not
8 living on (indiscernible).

9
10 MR. GRAY: Well, this \$100,000, clarify
11 me, is your salary coming out of that \$100,000 or is
12 that travel and hotel, and is your salary coming from
13 somewhere else? Should this board be looking at trying
14 to get this number bumped up?

15
16 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: My salary comes from
17 that 100,000. My salary comes out of there, yeah.
18 That's what.....

19
20 MR. GRAY: Okay. I think the question
21 that Mike is being polite and not asking is should this
22 -- do we need to review this \$100,000 and try and get
23 it adjusted?

24
25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That came up before,
26 too, and asking that, and then that's really -- we went
27 all the way back up to the top, and then we weren't
28 able to do it. But then that's the estimated \$100,000,
29 and my salary is in there for this region.

30
31 MR. QUINN: Okay. Give us actual?

32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I can't do that,
34 Mike.

35
36 MR. QUINN: Well, I'm not asking.....

37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's why I'm
39 saying, if you send me an email, then I will forward
40 you the paperwork that will do that. But then that's
41 just an estimated \$100,000. And we tried to go back to
42 the actual period for the 10 regions, and then at that
43 time they weren't able to, but then there is some
44 paperwork that I have in my email that I could forward
45 to you to explain, but I don't.....

46
47 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Barb, Madame Chair, I
48 think that's a good issue that Tom and Mike bring up is
49 that if you need this board's support to up that up,
50 because with the cost of airlines, with the cost of

1 living, that somebody ought to consider upping that,
2 because that 100,000 ain't going to go that much with
3 travel and per diem. And I feel, you know, being in
4 the school district for 30 years, that this is one of
5 the issues we take a good hard look at, because we need
6 to be represented.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'll turn it over to
11 Helen.

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can just add
14 a little bit more. I talked a little bit during the
15 training session about our budgets being cut rather
16 than increasing. And it's a problem in the Federal
17 Government all over, it's not just Fish and Wildlife
18 Service. And this year the OSM budget's being cut by
19 \$300,000 overall. But they will not cut the Regional
20 Council program and process. You can all be assured
21 that that is going to be supported.

22
23 Where they're cutting is in projects
24 for the Fisheries Information Service projects. That's
25 what's being cut at this time. And then they're not
26 filling behind some other positions, like we had two
27 fish biologist positions, those aren't being filled at
28 this time. They're -- instead they're going to use
29 some of the fish biologists from the FIS side to do
30 some of the fish biology for the regulatory side. So
31 we're working on creative ways to make sure we have
32 enough money.

33
34 But this Council will be supported, and
35 it will -- it will have the funding in order to do what
36 we need to do. So I -- you know, I hope that helps.
37 You know, it's not that we don't have enough -- we
38 won't have the money.

39
40 And in answer to some of your
41 questions, I mean, I was kind of sitting around the
42 room thinking about what it costs to do -- to run a
43 meeting like this. And I think it's somewhere between
44 12 and \$15,000, maybe more, per meeting. And then on
45 top of that is Barb's salary and her benefits.

46
47 But OSM has always been good about if
48 there's a special meeting that needs to be held, we've
49 funded it. We've had special meetings where we brought
50 the chairs in. We've funded that. And I don't think

1 that it would happen that the Council process would
2 start feeling that budget crunch as much.

3
4 The only place you may see it is in
5 requests -- this hasn't happened in this region so
6 much, but in some regions where they want to have
7 meetings in villages and end up being really expensive
8 for us, that the OSM has been saying, we can't fund
9 those meetings. We need to have them in regional
10 centers. And you may start hearing that more as time
11 goes on. We're projected to be \$700,000 cut next year,
12 and I anticipate that they will probably be putting
13 more pressure on us to have meetings in regional
14 centers at that point, but we usually have our meetings
15 here anyway, so it's not an issue for this region.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. GRAY: I'd like to make one comment
20 though that even though we're not being cut, if we
21 don't see an increase, we are being cut without the
22 increase. And inflation is something that we've got to
23 deal with. If we get to a point where you guys can't
24 fix things in-house, this board is here to support you
25 to try and get this thing adjusted. And that's what
26 we're trying to say is we want to be players and we
27 want to help if there is an issue.

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Absolutely. We
30 appreciate that, too. Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think the main
33 question, the one question that I have is if the
34 allocated 100,000, if we go beyond that, what happens?

35
36 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It comes out of
37 somewhere else in the budget.

38
39 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Our income tax.

40
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It means we buy few
42 computer -- we don't buy a new computer, or, you know,
43 it's -- budgets are flexible things, so.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I was kind of thinking
46 of the time that we were supposed to have a meeting in
47 Unalakleet, and I travelled over there. People were
48 there. They were -- and there was some Federal Staff
49 that were there, but nobody else could come because it
50 got so stormy. We had to cancel that meeting. We

1 couldn't find a place to meet in Nome, because it was
2 Iditarod time, and we all went to Anchorage and had our
3 meeting in Anchorage. I imagine that must have cost,
4 had our budget go over 100,000. So because of our
5 region and the weather problems that we have, there
6 will be no problem if there was a cancellation, it
7 would come from some place else?

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It comes from some
10 place else, yeah. At the end of the year, they're
11 scrambling to figure out what to do. And up until now
12 it hasn't been an issue, we've had enough money in the
13 program, but from what I've heard, it will start
14 becoming more of an issue, but it's just going to mean
15 that maybe we don't fund -- where we're seeing the cuts
16 now is not funding projects, not the Councils and not
17 the Staff. And then not filling behind certain people.
18 Okay.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anything further in
21 this.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. My
26 recommendation is we all take this home, look at it,
27 and if there's some things that we think we ought to
28 add to it, we can discuss it in 2007, right, Barb?

29

30 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
31 (Affirmative)

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We're now to election
34 of officers. Barb.

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. For election
37 of Officers, we'll begin with the -- unless someone
38 suggested any other, we'll start with nominations are
39 now open for chair.

40

41 MR. SAVETILIK: I nominate Grace Cross.

42

43 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Move to close
44 nominations.

45

46 MR. SAVETILIK: Second it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion on
49 the floor to close the nomination for chair.

50

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. So there
2 is.....
3
4 MR. WEYIOUANNA: I make a motion to
5 close the nominations or, what, if there is a second.
6 Otherwise it dies due to lack of a second.
7
8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I think Myron
9 seconded you.
10
11 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Oh, he did?
12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. Yes, he did.
14
15 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Thank you.
16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And he -- did you
18 turn mic on?
19
20 MR. SAVETILIK: Yeah, I had it off. I
21 seconded Clifford's.
22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Motion, and then
24 there -- is it consensual that you have a chair now,
25 Ms. Grace Cross is your chair, and she'll take over for
26 the vice chair and secretary.
27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Is there
29 nominations for vice chair.
30
31 MR. MARTIN: I nominate Clifford
32 Weyiouanna.
33
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I move nomination
35 be closed.
36
37 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I second the
38 motion.
39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Do I say all those in
41 favor of Clifford Weyiouanna being vice chair signify
42 by stating aye.
43
44 IN UNISON: Aye.
45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.
47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: For secretary.
49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is it? Nominations

1 are now open for secretary.
2
3 MR. QUINN: Question. What does the
4 secretary do? Or who is it? Yeah, who is it
5 currently?
6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It used to be Leonard
8 Kobuk. Usually he was in charge of roll call and going
9 through the minutes and basically that is it. You
10 don't have to write anything down. Unless Barb can add
11 anything more, that's basically what he did.
12
13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. That's what
14 the secretary does is go through, do the roll call.
15 What Leonard did was that he just went page by page
16 with corrections for the minutes and stuff, and then
17 that alleviates a lot of suffering.
18
19 MR. QUINN: Well, in that case I
20 nominate Tom Gray for secretary.
21
22 MR. GRAY: I decline.
23
24 MR. QUINN: I decline on, I guess
25 that's.....
26
27 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'll nominate
28 Michael.
29
30 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I second.
31
32 MR. QUINN: Go ahead.
33
34 MR. SEETOT: I move to close
35 nominations.
36
37 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I second.
38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those in favor of
40 having Mike write all our minutes signify by stating
41 aye.
42
43 (Laughter)
44
45 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Well, one is an
46 Englishman and one is a Poland, right?
47
48 (Laughter)
49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So do we have Mike as

1 our secretary now?
2
3 (No opposition)
4
5 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.
6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Here.
8
9 MR. QUINN: All right. It's on my
10 resume.
11
12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Your officers
13 are in place: Grace Cross for Chair. Vice Chair is
14 Cliff Weyiouanna. And Mike Quinn as your secretary.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay.
19 Moving on along, usually I -- since you could read the
20 805 letter and the draft annual report, I normally
21 don't reiterate them or read them to anybody.
22
23 On the draft annual report though, it's
24 not here in the packet.
25
26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It should be in the
27 book.
28
29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Right after the --
30 yeah, right there.
31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, okay.
33
34 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Page 17.
35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, okay. It's right
37 there. Sorry.
38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That annual report
40 right here you see is still a draft, and any changes
41 you still want to make, we still can do it, and we
42 still can make changes.
43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Uh-huh. It's on Page
45 17. Is there any -- can we -- is there anything we
46 want to add to our annual report?
47
48 (Pause)
49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Do we want to add

1 anything in the annual report, or is it fine?
2
3 MR. GRAY: You know, one thing that we
4 haven't talked about, and I don't really -- I don't see
5 it here so much is subsistence proxy issues. I think
6 that's going to become an issue here in this meeting.
7 And it definitely isn't something that has been talked
8 about in the past I guess.
9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that
11 would.....
12
13 MR. BUCK: I think it was.....
14
15 MR. GRAY: Pardon?
16
17 MR. BUCK: I think we did discuss it
18 one time.
19
20 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, I don't see it
21 on here, and I just wonder if we want it in this
22 report.
23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Do you want to --
25 before you add it on here, do you want to have the
26 discussion on it first today, because you'll get more
27 answers, and then you might be okay with it. And if
28 it's going to be ongoing, then we'll put it on the
29 annual report, but then there should be people here
30 that would discuss proxies with you today or tomorrow.
31 Okay?
32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, I think we added
34 it. At the end of the meeting, let's go back to our
35 annual report and see if there's things that we want to
36 add to it based on what we have -- based on our meeting
37 today.
38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. And.....
40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Does that sound like a
42 good plan?
43
44 MR. GRAY: Okay. That sounds fair to
45 me.
46
47 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. And any of
48 our discussions that -- any more concerns or issues
49 that do come up, then I try to keep track of and then
50 bring before you and ask you to see if you want these

1 to be added onto your annual report.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And I think that as we
6 go along in the meeting, if people are concerned about
7 something, they could tell Barb as we discuss it, this
8 should be one of our areas of concern in our annual
9 report, so she can keep better track of -- instead of
10 her trying to guess what our concerns are.

11

12 I did go to the Federal Subsistence
13 Board meeting. We didn't have any proposals. And I
14 didn't stay the entire time this time, because my
15 daughter was getting married in California, and I had
16 to leave a day early. But as usual, it was very
17 interesting.

18

19 There were many issues -- there were
20 very many fisheries throughout the State, but ours --
21 we didn't have any proposals to make at all. We did
22 discuss -- but I did convey your concerns to the Board
23 that we had talked about.

24

25 That's basically my report. Do you
26 have any questions.

27

28 MR. GRAY: Well, I think like you guys
29 discussed earlier, we'll come back and visit this issue
30 later to -- that will give us time to look at our
31 meeting minutes from last year and to address some of
32 the issues that may come out and need to be included in
33 this thing.

34

35 You know, I'm sitting here thinking my
36 fish, my coho salmon aren't in this thing, and I have
37 been bringing up silver salmon, cohos, at every
38 opportunity that I have. You know, we have a crisis in
39 our river system and nobody's doing anything about it.
40 So -- and I don't see it on this particular thing, and
41 subsistence users are probably the biggest problem with
42 the coho salmon in my system. So, anyway. So like I
43 say, us coming back and visiting this at the end of the
44 -- at some point later on in the meeting, I think
45 that's a good idea.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think we'll go ahead
48 and move them along, because we're down to village
49 concerns, and there may be some things that you want to
50 add in the annual report based on the village concerns,

1 so we'll start with Elmer, because some of the people
2 are new, so they can get an idea as to what we do when
3 we're talking about village concerns.

4
5 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What?

8
9 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair,
10 usually this meeting is for wildlife proposals, and we
11 discuss the fish proposals in the falltime when the
12 proposals time's open.

13
14 MR. GRAY: Okay. But if this is an
15 annual report from this body.....

16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, I'm sorry.
18 Yeah.

19
20 MR. GRAY:it needs to address all
21 the issues.

22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Sorry.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. So, Elmer, do
26 you want to start so people have an idea as to what we
27 discuss during our -- when we express our village
28 concerns.

29
30 Thank you, Elmer.

31
32 MR. SEETOT: No harvest of animals on
33 Federal land so far. I don't think any muskox were
34 harvested. No caribou hunting at this time. We're
35 looking into the American River, Kobuk Mountain area.
36 Snow conditions are kind of soft right now, so we
37 really haven't gone any place other than a few
38 wolverines and wolves taken out of Teller, and that's
39 pretty much -- that's all I had.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Myron.

42
43 MR. SAVETILIK: The caribou hasn't been
44 passing through. I mean, we're getting caribou, but
45 it's just kind of slow right now with the weather that
46 we've been having. You know, it got cold for a while,
47 and when it warmed up we had a lot of overflow here and
48 there to where it's kind of unsafe to travel right now.
49 But other than that, we're getting our meat, and, you
50 know, when springtime comes around, it's getting -- our

1 subsistence is getting active right now, so that's
2 where we're at right now.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Peter.

5

6 MR. BUCK: The moose season wasn't too
7 bad, but our winter hunting for moose was -- the
8 weather got really cold, and I don't know if we made a
9 quota or not. So I'm just waiting for the agencies to
10 report to us. I don't think we made it. But it was
11 really cold for moose hunting season this winter.
12 Other than that, that's all I have.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charles.

15

16 MR. SACCHEUS: I think that most of the
17 caribou hunters know that the caribou are heading
18 north. We have calving problems, and leaving all the
19 reindeers home. And other than that, we've been having
20 a good caribou season. They've been kind of about 20
21 miles northeast of Elim, and everybody's been catching
22 caribou -- for Golovin and White Mountain, because they
23 have to go all the way up to Death Valley and come home
24 with nothing. It kind of hurts with the price of
25 gasoline. So we're not (indiscernible) Elim.
26 Hopefully the (indiscernible) attract more.

27

28 That's all I have. Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Peter.

31

32 MR. MARTIN: Our moose season has been
33 more successful than years past, because last fall we
34 made a proposal to the State to have our moose season
35 changed from December to January because of daylight
36 and safety reasons, and for that reason, we had more
37 success in our moose hunt. There's been no caribous in
38 our area. And from what I've heard, we've had some
39 people getting some wolves. And our reindeers are
40 doing good.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Peter.

43 Mike.

44

45 MR. QUINN: I don't have any concerns

46 at this time.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Mike.

49 Clifford.

50

1 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, just a couple
2 reports. As far as the ox, I'm glad to recognize the
3 State and National Park Service for really looking at
4 the population in 22E, which is my back yard, and we
5 have an over-population of ox in that area. And
6 they're trying to do something to get that population
7 down.

8
9 As far as the caribous are concerned, I
10 understand that over in the Good Hope area, Good Hope
11 River, the females are out, pretty much out, but the
12 bulls are just kind of concentrating, and they're
13 staying 365 days a year in that area, in Shishmaref
14 area, so the bull population is there.

15
16 The only concern that the subsistence
17 people have is on that proxy hunt that I mentioned
18 earlier. I put it on the agenda.

19
20 And as far as the moose is concerned,
21 we're not real concerned about the proxy hunting on
22 that, but the moose population is going good. When the
23 village or community of Shishmaref volunteered to close
24 their -- to close the season from March 31st to
25 December 31st at their request, the moose population is
26 increasing. And I've noticed that from my travels
27 throughout the area.

28
29 And then the last concern we have is,
30 you know, how much help that NCDC (ph) is providing
31 help to the area, but we're getting no help from
32 Kotzebue as far as the Chukchi Sea is concerned for
33 crab, cod, and there's no research at all. And
34 Kotzebue eats that up. And we're just -- the community
35 of Shishmaref is quite concerned since we're in that
36 district as to how we can co-work with NCDC (ph) to
37 look for crab or cod or something, because Kotzebue's
38 not doing anything.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Clifford.
43 Vance.

44
45 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: In the Unalakleet
46 area we did have a -- we have a divided season there,
47 or a split area. And the Unalakleet River drainage
48 itself did not have a moose season; however, south of
49 Unalakleet in the Golsovia area and south of there,
50 there was a December season. To my knowledge, there

1 was a few people who went over there from Unalakleet,
2 but they were unsuccessful in the hunt just due to
3 weather conditions and snow conditions as such.

4
5 There aren't any caribou down there
6 right now. And the people in Unalakleet that have
7 gotten caribou have went up to Granite Mountain to get
8 them. And right now I think the snow conditions are
9 probably better the last week here, but prior to this,
10 weather again has been a real handicap to going caribou
11 hunting, and covering the distances needed to get them.

12
13 Trapping, the guys were doing pretty
14 good on getting lynx, wolverine, martin and such.
15 There's a handful of guys that are trapping, but
16 they're doing pretty well under the weather conditions.
17 I know again the last probably 10 days there hasn't
18 been a lot done, just due to no snow and there was --
19 we have had high water down there and total ice
20 conditions on all the trails, and it's just kind of a
21 mess.

22
23 I think that pretty much -- the trout
24 fishing this winter has been very good in the river.
25 People have gotten all the trout that they really need
26 ice fishing.

27
28 The salmon fishing was good last fall.
29 It was -- I heard it was the third best run of silvers
30 that the Unalakleet River had in the history of the
31 river, so the fishing has been good.

32
33 I think that pretty well covers it.
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Tom.

37
38 MR. GRAY: Well, I don't have the same
39 things to say about fishing in my river. And we do
40 have problems with fishing. We also have problems with
41 crabbing. But I guess I've got to save those woes for
42 the fall thing.

43
44 The moose, I see fawns out there where
45 we haven't had them in the past, so the moose I feel is
46 starting to incline.

47
48 The muskox program, we're killing
49 muskox in our region, and that's a good thing.

50

1 The bears seem to be on a decline in my
2 area. I'm having a hard time -- I'm a guide, I'm
3 having a hard time finding good bears.

4
5 Caribou, they didn't come. Now, my
6 village, I don't know of anybody that's got caribou.
7 But I'm happy they didn't come, because I have a
8 reindeer herd.

9
10 Wolves. There's not too many wolves,
11 because there's not caribou.

12
13 Other than that, you know, I try to
14 think trapping. A couple kids have got some lynx.

15
16 On the whole, it's been a good year for
17 Tom Gray, because no caribou, no wolves, no whatever,
18 but for the community and subsistence users, it's been
19 kind of tough. You know, our moose population's down.
20 We can only get so many moose. Tony just nodded to me
21 that they didn't fill that quota that Pete was talking
22 about. So it's a tough situation for subsistence
23 people in our region.

24
25 The good thing is people are starting
26 to capitalize on this muskox thing, and I think that's
27 going to really help fill freezers.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Tom, you
30 can come and get my bears around my camp.

31
32 Anyway, one of the things that people
33 have been talking about, or at least to me, is their
34 concern over abundance of bear population around Nome,
35 and predation on moose calves since our moose
36 population is really down, and especially around the
37 road system. People have expressed concerns about the
38 over-population of the -- or their beliefs that there's
39 over-population of bears. I know we have problems
40 around my camp with the bears coming around and
41 destroying my fish rack. It's totally destroyed. I
42 just wanted to bring that up.

43
44 And it has been tough for everybody,
45 because there's moose hunting numbers have -- because
46 of the moose number declines. There's not too many
47 people got moose, and it's kind of tough for everybody.

48
49
50 I haven't heard of anybody going out to

1 get any caribou. I'm not even sure where it is. So
2 it's been kind of tough for everybody in that respect I
3 think, especially for subsistence users.

4
5 And the weather, because of the
6 weather, really nobody has gone out to go look for
7 game. It was either too cold or too wet. So snow
8 conditions are not quite right. Maybe they will be in
9 a few -- you know, towards -- maybe this month, but I
10 don't know.

11
12 That's all I have.

13
14 MR. GRAY: She made me think of
15 something that I think it would be appropriate for this
16 board maybe to support is the caribou map that Fish and
17 Game produces. I think it's important that -- I do
18 know in my village subsistence users use that map. And
19 I don't know about Shishmaref or other places, but we
20 need to be sure and support that map, support that
21 concept, that caribou map, for our people. And it has
22 been an issue in the past with Fish and Game. So if we
23 as a board did support that, I think that's a good
24 thing.

25
26 MR. QUINN: Madame Chair. Tom, you're
27 talking about the map that's on the internet with the
28 satellite collars and all that? Yeah, I'd agree with
29 you, but there happens to be a little bit of opposition
30 from that at the Federal level. And the Feds actually
31 pulled their collars off the web site if I remember
32 right, because they didn't like the idea of users being
33 able to target caribou on a web site and then going out
34 and hunting them. There's probably somebody at the
35 Federal level or State level that can clarify what I'm
36 saying, but from what I'm aware of, there are members
37 within the Federal organizations that are very much
38 opposed to people using that map in that way.

39
40 MR. GRAY: And this is exactly why.
41 This is the reason I bring this out. This board, we
42 are a board that represents subsistence users in this
43 region, and we speak for the subsistence users. Now,
44 the collars you're talking about, if I recollect
45 correctly, are Fish and Wildlife collars, or Fish and
46 Wildlife dollars. They're not BLM dollars.

47
48 MR. QUINN: A combination of State and
49 Federal monies.

50

1 MR. GRAY: But irregardless, it doesn't
2 matter whose -- you know, my intent here is we
3 represent the subsistence users. I know my people in
4 my community are using this map, and we need to keep
5 that map in place, and we need to show some favoritism,
6 if you want to call it that. We need to show some
7 support for this thing, too keep it in place. And --
8 anyway.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Jim.

11
12 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, Jim Magdanz
13 with Fish and Game. Two weeks ago I was in Anchorage
14 at the annual meeting of the Western Arctic Caribou
15 Herd Working Group. They had a two-hour discussion on
16 the map issue that began with a request from the U.S.
17 Fish and Wildlife Service refuge in Kotzebue to make
18 the satellite location data available to the school
19 children in Selawik. So the request was from the Feds
20 to open up the data, to make it more accessible.

21
22 The Western Arctic Working Group is
23 about 20 people. Most of them are from the villages,
24 and there was a great deal of concern from the villages
25 in Unit 23 about making the map location data available
26 so that commercial operators, guides and transporters,
27 would be able to locate clients in the field and
28 intercept caribou as they begin their migration to the
29 south.

30
31 They've decided to delay the release of
32 the information to these school kids by I believe it
33 was two weeks, until the end of October, and then to
34 make them available in real time from November 1st
35 through August 1st or August 15th. I forget the dates.

36
37
38 So the concern here that I hear comes
39 primarily from the village members of the Western
40 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, especially Unit 23
41 where they've got a lot of user conflicts.

42
43 MR. GRAY: Okay. And this is the
44 issue. I mean, we represent subsistence users in this
45 region. Subsistence users in Unit 23 have a whole
46 different ball game that they're fighting, and they're
47 fighting the guides and transporters, and they have a
48 whole different issue up there. They aren't using this
49 internet thing as a tool like our subsistence users
50 are. And there is a big movement out of the Kotzebue

1 region not to have this on the internet. I understand
2 that. And that's why I'm bringing this issue to the
3 table, and, you know, I think this board needs to
4 support on behalf of our subsistence users, we need to
5 support this concept and keep it in place. I don't
6 know that we have gone on record in the past saying
7 this is a good thing for our people, keep it in place.
8 That's what I'm saying here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm going to ask Elmer
11 if he has anything to add on this one, because you're
12 in that WAC.

13

14 MR. SEETOT: Like Jim was saying, yeah,
15 there was a lot of discussion. I really wasn't keeping
16 notes, but I guess they were having a lot of user
17 conflicts when the moose season opened. And other
18 nongovernmental agencies are trying to crack -- or
19 trying to look into this, the Northwest Arctic Borough,
20 the regional corporations, to see how they would be
21 able to restrict hunters on their land, like in earlier
22 Nome Nugget editions, you know, there was an
23 advertisement in there saying that only Northwest
24 Arctic Borough residents or shareholders of the
25 corporation are allowed to hunt in that area. And that
26 -- I think that was one of the good things about that
27 was that -- I have dream about hunting in that area in
28 the falltime, but I can't, because I don't have any
29 bucks to travel up there, you know, and it just
30 logistical problems that we encounter. Other
31 communities, you know, have the privilege of getting
32 moose in their prime condition, while we have to wait
33 to get caribou pretty much during the winter season
34 after being harvested by hunters, after being chased by
35 predators, especially wolves, and then I guess that's
36 what we have to live with, because we chose to, you
37 know, live in our communities. Nome is in the same
38 situation. They are in close proximity to the caribou
39 if they travel by snowmachine, but other conditions do
40 prevail. Marginal snow conditions, price of gas,
41 weather. I think they play a big factor in that.

42

43 But that issue I think is going to be
44 reviewed in depth by the people and users of the
45 Northwest Arctic Borough. And then that's pretty much
46 my observation.

47

48 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm just making
49 myself a note. I'm going to bring this back up later
50 on in the meeting, because I want to see this board

1 write a letter of support supporting the satellite
2 collar program, and the map program on the internet for
3 our subsistence users. So, you know, I'd suggest you
4 guys think about it, because I'm going to bring it back
5 up. I'm not going to drop it. And I'm going to force
6 a motion on this thing. So, anyway.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, Tom. Earlier
9 Mike Quinn had asked if we could have our meeting until
10 1:00, because he needs to leave, he has a sick child.
11 So I'm going to ask the Council members what do you
12 feel about this. Do we want to meet until 1:00 and
13 then have lunch at 1:00? If we're going to do that, we
14 can take a break now for about 10 minutes. So do we
15 want to go ahead and meet and go to lunch at 1:00
16 o'clock? Okay. So before we go to our wildlife
17 proposals, let's take a short break, about a 10-minute
18 break.

19
20 (Off record)

21
22 (On record)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It is now a quarter to
25 12. We are now at number 10, wildlife proposal review
26 and Regional Council recommendation. And I see our
27 Federal staff has already sat down, so you have.....
28

29 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning, Madame
30 Chair. Proposal 06-01 was submitted by the Federal
31 Subsistence Board. This proposal addresses the
32 commercial sales of handicraft made from bear claws.
33 Last year we had a proposal that addressed several
34 elements of bear handicraft regulations. The Federal
35 Subsistence Board adopted most elements of that
36 proposal, i.e., the definition of handicraft,
37 definition of skin, hide, pelt and fur, and language
38 that clarified that claws can be used in handicrafts
39 for sale. However, they deferred the part of the
40 proposal that addresses commercial sales to allow the
41 Councils to review the Board's modified language.

42
43 Remember, handicrafts made from black
44 bears harvested on Federal lands statewide can be sold.
45 Handicrafts made from brown bear can only be sold if
46 the bears were harvested on Federal lands in Eastern
47 Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast regions.

48
49 The Board is considering a regulation
50 that limits commercial sales of bear claw handicrafts,

1 because an opportunity to sell large quantities of bear
2 claw products may create an incentive for poaching.

3
4 State regulations allow the sale of
5 handicrafts made from brown bear and black bear fur,
6 not claws. Therefore handicrafts with claws can only
7 be sold under Federal regulations.

8
9 The Board's proposed language would not
10 prohibit a subsistence user with a business license
11 from selling their handicrafts to individuals, such as
12 at craft shows; however, it would not allow these
13 handicrafts to be sold to a business, and it does not
14 allow a business to buy the bear claw handicrafts. So
15 I'll read that again. The Board's proposed language
16 would not prohibit a subsistence user with a business
17 license from selling their handicrafts to individuals,
18 such as at a craft show; however, it would not allow
19 these handicrafts to be sold to a business, and it does
20 not allow a business to buy the bear claw handicrafts.

21
22 A gift shop selling handicrafts on
23 consignment would also be prohibited if the gift shop
24 is generating a profit from the activity.

25
26 This regulation will remove commercial
27 incentives for harvesting bears, thereby providing
28 additional protection from overharvest of bear
29 populations.

30
31 The Board's intent in allowing the sale
32 of bear handicrafts is to provide for the customary and
33 traditional making and selling of handicrafts from
34 bears taken for subsistence, not to provide a
35 commercial incentive to harvest bears.

36
37 The State has recently adopted
38 regulations to provide a commercial incentive to
39 harvest bears in specific areas. The regulation
40 adopted by the Board of Game in January allow bear
41 hides with claws attached from bears harvested in
42 active brown bear predator control areas, which are
43 Units 20E and Unit 12, to be sold through the use of a
44 permit. This is not a handicraft regulation. It
45 applies to the raw and tanned bear hides with the claws
46 attached.

47
48 The Staff recommendation for WP06-01 is
49 to support after removing the proposed exemption for
50 Southeast Alaska. The proposed Southeast exemption

1 will result in difficulty with enforcement of the
2 regulation. Allowing commercial sales of handicrafts
3 made from bear claws taken in any part of the State
4 without a tracking system will have a significantly
5 detrimental effect on the ability of enforcement
6 officers to differentiate between legitimate sales and
7 commercial sales of products from pouched bears, bears
8 harvested under State regulations and brown bears
9 harvested under Federal regulations in Eastern Interior
10 and Bristol Bay regions.

11
12 Subsistence users in Southeast Alaska
13 should be able to carry out their customary and
14 traditional making and selling of bear handicrafts from
15 bear taken for subsistence uses without selling to
16 business or becoming a significant commercial
17 enterprise.

18
19 Are there any questions.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question.
22 Currently in Southeast, is there a problem in terms of
23 a significant commercial enterprise of bear claws, or
24 -- where it's allowed?

25
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Not that I'm aware of.
27 I think they're trying to prevent a commercial
28 enterprise from occurring I think is what the -- but
29 currently there's not a problem.

30
31 MR. GRAY: Let's take ivory and put
32 ivory in this instead of bear claws. Let's say it's
33 ivory. Would that prevent profit being made on ivory?

34
35 MR. ARDIZZONE: We don't have
36 jurisdiction over ivory.

37
38 MR. GRAY: I understand that. I'm just
39 trying to get a feel for what is happening here.

40
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: I guess I'm not sure I
42 understand your question then.

43
44 MR. GRAY: Okay. Let me put it this
45 way. I can make something. Tom Gray can create
46 something, and I can sell that to somebody.

47
48 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct.

49
50 MR. GRAY: But I can't sell it to a

1 store who can increase the price on it and make a
2 profit off it.

3

4 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct.

5

6 MR. GRAY: Is that what this is saying?

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct.

9

10 MR. GRAY: What is in place right now?
11 Is there a law or a regulation in place that -- can Tom
12 Gray make something, sell it to a store, who in turn
13 can sell it at a profit right today?

14

15 MR. ARDIZZONE: Give us a second.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 MR. BOS: Madame Chair. Council
20 members. My name is Greg Bos, Fish and Wildlife
21 Service.

22

23 I don't know if you could repeat the
24 question, but you're asking if there's currently any
25 law or regulation that prohibits the commercialized use
26 of brown bear parts under as sold as handicrafts?

27

28 MR. GRAY: I guess what I'm asking is
29 if Tom Gray made something out of this product, and
30 went down to Jim West and wanted to sell it to Jim
31 West, and he takes that and sells it at a profit, is
32 that something that can be done right now?

33

34 MR. BOS: Not in this region, because
35 under State law and regulation, you cannot sell any
36 part of a bear, other than black bear.

37

38 MR. GRAY: Okay. That's part of the
39 region that we're worried about here?

40

41 MR. BOS: There's three regions,
42 there's three Federal regions where the sale of bear
43 parts as handicrafts.

44

45 MR. GRAY: Well, what's the loophole?
46 I want to hear the loophole. If we're going to vote on
47 something, I want to understand what we're doing here
48 and what's this loophole you're talking about?

49

50 MR. BOS: The proposal that came before

1 you last year had these provis -- had similar
2 provisions that would have restricted the
3 commercialized sale of bear parts under the Federal
4 handicraft provision. That portion of the proposal was
5 deferred by the Board for additional comment by all of
6 the Regional Councils. So presently under the Federal
7 regulations, there is not prohibition on commercialized
8 sale of bear parts made into handicrafts if the bears
9 are taken from Federal lands from those three regions.
10 The Board has put this proposal in to have the Councils
11 reconsider the issue about commercialized --
12 opportunities for commercialized sale.

13

14 Last hear all of the Councils with the
15 exception of Southeast Regional Council, all of the
16 Councils who provided a recommendation supported the
17 restriction of commercialized uses. The Southeast
18 Council wanted to be exempted from that restriction,
19 because they didn't see the need, and for, you know,
20 they thought there was no abuses occurring, and they
21 didn't want to see additional regulations on something
22 that to them did not appear to be a problem. For that
23 reason, the Federal Board wanted to defer action on the
24 commercialized issue and give the Councils another
25 opportunity to comment on these provisions.

26

27 MR. GRAY: Okay. Is this Southeast
28 area the only -- the area that's being impacted by this
29 thing, or is there other areas other than the Southeast
30 area?

31

32 MR. BOS: The Staff recommendation on
33 the proposal at this point in time is to support these
34 restrictions on commercialized use, because of a
35 concern that it may lead to over-harvest of bears, that
36 commercialized sale, the profit motive, is an incentive
37 to increase harvest and increase poaching. The concern
38 about the exemption for Southeast is that it creates an
39 enforcement problem in determining where the bear parts
40 that are being sold, where they came from, because we
41 have no way of tracking bears that are harvested, the
42 locations from where they were harvested to their point
43 of sale. So that a bear sold in Anchorage could be
44 claimed to have been taken in Southeast, but in fact it
45 could have been taken anywhere in the State, and
46 there's no way of determining whether that bear could
47 legally be sold.

48

49 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'm slowly getting
50 the drift of what's going on here, and I'm sorry I'm

1 kind of not figuring this out the way I should be I
2 guess. But the way -- what I'm understanding is
3 there's no rules or regulations on these bear parts.
4 It has been proposed in the past and I understand that
5 we acted on this last year, which is fine.

6
7 The area that you can take these bear
8 parts, is that just the Southeast area? Oh, it's other
9 areas. Okay. So that -- yeah. Okay. Okay. And then
10 in the end result, a product will be able to be made.
11 I can sell the product, but I can't sell the product to
12 a business that makes money off from it. That's what
13 you're saying through this?

14
15 MR. BOS: Right.

16
17 MR. GRAY: Okay.

18
19 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I've got one
20 question. On these bears that are taken, both Federal
21 -- on Federal lands and State lands, are they still
22 required all to be sealed by the State of Alaska, or
23 are those Federal bears exempt? How does that work?

24
25 MR. BOS: We have ceiling requirements.

26
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: Brown bears taken by
28 Federal subsistence users, brown and black bears, are
29 required to be sealed under the State's sealing
30 provisions. So that in the case of brown bears, they
31 need to be sealed. There are some exceptions in areas
32 where bears are taken for subsistence, and not removed
33 from the area, that the sealing is not required. If a
34 bear hide or skull was to be removed from these special
35 management areas, then it would have to be sealed
36 before it could be taken out of those units.

37
38 MR. GRAY: Okay. I guess then there
39 would be a paper trail and a track record on these
40 taken, if you sealed them?

41
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, there wouldn't
43 be, because the handicraft -- excuse me. The seal is
44 removed when a bear skin is tanned. And when a
45 handicraft is made, it would only use parts of a bear
46 skin or the claws, and so there's no requirement to
47 have the sealing document accompanying that handicraft.

48
49
50 I might also mention that -- I think I

1 mentioned earlier that these provisions for limitation
2 on commercialized uses was in a proposal before the
3 Council last year, before all of the Councils. And the
4 regulation that was adopted by the Board, you know, the
5 intent of the Board was to limit commercialized uses,
6 and there was a question and answer leaflet that was
7 made available to the public that explained that. But
8 we had -- we didn't have the restriction in regulation
9 itself, and so there was a question about the
10 enforceability of the Board's intent. So the reason
11 that this proposal came before you last year was to
12 establish in regulation the limitation on
13 commercialized use. And that's consistent with the
14 Board's intent in adopting the provisions that allowed
15 for the sale of handicrafts made from bear parts.

16

17 (Pause)

18

19 MR. GRAY: We were just discussing what
20 the Council's action was last year, and I can't
21 remember if we supported it or if we took no action on
22 it.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: We took no action.

25

26 MR. GRAY: We took no action. And I
27 know this was an issue last year. I'm not sure what we
28 did, but, you know, it's -- I guess we're hearing one
29 side of the story, and we're not hearing the local
30 subsistence user's side of the story down there. And I
31 just can't fathom that this thing being a big issue,
32 and maybe it is. I don't know.

33

34 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think Southeast is --
35 the Southeast Council's opinion is that it's not a
36 problem, they don't think it's going to be a problem,
37 but these regulations are just -- we're trying to get
38 it in place to prevent problems.

39

40 MR. SEETOT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
41 Service provides administrative support to this RAC.
42 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also oversees the Polar
43 Bear or the Marine Mammal Commission. If I were to
44 make some crafts, handicrafts out of polar bear claws,
45 are there different regulations for polar bears, as
46 well as for the land brown and black bears? Like we're
47 from the coastline, and we can harvest polar bear. I
48 would think that the claws are no different than, you
49 know, the black or the brown bear. How we would be
50 able to make the justification that the products from

1 the polar bear, by-products were legitimate, if they
2 are, you know, under current marine mammal regulations?
3

4 MR. BOS: Uses of polar bears by Alaska
5 natives under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, you
6 know, is covered by that Act, and the regulations have
7 been adopted. They're separate from the Federal
8 Subsistence Program that would deal with brown bears.
9 So you're able to harvest and use polar bears in a
10 different manner than the provisions that regulate the
11 use of brown bears or black bears under the Federal
12 Subsistence Program. I'm not sure if I answered your
13 question, but this would not.....
14

15 MR. SEETOT: One, they wouldn't be able
16 to tell the difference between a polar bear claw and a
17 black or brown bear claw. And my question was how
18 would we make the justification, you know, saying that
19 it was from a polar bear, not from a black or brown
20 bear? Because I would think that -- you know, the same
21 materials go into the claws for both species.
22

23 MR. BOS: In other words, you're saying
24 if you had a set of brown bear claws in one hand and a
25 set of polar bear claws in the other, could you tell
26 the difference. I think there are ways of determining
27 that, but I can't give you a quick answer as to what
28 the characteristics would be. I'm sure that you would
29 be able to tell the difference if you had them in your
30 hands. It depends on what additional materials are
31 included with the claws that would identify them as to
32 originating from a polar bear versus a brown bear.
33

34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question. If
35 we were to support this proposal, and the proposal goes
36 through, is there a possibility that such regulation
37 would regulations pertaining to polar bears?
38

39 MR. BOS: No, adoption of this proposal
40 would not in any way affect the uses or the regulations
41 that govern the uses of marine mammals, polar bears.
42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Because, you know,
44 every time somebody makes a new rule of some kind,
45 sometimes it affects other areas of the laws. My
46 concern would be if a new Federal regulation is adopted
47 -- my concern is at some point in time it may impact
48 other laws.
49

50 MR. BOS: I think the Federal

1 Government relies in large part on the recommendations
2 of the Polar Bear Commission in regulating uses of
3 polar bears and ensuring the conservation of the
4 species. You know, a proposal that may be adopted by
5 the Federal Subsistence Board may be considered if
6 there's a strong justification for modifying the
7 regulations governing the uses of polar bears, but
8 there's no way of determining whether that would
9 happen. It think we shouldn't be afraid to establish
10 soundly based regulations for one species for a concern
11 of how they might be applied or interpreted for other
12 species. I think our concern here in this case is for
13 responsible management of brown bears and black bears,
14 and to ensure conservation of the species by preventing
15 over-exploitation that may be the result of the
16 incentive provided by commercialized uses.

17
18 MR. GRAY: One thing that -- what I
19 heard from Elmer, and I hate to put words in his mouth,
20 but the -- I guess the question, maybe I'll throw it
21 out here, is the subsistence users in this region have
22 rights to take products off from polar bears and sell
23 them, and I guess one of the reasons I was trying to
24 pick your brain a little bit here is I feel kind of
25 uncomfortable picking on subsistence users from another
26 region on something that may be tradition or something
27 that they've done forever, bartering things, and
28 addressing things. You know, our polar bears up here,
29 we've done it since we were kid -- or for generations,
30 and, I mean, years and years, back before steamboats
31 and whalers and everything. I mean, polar bears have
32 been bartered. And for us to dictate I guess to be
33 another region how their traditions are going to be
34 impacted, I get a little bit jittery of how we're going
35 to address their issues. I'm sympathetic to what the
36 cause is here, but -- and that's why I said it would be
37 good to have input from -- from the actual users in
38 this other area. How old is this tradition? Is it
39 2,000 years old? Is it 100 years old? Is it a
40 tradition? Is it something that is old?

41
42 You know, and I'm in business, I have
43 businesses myself, and I understand business. And
44 there's ways of keeping this out of the businesses by
45 using barter. You can barter things. Using different
46 words, so you can't get a monetary cash value. And as
47 long as we're protecting that right, I'm comfortable
48 dealing with stuff.

49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Bartering shouldn't be

1 affected. This is really just addressing commercial
2 sales. They just don't want it to become an industry
3 of someone running out there harvesting bears, selling
4 claws, and making lots of money, and not using the rest
5 of the resource. It's just trying to prevent abuse
6 before it occurs I guess is.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I was going to add,
9 Elmer will remember, and maybe Peter Buck remember that
10 we dealt with this when it was with fish parts some
11 years back, so now we're seeing it, the same issue
12 being applied to game. It started with fish some years
13 ago. So that's what I was afraid of.

14
15 When a new regulation is passed,
16 there's a tendency to start applying it to other game
17 or fish or other resources, so I think our main concern
18 that we keep coming back to the polar bear, we're polar
19 bear country. And if this regulation passes, is there
20 going to be impact in the future at some point, because
21 somebody's going to be astute enough to say, hey, look,
22 the Federal Subsistence Board passed this regulation to
23 brown bears and grizzlies -- I mean brown bears and
24 black bears, therefore it should be applied to polar
25 bears. The impact in the future is what really
26 concerns me.

27
28 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I
29 understand what you're saying, but the two systems are
30 totally separate. I mean, the people aren't, but the
31 systems are. I mean, I understand what you're saying.
32 It could -- if I looked in a crystal ball, I can't say
33 it won't happen. It could happen.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It would set a
36 precedence like it did in the fish parts.

37
38 MR. ARDIZZONE: It could happen.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You see, what happened
41 -- you're using the examples here that you apply to
42 fish, except you've replaced fish with black and brown
43 bear.

44
45 MR. GRAY: I guess maybe I can add, the
46 longer we talk about this thing, the more uncomfortable
47 I'm getting on dealing with it, especially when, you
48 know, my concern, I'm not hearing the other side of the
49 story, and it's easy for agencies to come in here and
50 put something on the table and tell their side of the

1 story, which is great. That's what you're hired to do,
2 but we're -- we will make decisions that are going to
3 impact subsistence users in their lives, and we need to
4 be pretty careful how we address this, because it's
5 going to come back and impact our life some day. And
6 our resources. And this is what Grace is trying to
7 bring out. This is what Elmer's talked about. It may
8 be -- it may come back as walrus tusks. We can't
9 address them -- it may come back in a whole different
10 form.

11

12 But, you know, I think if we're going
13 to address this on a real fair issue, I think we need
14 to hear all the sides of the story and make a decision
15 then. And until then, I think we're going to bang our
16 head against the wall.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think originally --
19 remember when the Board was adopting regulations
20 allowing the sale of handicrafts from bear products, or
21 from bear parts, I thought that originally they were
22 pretty much left to regions to decide on that, that
23 regional differences were going to be taken into
24 consideration. For example, black bears would not be
25 applicable in -- up here almost, because we don't
26 really have any black bears. But I thought that the
27 majority of the Regional Advisory Councils
28 recommendation was to take into consideration regional
29 differences. If the region wants a certain regulation,
30 that's how Southeast Alaska and Bristol Bay and those
31 other RACs ended up with regulations that pertain
32 differently from us.

33

34 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Madame Chair. I'd
35 like to go on record here just for Unalakleet or
36 myself, saying that I'm against this proposal, and the
37 reason being is I know, living in Unalakleet 27 years,
38 there will be bears washed up on the beach, and those
39 bears, the claws are still on them for the most part
40 until the tide takes them off and they rot off. It
41 isn't like people are running down there to get the
42 claws to go sell them and make something out of them.
43 We haven't -- there we have not used them in that
44 manner to my knowledge. And I think we can go on and
45 on on this, but I think it has very little value where
46 we're at at this level.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think so, too.

49

50 MR. BOS: I'd like to address a couple

1 of points that you raise as concerns. First, the
2 Federal Board is seeking this Council's recommendation
3 as it affects this region. Last year this Council
4 voted to take no action, because the sale of brown bear
5 parts made into handicrafts does not apply in this
6 region, and you felt that, you know, you didn't need to
7 make a recommendation. And the reason it's before you
8 is just to -- it would go into the statewide provisions
9 in the Federal regulations, and so we need to review
10 this proposal with all of the Councils. Several
11 Councils last year declined to take action for the same
12 reason that this Council took no action, because it
13 didn't -- it wouldn't affect them directly. And in
14 some cases Councils felt it was culturally
15 inappropriate to consider sale of bears, and I think
16 that was the case in this region as well.

17
18 There was considerable testimony at the
19 Federal Board meeting when this proposal came up last
20 year detailing the customary and traditional uses of
21 bears in Southeast Alaska. And the provisions in the
22 regulations would not limit those uses that have been
23 practiced in Southeast Alaska in the way of barter and
24 the uses of ceremonial regalia made from bear parts,
25 and for the reimbursement to people who manufacture
26 handicrafts for use in -- by the different clans.

27
28 The commercialized use that would be
29 restricted by this proposal, if it were adopted, was
30 not something that was an established subsistence use
31 in Southeast. I think the objections of the Southeast
32 Council is that if there isn't a demonstrated abuse
33 occurring, why have an additional regulation on the
34 books. It's more on principle I think of avoiding
35 over-regulation.

36
37 Most of the Councils, as I mentioned,
38 that weighed in on this, or all of the Councils except
39 for Southeast that weighed in on this issue recommended
40 adopting the provisions that would restrict
41 commercialized use. They felt the potential for abuse
42 was there, and there were a number of Councils that
43 were very concerned about this issue and wanted to see
44 something in the regulations. For example, Southeast
45 -- I mean, Southcentral was concerned. Bristol Bay
46 Region was very concerned about the potential for
47 abuse. So because the Southeast Council wanted to be
48 exempted from any restrictions concerning
49 commercialized use, the Board felt that that issue
50 needed to come forward again as a statewide provision

1 for review by these Councils.

2

3

4 But the recommendation that you will
5 provide is really how this regulation affects or might
6 affect this region, and it will not govern the Board's
7 decision as it affects Southeast. I mean, the Board is
8 going to consider the comments and recommendations by
9 all of the Councils in deciding what the final
10 regulation should be, but in making a recommendation
11 here, you will not be deciding what the regulation will
12 be as it applies to Southeast Alaska.

12

13

14 MR. GRAY: Well, let me jump in here.
15 I think there's precedence. Precedence is going to be
16 set if this thing goes forward and it's passed. And I
17 think we're creating regulations just because the
18 regulatory people want regulations, and they want to
19 justify their job so to speak. If it was an issue that
20 came forward because of a need, a problem, as a result
21 of somebody abusing the system, then I would say this
22 board should oppose what's -- or go along with what's
23 proposed here. I think there's precedence that's going
24 to be set. I think whatever we address here is setting
25 the platform whether for some other program or what,
26 and it's -- we're going to set a platform, and I think
27 this issue needs to be an issue because of a problem,
28 because of a -- as a result of somebody abusing it.
29 You know, it's been stated here, and I come from an
30 area that has lots of bear kills, lot's of people
31 killing bears, and I don't see a problem of animals
32 being shot so bear parts can be sold. There isn't a
33 problem here on the Seward Peninsula. So taking that
34 into consideration, I think we're creating a
35 regulation, if that regulation was to come to here,
36 we're creating a regulation that would be bad for this
37 area, because we don't have a problem here. So we're
38 creating regulations for somebody to fun around and
39 point fingers at other people that may or may not be an
40 issue, but we don't need to create regulations just for
41 the sake of doing it.

41

42

43 Like I say, if it was a problem down
44 south and we ourselves were dealing with that problem,
45 and we're making a recommendation to deal with that
46 problem down there, I would probably still side with
47 the subsistence users down there. There's a system out
48 there that you deal with problem areas. And, you know,
49 the Western society's brought that on us. I mean, we
50 have to deal with the problem areas. So anyway, I
51 promised when I came into this meeting I wasn't going

1 to talk, and I think I've really talked too much.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think we should move
4 on with this. Do you have anything further on this?
5 We can ask the comments from the Alaska Department of
6 Fish and Game. I think we're getting redundant now.

7

8 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So we'll listen to
11 what the State has to say.

12

13 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 Terry Haynes, Department of Fish and Game.

15

16 Our comments are on Page 32 of your
17 meeting book. And I'll preface these comments by this
18 applies more to proposals you discuss later, but these
19 written comments in this book were developed before the
20 Board of Game had finished its recent meeting at which
21 it made some changes that involve regulations that
22 you're going to be looking at today.

23

24 But the Department does not support
25 this proposal. We do not believe the Federal
26 Subsistence Board has established a record
27 demonstrating that the sale as opposed to barter,
28 sharing or use of bear claws, teeth and bones for use
29 in making handicrafts for sale, we don't believe
30 they've demonstrated that the sale is a customary and
31 traditional practice around the State. And even if the
32 Federal Board made such a determination, the record
33 would still only support limited, noncommercial
34 exchanges adhering to customary practices in some areas
35 of the State.

36

37 So we're on record in thinking that
38 before the Federal Board should authorize making
39 handicrafts with bear claws, that you need to
40 demonstrate that that is a customary and traditional
41 use. There is a customary and traditional of making
42 handicrafts with bear claws and bartering them, or
43 using them for ceremonial activities in some areas of
44 the State, but not throughout the State. And these new
45 regulations allow new uses of those parts in our
46 judgment.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 MR. QUINN: Madame Chair. Can I

1 comment?

2

3

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sure.

4

5 MR. QUINN: You guys are all upset over
6 the word sale. What's the difference between barter
7 and sale? Money's just another form of barter. And
8 you want to penalize people because one guy's going to
9 take money here and get bear claws there, and then this
10 guy who got the money, he can go over and he can get
11 fish here, and they could have traded claws and fish to
12 begin with. The money just helps the transfer. So,
13 you know, I realize why the State says these things,
14 but I don't totally agree with them, and a lot of times
15 these kind of restrictions penalize people that could
16 otherwise benefit a little more from legal harvest of
17 natural resources. And I would hope that the State
18 wouldn't see that as a bad thing, but unfortunately
19 they often do.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Questions or comments
22 to the State.

23

24

(No comments)

25

26

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

27

28

MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30

31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Other Federal, State
32 or tribal agency comments.

33

34

(No comments)

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, we
37 have one comment from Defenders of Wildlife, a national
38 nonprofit organization who are dedicated to protect all
39 native wild animals and plants in their natural
40 communities, and they support this proposal, WP06-01
41 with an amendment deleting Unit 1 through 5 exemption.

42

43 And this is also supported by Ahtna
44 Tene Nene' Subsistence Committee from Glennallen, they
45 supported the proposal. And this -- I have down -- oh,
46 okay. I'm sorry. I'm looking at the wrong thing.
47 They said -- Ahtna Tene Nene' said, we do not support
48 WP06-01 as proposed. However, we support small sales
49 by rural residents of handicrafts made from claws of
50 black and brown bears taken under Federal subsistence
51 hunting regulations.

1 Thank you, ma'am.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So in a sense it kind
4 of sound like they were in support of that proposal
5 with modifications.
6
7 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: They are in support
8 of small sales by rural residents of handicrafts made
9 from claws of black and brown bears, but they do not
10 support the proposal as written.
11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The original proposal?
13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The original
15 proposal. But then I think they're just saying that
16 they do not support this proposal as presented, but
17 then they support the small handicrafts made from the
18 claws of brown and black bears is how I would
19 understand it.
20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Thank you.
22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then there's
24 National Park Service -- oh, that's Proposal 40, I'm
25 sorry. Okay. Thank you.
26
27 MR. GRAY: I think that needs to be
28 clarified. It looks like they want to support this
29 thing to stop sales, and they want Southeast included
30 in this thing, and no sales be included in Southeast.
31 So I wanted to clarify that. Is that what it's saying?
32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think we're kind of
34 guessing at this point.
35
36 MR. ARDIZZONE: It's right on Page 32
37 as they wrote it. I don't know -- you know, I can't
38 read their minds, but that's what they said.
39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, it's hard to
41 determine. That's why I was asking.
42
43 Interagency Staff Committee comments.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. We already did
48 the summary of written public comments, Barb?
49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, ma'am. There

1 aren't any other.....

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any public testimony
5 on this issue. Nobody had requested any.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. We're down to
10 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
11 justification.

12

13 MR. GRAY: Okay. I'll make -- I'll go
14 on record making a recommendation to oppose this
15 proposal.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So we can discuss this
18 issue. Is there a second.

19

20 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I second it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm really
23 uncomfortable with this personally. I think mainly
24 because this whole situation about regulating the sale
25 of -- this proposal originally applied for fish, and
26 how it's expanding to bears and heaven knows what else
27 it will expand to eventually. And that's mainly why I
28 feel uncomfortable, because it seemed -- these kind of
29 things seems to grow, and they started being applied to
30 something else. And at some point in time even if --
31 and it comes that even if this is not an issue of
32 selling bear parts in a region is not an issue, I'm
33 afraid at some point in time it's going to bite us in
34 the butt, because it will apply to something that we
35 currently do.

36

37 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah. Madame Chair.
38 Before I call for the question, I'd just like to make
39 comment is that whether it's State or Federal, we're so
40 darn regulated now trying to make a living up here, by
41 what the hell do we have on the table. Is it legal?
42 And I can understand where you're coming from, Madame
43 Chair, and I would request that whatever motion that
44 Mr. Gray made was that I'd call for the question, and I
45 request a roll call vote, please.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Let me see if anybody
48 else has any comments. Does anybody else have anything
49 to say about this issue.

50

1 Barb, he called for a roll call vote.
2
3 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair, can you
4 clarify the motion of whether support or nonsupport?
5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Nonsupport.
7
8 MR. SEETOT: Is that what it really
9 states, that if we say yes, that we support it, if we
10 say no, we don't support it. Was that?
11
12 MR. GRAY: Let me put it this way. My
13 motion is to oppose, and I want this thing to fail.
14 And I think it's very important that a letter accompany
15 this thing and the right wording go with this thing to
16 wherever it's going to go, because, you know, it's
17 important that our decision is understood as it's
18 passed on.
19
20 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Mr. Gray, so if we
21 vote yes, it's to support your non.....
22
23 MR. GRAY: Okay. I.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Why don't you
26 state.....
27
28 MR. GRAY: I made a motion to oppose
29 it, so, yes, I'm going to vote yes, I'm going to oppose
30 it.
31
32 MR. WEYIOUANNA: So if you say no,
33 you're against it?
34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: If you vote yes on
36 this proposal.....
37
38 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Clarify it.
39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah. Tom Gray's
41 proposal is to not support this statewide proposal, so
42 if you vote yes, you're with Tom Gray. If you vote no,
43 then you're saying Tom Gray's -- you're not in support
44 of Tom Gray's motion, which is not to support Proposal
45 06-01. Clear?
46
47 MR. GRAY: Okay. However it turns out,
48 I want this thing to fail, so let's get that clear.
49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are we all clear on it

1 now?

2

3

MR. GRAY: So I vote yes.

4

5

6

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Wait. Barb is going to do a roll call vote for us.

7

8

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thomas.

9

10

MR. GRAY: Yes.

11

12

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Grace.

13

14

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

15

16

17

18

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Peter Martin. Peter Martin. I'm sorry. You've got to turn your mic on, please.

19

20

MR. MARTIN: Yes.

21

22

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Mike Quinn.

23

24

MR. QUINN: Yes.

25

26

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Cliff Weyiouanna.

27

28

MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yes.

29

30

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Peter Buck.

31

32

MR. BUCK: Yes.

33

34

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Myron.

35

36

MR. SAVETILIK: Yes.

37

38

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Elmer.

39

40

MR. SEETOT: Yes.

41

42

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Charles.

43

44

MR. SACCHEUS: Yes.

45

46

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thomas Gray.

47

48

MR. GRAY: Yes.

49

50

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Vance.

1 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Yes.
2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.
4
5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion is.....
6
7 MR. GRAY: I guess for you guys that
8 worked all -- did a lot of work on this thing, I don't
9 want to apologize, but I really think there's more
10 factors that need to be answered here, and I really
11 think this board, what's transpired here and the
12 questions that arose need to be passed on.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. We'll move on.
15 Do we want to move on or.....
16
17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes, we'll move
18 on.
19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Proposal WP06-
21 02. Here we go again.
22
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm a little afraid to
24 do this one.
25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Here we go ahead.
27
28 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. WP06-02 was
29 submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management, and
30 addresses sales of handicrafts made by nonedible
31 byproducts of wildlife other than bears.
32
33 Current Federal regulations prohibit
34 the sale of wildlife or byproducts of wildlife unless
35 specifically permitted in Federal regulations. Current
36 Federal regulations only allow the sale of handicrafts
37 made from bear skin, hide, pelt or fur, including
38 claws, from some parts of the State, the sale of
39 handicrafts made from bear bones, teeth, sinew and
40 skulls taken in Southeast, pelts from furbearers and
41 subsistence harvested fish under the customary trade
42 regulations. Under State regulations, many handicrafts
43 and parts of game can be sold, purchased or bartered.
44 They have a specific list of what cannot be sold, such
45 as most meat, bear parts, big game trophies, et cetera.
46
47
48 Therefore many wildlife handicrafts,
49 individual antlers and horns, capes and other items can
50 be sold under State regulations, but they cannot be

1 sold from animals harvested on Federal public lands
2 under Federal regulations.a

3
4 The purpose of this proposal is to make
5 Federal regulations consistent with existing State
6 regulations with respect to handicrafts. This action
7 will not alter existing harvest limits or seasons, and
8 therefore should have no impact on wildlife
9 populations. This action will provide those
10 subsistence users who make handicrafts an opportunity
11 to sell those handicrafts made from wildlife harvested
12 under Federal regulations. This change will be
13 minimal, because the activity is currently allowed for
14 wildlife harvested under State regulations. This
15 change will have no effect on other users.

16
17 Because this proposed regulation uses
18 the term big game and trophy, definitions are provided
19 for those terms.

20
21 This proposed regulation also prohibits
22 sales from constituting a significant commercial
23 enterprise, consistent with the sale of bear claw
24 handicrafts.

25
26 Adoption of these new regulations will
27 provide Federally-qualified subsistence hunters the
28 same opportunities that are currently available to
29 those harvesting under State regulations, and it would
30 accommodate existing practices.

31
32 Question. Why doesn't the proposed
33 regulation allow the sale of capes and individual horns
34 and antlers as the State regulation does? And the
35 answer to that is the proposed Federal regulation
36 requires that the sales be limited to handicrafts to be
37 consistent with the definition of subsistence uses in
38 ANILCA Section 803.

39
40 The Staff recommendation is to adopt
41 the proposal with the recommended modifications.

42
43 Are there any questions.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No. Hearing no
48 questions, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

49
50 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair, the

1 Department's comments are on Page 38 of your meeting
2 book. We support this proposal, because it will, to
3 the extent possible, align the State and Federal
4 regulations. The State regulations provides for uses
5 of the nonedible parts of wildlife that the Federal
6 regulations currently don't allow. And so this
7 proposal is an attempt to make legal in Federal
8 regulation what is authorized in State regulation,
9 although there will continue to be some differences,
10 because as Chuck pointed out, the Federal regulation
11 requires that the parts be used in making handicrafts.
12 But the Department supports this proposal and thinks
13 it's a step in the right direction.

14

Thank you.

15

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
18 agency comments. Do you have any questions for him?
19 No. Other agency comments.

20

21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Madame
22 Chairman. Sandy Rabinowitch with the National Park
23 Service.

24

25 I'd just point out one other thing that
26 might not be in this analysis as boldly as it should,
27 but I'd put before you that this proposed regulation
28 would bring the Federal regulations into greater
29 consistency with existing Federal law also. So I'm
30 just adding to what Chuck has said.

31

32 And what I mean, and I'll keep this
33 real short, but ANILCA Section 803 specifically
34 provides, let me just read one sentence, for the making
35 and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible
36 byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for
37 personal or family consumption. It's already in the
38 law. Okay. It's part of the definition of subsistence
39 uses.

40

41 And then in other parts of Title VIII,
42 as you all know, the taking on public land of fish and
43 wildlife for nonwasteful subsistence uses is given the
44 priority, of course, which you all understand very
45 well.

46

47 So I would argue that we currently have
48 regulation that says you can't do this. This is a
49 proposal which suggests you can do it. And I think
50 this proposal brings it into better conformance with

1 existing Federal statute, in addition to all the other
2 things that have been said.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Questions or comment.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. You know
11 what, I was neglecting to ask if Kawerak has any
12 comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Interagency Staff
17 Committee comments.

18
19 MR. BOS: No comments, Madame Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Fish and game advisory
22 committee comments.

23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There aren't any.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Summary of written
27 public comment.

28
29 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, I have
30 a couple here from Ahtna 'Tene Nene' Subsistence
31 Committee, supported this proposal. they stated that
32 we support WP06-02, so that rural residence may sell
33 handicrafts from nonedible byproducts of most wildlife.
34 This practice has been done under State regulation, but
35 not under the Federal regulation since there is no
36 regulation in place under Federal subsistence
37 management.

38
39 And the Mentasta Traditional Council
40 also said, we support this proposal.

41
42 And the National Parks Conservation
43 Association also just stated in making a comment that
44 all proposals must be consistent with ANILCA. And
45 where such activity is in national parks and preserves,
46 proposals must be consistent with National Park Service
47 policy. And they wrote that the Alaska National
48 Interest Lands Conservation Act clearly states in
49 Section 803 that nonedible byproducts of subsistence
50 harvested wildlife can be used for handicrafts.

1 Proposal 2 seems to be possibly addressing this very
2 issue.

3

4 Thank you, Madame Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Barbara.
7 Tom. Well, let me move on. Is there any public
8 testimony.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There were no
13 requests, so we'll go down to Regional Council
14 deliberation, recommendation and justification. So if
15 somebody makes a motion, we can certainly discuss it.

16

17 MR. GRAY: I just want to point
18 something out, just a few minutes ago we voted on this
19 bear issue and the claws issue, and you look at this
20 regulation here, it says if you are Federally-qualified
21 subsistence user, you may sell handicrafts, and
22 included in it, it talks about claws. So the action
23 that we took a few minutes ago could have impacted this
24 action, and as the wheel turns, it may not be today or
25 tomorrow, but down the road it will. So this -- but
26 the thing is the action that we're doing here, and I'm
27 going to support this issue, is it's just a matter of
28 time. It may be three years from now, it's going to
29 include the bear. You know, today it doesn't include
30 bears, but you know, in times things change. Five
31 years ago they wanted to kill every bill on the Seward
32 Peninsula so.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Why don't you make the
35 motion so we can discuss it.

36

37 MR. GRAY: Okay. I make a motion that
38 we adopt this thing.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second so
41 we can discuss it further.

42

43 MR. SEETOT: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Now we can go
46 into further discussion. Is there anybody else want to
47 make a comment about this.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Question.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The question has been
4 called. The motion is to support WP06-02.
5
6 MR. GRAY: Yeah.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So all those in favor
9 signify by stating aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
14 sign.
15
16 (No opposing votes)
17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Okay.
19 Now should we break for lunch now. It's a quarter to
20 one. Let's go ahead and break for lunch and come back
21 at 2:00 o'clock.
22
23 (Off record)
24
25 (On record)
26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'll just call the
28 meeting back to order then. It's now 2:00 o'clock, and
29 I'm going begin by asking people who were not here this
30 morning to introduce themselves, please. I think we do
31 have a couple of people.
32
33 MS. GOTTLIEB: I'm Judy Gottlieb, and
34 I'm with the National Park Service, and sit on the
35 Federal Subsistence Board.
36
37 MR. RABINOWITCH: And I'm Sandy
38 Rabinowitch of the National Park Service and with the
39 Interagency Staff Committee to the Federal Subsistence
40 Board.
41
42 MR. SPARKS: I'm Tom Sparks with the
43 Nome BLM office. Sorry I wasn't here this morning.
44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay.
46 We'll just continue. WP06-37.
47
48 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Proposal
49 06-37 was submitted by the Council, and request that
50 Unit 22B, west of the Golovin Bay and west of the west

1 bank of the Fish, Niukluk -- I can't say that word --
2 and the Libby Rivers, and in Unit 22D in the Pilgrim
3 River drainage, the caribou season dates be changed
4 from July 1st through June 30th to October 1st through
5 April 30th. The Council also recommended that from May
6 1st through September 30th the season may be opened by
7 announcement by the field office manager of the BLM in
8 consultation with ADF&G.

9
10 This proposal was submitted to reduce
11 the problems between hunters and reindeer herders,
12 trying to prevent reindeer being harvested as caribou.

13
14
15 At the November 2005 Board of Game
16 meeting in Kotzebue, a similar proposal was addressed.
17 The Board of Game after discussions with the reindeer
18 herders, hunters and State biologists adopted the
19 proposal with a minor modification. The Board changed
20 the suggested boundary language to Unit 22B west of
21 Golovin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of
22 the Fish and Niukluk Rivers, and excluding the Libby
23 River drainage, based on public testimony.

24
25 There's not any real problems with the
26 caribou in this area. Caribou are very abundant. The
27 problems we're having are reindeer being harvested as
28 caribou when the caribou aren't really in the area. We
29 have a number of reindeer herders in the area. There
30 are seven reindeer ranges that are fully or partially
31 encompassed by Unit 22D.

32
33 And I think I'll skip right to the
34 effects. If this proposal is adopted, there should be
35 little impact on the caribou population and caribou
36 hunters. However, it should help prevent the harvest
37 of reindeer. There should be little effect on
38 subsistence users as caribou are not present in large
39 numbers in the area between June and September.

40
41 This change was discussed at length at
42 the Northern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory
43 Council -- or, excuse me, Committee meeting on October
44 11th of 2005. And the original suggested regulation
45 change was amended to this compromise language, which
46 was supported the committee, hunters, and Kawerak
47 Reindeer Herders Association.

48
49 Proposal WP06-37 also requests that the
50 area field manager of BLM after consultation with ADF&G

1 determine needed openings. This flexibility would
2 create a more flexible and responsive management system
3 which should benefit subsistence users by allowing a
4 hunt if caribou are present in the area during May 1
5 through September 30th.

6
7 Preliminary conclusion is to support
8 this proposal with modification. The modification
9 would just align the language adopted by the Alaska
10 Board of Game during its November 2005 meeting. And
11 that was the intent of the Council I believe was to
12 align with the State on this.

13
14 Are there any questions?

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Comments.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Alaska
21 Department of Fish and Game.

22
23 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
24 The Department's comments are on page 47 of your
25 meeting book. And I would modify these comments only
26 to say that we support the proposal as modified in the
27 preliminary conclusion for all of the reasons that
28 Chuck gave you. This would align the State and Federal
29 regulations, and also protect reindeer from accidental
30 harvest, so we think this would be a good change.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
35 agency comments.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kawerak comments.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Interagency Staff
44 comments.

45
46 MR. BOS: No, Madame Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Fish and game advisory
49 committee.

50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Summary of written
4 public comments.
5
6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There are none.
7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. There's no
9 request for public testimony, so we're now going to
10 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
11 justification.
12
13 MR. GRAY: Okay. This particular issue
14 came from the reindeer industry, and we were the ones
15 that pushed this because of issues that were happening
16 along the road system. I mean, that was the big issue
17 was people were shooting animals along the road system,
18 so the State Board of Game met and they adopted what we
19 proposed to the State.
20
21 Now, this -- what we initially proposed
22 got changed through a series of meetings with different
23 agencies and different people, and what you're seeing
24 is actually a compromise from the reindeer industry and
25 the public. And, but anyway, it's a working solution
26 for some of the problems that we have, and time will
27 tell whether or not it's going to have any effect.
28
29 So I move to adopt it and bring it in
30 line with the State's actions.
31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second.
33
34 MR. QUINN: Second.
35
36 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I'll second.
37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Who seconded?
39
40 MR. QUINN: I did.
41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, okay. There were
43 two that said I second.
44
45 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: He got ahead of me.
46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any more further
48 discussion.
49
50 (No comments)

1 MR. GRAY: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those in favor of
4 the motion signify by stating aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
9 sign.

10

11 (No opposing votes)

12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Now
14 we'll move on to 06-38.

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, this
17 proposal was also submitted by the Regional Advisory
18 Council, and requests hat the winter moose season in
19 Unit 22A remainder be shifted from December 1st through
20 January 31st, to January 1st through January 31st. The
21 shift in season time would better allow the communities
22 of Stebbins and St. Michaels to meet their subsistence
23 needs in the upcoming season. This proposal would
24 place changes made by Special Action WSA05-12 and 13
25 into permanent regulations.

26

27 The December moose season is during
28 short daylight and inclement weather. Residents of
29 Stebbins and St. Michaels would like to change the
30 moose harvest season from December to January. In
31 January there's usually more snow for ease of access by
32 snowmachine. These requested actions would also align
33 Federal regulations with recently adopted State reg --
34 or, excuse me, recently adopted State regulations.

35

36 Currently there's no population
37 estimate for moose in southern 22A, but based on
38 composition and recruitment surveys, indications are
39 that while overall numbers of numbers are low, moose
40 are more abundant than in the northern parts of the
41 subunit.

42

43 Speaking with Kate, she supports the
44 continuation of the winter season in southern Unit 22A.
45 Based on harvest records, changing from a December
46 season to a January season is unlikely to significantly
47 increase harvest.

48

49 So if this proposal is adopted it would
50 allow the residents of Stebbins and St. Michaels to

1 harvest moose when weather and daylight are more
2 favorable. This change is unlikely to have significant
3 impact on the moose population, therefore there's no
4 conservation concern at this time. This proposal would
5 also align Federal regulations with recently changed
6 State regulations.

7
8 So the preliminary conclusion is to
9 support this proposal. Are there any questions.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Alaska
14 Department of Fish and Game.

15
16 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair, the
17 Department's comments are on page 53 of your Council
18 book. The Department supports this proposal. It would
19 align the Federal season dates in Unit 22A with those
20 adopted by the Alaska Board of Game at its November
21 2005 meeting. And we support the proposal for the
22 other reasons stated by Chuck.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
27 agency comments.

28
29 (No comments)

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kawerak.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Interagency Staff
36 comments

37
38 MR. BOS: None, Madame Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I don't see anybody --
41 Fish and game advisory committee.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Written public
46 comments.

47
48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There are none,
49 Madame Chair.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's no request for
2 public testimony, so we'll go into Council
3 deliberation, recommendation and justification. Does
4 somebody want to make a proposal. I mean a motion,
5 excuse me.

6
7 MR. MARTIN: I move to support the
8 proposal with support.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion now
11 to support. Is there a second.

12
13 MR. QUINN: I'll second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Call for question.

16
17 MR. GRAY: Question.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. There's a
20 motion on the floor to support the proposal. All those
21 in favor signify by saying aye.

22
23 IN UNISON: Aye.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
26 sign.

27
28 (No opposing votes)

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. We'll
31 move on to WP06-39.

32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. Proposal
34 WP06-39 was submitted by the Regional Advisory Council,
35 and requests that that the portion of Unit 22A which
36 includes the Unalakleet River drainage and all
37 drainages flowing to Norton Sound north of the Golsovia
38 drainage and south of the Tag and Shak River drainages
39 be closed to the taking of moose. This proposal would
40 place changes made by Special Action WSA05-03 into
41 permanent regulations.

42
43 Based on recent BLM and ADF&G moose
44 surveys, there's been a drastic reduction in the moose
45 population in portions of Unit 22A. A combination of
46 low moose density, declining population trend and low
47 numbers of yearling moose requires eliminating human
48 harvest to allow for conservation of the herd.
49 Eliminating the moose harvest would also align Federal
50 regulations with recent changes made to State

1 regulations adopted at the November 2005 Alaska Board
2 of Game meeting.

3

4 This has been an ongoing problem we've
5 had. The moose population has decreased dramatically.
6 Some of the effects of this proposal would be it is
7 more restrictive than the current regulations and would
8 eliminate the season in a portion of Unit 22A,
9 including the Unalakleet River drainage and all
10 drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the
11 Golsovia River drainage, and south of Tag and Shak
12 River drainages. Since previous management actions
13 have been unsuccessful in stopping the moose population
14 decline, more drastic measures are required to help
15 conserve the moose population in the unit. A
16 combination of a low moose density, declining
17 population trend and low numbers of yearling moose
18 requires eliminating moose harvest to allow for
19 conservation of the herd.

20

21 Recently caribou have been moving into
22 Unit 22A, which should help offset the loss of harvest
23 opportunity for moose in the area.

24

25 Eliminating the moose harvest will also
26 align State and Federal regulations.

27

28 Preliminary conclusion is to support
29 this proposal. Are there any questions.

30

31 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I've got one here. I
32 was looking at this, and on page 59, one, two, three,
33 fourth paragraph down, it says that from -- hunters
34 from outside Unit 22A took a total of 72 moose. Of
35 this total -- I'm jumping around here. Of this total,
36 25 were from out of state and 30 were from outside of
37 the 22. Well, that comes to 55 moose, you know, for
38 those statistics. Where would the rest be? We're
39 missing, you know, 25 moose there that aren't accounted
40 for.

41

42 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'll have to check
43 that.

44

45 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: And then as I looked
46 at this, it says that 16 percent of the total harvest.
47 But then when you look above there, it says that the
48 harvest tickets recorded were what based this
49 statistic, but yet only half -- according to the Fish
50 and Game thing, only half of the moose are reported.

1 so really that 16 percent would be 8 percent. You know
2 what I'm saying? If you're basing it on what's there.
3 I mean, we get these statistics, but they don't mean a
4 whole lot the way it looks.

5
6 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. I'll have to
7 check the numbers for you. This is from a Fish and
8 Game publication, and I'm not.....

9
10 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: You know what I'm
11 saying though. Out of 72.....

12
13 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. I know what
14 you're saying.

15
16 MR. GRISHKOWSKY:we're missing
17 25.

18
19 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right.

20
21 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: But it says it from
22 outside the unit. Well, that would be nonresidents,
23 and then the rest would be residents from the State,
24 but yet we're missing 25 hunters there, or 24 moose.

25
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. I understand.
27 I'll have to check. I'll have to check the numbers.

28
29 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: And then the
30 percentage would be wrong on the 16 as well, because if
31 you've only got half of it being reported, right, that
32 would eliminate half of the 16 percent, so you're down
33 to eight.

34
35 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'll check the numbers.
36 I'll have to talk to you after.....

37
38 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I mean, I just saw
39 that and.....

40
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: Now I'm confused, so
42 I'll have to -- I'll check it for you.

43
44 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Okay. I mean, that's
45 -- it throws me off.

46
47 MR. ARDIZZONE: I guess what we need to
48 focus on is moose population is terrible in the area.
49 And I will check these numbers though. I don't have
50 the report with me, but.....

1 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Yeah. I guess from
2 my stance though, I'm looking at this and I say, well,
3 what does this mean then, you know.

4
5 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Madame Chair. A
6 comment.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Uh-huh.

9
10 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, on the moose, I
11 think what Vance is saying, you know, like on a 16
12 percent is that it's kind of very important, because
13 most of the time, it will eventually affect the opening
14 date for moose hunting, as well as the closure. So if
15 the percent is wrong, then I think we need to take a
16 better look at it to make sure that we don't jeopardize
17 the subsistence use of harvesting, for the residents to
18 harvest moose for meat.

19
20 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think the percentage
21 is probably correct. I don't have the report in front
22 of me, but you can't -- this is reported harvest is
23 what the numbers are going to be based on. Although it
24 says maybe half is not reported, those numbers wouldn't
25 figure into the percentage.

26
27 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: But they should if
28 you're calculating.....

29
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: But you don't know
31 exactly how many are unreported. You're guesstimating
32 how many unreported. I think these are hard numbers.
33 Like I said, I'll check the report for you and let you
34 know.

35
36 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: But then it shouldn't
37 read total harvest, because it wouldn't be total.
38 That's what you have.

39
40 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, how about we'll
41 read total reported harvest.

42
43 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Yeah, total reported
44 harvest. I mean, there is a big difference.

45
46 MR. GRAY: Yeah, one thing about
47 managing resources, you've got to take into account
48 that there's going to be people that aren't going to
49 report it, and that needs to be factored in, and if
50 it's not factored in, you're going to have factors down

1 the road in your management. And this may be problems
2 that have arose and nobody's throwing on the table
3 until now in resources that we have had problems in.

4
5 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Gray, it's not
6 anything new. there's -- it's not just this region.
7 Every region there's a high number of unreported
8 harvest, but no one can get a handle on exactly how
9 many that are, unless they do household surveys and get
10 better ideas of how many are actually harvested.

11
12 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I'm not trying to put
13 you on the spot here. And I'm with you on the
14 proposal. It's just that when I saw these numbers, it
15 kind of threw me for a loop. And that's where it's at.

16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'll check the numbers
18 and try and straighten that out, but the important part
19 of this is are we going to pass the proposal or not.

20
21 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Yeah. Thank you.

22
23 MR. GRAY: And this proposal here is
24 just coming in line with what the State has already
25 done also?

26
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct. And
28 it's also submitted by this Council.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any other questions.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No. Department.

35
36 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
37 The Department's comments are on Page 61 of your
38 Council book. And the Department supports this
39 proposal, because it does address a critical issue and
40 would align the State and Federal regulations.

41
42 I also should point out with reference
43 to some of the questions being asked, Table 2 is
44 indicated in the report, but we don't find in the
45 report, and maybe that would help to clarify some of
46 the questions that are being asked, but.....

47
48 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: What page?

49
50 MR. HAYNES: On Page 59 in the third

1 complete paragraph there's a reference made to Table 2,
2 but we didn't locate it here in the analysis, and so
3 that might help to answer some of your questions. But
4 we'll try to help Chuck verify the information that
5 you've asked for.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Other agency comments.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kawerak comments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Interagency Staff.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's no -- oh,
22 summary of written public comments.

23
24 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, I have
25 one from the Defenders of Wildlife. They only say that
26 they urge caution and recommend more conservative
27 action. And this is in your book on page 53.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are you sure that's
30 what it's referenced to, Barb? We're on 06-39.

31
32 MR. ARDIZZONE: 06-38 is what that one
33 was.....

34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I have it down for
36 38.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We're in 39.

39
40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, okay. I'm
41 sorry. Okay. There weren't any comments.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But there's this one.
44 Do you want to introduce that now?

45
46 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Do we need to do
47 this first part? Would that pertain to this?

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's written. We
50 decided it was a written public comment.

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Madame Chair.
2 Yesterday Barb and I talked to Weaver Ivanoff from
3 Unalakleet and he submitted some comments. He did it
4 on a proposal form, but actually these were comments
5 for WP06-39. They didn't make it into the book. Like
6 I said, we just got them faxed to us yesterday.

7
8 And he'd like the Council to consider
9 having a season from August 15th to August 31st where
10 one moose could be harvested, and then a second season
11 from December through December 31st where one moose
12 could be harvested, so it would be a total of two bulls
13 by registration permit, one in August and one in
14 December.

15
16 You have this before you. There's a
17 number of reasons. He feels that, you know, the meat
18 could be distributed among the elders. He doesn't
19 think it would affect the conservation of the herd.
20 There's a number of reasons listed.

21
22 Like I said, he wanted this as a public
23 comment submitted to you; however, he did put it on a
24 proposal form.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Maybe Barb should read
27 the why change the regulation part into the record.

28
29 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'll read the whole
30 thing, Madame Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

33
34 MR. ARDIZZONE: So this is his
35 reasoning of why change the regulation. The one moose
36 taken by a registered permit will be shared and
37 distributed to the 55 elders in the Village of
38 Unalakleet. While providing for conservation of the
39 moose population, the regulation would provide for the
40 elders' economic, cultural, social, and nutritional
41 elements of the subsistence way of life. Increasing
42 costs for fuel, electricity, travel and goods for sale
43 in the stores have placed a burden on the fixed income
44 of our elders.

45
46 The expected caribou did not travel to
47 Unalakleet this fall and winter.

48
49 The customary and traditional use of
50 moose is disrupted by the moratorium on moose harvest.

1 The long-term use of moose is disrupted by
2 circumstances beyond our control, and fresh meat is
3 hard to come by.

4
5 While one moose in August will not feed
6 the elders for the winter, one moose in December will
7 provide some cultural and nutritional value for the
8 rest of the year.

9
10 There are no graduated -- there were no
11 graduated steps taken to reduce moose harvest before
12 the moratorium.

13
14 And a registration permit hunt
15 controlled by the tribe in cooperation with the U.S.
16 Fish and Wildlife Service and ADF&G will provide food
17 for the elders who depend each year on receiving fresh
18 meat for the table. This will provide a means to
19 celebrate fresh harvest and still provide for agreed
20 upon moratorium, still difficult by some to accept.

21
22 For 2005, no moose were taken by
23 residents of Unalakleet at any drainages in Norton
24 Sound.

25
26 And that ends his comments on why.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. There's no
29 request for public testimony, so we'll go to Regional
30 Council deliberation, recommendation, and
31 justification.

32
33 MR. GRAY: Okay. What are we acting on
34 as far as an issue. Is the action before us is
35 this.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Proposal 39.

38
39 MR. GRAY: The proposal that would
40 bring us in line with the State's proposal?

41
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct. That's
43 what we're acting on. This was just a public comment.

44
45 MR. GRAY: Okay. Because if we're
46 going to address his public comment, I do have a
47 problem with it, and I want to address it. If we're
48 going to act on this other issue, I'm going to support
49 it.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We need a motion
2 to.....
3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, we need to act on
5 the proposal. If you want to take into account Mr.
6 Ivanoff's comments, that's fine also.
7
8 MR. GRAY: Okay. But I guess what I'm
9 after is I'm going on record. Okay. I move that we
10 adopt the original proposal bringing the hunt in line
11 with the State's regulations.
12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second.
14
15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second it.
16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Was there one?
18
19 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.
20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. We can now --
22 say your piece.
23
24 MR. GRAY: Well, unless somebody's
25 going to amend the motion, I'm not going to argue the
26 point.
27
28 MR. QUINN: Well, can I ask a question
29 here? This is just a public comment, right, and, I
30 mean, technically it's kind of too late to alter the
31 proposal. No?
32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: The Council can modify
34 its position on this proposal if they want to at this
35 time.
36
37 MR. QUINN: And then that modification
38 would go to the Subsistence Board?
39
40 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct.
41
42 MR. QUINN: Did somebody second his
43 motion? I'll second his motion.
44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Somebody already did.
46
47
48 MR. QUINN: Okay.
49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I want to hear from

1 Vance. If we're going to take into consideration
2 whether we should amend our proposal to include what
3 Weaver Ivanoff is talking about, I want to hear from
4 Vance.

5
6 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Okay. Well, it's
7 kind of funny. I was to the IRA council here about a
8 week ago, and this was my first knowledge of it was
9 today at this meeting, so it was kind of a surprise. I
10 didn't know about it. Maybe they didn't know about it
11 then, I don't know.

12
13 But with the season the way it is, and
14 with our moose population where it's at, I feel
15 strongly enough, and now this is my personal opinion,
16 that maybe we should just leave things as they are.
17 I'm not in favor of taking two more moose out at this
18 time. I think we should leave it the way it is. We
19 shut it down a year ago because there was a shortage,
20 and if we say it's okay to take two now, maybe there
21 will be two or three more down the road, and I just am
22 not willing to start on it I guess, so I'd leave it as
23 we had it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Clifford.

26
27 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, just let me make
28 a comment on that moose population in 22E, which I'm
29 real familiar with. We had the same problem as what
30 Weaver is addressing here a few years back when the
31 residents of Shishmaref and Wales wanted to have kind
32 of a season like this, and we just threw it out,
33 because we wanted to see the whole moose population try
34 to increase and have one regulation instead of a
35 regulation that will last only a year or two, and then
36 we find out there's a crash at the end. You know, from
37 a gut feeling, I see the point of what Weaver is
38 talking about, but for the moose population down in
39 that area, I would like to see one regulation and then
40 once the population gets up, then go with a season.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Madame Chair, I'd
45 like to add to that. I would be in favor of it if we
46 did have a season and the numbers were adequate, it
47 would be fine. But I think under the circumstances I
48 would be against it because of that.

49
50 MR. GRAY: And I guess I want to go on

1 the record that, you know, I think if we're doing proxy
2 hunting, which this would be a proxy hunt, that there's
3 a good base population, a good resource that we're
4 taking this out of. I mean, there's lots of
5 competition out there for subsistence users right now,
6 and there's obviously too many subsistence users need
7 of the resource. They've decided to shut it down, and
8 then to open it back up for special deals like this to
9 me doesn't make sense. I mean, it's subsistence users,
10 kids, families, that's what this game is about. And if
11 we're going to open it up, and I understand the way
12 they've written this thing it looks like the elders are
13 going to get it. I mean, they're subsistence users,
14 quote, but the bottom line is they could buy a reindeer
15 from Tom Gray and accomplish the same thing.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. GRAY: I mean, you know, I hate to
20 say it, but that's reality. So if it's -- I really
21 think we need to keep in mind that subsistence users
22 going after a resource, and we've got to keep that in
23 our thoughts.

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Weaver is going to
26 hear that comment and come up punch your.....

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: If there's any more.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MR. GRAY: Question

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The motion is to
37 support -- in support of WP06-39. All those in favor
38 signify by stating aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
43 sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Now
48 you've got reindeer buyers.

49

50 MR. GRAY: No commercial solicitation

1 at our meeting.

2

3

CHAIRMAN CROSS: WP06-40.

4

5

MR. ARDIZZONE: Proposal WP06-40 was submitted by the Council here and requests that the harvest dates for moose in 22d be changed from August 20th through September 30th to September 1st through September 14th, and that the quota numbers be removed from regulation. This proposal is similar to WSA05-01, and would place changes made by special action into permanent regulation. However, the Council also requests that the following language be added to the regulations for two of the hunt areas: Quotas and any needed season changes will be announced by the field office manager of BLM in consultation with National Park Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

18

19

This proposal was put forth basically to control over-harvest, because we were having problems with people hunting along the road system, hunting one area and when that area closed shifting their harvest to another area that was still open, and resulting in over-harvest in that area.

25

26

In November of 2005, the Alaska Board of Game adopted the September 1 through 14th season into permanent regulation.

29

30

By shortening the season to the proposed two-week period and establishing a uniform season in all road accessible areas, a potential over-harvest situation may be avoided and hunting pressure reduced in the areas where serious concerns about the declining moose populations exist. This proposal would also align State and Federal regulations.

37

38

Moose populations in the area under consideration have been depressed in recent years and are below ADF&G's management objectives, and therefore are a conservation concern. By shortening the season by two weeks and establishing a uniform season in all road accessible areas in Unit 22, it is hoped that another over-harvest situation would be avoided and hunting pressure will be reduced in the area where serious concerns about declining moose populations exist.

48

49

This proposal will allow some moose harvest while retaining the overall moose population

1 which would help with recruitment and recovery of the
2 population to desired levels. This proposal would
3 align State and Federal regulations. If the proposal
4 was adopted, it should help eliminate over-harvest in
5 areas where existing seasons are too long for the
6 established harvest quotas. It will also help prevent
7 hunters from shifting their efforts from closed areas
8 to open areas along the road system that cannot
9 withstand an increase in harvest. The shorter season
10 will cause many hunters to compete for a limited number
11 of moose.

12
13 Proposal 40 also requests that the area
14 field office manager of BLM after consultation with the
15 National Park Service and Fish and Game determine
16 needed season changes which create a more flexible and
17 responsive management system, and would benefit the
18 health of the moose population. Although this is true,
19 the intent of determining season changes was to allow
20 the manager to close the moose season when a harvest
21 quota is reached.

22
23 If this proposal is adopted, it would
24 continue the use of Federal registration permits, which
25 could result in possible overharvest as reporting would
26 go to two separate agencies, and could hinder timely
27 decision regarding season closures.

28
29 If this proposal is adopted, it could
30 cause problems with the winter season in Unit 22D.
31 Currently the winter season is linked to the fall
32 season in Unit 22D, and the two seasons have a combined
33 eight moose quota. Change in the season language to
34 remove the quota during the fall season may be
35 problematic as the winter season quota will still be in
36 effect.

37
38 Therefore, the preliminary conclusion
39 is to support with modification. It would be to change
40 the Federal registration permit requirement to State
41 registration permits. That would result in one
42 reporting agency. It would change the regulatory
43 language from season changes to closures, which would
44 mean the BLM could close the seasons when needed by --
45 when we've reached our quotas. It would change the
46 Unit 22D portion that we're concerned about in the
47 winter language to remove the quota and reflect the
48 changes made in the other units.

49
50 The modified language is on 69. All it

1 does is tweak the language. It still follows the
2 intent of the Council. It was just a little cleaner,
3 and we had missed the tie-in with the winter season and
4 the fall season in the one portion of Unit 22.

5
6 If there's any questions, I can answer.

7
8 MR. QUINN: I've got questions. Okay.
9 So it's just going to be the two weeks, the 1st through
10 the 14th, and -- well, I'm familiar with the State
11 system, and I know where to go to get my State
12 registration permit. Where do I go to get this Federal
13 registration permit? I'll give you -- I think I'm
14 going to give you three questions here. Who is this
15 field office manager of the BLM that's going to make
16 these decisions? And does this person really have
17 enough information, or can he get enough information
18 compared to our trusty local people who are here, to
19 make these decisions? Now you can answer.

20
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not sure who the
22 manager is, but all the information comes from Kate.
23 So where is Tom Sparks.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: He better know.

26
27 MR. SPARKS: Madame Chair. Board. Mr.
28 Quinn. The Anchorage field office manager is Gary
29 Reemer. He works out of the Campbell Tract facility
30 outside of Anchorage. And the way this works in
31 practicality is that Tony and I discuss things, and if
32 the harvest is such that we think a closure is evident,
33 that I will get ahold of the Anchorage field office
34 manager, he talks to Jeff behind me, who's the
35 biologist for the Anchorage field office, and a
36 decision is made jointly. That's the way it works.

37
38 MR. QUINN: Well, you didn't answer the
39 first question. Where do I get my Federal registration
40 permit?

41
42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, if you pass this
43 proposal, you'll be using the State registration. You
44 won't have to find a Federal permit. If you read the
45 regulatory language, we're trying to eliminate the
46 Federal registration permits and use State. That way
47 we're all on the same page, and it gets reported to the
48 State.

49
50 MR. SPARKS: Mike, I've been with BLM

1 for three years. The first year I was there, we did
2 have Federal permits, and I handed out two, and neither
3 were used. In the second year, they were not available
4 to me, and it did cause some confusion, because in the
5 booklet it said one thing, but permits were not
6 available locally. So I think this takes care of that
7 issue.

8

9 MR. QUINN: This Federal and State
10 permit system, what benefits would we have to have
11 Federal permits versus State permits?

12

13 MR. ARDIZZONE: I don't there's any
14 benefit to having a Federal permit unless there's not a
15 current -- if there's not a current State season, there
16 has to be a Federal permit.

17

18 MR. GRAY: I guess I'm thinking -- I
19 understand there's Federal muskox permits, and there's
20 State muskox permits. I'm not sure what the parameters
21 on the Federal muskox permits, but I do know White
22 Mountain picks names out of a hat for permits given in
23 the White Mountain area for 22B for Federal muskox
24 hunts. And other people don't seem to be included in
25 this thing. And I guess I'm a villager thinking, we're
26 going to shoot somebody in the foot if we don't -- if
27 there's a potential for Federal permits out there that
28 good go to villagers let's say in the Teller area.
29 Maybe we're shooting them in the foot or something. I
30 don't know. That's why I'm wanting to know if there's
31 a difference.

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think you're mixing
34 apples and oranges. The muskox hunt is managed
35 differently than this. This is a registration permit.
36 Everybody can get a permit. When the quota's reached,
37 the season's closed.

38

39 MR. GRAY: Okay. So if we had to give
40 out Federal permits for registration muskox hunt,
41 anybody in Alaska could be eligible for that?

42

43 MR. ARDIZZONE: No. I'm not speaking
44 -- I'm speaking to this hunt specifically.

45

46 MR. GRAY: I'm sorry, moose hunt.
47 Moose hunt. If we gave out -- well, if we gave out --
48 like he was talking, there was two permits available at
49 one time. If we gave out Federal moose permits, can we
50 assign those permits to Teller, or can we assign them

1 to certain areas? How do we deal with that?

2

3 MR. QUINN: Tom, Federal public lands
4 are only opened to rural residents of Units 22C and 22D
5 for moose hunting. For moose hunting. You've got to
6 live either here in Nome or Teller/Brevig to be able to
7 get one of these.

8

9 MR. GRAY: Okay. And that's what I'm
10 after. Okay. Okay. So.....

11

12 MR. SPARKS: Maybe to help you with
13 this issue, too, Mr. Gray, is the first year I was
14 here, there were different seasons, so what could
15 potentially have happened is that the State season
16 closed, there's still a Federal season open. If you're
17 in the field and you're on Federal land, and you don't
18 have a tag, a Federal tag, there's some issues there.
19 So when the seasons are aligned, that problem goes
20 away. Did that help?

21

22 MR. GRAY: Okay. Like I say, my
23 concern was -- I understand the muskox situation in my
24 area. I'm thinking the same thing can happen in the
25 moose situation in their area. What he just told me,
26 it's going to happen. That was my concern. So I don't
27 have a problem with it.

28

29 MR. QUINN: And you guys are going to
30 use the State quota, too, right? It's just going to be
31 one quota subject to the whole.....

32

33 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's correct. That's
34 the way we've run it in the past. It's just we've had
35 quota numbers in regulation, and the quotas have
36 changed, and we're tired of doing special actions all
37 the time to change the quota numbers. So if we rule
38 them out of here, it's still the same quota. It's just
39 it won't be in type. It will be agreed upon between
40 the Federal agencies and Fish and Game.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: See, in the past,
43 whenever there was a difference, when Alaska Department
44 of Fish and Game changed their regulation, the only way
45 we were able to align them was with.....

46

47 MR. ARDIZZONE: Special actions.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: With the special
50 action. And we kept doing special action after special

1 action. So instead of doing special action, their
2 field manager would made the decision in consultation
3 with whoever owns the land and with the State. And in
4 the other ones that we did, it works very well. But
5 most of the time when these things happen, I'm always
6 told, and if -- and I normally call up the person, the
7 RAC member closest to the area where they're talking
8 about and have, you know -- get some input from that
9 person.

10

11 I'm ready for a motion. Oh, I'm sorry,
12 Elmer.

13

14 MR. SEETOT: I have one -- not one
15 question, but on your proposal saying moose population
16 in the areas under consideration have been depressed in
17 recent years. I notice that we have a lot of forest
18 fires, a lot of smoke coming in from the interior,
19 east/west. Will that have an affect on the moose that
20 are in the drainages? And then also last year I'm not
21 too sure if ADF&G and then also the Federal agencies
22 took notice, but we did notice that 20 moose, 20 plus
23 moose in the Davidson landing area, the Kuzitrin River
24 drainages, the American -- I mean, the Agiapuk River
25 drainages, at least 20 plus moose were killed by a wolf
26 pack. When you look at these numbers, how do you think
27 that multiplies into these other subunits, you know,
28 where they have a high number of wolf packs roaming
29 around? And then how would you consider, you know,
30 these areas, which would be the management objectives
31 of, you know, certain animals? How do you know how
32 many animals are going to stay in one subunit, or how
33 do you know the numbers that are suitable, you know,
34 for one subunit, like 22D? We have the road system,
35 the eastern portion we kind of leave out of our hunting
36 area. Teller and Brevig anyway. We kind of -- we just
37 kind of use the Agiapuk River System as a boundary, and
38 that's pretty much how far we go. But I notice that
39 recent years a lot more smoke due to interior forest
40 fires and then also predation, mostly by wolves, and
41 I'm not too sure, you know, by bears in the spring. So
42 my question was how do you know what the ideal number
43 would be for moose, you know, in a certain subunit.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm going to have to
46 defer that to Tony.

47

48 MR. GOREN: Elmer, through the Chair.
49 The most honest answer as far as how do we know, you
50 know, where moose are going to stay in each subunit is,

1 well, we don't. We have documented from several
2 collaring studies that moose move from 22C, from the
3 Snake River into the Stewart, and from 22B west, from
4 the Niukluk and the Kutchabluk (ph) drainages towards
5 the Solomon area. And then we know from censuses and
6 composition flights that moose move from the American
7 and the Agiapuk into 22E. But a lot of that
8 information is just from a long time coming, and it's
9 anecdotal from people like yourself and from some
10 collaring studies that the Department has completed.

11
12 To address your first question about
13 moose movement in relation to fire, it's a phenomenon
14 that I think all of Unit 22 residents have seen in the
15 last several years, starting all the way over to Koyuk
16 and the Unalakleet area, all the way westward into
17 Brevig. The only thing that I guess is consistent is
18 that nobody has really seen the Bambi effect, what
19 people refer to as the Bambi effect where, you know,
20 you see wildlife in mass movements running, you know,
21 from the fires. What you see are these slow gradual
22 movements down from the mountains, you know, towards
23 the riparian areas, the rivers, and what that has meant
24 in recent years is that in years where there are fires
25 and smoke, we've seen harvest increase. And I think
26 what that means is just that moose are moving, and
27 they're easier to find when you're out in the boats.
28 But again, you know, that's anecdotal evidence that
29 we've seen during flights, that we've documented from
30 harvest reports, and that you all have told us, because
31 we do not have collars on moose right now, you know,
32 that we have seen move because of a fire. So hopefully
33 that answered your question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Could you please state
36 your full name for the record?

37
38 MR. GOREN: Yep. It's Tony Goren, Nome
39 ADF&G.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

42
43 MR. SEETOT: The unscientific approach
44 is TEK passed down from generation to generation in our
45 culture. With all due respect, you know, to 22D, I
46 think, you know, 22A through B might be a heavy use
47 area. Our elders have mentioned or passed on to you,
48 you know, that wildlife resources should never be
49 argued about. And my opinion is that maybe, you know,
50 there was just a little bit too much talk about certain

1 natural resources in certain subunits that would cause,
2 you know, the decline, you know, of certain animals.
3 Or just changes coming around, you know, to our area
4 where hunting practices and techniques aren't passed
5 down from father to son, or, you know, from generation
6 to generation, so it just might be something new that
7 we kind of overlooked over the years, but I think when
8 we come too much from a scientific approach, oh, do we
9 accept these numbers or do we take into consideration
10 other factors, you know, such as my upbringing, you
11 know, certain things that were taught to us on the
12 respect of wildlife. And then I think that might -- at
13 least for me, that's where I'm coming from, that TEK is
14 being overlooked.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Madame Chair, I move
19 that we accept this Proposal WP06-40.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think -- did we go
22 through all of the comments? No?

23

24 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: We didn't? Do we
25 need to?

26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I don't know. ADF&G,
28 do you have comments?

29

30 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair. The
31 Department's comments are on Page 71. We support this
32 proposal as modified in the preliminary conclusion,
33 which does basically change the permitting requirements
34 from a Federal permit to a State permit. And we
35 believe that having this single State permit will work
36 very easily, very well for the users as well as
37 enabling the Department to keep close tabs on hunter
38 effort and harvest.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
43 agency comments.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kawerak.

48

49 (No opposing votes)

50

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Interagency Staff.
2
3 MR. RABINOWITCH: None, Madame Chair.
4
5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Written public
6 comments.
7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: This is Sandy
9 Rabinowitch. Barb asked me to read this one in, so
10 this is a public comment.
11
12 I think she asked me to do this,
13 because it's from a group called the National Parks and
14 Conservation Association, so she -- I did this in
15 Barrow, too. Anyway, it's a private, nonprofit group,
16 and here's their comment.
17
18 Proposal 40 refines the existing use of
19 quotas in Unit 22 to allow the field managers to more
20 -- to respond more quickly to population data that
21 would influence a total harvest to a not to exceed
22 number. This ability to quickly adjust a total harvest
23 quota when new information is learned is a good thing.
24 Use of quotas should be carefully considered in other
25 places as well. With a quota in place, managers could
26 incorporate a longer time period in which a quota can
27 be reached. In some instances this would allow for
28 more culturally sensitive and traditional approach to
29 the hunt.
30
31 End of their comment.
32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. There's no
34 request for public comments. Now we can entertain a
35 motion.
36
37 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Vance Grishkowsky,
38 Unalakleet. I move that we accept Proposal WP06-40 at
39 this time.
40
41 MR. GRAY: Second.
42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: A motion on the floor.
44
45 MR. GRAY: I seconded it.
46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And seconded by Tom.
48
49 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Question.
50

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The question has been
2 called. All as in favor of the motion signify by
3 stating aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
8 sign.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Do
13 you guys want to take a little break now? Okay. We'll
14 take a short break, about five minutes at the most.
15
16 (Off record)
17
18 (On record)
19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Let's get back to our
21 seats. The first thing we need to do is to clarify the
22 proposal we just passed -- that we need to clarify the
23 motion that we passed, which is WP06-40. And my
24 understanding is the one that we passed is the one with
25 the modification. The proposal we just passed. We
26 didn't clarify which one we passed. I was assuming it
27 was the one with modification.
28
29 MR. GRAY: My second was the one -- for
30 the one with the modification.
31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So is that clear in
33 everybody's mind? And is that what we voted for, or
34 did somebody vote for the original proposal.
35
36 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, I think
37 Vance made the initial motion, so.....
38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Vance.
40
41 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: It was the one with
42 the proposal to change it.
43
44 MR. ARDIZZONE: So support the modified
45 language?
46
47 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: To support the
48 modified language.
49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. We just needed

1 the clarification for the record.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Is that what
4 everybody voted for, the proposal with modification?

5

6 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sure.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Okay. We're
9 done with that one then. We'll move on to WP06-41.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madame
12 Chair. My name is Helen Armstrong. I'm the cultural
13 anthropologist for the OSM.

14

15 Proposal WP06-41 was submitted by the
16 Seward Peninsula Muskoxen Cooperators Group, and it
17 requests the use of a designated hunter permit for
18 muskoxen in Unit 22.

19

20 The Cooperators have worked for a long
21 time on these issues as you all know, and in case
22 you're wondering who's in that group, it's listed on
23 page 73 as is the analysis for this proposal.

24

25 The proposed regulation would read, a
26 Federally-qualified subsistence user or recipient may
27 designate another Federally-qualified subsistence use
28 to take muskoxen on his or her behalf, unless the
29 recipient is a member of the community -- a community
30 operating under a community harvest system. The
31 designated hunter must get a designated hunter permit
32 and must return a completed harvest report. The
33 designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients
34 in the course of a season, but have no more than two
35 harvest limits in his or her possession at any one
36 time, except in Unit 22E where residents of Wales and
37 Shishmaref acting as a designated hunter may hunt for
38 any number of recipients, but have no more than four
39 harvest limits in his or her possession at any time.

40

41 I wanted to just make a note that in
42 the proposal book that was sent out to the public,
43 there was an error and the intent of the proponent was
44 to request that the designated hunter may hunt for any
45 number of recipients, and not as was written in the
46 proposal book to limit it to only one other recipient.
47 So there was that correction that needed to be made.

48

49 There is a differentiation between Unit
50 22E and the rest of Unit 22, because the muskox

1 population in Unit 22 is growing, and it had to do --
2 the difference had to do with the rate of the overall
3 growth in that unit compared to in the other units.

4
5 And the other difference is that in
6 Unit 22E, the State lands and Federal public lands are
7 about 50/50 whereas that's not true in the other units
8 as well.

9
10 I wanted to also just note that
11 Proposal WP06-55, which is not being -- you guys aren't
12 talking about, but it's a Northwest Arctic proposal, it
13 also has a designated hunter permit for muskoxen in
14 Unit 23 in the south of the Kotzebue Sound and west of
15 -- and including Buckland River drainage.

16
17 I'm not going to go through the
18 existing -- the customary and traditional
19 determinations, but if you're interested in reading
20 those, those are on Page 74.

21
22 There was some reference this morning
23 to the proxy hunt, and there was a proposal before the
24 State Board of Game in January. They heard that for --
25 it was similar to this that was also put forward by the
26 Muskoxen Cooperators Group that was for a proxy hunt
27 for muskoxen in Unit 22, and they voted to oppose
28 adding them to their list of species that can be taken
29 under the State's proxy hunting system. So if you had
30 heard about that, that did get defeated by the State.
31 It is somewhat related.

32
33 On Page 75 in the analysis there's a
34 discussion about how we got to the point of doing
35 designated hunter permits in the Federal program if
36 you're interested in reading that.

37
38 Currently in Unit 22, there is a
39 harvest quota, and any needed closures are announced by
40 the superintendent of the Western Arctic National
41 Parklands, and they consult with ADF&G and BLM.

42
43 There are two tables on page 76 that go
44 through all of the harvests for both the State and the
45 Federal program, and the number of animals. And you
46 can see -- we had some question in amongst Staff when
47 we were doing preliminary reviews of this proposal
48 about why would we allow four permits for Unit 22E, and
49 you can see that there are 863 animals. There's a
50 harvest on the Federal land of only 46 animals, so it's

1 really a conservative hunt in 22E, and allowing the
2 four permits is because of that, the larger number of
3 animals, the growing herd, and the conservative number
4 of animals that are allowed to be taken on Federal
5 land.

6
7 The other thing that should be noted,
8 too, is that except for 1995, the number of permits
9 that have been allowed have never been reached in terms
10 of the harvest. So by allowing more to be harvested
11 with designated hunter, there isn't really a concern
12 that this would cause an over-harvest. And if there
13 should be an over-harvest, then we would -- the Muskox
14 Cooperators Group would present another proposal the
15 following year, and we would lower the number of
16 muskoxen that could be taken.

17
18 I don't think I need to go into a lot
19 of detail with this group about why designated hunters
20 should be allowed for muskoxen. I think it's, you
21 know, clear that you have to travel long distances to
22 get muskox. It's expensive. It -- the meat is shared
23 in the community, and as long as it's within the quotas,
24 there's really no impact that would be expected on the
25 muskoxen population.

26
27 It would definitely be of benefit to
28 the subsistence users to have a designated hunter
29 system, and it would improve the efficiency of the
30 hunt, and it would provide more opportunity to meet
31 subsistence needs from -- for taking muskox on Federal
32 public lands.

33
34 There also -- in 22E it should also be
35 noted that the population has grown sufficiently that
36 on State lands they are now going to allow -- move from
37 a Tier II to a Tier I registration hunt, expanding
38 opportunities on State lands. They're also already
39 allowing a sport hunt for older bulls on State lands in
40 22E. And the Cooperators in this past -- their past
41 meeting, they have decreased the number of Federal
42 permits in 22E from 50 percent to one-third of the
43 permits allocated, so that has been decreased.

44
45 So if there were any problems with the
46 designated hunter provision as I said, they would
47 promptly have another proposal before the Board.

48
49 The preliminary conclusion is to
50 support the proposal.

1 Thank you. Madame Chair, that
2 concludes my analysis.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Go ahead, Clifford.

5
6 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah. Cliff
7 Weyiouanna. Being from 22E, and also a game guide from
8 there, I'm happy to hear that. You know, these proxy
9 hunts are real important, because we have the problem
10 of not only the elders getting a permit, but there have
11 been a couple occasions to where when the weather gets
12 nice in March before the closure of March 15th is when
13 a person that's a ticket holder gets -- is not feeling
14 well, or has to go to a thing, that it does provide
15 meat for the family, although a lot of communities,
16 Wales and Shishmaref, you know, we're not used to that
17 ox meat, you know. They're not like a ptarmigan or
18 something, but I'm glad to see that in there. And we
19 support the proxy hunt, because it does provide the
20 meat, and we'd like to see that continue.

21
22 As far as the population is concerned
23 in 22E, I've worked with Tony and Kate, and Ken and
24 Fred Toktoo to try to help out on -- you know, in my
25 guiding operations as to how many muskox I see and
26 where they're at. And I think we definitely have to
27 address the population in that area. Now 22E and 22D,
28 Teller/Brevig side, I think we need to take a hard look
29 at having the same regulation for 22D as well as 22E.
30 And that could be done by classification of who owns
31 the land, because there's Federal hunts, there are
32 State hunts, and in order to look at the population,
33 because the muskox move from 22E to 22D, just like
34 that, and once they get to 22D, then we can't hunt. So
35 in the future, I think we need to look at probably the
36 same regulation for hunting of ox in 22D as well as 22E
37 for the sake of population growth, because it's all
38 based on snow covering as to where the ox go. So
39 that's my comment.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can just
44 respond a little bit to what you said. I believe that
45 the reason why they have -- that it wasn't done in 22D
46 is because there is not that much Federal land, and
47 they only have six permits in 22D, because of the low
48 percentage of Federal lands. So that's probably why
49 they haven't made the four permits instead of just two.
50 I believe that that's -- Ken, is that right?

1 MR. ADKISSON: Yes. Basically that's
2 correct.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any more questions or
5 comments.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. Just a
8 comment. We do harvest animals pretty much year around
9 with any designation as a designated hunter or proxy
10 hunter for most species. You know, we share what we
11 get in the hopes that our future hunts, you know, will
12 provide for us more. And that's what we -- that's what
13 has been handed down from generation to generation, and
14 I think for big game animals, being a designated hunter
15 or a proxy hunter, like the comments that you heard,
16 there are some people that would like to harvest these
17 animals, but are unable to due to physical disabilities
18 or no snowmachine, road conditions, or weather
19 conditions. I think this may be long overdue in
20 coming, because communities in the past have pretty
21 much provided for most of the community needs, whether
22 it just be a taste, whether it would be something that
23 will be stored until the next season, but I think
24 that's been kind of handed down, or that's been
25 practiced for a long time in the Seward Peninsula.

26
27 And then for the State and Federal
28 agencies to say, oh, we can't provided designations for
29 a proxy hunt or a designated hunter, because of certain
30 things that we need to look into, I think you just need
31 to, you know, get comments, ideas from the communities
32 themselves to see where the feeling really is at.

33
34 And I think that's, like I say, long
35 overdue in coming these obstacles that we kind of face
36 nowadays. Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anybody else.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Department.

43
44 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 The Department's comments on page 79 of your meeting
46 book were prepared before the Board of Game had taken
47 action on proxy hunting regulations at its meeting in
48 January, so they are not current.

49
50 I could say that right now the

1 Department has not developed a new position on this
2 proposal. I can tell you that the Board of Game chose
3 not to extend proxy hunting opportunities to muskox in
4 Northwest Alaska.

5
6 I can also tell you that the main
7 reason that there were changes to the proxy hunting
8 regulations made by the Board of Game had to do with
9 problems occurring in urban areas, not with problems
10 that have been -- not with problems associated with
11 proxy hunts in rural Alaska and involving rural
12 residents.

13
14 Based on our Staff's knowledge of
15 people and communities in this region, and hunting
16 practices, if this proposal was adopted, they would not
17 anticipated designated hunting for muskox to create any
18 management problems.

19
20 So I can't give you a firm State
21 position on the proposal at this time, but here are
22 just some points that I wanted to put on the record
23 regarding why the Board of Game did what it did, and
24 what our Staff feel about how the regulation proposed
25 in this proposal would work in this region.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
30 agency comments -- or do you have any questions for him
31 or comments. Oh, okay. Ken.

32
33 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
34 Park Service.

35
36 As Helen mentioned, this proposal was
37 developed by the Seward Peninsula Cooperative Muskoxen
38 Group, and it was developed in response to a direct
39 request from that group to develop a hunt structure
40 that was more efficient, provided more opportunity to
41 harvest animals, was more compatible with traditional
42 harvest practices, and to address the problem of the
43 fact that the individual permit system really was not
44 very compatible with what goes on in these rural
45 villages out here, and doesn't serve them very well.
46 And that's probably one of the reasons why the
47 allowable harvest quotas, as indicated in the material
48 that you have, have very seldom been met. It's not
49 that they wouldn't take the animals, but physically or
50 whatever, they're unable to take them. There are a

1 whole lot of reasons. And this proposal was developed
2 to address that.

3

4 It was also developed taking into mind
5 the need for sound conservation practices, to prevent
6 things like over-harvest, and to remain consistent with
7 the direction provided by the Seward Peninsula
8 Cooperative Muskoxen Management Plan, which has been
9 endorsed by both the State Board of Game and the
10 Federal Subsistence Board. So we believe that this
11 proposal is consistent with that management plan.

12

13 Helen mentioned that during the Staff
14 Committee review a number of questions arose, and
15 that's what you have really before you that I've just
16 passed out. It's kind of some answers to those
17 questions. Let me just quickly summarize that for you
18 I guess.

19

20 One of the questions was why the 22E
21 regulation is different from the rest of 22 and 23
22 Southwest. Helen mentioned some of those reasons.
23 Land status, the biological status of the muskoxen
24 population, whether it was growing, whether it was
25 shrinking, whatever. The cooperators provide direction
26 in how the permits are to be allocated between the
27 State and the Federal system. That, too, was factored
28 in.

29

30 And I might mention that from the very
31 early days of the Cooperators back around 1995, 1996,
32 very early on the Cooperators, and they've maintained
33 this, to manage the muskoxen hunt by subareas rather
34 than say unitwide. And they did that because they
35 recognized that while it might be one muskoxen
36 population in general, the biological conditions did
37 vary from subarea to subarea, and also the human
38 dimensions varied from subarea to subarea. So they
39 felt it made more sense to manage by smaller blocks.

40

41 I might also add that the State Board
42 of Game is going to request the Cooperatives through
43 the next cycle to revisit the question of the amount
44 needed for subsistence for Seward Peninsula muskoxen
45 based on by breaking that out by subareas. And I think
46 Jim Magdanz will have more to say later on that.

47

48 So this proposal is consistent with all
49 of that direction.

50

1 There have been a number of other
2 questions I think. What about taking four muskoxen out
3 of a group. Can a hunter take four animals. Well,
4 there's two things about that I guess. A lot of the
5 issue hinges on stress and the question of whether it
6 makes more sense during the winter when these animals
7 are under severe nutritional stress to keep -- you
8 know, to take several animals out of a group at one
9 time, or to keep revisiting the group and harassing
10 them time after time by taking one animal, coming back
11 a week or two weeks later and taking another animal out
12 of it.

13
14 I would also point out that the current
15 individual permit system does not prevent more than one
16 animal from being taken out of a group. I understand
17 this last hunt year that at least two or more Nome
18 hunters hunting up in southern 22D, hunting together,
19 each with their own individual muskoxen permits, took
20 -- each of them took an animal out of a single group of
21 muskoxen. So clearly more than one muskoxen was taken
22 out of that group at one time.

23
24 Some people have questioned the -- a
25 question of waste. Well, would this thing by allowing
26 one hunter to take up to four animals out of a group
27 lead to waste. And I think that's somewhat insulting
28 of local hunters. I think you're going to find that
29 they're not going to take more than they can process,
30 that they will probably hunt in groups, and that they,
31 you know, can adjust their hunting practices. What
32 this does is give them the maximum flexibility to
33 practice their traditional cultural practices of in
34 efficient hunting to be able to take sufficient animals
35 when the opportunity presents and bring those animals
36 back to be shared within the community. And that's
37 really the core of what we're talking about, so I don't
38 think the issue of waste is really there.

39
40 The other issue that emerged was would
41 this have an effect on other people hunting either for
42 sport under a general hunt or whatever, or other
43 subsistence users hunting under the State system. The
44 answer to that is, no, it will have no effect on that.
45 Let's look at 22E, because that's where the question
46 really comes up. The State Board of Game, and I'm sure
47 you'll hear this more from Kate later, or Tony or Jim,
48 the State Board of Game adopted a proposal this last
49 cycle that so next year the 22E hunt on the State side
50 will be moving out of Tier II to a Tier I registration

1 permit. So anybody can get a registration permit. So
2 in effect there will be an unlimited number of permits.

3
4

5 The Cooperators gave very clear advice
6 to the Federal and State managers that they wanted to
7 try shifting the permit allocations, and in some cases
8 the harvest allocation, within 22E. So the direction
9 that we're working with as managers is that initially
10 at least no more than a third of the harvest will go
11 into that Federal harvest, so -- there will be 69
12 animals, roughly 69 animals that can be taken next year
13 in 22E. A third of that, or 23 of that can be taken
14 under the Federal designated hunter proposal if adopted
15 by the Board this May. So clearly that leaves two-
16 thirds of the harvest allocated out to other users
17 hunting under some other system.

18
19

 And the other thing is the managers
20 still have the authority to monitor the harvest and can
21 close the hunt appropriately as the age or sex
22 distributions are reached, and those allocations
23 haven't changed. For example, in 22E, the harvest is
24 still based on eight percent of the number of animals
25 counted at the last count. Half of that can be bulls,
26 half of that can be cows. And the hunt will be mon --
27 and the harvest will be monitored accordingly. And
28 those aspects will be closed. And additionally we'll
29 close the Federal hunt for the designated hunter if
30 roughly a third of those animals are taken under the
31 hunt. So it will have no effect on other users.

32
33

 That's it basically in a nutshell on
34 the proposal. And I'd entertain any questions that you
35 might have.

36
37

 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Oh,
38 sorry, Cliff.

39
40

 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, I just want to
41 make a comment. You know, having travelled a lot on
42 22E as a reindeer herder and a guide, that, you know,
43 when you're talking about taking two or three out of a
44 group, they have a tendency of the bulls getting into a
45 group, too, so they have a tendency of separating from
46 a main group, from the females. And so how would you
47 consider that, when you have a group of eight or nine
48 bull ox. And sometimes you run into a herd of 20 or 30
49 ox, they're all females and yearlings. So, you know,
50 it's going to be hard to determine. Occasionally

1 you'll find two or three bulls in a group, but I think
2 they have a tendency, just like reindeer do this time
3 of the year, to separate from the females. And I'm
4 trying to figure that out, because the reindeers do it
5 anyway, and the caribous do, and I think based on what
6 I've seen and what I know is that I think the muskox
7 have the same mind as the caribou and the reindeer as
8 far as separating from the females at certain times of
9 the year. So we just have to keep that in mind. And
10 then when we started looking at the regulations, taking
11 two or three bulls out of a group, and we're not really
12 hurting that group I don't think.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. If I
17 might address Cliff's question very briefly, the basic
18 social structure of the animals is that you have mixed
19 age and sex groups that are comprised of adult females,
20 their offspring, including some younger males, and
21 usually maybe some subadult males, one or two males
22 that are kind of transitioning to adulthood that often
23 will wind up being moved out of the group, and then
24 some adult male that's the herd bull that's kind of the
25 top ox in the group.

26

27 Then you also have these bachelor bull
28 groups which are important, you know, for pioneering
29 new habitat, that provide the challenge during rut to
30 the herd bull for dominance and breeding rights. And
31 then you sometimes have, you know, the really cranky
32 old bulls that are out there by themselves that not
33 even the younger bulls can tolerate them. They're just
34 too far gone over the hill and just can't stand the
35 company of anyone else.

36

37 So you do have those groups. And I
38 think the harvest quotas are set such that, you know,
39 biologically there's no risk to the muskoxen population
40 out there if a hunter, or a group of hunters acting
41 within the existing framework, or this proposal, take
42 several cows, for example, out of a group, or take
43 several bulls out of one of the bachelor groups. But I
44 do think it's important to work with the communities,
45 to encourage good reporting, and to be able to work
46 within the allocated quotas that were recommended by
47 the Cooperators and have been endorsed by the boards.
48 And I think that's very important, and we will work
49 with the communities to ensure that reporting.

50

1 MR. GRAY: I guess I just want a little
2 clarification. I didn't understand the issue that if a
3 team of a half a dozen people from White Mountain go
4 muskox hunting one weekend, am I hearing it correctly
5 that only one muskox can be shot -- let's say six guys
6 take off from White Mountain, and they all six have
7 permits. And they show up in the Kuzitrin area to
8 shoot these musk ox, they have to find six different
9 herds to take these animals out of? You can't shoot
10 them all out of one herd, is that what I heard?

11
12 MR. ADKISSON: No, if you have -- first
13 of all, to hunt under this designated hunter permit,
14 you'd have to have C&T. Okay. So I would have to
15 really look at the book to see if White Mountain
16 qualifies for that eastern portion, and I think it
17 does. Okay. So that's one question. So it's like
18 somebody from 22E couldn't be hunting with their
19 designated hunter permits over in the Kuzitrin Lake
20 area. People from White Mountain probably could.

21
22 Secondly, you have to have Federal
23 permits. And that's where, especially for you folks,
24 it gets sticky, because the Cooperators have
25 recommended a very limited number of permits for like
26 22B. So you're not going to have a lot of Federal
27 permits to work with.

28
29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Six. There's six.

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: So, yeah, figure --
32 theoretically that could be a designated hunter with a
33 couple, you know, designee permits.

34
35 MR. GRAY: Okay. The question that I'm
36 after to get answered here is somewhere here I just
37 thought I heard somebody say you can only shoot one
38 animal out of a herd, and not, let's say, six of us go
39 hunting. Is it legal for six of us to go hunting,
40 let's say all six Federal permits in White Mountain go
41 to one herd and all of us shoot six animals out of
42 there, is that legal?

43
44 MR. ADKISSON: Yes.

45
46 MR. GRAY: Okay. That's the question I
47 had. So that's all I needed answered.

48
49 MR. ADKISSON: I mean, yeah, I just
50 said that I understand several hunters together from

1 Nome went up to southern 22D, each with their own
2 permit, and they took -- each of them took an animal
3 out of a single herd. So, yes, you can take more
4 animals out of a single herd. You don't have to just
5 limit it to one. Now, that can have some biological
6 consequences perhaps, but that's a whole other story,
7 and I don't think long term there's much problem with
8 that.

9
10 MR. GRAY: Okay. I guess, you know,
11 there's a bigger board, a cooperative board that's
12 actually put this thing together, and I think we need
13 to side with that board on this issue, because they put
14 a lot more thought -- I mean, we're spending 15, 20
15 minutes on this thing, and we're not going to get all
16 the answers. So I'm going to side with whatever this
17 board has put proposed.

18
19 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Madame Chair.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes, Cliff.

22
23 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, I've been to the
24 Cooperative's meetings when Ken Adkisson used to be a
25 lot younger, many years ago. And that was up in the
26 rec center. And I've worked on the issue of ox and
27 then we very seriously, you know, representatives from
28 Buckland, Deering, Shishmaref, all over the Seward
29 Peninsula have sat down and really discussed the issue
30 of the importance of musk ox for the future. And now
31 is the future. Now we're talking about what can we
32 harvest. And I believe when I proofread this document
33 that I received here about two or three weeks ago, I
34 agree with what the State and Federal are trying to do
35 to stabilize the population, especially in 22E. And I
36 fully support whatever is written here in this booklet
37 at the present time to help eliminate too much growth
38 of them ox.

39
40 That's what I have to say. Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anybody else with
43 questions or comments.

44
45 MR. BUCK: I'd like to ask Ken if -- I
46 know there has to be somebody out there that is opposed
47 to muskox. Do you have any reports of people that are
48 opposed to muskox? Do you have any idea of what the
49 percentage of people that are opposed to muskox?

50

1 MR. ADKISSON: Right. Through the
2 Chair to Mr. Buck. You can hold a cooperators meeting
3 or hold any group of moving and talk with any number of
4 people and talk about muskoxen, and you'll always find
5 some people there that are adamantly opposed to them.
6 I mean, quite frequently you hear, well, they never
7 asked us about bringing them out here. Send them back
8 to Nunivak Island. They scare the little old ladies
9 when they're berry picking. They eat the sourdock.
10 They move the moose. They compete with the reindeer or
11 the caribou. And these -- so, yeah. No, you're always
12 going to hear that.

13
14 And at the same time I think you'll
15 find that it's beginning to become pretty evident that
16 as people become more accustomed to eating the animal,
17 as they can focus on the cows or the younger animals, I
18 think the desire for muskoxen as a subsistence resource
19 is growing. You know, clearly the desire to provide
20 for a general hunt and sport hunting is there.

21
22 And so, you know, the muskoxen
23 Cooperators have consistently endorsed at least up
24 through now continued growth and expansion of the
25 population. We'll be probably holding another
26 Cooperators meeting maybe next summer. That may be one
27 of the topics. We do badly need to revisit the
28 management plan.

29
30 But people are looking for
31 opportunities, especially, for example, where the herd
32 is growing and expanding out to the east in 22B, you'll
33 notice from -- that the numbers of animals have gone up
34 quite a bit in B, and eventually they're going to hit
35 A, and that will provide hunting opportunities that are
36 presently not available in A. Clearly Clifford has a
37 very different situation in 22E where the animals are
38 quite abundant right now, and it's not clear why that
39 is, but we also know that, and Tony will probably talk
40 more about this in his State report, but the animals
41 apparently seem to be tapering off in D, may have
42 declined somewhat in parts of C and maybe even declined
43 a little bit in 23 Southwest, but it's not really clear
44 how much of that's due to cross subunit boundary
45 movements, which as Clifford indicated can take place.

46
47
48 So, you know, the Cooperators will be
49 revisiting all of that, but right now I think it's an
50 excellent balance of balancing all of these different

1 opinions and different interests. And what has come
2 out of the Cooperators has come out as a unanimous
3 expression basically, and at the last meeting there
4 were roughly 40-some people in attendance. All of the
5 hunt area villages were represented, all of the key
6 State and Federal agencies were represented,
7 nonconsumptive users such as wildlife viewers were
8 represented, commercial guides were represented, so the
9 sporting industry was represented. It was a good mix
10 of people that developed those proposals, and this was
11 one of them.

12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

14

15 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Madame Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

18

19 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, I just might --
20 my last statement and comment would be that, Madame
21 Chair, is that, you know, with the State Tier II
22 permits and then the Federal permits, there has never
23 been 100 percent harvest, so we're not really looking
24 at over-harvest of muskox. And so I'm not real worried
25 about over-harvesting of the muskox, because even with
26 those that are holding the permits, they just don't --
27 we've never had 100 percent harvest of those people
28 that are holding the permits. Never have. So, you
29 know, that's good for the sake of the ox population.
30 And now that we're -- the Federal has given us some
31 female permits, too, and it balances out the ox
32 population. Yeah, that's my comment, Madame Chair.

33

34 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. A quick
35 response to Clifford's comment. It's the honest wish
36 of the Cooperators I think to see the success rate,
37 like in the Federal hunt, go up. And that really is
38 part of the purpose of this proposal. But at the same
39 time they hope the Federal success rate will increase,
40 and the harvest will go up, that increase is still
41 taking place within the overall guidelines. So it's
42 not like we're going to suddenly open the floodgates
43 and increase the harvest where it's a biological -- it
44 becomes a biological issue. So, you know, we hope the
45 Federal success rate will go up, but again it's within
46 the established guidelines, and again reporting's an
47 important element of that.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Is there
50 anybody else in the audience that's going to be

1 addressing this.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No volunteers. Is
6 there any public testimony -- written public comments.

7

8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: There are none for
9 this proposal, Madame Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Then we'll
12 move onto Regional Council deliberation,
13 recommendation, and justification. I'll entertain a
14 motion.

15

16 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Madame Chair, I'd like
17 to move for approval of the proposal.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Support of the
20 proposal?

21

22 MR. BUCK: Second.

23

24 MR. GRAY: He seconded it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, it's been -- Okay.

27

28 MR. GRAY: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those in favor of
31 the motion to support the Proposal WP06-41 signify by
32 stating aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
37 sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Now,
42 I don't know if you -- we'll just go ahead and move on
43 to Proposal OP -- excuse me, WP06-42 to 52.

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Madame
46 Chair. Helen Armstrong again.

47

48 These proposals are found on Page 81 of
49 your book, and they were submitted by Kawerak, and they
50 request customary and traditional use determinations

1 for beaver, arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, marten,
2 wolverine, spruce grouse, ptarmigan, rock and willow,
3 ground squirrel, and porcupine. The proposal WP06-51
4 and 52 also requested year-round seasons and no harvest
5 limits for ground squirrel and porcupine.

6
7 The Federal Subsistence Board has never
8 made C&T determinations for these species in Unit 22.
9 Kawerak has requested that there be a C&T for all rural
10 residents in 22.

11
12 The existing determination is for
13 beaver, arctic fox, red fox, hare, lynx, mart and
14 wolverine, is that all rural residents are eligible to
15 take these resources under subsistence regulations.
16 And what that means is that there hadn't ever been a
17 C&T done, so when there's no C&T done, then it's all
18 rural residents. And if you look in the reg booklet,
19 you'll see that these resources generally in most of
20 the regions have an all rural residents determination,
21 and the Board doesn't -- has not been requested and has
22 not taken up C&T on those very much in the past.
23 Grouse and ptarmigan did have determinations that were
24 a little bit narrower, but still quite broad, and these
25 were adopted from the State, and they were for all
26 rural residents, including Units -- in Units 11, 13,
27 15, 16, 20D, 22, 23 and Chickaloon. And the reason
28 that those are so broad is that the State had not found
29 it necessary to make it something very specific since
30 there wasn't a lot of competition for grouse and
31 ptarmigan and hadn't done specific unit by unit C&Ts
32 and the Board, our Federal Board just adopted the
33 State's.

34
35 Because there's not a whole lot of
36 specific information about these species, we combined
37 them into one analysis. And I would like to say that I
38 thought Kawerak did a really good job. It was Austin
39 who did it, put together a lot of information on these
40 resources.

41
42 Proposals 51 and 52, they also
43 requested an unlimited harvest and year-round season
44 for ground squirrels and porcupines, because they
45 weren't in our reg booklet. But the Federal
46 regulations state that if there's an unclassified
47 wildlife, and ground squirrel and porcupine are
48 considered unclassified, they're not listed in the
49 Federal regulation book, and anything that is
50 considered unclassified then automatically has an

1 unlimited harvest. It goes under the State
2 regulations, and its unlimited harvest from July 1 to
3 June 30th. So in effect we already have a season, it's
4 just not listed in the book. And so we're not covering
5 harvest and year-round season for squirrel and
6 porcupine, because we already have it. I don't know if
7 that's really clear.

8
9 We did have a lot of discussion about
10 this in our office, and we're going to make that
11 clearer in the regulation book. You have to actually
12 go to our regulations, the official regulations to sort
13 of figure all of that out. But that's why. And we
14 discuss whether or not we should be adding those into
15 the regulation book, but there had been a decision made
16 by the Board a number of years ago that we wouldn't be
17 including these smaller, you know, less significant I
18 guess animals in the regulation book. So those are the
19 unclassified ones. I don't know if that's all clear,
20 but that's why they're not being -- there's not an
21 analysis, because they already have a year-round
22 season.

23
24 So back to the C&T. I went through the
25 eight factors. I'm not going to go through all of them
26 for all of these 10 species. You can read about it in
27 your analysis. But there are just a few points that I
28 wanted to make. The original C&T request was for all
29 of those resources for all of Unit 22, but in looking
30 through this, not all of the resources are actually
31 found in Unit 22. And so I actually broke some of them
32 down somewhat, and there's a table, Table 1, that shows
33 that in Unit 22, except Little Diomedea, Gambell, and
34 Savoonga, you have beaver, lynx, wolverine, grouse,
35 ptarmigan, ground squirrel and porcupine. And then in
36 all of the Unit 22 communities, you have hare, arctic
37 fox, and red fox. And then marten is only found in
38 Council, White Mountain, Golovin, Elim, Koyuk,
39 Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, St. Michael and Stebbins.

40
41 And if that information isn't what any
42 of you have knowledge of, then you should let me know.
43 So if you think that, you know, some of that is not
44 true -- I'm hoping that that's all accurate.

45
46 Beaver, for example, were only recently
47 colonized in the Seward Peninsula, and they're believed
48 to be increasing in 22E in the Serpentine River area.
49 They're not found on St. Lawrence Island.

50

1 Some of the fur bearers are
2 occasionally on St. Lawrence Island and Little Diomedea
3 when they travel there over the ice. So that's why
4 they've been -- I mean, there's a question of whether
5 or not they should be included in the C&T or not.

6
7 Lynx are definitely common and
8 increasing. Their population grows and declines in
9 accordance with the size of the hare population.

10
11 The marten, as I said, are not found in
12 all of the areas.

13
14 In terms of the areas of use, there
15 really hasn't been mapping for these resources
16 generally of where people have taken them, but we do
17 know that they're used in the proximity of the
18 villages, and there's the -- there is some anecdotal
19 information that I heard during the course of looking
20 through this that there is some concern that there may
21 be some communities outside of Unit 22 that take some
22 of these resources in Unit 22. And so that became a
23 concern of mine.

24
25 Because all rural residents in Unit 22
26 already have the right to take these resources, whether
27 this goes forward this year or not, or doesn't go
28 forward, it wouldn't affect the users in Unit 22,
29 because they already have the right to take all of
30 these resources in 22.

31
32 If we did adopt this proposal this
33 year, there is a concern that some of the people
34 outside of Unit 22 who might take these resources in
35 Unit 22 would be unable to take them, and if they did
36 harvest them, they would be doing so illegally. I
37 looked at what other communities outside of Unit 22
38 take resources in Unit 22 to see who might even be in
39 Unit 22, and, for example, Koyuk has C&T for black bear
40 in Unit 22A. Residents of Unit 22D west of the Koyukuk
41 River, Yukon Rivers, residents of Unit 23, 24, Kotlik,
42 Emmonak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, Chevak, Marshall,
43 Mountain Village, et cetera. There are a number of
44 villages in Y-K Delta, they all have C&T for caribou in
45 parts of Unit 22. And residents of Unit 21D north and
46 west of the Yukon River, 23 and Kotlik have C&T for
47 wolf in Unit 22. So there are people who come into
48 Unit 22 to take other resources, and it may be that
49 while they're here they may be taking some of these
50 resources. So if we made a C&T proposal and it were

1 adopted by the Board for only Unit 22 residents, these
2 people would be then taking them illegally.

3

4 As a result, my preliminary conclusion
5 is to defer the proposals until we can go to the other
6 Regional Councils to find out what their uses are in
7 Unit 22 of these resources, and to give the Staff more
8 time to do this, because we're -- if you look at the
9 surrounding units in 22, it's 20, 18, 21E, 23, and
10 possibly -- and 24. It's a lot of communities, and we
11 felt that deferring this would be a good idea until
12 next year when we can have more information from the
13 other Councils.

14

15 Thank you, Madame Chair. That
16 concludes my analysis.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Questions or comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Department.

23

24 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair. The
25 Department's comments are on Page 89 of your proposal
26 -- or of your meeting book.

27

28 We support this proposal being deferred
29 until additional information can be provided, As Helen
30 explained, if the board was to adopt the proposal as
31 written, it very likely would exclude some rural
32 residents from eligibility. And also as Helen
33 indicated, if no action is taken on this proposal this
34 year, it will have no negative effects on Unit 22
35 residents as near as we can tell. So we would prefer
36 that the Federal Board wait until it has -- can paint a
37 complete picture of these customary and traditional
38 uses of the listed resources in Unit 22. Otherwise we
39 believe that the Board is going to be coming back time
40 and again to fill in the gaps.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Other
45 agency comments.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Kawerak.

50

1 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3

4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Austin, your name.

5

6 MR. AHMASUK: Austin Ahmasuk,

7 subsistence director for Kawerak.

8

9 How these proposals came about was
10 thumbing through the Federal regulations and finding
11 the rather peculiar nature of grouse and ptarmigan C&T,
12 which were extended to residents totally outside of our
13 unit, which were I guess remnants of existing State
14 regulations that the Federal just adopted in. So it
15 was with that initial thought that this whole thing
16 came about. And then some extra work was done to the
17 other resources, beaver and such as mentioned in the
18 proposals.

19

20 Because, number 1, there is a lot of
21 information available that can very easily be taken or
22 downloaded from various sources and applied for C&T
23 determination for all of these resources for our unit.
24 It should come as no surprise to anybody that all of
25 these resources as depicted in the proposals are
26 customary and traditionally used.

27

28 Now, what I did with these proposals
29 here was to be as broad as possible on actual hunting
30 uses as I could. And that is -- and faithful to the
31 resources and sources, historical sources that I
32 referenced there.

33

34 Now it is entirely likely that
35 customary and traditional use isn't just hunting. It's
36 also trading. And so some of that was touched upon in
37 the Kawerak proposals as well.

38

39 In consideration of the wealth of
40 information there is out there historically on
41 customary and traditional uses, we thought it was a no
42 brainer to put those customary and traditional uses out
43 there and have them proved. It would have been
44 presumptuous for our region to define and put down on
45 paper other customary and traditional uses in other
46 units. Having said that though, I think that it's
47 fairly well documented, particularly the Unalakleet,
48 Kaltag, Portage area, the use of fur bearers in that
49 unit and in between the boundaries. That's no
50 question. That occurs. And frankly I don't think that

1 Kawerak or our region would have a problem with other
2 regions jumping in on that C&T.

3
4 But in terms of that issue, we at
5 Kawerak thought it would have been presumptuous for us
6 to even go that route and suggest that here's your
7 unit's C&T. You know, us doing work for you and
8 telling you exactly what their C&T is. That would not
9 have been right.

10
11 Now, in terms of some of the arguments
12 that I have heard, I think that there's -- that Federal
13 Staff are going one beyond what the proposal is asking
14 for. The proposals are only asking for C&T. The
15 proposal is not asking for any additional restrictions.
16 This Council, the State Advisory Committee, the Federal
17 Subsistence Board and the Board of Game, none of those
18 bodies have asked for or proposed restrictions in any
19 of these resources. And what ANILCA says is this, is
20 that only in times of shortage or when it's necessary
21 to make a restriction, that other uses are eliminated.

22
23
24 Now, if this body does not have the
25 tools to make that determination when other uses can be
26 restricted, then this body, other bodies flounder as to
27 what they might need to do. What hinges upon bodies
28 like this being able to do that is the C&T
29 determination. And that's what these proposals ask
30 for. They don't ask for restrictions in the harvest.

31
32 And I frankly disagree that at some
33 point in time unless things start really -- resources
34 get really depressed that it would come to that, simply
35 because, number 1, there's very little information
36 about a lot of these, pretty much all of them frankly,
37 other than some harvest statistics. And in time with
38 declines that these species experience, harvest
39 pressure also declines, and so the notion that this C&T
40 is tied with restrictions for other units is flawed,
41 because I don't believe that's what ANILCA says. It
42 does certainly say that there will be restrictions
43 should this body and other bodies find that it's
44 necessary to make those restrictions, but not -- it
45 does not say that the restriction occurs in time with
46 the C&T determination.

47
48 And so I hope that that clears up a
49 little bit, or at least gives you some of my thoughts
50 on that. And these C&T proposals were generated purely

1 because I feel, and others feel that it's right to put
2 forth your customary and traditional uses and put it on
3 paper and have them decides upon in this manner.

4
5 So with that, there were 11 proposals
6 -- or there are 11 proposals listed before you now.
7 There were actually 12. Kawerak also submitted a snowy
8 owl proposal very similar to these proposals, and that
9 was not listed, because it's a migratory bird species
10 that there's not likely jurisdiction to make that
11 determination. But there were 12 proposals submitted,
12 and it's been reduced to the 11.

13
14 So with that, thank you. Madame Chair.

15
16 MR. GRAY: I guess I'm a little bit
17 more confused than anything -- than anybody, and I had
18 -- initially I made a note to myself. I have an
19 interest -- I'm interested in going to Kotzebue and
20 going sheep hunting, and I talked to the biologist up
21 there, and he says the area you're interested in, you
22 can't sheep hunt there, because you're not from Unit
23 23. And, you know, it took the wind out of my sails.
24 I was gearing up. I was going to take my boy and drive
25 from here up north and we were going to make a camping
26 trip out of it.

27
28 Are we talking about the same
29 parameters in this situation here? See, I see somebody
30 shaking their head yes and somebody's saying no. And
31 like I say, I'm confused. I don't understand.

32
33 MR. AHMASUK: I'll give my first crack
34 at it. Like I indicated before, in the case of Unit 23
35 sheep, there are extreme restrictions. There are
36 regulations that prohibit liberal taking of sheep, and
37 so the Federal Subsistence Board needs some mechanism
38 to do a restriction. And in the case of ANILCA, they
39 have that tool. They know that there are C&T users of
40 sheep, and so they're going to restrict everybody else
41 before they restrict C&T users. Okay. That's the tool
42 that they have.

43
44 This proposal lays that tool, but it
45 does not ask for that restrictive tool. It leaves it
46 open, simply because of the fact that no one, no single
47 board has enacted restrictions for any of these
48 resources, and so that's what ANILCA says. ANILCA says
49 unless you -- unless someone restricts it, everybody
50 can use it, even if there is a C&T determination.

1 That's my read of ANILCA.

2

3

MR. GRAY: Is that what.....

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I think he raises
6 some really good interesting thoughts, and actually I
7 personally agree with what Austin says. And I think
8 that -- this is Helen personally talking. This isn't
9 the Federal program. I personally think there are
10 problems with what we do with C&T. Unfortunately it's
11 what the regulations say. And so even though -- I
12 mean, I agree with Austin, I really do. But I -- if we
13 have a C&T determination, and you were to be from
14 Russian Mission and you were up there taking caribou in
15 Unit 22, and you decided, well, I think I'll take, you
16 know, a porcupine while I'm up there, and you don't
17 have C&T, then it is illegal by the way the regulations
18 are written.

19

20

MR. AHMASUK: If the restriction.....

21

22 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If the restriction
23 were -- if we made a C&T that said only the units of
24 Unit 22 could take.

25

26 MR. GRAY: Okay. Austin, how much have
27 you guys worked together on this in trying to
28 streamline it? Is it worth our while to postpone this
29 and bring it back to the table this fall, or in a
30 year's time and get all these things cleaned up so we
31 can adopt it, and all the answers? I mean, is it
32 something that you can wait on or the region can wait
33 on?

34

35 MR. AHMASUK: I believe so, and I guess
36 -- I mean, I would hope that the proper reckoning of
37 the possible outcomes is made.

38

39 I frankly believe that it's -- like I
40 mentioned, where it's most clear to me, the Unalakleet,
41 Kaltag, Portage use of fur bearers in that portage on
42 the boundary, the use of fur bearers between 18 and 22
43 is very clear. There's shared customary and
44 traditional uses of fur bearers and other small game in
45 those units.

46

47 And I think, you know, mainly what we
48 should keep in mind is that the proposal doesn't ask
49 for restrictions in seasons or bag limits. That is,
50 seasons -- the restrictions to hunters. It just asks

1 for the establishment of the C&T.

2

3 So it's fine to, you know, wait until
4 these things get fettered out, and perhaps other units,
5 you know, what to join in with the proposal.

6

7 MR. GRAY: And I think my concern here
8 is I hate to adopt something that maybe isn't going to
9 affect me in my area, but will affect some other people
10 in a different area, and we're kind of cramming stuff
11 down somebody else's throat, that we may do it
12 unintentionally, but, you know, I think if we go slow
13 and make sure it works for everybody, I think that's
14 the wiser situation.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And some of our game
17 units cross over to Yukon, you know, into the Yukon,
18 and very close to Sheldon's Point, all those area. We
19 have part of Yukon into our game unit, and that
20 concerns me. I think we should hear from them.

21

22 The last time we did a restriction --
23 well, we had a controversial restriction which I
24 thought was a no brainer. It lasted three years with
25 the Federal Board. Eventually we finally -- it finally
26 came through, and there was -- eventually the proposal
27 went through, but it took three years. Part of it had
28 to do with -- the first year it had to do with not
29 enough information from the other game units that are
30 connected to our region, and they needed to get that
31 information. It took three years for it to past. And
32 it probably would have passed faster if we had all the
33 information together from the beginning, because the
34 oppositions came at the time the Federal Board was
35 meeting. We didn't wait -- I mean, the proposal was
36 out, there were no comments until the Federal Board
37 actually met.

38

39 So I think it would be wise for us, and
40 I know Austin, you know, understand. If we could just
41 wait another year for this and just defer it and see if
42 we get any comments from other regions.

43

44 And we can look at each separately,
45 too, in the meantime, which ones would just affect us
46 only and not affect other user groups.

47

48 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Madame Chair. I'd
49 like to speak on behalf of the Unalakleet IRA. I was
50 there for a meeting in January, and their thoughts,

1 there was two out of the whole group, but it was almost
2 unanimous, that they were opposed to this proposal.
3 And I think the one thing that -- one thing was they're
4 not in favor of more regulation, but the second thing
5 was that there's a lot of people who have friends in
6 like 23 or the Kaltag side, and if they came over in
7 the spring to go beaver hunting with them, it would be
8 illegal for them if in fact it took place. That was
9 the understanding that took place at the time. And for
10 those reasons they told me to be in opposition of this
11 proposal. And I.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Go ahead, Austin.

14

15 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah. Thank you, Madame
16 Chair. And I hope I've laid the foundation for the
17 reason that you heard from Federal Staff that that
18 isn't necessarily the case. You can establish a C&T
19 and not cut anybody out. And you do that by not
20 enacting restrictive seasons or bag limits. And so
21 that's precisely what ANILCA says. It says it in black
22 and white. That's what it is.

23

24 MR. GRAY: Okay. I guess the solution
25 I see here is, you know, I as a board member would like
26 to see this thing resolved. I think we need some more
27 public input. I think our Staff here needs to work
28 with Kawerak Staff in addressing this thing and coming
29 back in a year's time with a solution. And if that's
30 fair, I think that's what we need to do. And this is
31 an issue. Austin, to look at it in a different
32 fashion, what would happen if somebody in Unit 23 was
33 doing the same thing, and I couldn't go to 23. Or go
34 into the Kaltag side of things. So we need to kind of
35 weigh this thing all around the place, and resolve this
36 thing. But I think the important thing is that our
37 Staff work with you and not let this thing drop when we
38 leave here. It needs to get resolved, and we need to
39 set up some kind of goals and objectives here, whether
40 we do it as a board with you, or you guys do it as a
41 Staff.

42

43 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes, Helen.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Two things. That's
48 not a problem. We'll definitely do that, and work with
49 the other surrounding Councils as well to make sure
50 that they're included.

1 I do need to put on the record though,
2 and I don't want to disagree with Austin, but I've been
3 whispered to passing on a message. We have a Federal
4 Subsistence Board member here today from Park Service,
5 Judy Gottlieb. She can take a bow. And I need to say
6 on the record that the way the Federal regulations are
7 written, that the customary and traditional use
8 determinations do determine who has the right to hunt a
9 resource whether or not there are restrictions already
10 in place. I know Austin has a difference of opinion on
11 how ANILCA's interpreted and, you know, we can take up
12 this argument elsewhere, and if he wants to, you know,
13 we can bring in some other people. But that is, and I
14 think the Federal people will support me in saying
15 this, that that is the way the regulations read, that
16 if we gave C&T for any resource to somebody in Unit 22,
17 and then somebody from another unit wanted to take it
18 in Unit 22, they would be doing it illegally.

19
20 MR. GRAY: Okay. But, and I'll be
21 quiet after I say this, maybe the way the way the
22 customary blah-blah-blah is set up, maybe we need a
23 different vision, because let's say the Kaltag people
24 are using the Unalakleet River, we shouldn't be drawing
25 lines. I mean, it's like a reindeer. A reindeer
26 doesn't know where to stop eating on a line. History
27 has shown us that people move here and there, and the
28 system is drawing lines on a map saying, you belong on
29 that side of the line when customary use wasn't that
30 way. It was the Western society brought these lines to
31 us. So there's a problem there, and maybe that's the
32 problem that needs to be addressed.

33
34 But anyway, irregardless, I think, you
35 know, we can spend all day on this thing. I think if
36 you guys can resolve this thing and come back to us,
37 that that's the way to handle it.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: My recommendation
40 would be I'm inclined to say we should defer this
41 proposal until further information is obtained from
42 that surrounding -- from the other game units that are
43 attached to us. Then we can look at it with more
44 detail, with more information. I mean, even when it --
45 you know, we have ground squirrels in Gambell and
46 Savoonga, and we do have ptarmigan in Gambell and
47 Savoonga, so some of that information is not correct.
48 I mean, those are very minor details. But it is very
49 difficult to fight for these things in the Federal
50 Board if you're not armed with the proper information,

1 and when other people oppose it, they just defer it
2 from year after year. Make the wrong decision and then
3 you have to come back and fight for it again.

4
5 So I think it would be within our own
6 interest within our region to have all our ducks into
7 order and get comments from the other regions, and that
8 way we can present proposals that may be even inclusive
9 of the other, you know, surrounding game units. But
10 just take a look at it and get the Staff to work into
11 it more.

12
13 Unless somebody has anything further to
14 say, I'd like a motion to defer.

15
16 MR. GRAY: I so move.

17
18 MR. QUINN: I second it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion to
21 defer the motion, and seconded -- defer the proposals
22 and seconded.

23
24 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The question has been
27 called. All those in favor of the motion signify by
28 stating aye.

29
30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
33 sign.

34
35 (No opposing votes)

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

38
39 MR. GRAY: I guess I just want to go on
40 record though that this is an issue that needs to be
41 addressed, and it can't get dropped by the wayside. so
42 we need to make sure that somebody works with Austin on
43 this thing.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think it was very --
46 one way that I see what's happening within our region
47 is the declining fish population, declining salmon
48 population, our moose population is down. I think in
49 more than one ways the region is doing what it can to
50 save what resources we have. We are going to be

1 relying more and more on the small game because of our
2 bigger game population is declining. That's the way I
3 kind of look at it.

4

5 We'll take a break at this time and
6 then maybe do one more before we conclude for the day.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Back to order, please.
13 I'm calling the meeting back to order. We will now
14 address WP06-53.

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, Chuck
17 Ardizzone.

18

19 Proposal WP06-53 was submitted by the
20 Regional Council, and requested a motorized vehicle,
21 including ATV, snowmachine and boat may be used to take
22 a wolf in Unit 22. The definition of take that was
23 discussed at the last meeting was -- I took to mean
24 directly killing the wolf with a motorized vehicle.

25

26 This proposal would allow hunters the
27 ability to hunt and harvest wolves with a motorized
28 vehicle and is similar to Proposal 40 submitted to the
29 Alaska Board of Game for its consideration during the
30 November 2005 meeting. At the Board of Game meeting in
31 November they deferred the proposal until January 2006,
32 and amended it to include all of Unit 22. When I sent
33 this to get published, I didn't have the results of the
34 meeting in 2006 -- I mean, in January, and I'll let the
35 State cover that, because I don't want to be mis -- I
36 don't want to misquote what happened at the meeting.

37

38 Currently there are no existing Federal
39 regulations providing for the use of vehicles to take
40 as defined above in our regulations. There are some
41 other regulations that address taking, but not
42 physically taking the animal with a motorized vehicle.

43

44 As you probably all know, there's no
45 real shortage of wolves in the region. Every year
46 there's a number of wolves harvested. There's a table
47 on Page 94 that covers reported harvest.

48

49 The effects of this proposal if it were
50 adopted would make it legal to take wolves with a

1 motorized vehicle in Unit 22 under Federal regulations.
2 However, Federal land management agencies in the unit
3 all have separate regulation restrictions dealing with
4 motorized vehicles that prohibit the harassment or
5 disturbance of wildlife with a motor vehicle, which
6 would include taking the animal with the vehicle.
7 Therefore, adoption of this proposal would be in
8 conflict with existing agency regulations, and agency
9 regulations would take precedence.

10
11 Therefore my preliminary conclusion is
12 to oppose this proposal.

13
14 Are there any questions? I'm sure
15 there are.

16
17 MR. WEYIOUANNA: I'm glad we're finally
18 going to get legal.

19
20 MR. GRAY: Our man is trying to make it
21 easy by throwing some obstacles here. How do we change
22 these other obstacles so we can adopt this resolution?

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It seems to me --
25 aren't there -- it said, nothing in the regulations in
26 this part shall enlarge or diminish the authority of
27 any agency to issue regulations necessary for the
28 proper management of public lands. It seems like
29 there's already existing safeguards. I mean, even if
30 we were to pass this proposal, there are existing.....

31
32 MR. ARDIZZONE: If you were to pass
33 this -- even if the Federal Subsistence Board passed
34 this regulation, the Park Service, BLM, Fish and
35 Wildlife Service have regulations in place that would
36 prohibit it, and their regulations take precedence to
37 the Subsistence Board's regulations. I had a big
38 discussion of this with our lawyers, so.....

39
40 MR. GRAY: Okay. I guess -- I know
41 this was an issue that the State of Alaska addressed
42 earlier, and I would like to hear what the State did,
43 so before I make any more comments, I want to hear from
44 the State eventually .

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: He's going to be the
47 next one, so let's just hear from the State and see
48 what -- before we go in further discussion into this.

49
50 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Madame Chair.

1 The Board of Game at its January meeting basically, to
2 get right to the point, authorized the taking of wolves
3 with snowmachines, ATVs and boats for all of Unit 22.
4 So that's the essence of what they did.

5
6 Now, that regulation does not apply to
7 all lands in the unit. It only applies to where the
8 Board of Game's jurisdiction applies.

9
10 The Department supports the proposal to
11 have those same provisions in Federal regulation, also
12 recognizing that, as has been pointed out, that Federal
13 agency regulations may supersede Federal subsistence
14 regulations in this regard. But we're supportive of
15 keeping the State and Federal regulations as consistent
16 as possible in cases like this.

17
18 MR. RABINOWITCH: Could I ask Terry to
19 repeat his first statement about what the Board of Game
20 did or did not do?

21
22 MR. HAYNES: Sure.

23
24 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you.

25
26 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair, my notes
27 from Kate indicate that the Board of Game authorized
28 the taking of wolves in Unit 22 with the use of
29 snowmachines, ATVs, and boats.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: As each person comes
32 up, please state your name also for the record.

33
34 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch of
35 the National Park Service. I kind of apologize for
36 having to disagree with Terry, because I'm surprising
37 him by doing this, and that's not my goal. But I
38 brought with -- this has been a topic the Park Service
39 has been interested in, so I've done a fair bit of
40 homework with this. And I brought two things with me,
41 and I've got about 20 copies, so if you would like I
42 can pass these around, but let me tell you what they
43 are.

44
45 One is I xeroxed a page out of the
46 existing codified State regs which deal with this
47 issue, and they deal with -- the title is unlawful
48 methods of taking game, and there's about half a page
49 of text. And then I requested and got from the
50 executive director of the Board of Game a copy of what

1 the Board of Game -- what changes they made, and I
2 brought a copy of that, too. She scanned what they did
3 and sent it to me. And so as I said, I'm happy to pass
4 those around.

5
6 The part that I would disagree with
7 Terry about is that I believe they took the word take
8 out of the State regulations. And this piece of paper
9 would show that. And that's why I asked if that could
10 be repeated, because I wasn't sure if I heard Terry
11 right the first time or not.

12
13 So why don't I -- I'll stop there
14 and.....

15
16 MR. GRAY: Okay. Why don't you read
17 it.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Read it.

20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

22
23 MR. GRAY: What your interpretation of
24 what they adopted is.

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I'll just read
27 to you the words, and then you can have your own,
28 rather than just have mine. Let me find the right
29 spot.

30
31 Okay. In Units 22 and 23 the existing
32 State regulatory language is that a snowmachine may be
33 used to position a caribou. They deleted the word
34 caribou and inserted the word hunter, so it would read
35 a snowmachine may be used to position a hunter to
36 select an individual caribou for harvest, and caribou,
37 and then they added these words, may be shot from a
38 stationary snowmachine. That's the first change they
39 made.

40
41 The second change they made is they
42 said, notwithstanding any other provision in this
43 section, a snowmachine may be used to position hunters
44 to select individual wolves or bears to be shot and
45 wolves or bears may be shot from a stationary
46 snowmachine.

47
48 They went on -- there's a lot here.
49 They went on to say in wolf -- that this would apply in
50 wolf control implementation areas as specified, and

1 they give the citation of where that's specified.

2

3 And then the other place where this
4 would be allowed, it says in Units 9B, C and E, 17, 18,
5 19 and 22, except on NPS or national wildlife refuge
6 lands not approved by the Federal agencies.

7

8 And the third part, now getting to
9 ATVs, they said notwithstanding any other provision in
10 this section, ATVs may be used to position hunters to
11 select individual wolves to be shot, and wolves may be
12 shot from a stationary ATV.

13

14 And then they again go into where that
15 would be allowed, and what it says is in Units 9B, C,
16 and E, 17, and 22, except on NPS lands and wildlife
17 refuge lands.

18

19 And then it also says you -- that they
20 can do this under the authority of a permit issued by
21 the Department.

22

23 And I'll be happy to pass these out if
24 that would be helpful.

25

26 MR. GRAY: Okay. And is that -- I'd
27 like a copy of that. It accomplishes the same thing
28 that he said basically.

29

30 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair. I was
31 responding with Board of Game action as it applied to
32 the proposal before you, not every specific change as
33 it applied generally by the Board of Game, and I don't
34 believe anything I said contradicts what Sandy has
35 provided you. I think he's just provided a more
36 complete picture of the Board of Game action.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm kind of curious
39 about the NPS and BLM regs pertaining to this. That
40 would be -- was that on 93?

41

42 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, they can
43 be found under regulatory history on Page 93. The BLM
44 would be the last full sentence on the bottom of the
45 paragraph, and National Park Service and Preserves is
46 right above that.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Chuck.

49

50 MR. ARDIZZONE: So for national parks,

1 preserves and monuments, the regulation reads, 36 CFR
2 Chapter 1, Subpart B, blah-blah-blah, snowmachines
3 traditionally employed by the local rural residents
4 engaged in subsistence uses shall be operated in such a
5 manner as to prevent the herding, harassment, hazing or
6 driving of wildlife for hunting or other purposes.

7
8 And for BLM it says, no person shall
9 operate an off-road vehicle on public lands in a manner
10 causing, or likely to cause, significant, undue damage
11 or disturbance to the wildlife.

12
13 And that was interpreted by our
14 solicitors to mean you couldn't harass or take a wolf
15 with a motorized vehicle.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, that's kind of
18 overextending it, isn't it? The interpretation is kind
19 of overextensive, isn't it?

20
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not sure, I'm not a
22 lawyer, but.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What about the wording
25 that the State is using? If the wording was to be
26 changed to similar to what the State has done,
27 positioning the hunter. How would that affect, instead
28 of, where is it, you were reading it about, positioning
29 the hunter instead of the way that the proposal is
30 written now.

31
32 MR. GRAY: If what the State adopted was in a
33 proposal to you here -- or from -- or to you here now,
34 could you adopt that.

35
36 MR. ARDIZZONE: If the proposal was to
37 take -- I thought I heard Terry say you could take a
38 wolf with a snowmachine. The answer would be I'd have
39 to oppose it. I mean, if -- you can already take a
40 snowmachine ride up, park it and shoot a wolf, but you
41 can't use the machine to take the wolf.

42
43 MR. GRAY: Legally -- without passing
44 anything right now, legally I can track a wolf down,
45 get off of my snowmachine and shoot it?

46
47 MR. ARDIZZONE: But you can't harass
48 the wolf with your snowmachine, but if you're driving
49 along and saw a wolf, you stopped you machine, you
50 could legally shoot that wolf from that machine.

1 MR. GRAY: And what does the State say?
2 I'm a little bit baffled here of.....

3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not quite sure
5 what.....

6
7 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I can maybe help on
8 that one. Out of curiosity sake this conversation took
9 place down in Unalakleet, and the enforcement officer
10 at that point stated that if the animal is showing his
11 tail, and he's going away, that's when you stop the
12 machine. That's how it ended up. And I don't know,
13 you know, if everyone feels that way or whatever, but
14 that's what was told to us.

15
16 MR. QUINN: Well, that's the existing
17 reg, but that's not what this says. I don't think.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: See, I think.....

20
21 MR. QUINN: A snowmachine may be used
22 to position hunters to select individual wolves.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: To be shot. That's
25 what I was talking about. A snowmachine may be used to
26 position hunters to select individual wolves to be
27 shot, and wolves may be shot from a stationary snow
28 machine. In lieu of the proposal, it's really
29 substantially different. So how would that go over
30 with the regs pertaining to harassment or herding.

31
32 MR. GRAY: But the point being there is
33 no talk of harassment in here. There is no talk of --
34 in the new proposal even. You know, I guess my feeling
35 is when we get ready to make a motion, I want to make a
36 motion that adopts whatever they did there, and you
37 guys, if you can fit it, you can fit it. If you can't,
38 at least my intention is to send you guys a message
39 that, and that goes for Sandy and all the agencies,
40 that subsistence users want to help manage resources,
41 and wolves are a problem animal out there, and we need
42 to manage them. And whatever it takes to manage them,
43 we're going to use it. And if you have a problem, your
44 system prevents us from doing that, you need to go deal
45 with your system and fix it so we can come in line with
46 what the State has said here.

47
48 MR. RABINOWITCH: Madame Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: In the Park Service
2 we've talked about this a fair bit, and one of the
3 things that we've been trying to make sense out of is
4 the use of the word positioning. We did make a
5 recommendation to the State that they define the term.
6 They didn't do that. And I think it would be helpful,
7 because some of the discussions that we had again in
8 the Park Service, I think it is safe to say that we
9 assume that hunters have always positioned themselves.
10 The hunting I've done, I didn't just hope something
11 would come into view from my sleeping bag. I got up, I
12 went somewhere different than where my tent was. And,
13 you know, I picked a good spot, I tried to get where I
14 would have a good shot or whatever. And I assume
15 that's what people have always done. I assume that's
16 what all of you do. You position yourselves.

17
18 So the question we've had is what does
19 positioning let you do that's not already legal and
20 that you don't already all do and done it your whole
21 lives. So we were trying to make some sense out of
22 that. You know, do we have any -- does the Park
23 Service have any trouble in a hunting positioning
24 themselves? No.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: With the use of a
27 motorized vehicle is what we're -- the problem comes
28 in, it seems to me from what you're saying, the use of
29 a motorized vehicle becomes a problem if you used your
30 snowmachine to position yourself as a hunter, so you
31 can select an animal to be shot. That's where your
32 problem is, the use of the motorized vehicle. That's
33 what I interpret you to be saying.

34
35 MR. RABINOWITCH: Let me try to clarify
36 a little bit more. I would say, first of all, no, not
37 a problem. The place where the friction starts, where
38 the problem is, is when you begin to -- when that
39 hunter, whether it's you or me or whatever, when we
40 begin to drive, herd or harass. So you want to drive
41 your snowmachine wherever, fine. You're out hunting.
42 You want to position yourself, fine. If you're not
43 driving, herding or harassing, perfectly okay. We
44 think it always has been. We think that's what people
45 do. You always position yourself, whether you're on
46 foot, whether you're on a boat, snowmachine. We think
47 hunters do position themselves.

48
49 MR. QUINN: That's not what enforcement
50 people, or the way enforcement people look at it. You

1 can find existing court cases showing that, people
2 prosecuted on Federal land for using their snow
3 machines to position themselves.

4
5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Positioning yourself
6 to me does not mean that you're herding or harassing or
7 driving the wildlife. You're positioning yourself with
8 a snowmachine. You stop your machine, you position
9 yourself. To me that is not the same thing as
10 harassing or herding. I don't quite get your point.

11
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I believe I'm
13 agreeing with you. I believe I'm agreeing with you.
14 You can walk, you can boat, you can snowmachine,
15 whatever. No problem, as long as you don't drive, herd
16 or molest.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think the main
19 problem the U.S. Fish and Wildlife is having is may be
20 used to take a wolf.

21
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: At the last meeting we
23 went over this several times and Sandy and I have read
24 the transcripts, and even Mr. Gray even said it today.
25 He wanted to be able to use the snowmachine to run the
26 wolf over, and that's how I wrote the analysis. I
27 mean, you can change your position now. I still
28 oppose.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: This man says a lot of
31 things he don't mean.

32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: I would still oppose
34 running the wolf over with a snowmachine. However.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I don't think that was
37 the idea, but it's just the way he talks.

38
39 MR. GRAY: Now, let's talk run it over.
40 Let's be carefully what we're putting whose words in
41 what mouth. My -- I'm ready to make a motion when we
42 get done arguing here, because.....

43
44 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not going to argue
45 with you. I'm just.....

46
47 MR. GRAY:I -- the point being,
48 guys, this is my issue is we have a resource, and in my
49 eyes and the people that I represent, subsistence
50 users, a wolf is a detriment to the resource that they

1 subsist on. A wolf is a bad thing. And if they had
2 their way, they would run the wolves over, they would
3 tear them apart. They would kill every wolf in Alaska.
4 So whatever resources I can give to my people, my
5 subsistence users, I'm going to give it to them. And I
6 think the message needs to go to the bureaucrats and
7 the system that if we have a problem with this wolf
8 thing, maybe we should review it and come along -- come
9 in line with what the State has done here to help
10 manage other resources. You know, to me this is kind
11 of -- it's kind of ironic, because the State has said,
12 okay, you can do this, and we're going to -- and the
13 intent is doing to eventually manage a resource, and
14 yet we have another agency over here that says, no, you
15 can't do it, or by -- our rules say it. So we've got
16 two agencies just bucking heads, and it's ludicrous,
17 because all have the same common goals, especially if
18 it's subsistence. A subsistence issue is going to --
19 okay. I'll get off my podium here.

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But what I wanted to
22 say is I have a different take on this, because I use
23 wolf fur for different reasons, you know. All my
24 grandchildren have ruffs that are made out of them. It
25 would just make it -- as a subsistence user, it would
26 just make it a little bit easier for me to get a wolf,
27 not because wolf is a nuisance to me, but because I use
28 the fur.

29

30 What I'm interested in knowing is if we
31 change this proposal to align to use the State language
32 -- I like the State language way better than the way
33 that this proposal is right now, and then just -- it
34 seems to me that -- who knows what the Federal Board
35 will do. They may kick it out, but I still think that
36 it might be better for us to change the wording of our
37 -- amend our proposal to use the State language.

38

39 MR. GRAY: As soon as I get a chance
40 to.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. There's your
43 chance.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, you
46 wouldn't be able to change the proposal. The
47 proposal's written, and it's in the book. You change
48 your recommendation to make this language.

49

50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Amend it.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Modify it.
2
3 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah, you can modify
4 your.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Modify the proposal.
7
8 MR. ARDIZZONE:proposal to read
9 like this, yeah.
10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.
12
13 MR. GRAY: Yeah. And I think it's
14 important that even if it fails, I mean, you know, with
15 what you're throwing at us, it's going to go nowhere.
16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: It just depends.
18
19 MR. GRAY: But the point being, the
20 message needs to go to this system, to the agencies
21 that, come on, guys, let's all work together. We're
22 managing resources.
23
24 So I'll make a motion that whatever it
25 takes -- you know, we're talking about this wolf
26 proposal. I'll make a motion that we align that
27 proposal with whatever the State has adopted here, and
28 put that forward to wherever it needs to go. And with
29 that, I'll be quiet.
30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is that understood
32 now? And I'm confused. So the proposal would be it's
33 the same -- that the State's Proposal 31A pretty much.
34 And just pertaining to wolves.
35
36 MR. ARDIZZONE: My understanding is the
37 Council wants to modify the proposal and insert the new
38 State language from their January meeting.
39
40 MR. GRAY: Right. What I would like to
41 do is modify it and adopt whatever the State used, to
42 put that into place, and, you know, you guys will have
43 to go through it and tear it apart and see if it goes
44 on further, but if I don't make this motion, this
45 thing's going to die because of a technicality. And I
46 don't want it to die. I want the message to go
47 further.
48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I want to make sure
50 that the rest of the Council understands what Tom is

1 saying. And we have actually the wording that was
2 handed to us in this, so it will be the same language
3 that the State used.

4
5 MR. GRAY: Yeah. I'll try and explain
6 to you.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, make a motion.

9
10 MR. GRAY:board members. The
11 motion I'm making, if this Proposal 53, if I make a
12 motion to adopt that proposal.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's modified.

15
16 MR. GRAY: If I make a motion to adopt
17 just that proposal, it's going to die because of
18 technicalities that these guys are throwing at us,
19 because of the way the land process -- their system is
20 built. So what I'm proposing is we adopt, or we
21 incorporate what the State has adopted by the Board of
22 Game into the proposal and throw it at these guys to
23 see if they -- it will be a modified proposal, throw it
24 in their lap. At least if we do that, it's got a
25 chance of going further.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Is there a
28 second to the proposal.

29
30 MR. SAVETILIK: I second that motion.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

33
34 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 We will just verify that this language is in fact
36 accurate. When State regulations are adopted, they go
37 through a legal review process.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We want it to be the
40 same as whatever was.....

41
42 MR. HAYNES: So this probably is close,
43 but it may not be word for word. We'll make sure that
44 the correct material is used.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Thank you very
47 much. There's a motion on the floor. It's been
48 seconded.

49
50 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The question has been
2 called. All those in favor signify by stating aye.
3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.
5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed same
7 sign.
8
9 (No opposing votes)
10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries.
12
13 MR. GRAY: Yeah, Julia, I hope you paid
14 attention all this. You know it's probably a real
15 controversial issue all over the State, but one of the
16 board members pointed out to me just a minute ago that
17 you can go to some parts of the State and they have
18 aerial wolf hunting, and they can fly and kill all the
19 wolves they want, and yet somebody takes a snowmachine,
20 it becomes a harassment issue. And we're still
21 managing a resource, so I just -- I want to make sure
22 you understood.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.
25
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair, we didn't
27 take public comments or anything else on your list.
28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, I'm sorry. Well,
30 I think we were in a hurry. Are there any public
31 comments?
32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: There are, in the book
34 there's one written comment.
35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. There's --
37 we'll go ahead and add those on now. Are there any
38 other agency that wish to speak on this issue.
39
40 (No comments)
41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No. Written public
43 comments.
44
45 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'll read it into the
46 record. Okay. From the Defenders of wildlife, they
47 oppose this proposal. It allows use of motorized
48 vehicles to harvest wolves in Unit 22, Seward
49 Peninsula. There's no justification given for the need
50 to liberalize subsistence wolf hunting in Unit 22.

1 Existing seasons run from November 1 through April 15th
2 with an unlimited bag limit. Sufficient opportunity
3 exists at the present through the methods of trapping
4 and ground shooting to provide for subsistence
5 opportunity to take wolves. This proposal appears to
6 be a predator control measure and not a subsistence
7 proposal. At present, no authorization exists for
8 Federal subsistence predator control. Such action
9 would have to go through a full NEPA review process and
10 is the responsibility of individual land management
11 agencies. Any action taken must then be consistent
12 with each representative agency's policies and
13 management objectives. The use of motorized vehicles
14 to take wildlife, even if later authorized by law,
15 encourages and invites herding driving and harassing
16 wildlife, practices clearly prohibited by Federal
17 subsistence regulations.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Thank you
20 for reminding me. We just got kind of engrossed in
21 this.

22
23 So what time does the Council want to
24 meet tomorrow morning?

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Thank you, Madame
27 Chairman. I'll show up whenever you want to meet. But
28 if I may ask a question just to clarify on the motion
29 you just took, I think I know the answer, but I just
30 want to make sure that we have it straight. Did the
31 motion include boats, snowmachines, and ATVs?

32
33 MR. GRAY: Whatever the State put
34 forward.

35
36 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. That would be
37 all three of those.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The State's going to
40 meet with somebody and get it refined once they get
41 their actual -- once they figure out what actually had
42 happened, what's written.

43
44 So is it 8:30?

45
46 MR. GRAY: Okay. Before we all leave,
47 I've got a quote for Barb from this famous Eskimo, and
48 I'm struggling with this quote, because I talk too
49 much, but it says, taste your words before you spit
50 them out.

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's right.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. I think -- I
4 don't have anything further, so I'll stop now and meet
5 8:30 tomorrow morning.

6

7 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 124 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL I, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 23rd day of February 2006, beginning at the hour of 10:30 o'clock a.m. at Nome, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 5th day of March 2006.

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