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SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

VOLUME II

Aurora Inn
Nome, Alaska
September 23, 2004
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Nome, Alaska - 9/23/2004)

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I'll start the meeting
6 again. It's now 9:10. We want to go back to the issue
7 we were working on the last time that you were here and
8 that was the 22(E) moose. This morning we had kind of
9 like an informal meeting or informal discussion with BLM
10 staffing. We were identifying issues that we heard
11 yesterday. Instead of having somebody go back to
12 listening to the tapes and identify issues that were
13 talked about yesterday by the RAC, there were -- I think
14 there were five that we identified and then we wanted to
15 present to the rest of the RAC if there's additions or
16 misunderstandings, then that can be corrected so our
17 letter to BLM can go quickly and Taylor -- excuse me,
18 well, somebody from BLM is going to bring these up. And
19 we'll do that first so we can move on.

20
21 Okay, go ahead.

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: Good morning, folks.
24 We're back on the topic that we left with yesterday
25 afternoon. And as we were breaking up at 5:00 o'clock
26 Grace asked a couple of folks, a couple of Federal
27 staffers, to work with her this morning. And our task
28 was to capture the concerns that had been raised through
29 the testimony and the discussion yesterday.

30
31 So we've tied together five major
32 concerns that were listed. And as Grace has mentioned,
33 what she would like us to do today is to confirm that
34 that's the list, that's the right set, we didn't forget
35 something, we didn't overlook a key concern. And what
36 happens next is the council's staff in the office of
37 subsistence management will put together a letter laying
38 out the testimony, the concerns that were raised in the
39 council meeting and that will be forwarded. Grace will
40 actually sign the letter, confirm that it's right, and it
41 will be forwarded eventually to Henri Bisson, the state
42 director of the BLM.

43
44 So right now what we're focused on is
45 being sure we report on the concerns raised yesterday in
46 the most accurate way. So I think the first and sort of
47 heart of this whole thing in the concerns that were
48 mentioned yesterday had to do with really questioning the
49 wisdom of adding new non-local pressure to a moose
50 population in an area where we don't have clear numbers

1 on the moose population. But we think it might be
2 declining because there are documented declines in the
3 neighboring units. So the first concern was kind of a
4 conservation thing. If the moose populations declining,
5 it doesn't make sense to add additional harvest pressure
6 to that area. I think that was a key concern from Myron
7 and many of you sort of spoke once or twice about how
8 does this happen in an area where we don't have good
9 numbers or where it could be adding pressure on a
10 declining population. So I'd say that's the first theme
11 that was raised.

12
13 The second one I think had to do with
14 public policy and really asking the question can we see
15 the policies outlined, the procedures, does the public
16 have a say on those policies and we need a clear
17 explanation of the BLM policies and procedures for the --
18 for the issuing of the permits. I think council members,
19 and this was actually a public testimony, want to have a
20 little more specific knowledge about how this decision
21 making process works and what the policy standards are.

22
23 Third, I think there was a fair bit of
24 discussion about the idea that local guides should have a
25 preference over non-local guides. Whatever solution is
26 developed here, local guides have a more natural
27 incentive towards conservation because they're going to
28 live with the region, live with the results of taking
29 care of the resource; where non-local guides may be able
30 to move on and hunt out an area and move along. So non
31 -- pardon me, local guides should have a preference over
32 non-local guides I think was the third theme.

33
34 The fourth that I made note of is the
35 State managers, Kate in particular, described a kind of
36 ongoing effort to manage harvest pressure in this unit.
37 This is not the first time this issue has come up in
38 22(B) East and the State in the last several years has
39 taken some management steps to hold the level of non-
40 local pressure at a constant level. And they have
41 outlined some ideas about how they would respond if
42 there's a spike. If these new permits result in a spike
43 in non-local pressure, the State has some tools and was
44 giving some kind of reassurance that they will watch this
45 and would use their management tools to limit non-local
46 pressure to about the constant level. The three to four
47 animals, if it gets up to seven or eight, they were going
48 to use their tools to bring it down, bring it back to
49 this ongoing level. So I think the State has some
50 experience and some track record on trying to manage the

1 non-local pressure and that was part of our discussion.

2

3 Then finally, the BLM has a land use plan
4 underway and we're really emphasizing the importance of
5 forwarding these concerns about conflicting land uses,
6 recreational and subsistence land uses, into the land use
7 planning process. Very specifically, the land use plan
8 can establish something called recreational objectives.
9 And we're saying it's very important for the public to
10 stay involved. This land use process is underway. It's
11 about -- through the first of three big steps. The
12 scoping meetings have already been held. It's really
13 important -- one of the purposes of this letter would be
14 to bring to the attention of the BLM land use plan how
15 important, how strongly people feel about these
16 conflicting uses, in the 22(B) East area.

17

18 So Madame Chair, those were the five
19 major themes that I made note of and I welcome further
20 discussion. And we'll try and make a good letter, good
21 correspondence on this.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

24

25 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, you hit on
26 almost all the areas that I had -- I was concerned about.
27 You know, and I think in this arena, in this setting
28 right here, there's -- we're going to recommend decisions
29 and management systems based on information that's given
30 to us. And we should have good information given to us
31 so we can make good recommendations.

32

33 For example, we have no information on
34 how many moose are in this area. We have no information
35 on what is Fish and Game's goals. Like the Fish River,
36 they're saying 15 hundred to 2,000 moose or 25 hundred,
37 we don't have that information here. So we based a
38 decision on kind of a political decision here. And I
39 think we need to make decisions on good information. We
40 need good information to make a decision.

41

42 The other thing that I'm concerned about
43 is Fish and Game, as you said and as Fish and Game has
44 said, if they go over three animals, they have the power
45 to shut this hunt down. And I would encourage Fish and
46 Game to shut this hunt down after three animals are shot.

47

48 The other concern that I didn't hear come
49 out is what happens when we reach the three animals this
50 winter. We got a winter hunt coming up here and nobody's

1 talking about what's going to happen when we reach those
2 animals. I strongly recommend that this board direct
3 Fish and Game into shutting that down at three animals.
4 Once three animals are shot there is no more animals and
5 this will alleviate these outsiders coming in. They're
6 going to back up and say, gee, that was a bad decision to
7 invest a bunch of money in this river and go somewhere
8 else.

9

10 MR. BRELSFORD: If I may, Madame Chair, I
11 believe that last point you framed it as a concern to
12 forward to the Department of Fish and Game, this letter
13 was actually characterized as a letter directed to the
14 state director of the BLM. So there may be two -- there
15 may be other things to do but I think one of the things
16 we want to really concentrate on first is wrapping up the
17 contents of this letter to the BLM.

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think -- to me it
20 needs to be written in a letter to BLM in terms of -- it
21 sounds like Kate is talking about coming up with a
22 management scheme but BLM needs to sit down with Kate and
23 make sure that the State and the BLM work together in
24 conservation efforts. But the BLM needs to work with the
25 State in addressing this issue in terms of the number of
26 moose that are taken. So good correspondence and follow
27 through with what the State is doing, I mean I want to
28 see a situation where the State says we're allowing these
29 guys to get three moose. And the feds come up with, oh,
30 we're going to do seven. It needs to be where -- I think
31 what I'm hearing Tom is saying that BLM needs to work
32 with the State. It's critical that they work with the
33 State for conservation efforts. That's what I'm hearing.

34

35 And I believe we can write a letter to
36 Henri Bisson expressing that and encouraging BLM to work
37 with the State on this. It has to be. There's no ifs,
38 ands, about it. It's on the same patch of land except
39 the ownership is a little different. But in working with
40 two different -- having two different management schemes
41 is not going to -- you have to work together and whatever
42 means that it takes or whatever's applicable.

43

44 MR. GRAY: Okay, Madame Chair, the -- I
45 think fish and -- this issue of three animals needs to go
46 to BLM because BLM's the one that's issuing the permits
47 and they need to understand that at this point in the
48 game Fish and Game says there's three animals that can be
49 taken by non-residents. You guys as permit issuers need
50 to address that somehow through whatever process.

1 Okay, let me add to this the -- you guys
2 are issuing permits to guides that, you know, there's
3 concerns here of a animal abundance. And we talked about
4 this issue yesterday about can we limit what we can catch
5 in the permits and this needs to be addressed too because
6 if Fish and Game comes up and does a survey and says we
7 can't justify three animals but we can justify one
8 animal, things are going to change. Or maybe they can
9 justify 20 animals, this is an ongoing thing that's
10 changing all the time.

11
12 In your permit system you don't have the
13 authority to change anything and that needs to be
14 addressed within that permit system. But anyway, I feel
15 it's -- and granted I think there's two letters that need
16 to be written, yes. But on the same token, BLM needs to
17 hear this song and dance because if you don't, you're
18 just issuing permits and issuing stuff and nothing's
19 being addressed here.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think if there's not
22 two letters, if there are no two letters, then a copy
23 should definitely go to the appropriate individuals with
24 ADG&F [sic], including the local management area. Then
25 everybody is aware these are the concerns that were
26 presented by this RAC and they will know that there's
27 going to be correspondence about this from BLM. Does
28 that kind of -- because we'll write a letter to Henri
29 Bisson and then carbon copy to the appropriate person.

30
31 MR. GRAY: Well, I guess, to me it's
32 important that this board corresponds directly with Fish
33 and Game. And if this board is adamant that there's
34 going to be only x-amount of animals taken by non-
35 residents, and I would hope that they would support three
36 animals because Fish and Game is saying three animals.
37 But -- okay, let me finish. But, you know, I think we
38 need to correspond with Fish and Game. We can't just
39 assume that Fish and Game is going to respond just
40 because we write a letter to BLM. So go ahead, Tony.

41
42 MR. GORN: Tom, I just wanted to make
43 sure there wasn't confusion among the RAC here because
44 the number three is becoming very famous the last day.
45 And what we're talking about when we mention the number
46 three is average annual harvest over the last 15 years.
47 And I just felt the need -- I needed to say something
48 because I heard you say several times now that Fish and
49 Game allows three. Well, we're not allowing three but
50 three is what's been taken over the last 15 years except

1 for that small two-year period where there was a spike in
2 the harvest up to six and seven. And that's when we --
3 the Board of Game acted and made the season change from
4 November 1 to December 31.

5
6 So right now it's not a permit system
7 like we have in 22(D) remainder where there's a non-
8 resident registration hunt and we only give out six
9 permits and that's it. So we know there's not going to
10 be more than six permits taken out of 22(D) remainder.
11 In 22(B) East that's not the system right now. 22(B)
12 East is a general season hunt. So really November 1st we
13 could have 50 non-residents show up and hunt moose out of
14 22(B) East and take a pile of legal 50-inch moose and,
15 you know, we wouldn't know about it until this spring
16 when they have to report under the general hunt reporting
17 system.

18
19 It's just that throughout the history of
20 harvest in 22(D) remainder there's never been that much
21 hunting pressure. There's never been that much harvest.
22 So when we look back at the annual non-resident harvest
23 out of 22(B) East it just happens to be three. But I
24 don't want there to be any confusion that right now Fish
25 and Game is limiting the harvest in 22(B) East to be
26 three moose. It's just what we've seen happen in recent
27 years.

28
29 MR. GRAY: Tell me this, is there a way
30 that we can manage how many animals are taken out of this
31 area in this fall hunt that's coming up? Is there a way
32 that Fish and Game can say we're going to shut it down at
33 x-amount of animals by emergency order or something so
34 this moose population doesn't get hammered?

35
36 MR. GORN: This fall under the current
37 hunting system it's going to be a wait and see situation.
38 Right now the non-residents are hunting under the green
39 harvest ticket and the reporting period comes at the end
40 of the year. So we won't know.

41
42 So, you know, basically in Unit 22 we
43 kind of spend our time responding to emergencies in sub-
44 units. And that's what sets up what our sense of cycle
45 is, where we do composition surveys. And in 22(B) East
46 for decades there's just -- it's been a low harvest area.
47 It's big country. There's not a lot of moose being taken
48 out of that area so it -- it just hasn't been given the
49 same attention like 22(B) West where there's a lot more
50 hunting pressure. And right now the moose population is

1 just at higher demand and it's higher profile.

2

3 So in 22(B) East that's why we don't have
4 years and years of census data because there hasn't been
5 a need to go out there and collect the data. And then
6 those events happening year after year have led us into
7 this current management strategy and the current hunting
8 system that we're in. You know, that's why we still hunt
9 with the green harvest tickets out there and have the
10 longer seasons.

11

12 So to answer your question, you know, can
13 the State shut down the season this year; we can't
14 because we won't know what the harvest is until well
15 after the season has ended. But come this spring, you
16 know, if suddenly we've seen 15 non-resident moose were
17 harvested this fall, you know, that can be addressed at
18 next year's Board and Game meeting.

19

20 MR. GRAY: There's no way of making the
21 guides report to you as time goes on to -- so they
22 themselves are self regulating and then you take that
23 information and make management decisions?

24

25 MR. GORN: Not under the current system.
26 You know, and in 22(D) remainder we -- you know, we just
27 responded to this in 2001. We saw this -- over the last
28 several years we saw an increase in harvest every year.
29 We saw increased guiding. So we responded to that by
30 creating a non-resident registration hunt.

31

32 So now we have a hunt in place that the
33 guides and the hunters if they want to hunt there, they
34 have to hunt within these hunt conditions, which includes
35 a reporting period. And, I mean, you know, you're
36 familiar with all these different hunt conditions. But
37 that's not set up in 22(B) East right now because it's
38 never needed to be.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was going to say
41 that it's just one of those situations that we saw that
42 happened with our fishing situation. When the abundance
43 of one game or maybe species of fish is disappearing in
44 one area, wherever it's more liberal people have a
45 tendency to go over there and start depleting that area
46 too, possibly deplete that area. So I guess I was going
47 to ask whether or not can two letters be written or one
48 letter? Tom wants to see two letters.

49

50 MR. GRAY: Well, you know, we're

1 addressing an issue that is multi-agencies. I mean
2 there's the State -- you know, the State of Alaska should
3 be carbon copied, land -- all the land managers.
4 Everybody should be so everybody's made -- they
5 understand what's going on. But I especially think if
6 this board is addressing animals that can be shot out of
7 a unit, we should be talking to Fish and Game, the people
8 that manage the resource. And we should be talking to
9 the land managers. And if we're not, we're leaving
10 somebody out of the loop that needs to be in that loop.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think in the letter
13 to Bisson that can be strongly emphasized that there --
14 the correspondence between the State and all the land
15 managers have to continue and they have to cooperate with
16 one another and they need to work with one another in
17 order to resolve the situation. Like the moose numbers
18 need to be counted. I mean we have to know the numbers
19 in order to make effective decisions or recommendations.

20
21 MR. GRAY: But we're talking about two
22 different issues. Fish and Game is talking about a
23 resource that we're managing. And the letter that goes
24 to Fish and Game should be addressing that resource. The
25 letter to BLM is talking about a permit system that we're
26 addressing. And it should be talking about -- even
27 though the information is the same, there's two different
28 issues here that are being addressed. And, you know, I
29 don't think it's going to hurt to send two different, you
30 know, letters to the two different agencies.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Jake.

33
34 MR. OLANNA: I have a quick one, Tom.
35 When you're referencing BLM are you asking that -- do
36 they have -- first of all, do they have any current non-
37 subsistence harvest permits in BLM lands that we're
38 talking about? Do they issue any type? I don't think
39 so. I mean are you asking for a permit to take game out
40 of that? I didn't think so.

41
42 MR. GRAY: The -- this board is saying no
43 non-resident hunting on BLM lands, okay. I am saying
44 leave that alone and let's let the guides take x-amount
45 of animals off of non -- or out of the whole unit,
46 whether it's non-resident or resident. I'm sorry, the
47 non-residents can take animals whether it's State or
48 Federal lands. Leave it alone. Let's cap off how many
49 animals they can -- they can do, take out of there. It
50 sounds to me right now like we don't -- we're going to

1 have to wait and see. I mean everything's kind of up in
2 the air right now.

3
4 But down the road -- you know, a meeting
5 or two down the road the infrastructure can be put in
6 place. And, you know, I think the non-residents coming
7 into an area and taking animals out of an area should be
8 set up on a percentage, some kind of a percentage so
9 we're not arguing about these numbers. You know,
10 subsistence has to have their rights, non-residents,
11 residents. But I guess I have to argue. Because I act
12 on behalf of the guides I've got to argue the point of
13 kicking them off of BLM lands. And that's what I'm
14 trying to be careful here. Let's not slam the door in
15 BLM -- on BLM lands. Let's make good decisions from good
16 information. And right now I don't think we have it.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Roy.

19
20 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter,
21 general public. The BLM policy is out of step. The cart
22 is before the horse. The permitting they're doing that
23 doesn't go to Department of Fish and Game, doesn't go to
24 the AC's, doesn't go to the RAC. They just issue a
25 permit, period. And then the end result is this right
26 here. You have a confusion about census, about moose,
27 about whatever they're trying to do. Their process is
28 wrong. They're lumping commercial and sport with
29 recreational. You put two campers out there in
30 Shaktoolik area for 10 years and the impact is going to
31 be nothing. All they got to do is take out the trash
32 they put in there for 10 years. You put two guides out
33 there for 10 years in the Shaktoolik river, the impact's
34 going to be serious.

35
36 So they're not -- they're not following
37 -- they're guiding. Their process, their permitting
38 system is not very well set up. They need to set up a
39 system where they're -- when a guide asks for a permit it
40 goes through the Department of Fish and Game. It goes to
41 the advisory committees. It goes to the RAC. It goes to
42 the village corporation. It goes to the very owners of
43 the land in there. It goes to the State of Alaska
44 because of their accessing to get to these areas.
45 They're impacting everyone else in between.

46
47 So at the very minimum their process to
48 issue a guide permit should at least take two years.
49 Because you don't -- in this situation, an example at
50 Shaktoolik, they don't have any census for the impact

1 that they're causing in the moose population. That's
2 going to take at least a year to figure that out. You
3 just heard that from the department. They don't have any
4 -- they don't have any numbers there. They have to wait
5 until the hunting season is over. Then they go and do a
6 census after the hunt to find out whether or not the
7 moose population is affected by this process or not. So
8 BLM is really out of step in their processing for guides.
9 You know, they're -- you know, it's very obvious here
10 that they're -- you know, that they need to look at what
11 they're doing very seriously.

12
13 MR. GRAY: You know, Roy, I guess on
14 behalf of the guides I think you're right. The process
15 to -- I got a permit and, you know, it's just a simple
16 formality to get it. It is very simple. And there's --
17 you know, I come from a village and I'm real sympathetic
18 to Myron because I know what can happen. You know, we --
19 our moose area just crashed and everybody wants to blame
20 the bears but I blame everything. People, guides,
21 everybody was a factor in it. Bears may have been the
22 bigger factor but, you know, I saw the crash. And I --
23 it's going to come with -- down there if there's no --
24 nothing is done. And that's why I'm being an advocate to
25 having a certain amount of animals being taken. If
26 there's a history of a certain amount of animals, leave
27 that alone. I wish there was a way that we could -- to
28 stop these two permits from taking moose. I mean leave
29 everything alone. Just don't -- they can't take moose
30 until -- until surveys are done and you can justify that
31 there's animals there.

32
33 But the simple fact comes down to -- and
34 this is why I say -- I just mention percentages, the
35 simple fact is guides are going to come in and rape this
36 land if you let them. BLM, when you issue a permit
37 that's giving them the right to come in and just clobber
38 our resource. And there's some of us that want to manage
39 that resource and have it for our kids. And there's
40 other guys they want to go to the Bahamas every winter
41 and sit on their fannies with a pocketful of money. Some
42 of us -- you know, it's not right. So somehow we need to
43 fix the system. And whether it's through a series of
44 meetings or whatever, you know, I feel bad that this
45 process has gone this far. And these guys have open
46 ticket now for November and December to just shoot the
47 heck out of the moose in this drainage.

48
49 And, you know, Fish and Game has already
50 said we're going to wait and see. You know, and that's

1 not really fair to Fish and Game themselves. I mean they
2 themselves are trying to manage a resource that a couple
3 of guides are going to come up and just whack the heck
4 out of them. That's not right either. So, anyway, Roy,
5 I agree. The process needs to be more streamlined. You
6 know, we need a better system. And that -- this is why I
7 keep crying work with the local guides. Work because
8 we're the guys that are going to be here 20, 30 years
9 from now trying to make a living.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Communication just
12 totally failing this. Even when -- I was really bothered
13 by the decision that was made specifically on this part
14 was that none of the petitions specifically address any
15 of the criteria set forth above. That's none of the
16 appellants has satisfied its burden or showing that a
17 stay of BLM decision is warranted. The arguments that
18 were presented by the communities that were affected by
19 it were not under the guidelines that would have provided
20 the stay. And I don't know where that communication
21 problem occurred either between BLM and the two affected
22 communities.

23

24 It seems to me if the stay was properly
25 done, there's a possibility a stay would have -- I mean
26 we wouldn't be at this position. So one of the problems
27 I see is the communication problem between people that
28 are going to be affected by it and the people who is
29 going to make decisions is going to impact our wildlife.

30

31 Taylor, do you got anything else on the
32 issues we have?

33

34 MR. BRELSFORD: I understood from your
35 summary of some of the first points in discussion, Grace,
36 that you would like an element as number six on this that
37 encourages close coordination with ADF&G on the harvest
38 management. You redirected Tom's comments about three
39 animals and suggested that for the purpose of the BLM
40 letter the key point is you're urging the BLM to closely
41 coordinate with ADF&G. I understood that the letter
42 should emphasize the importance of a moose count.

43

44 MR. GRAY: I'm sorry, you guys should be
45 issuing permits on good information. You got to have
46 moose counts, bear counts. And I realize this is hard to
47 get. But if things go the way they're going, and I was
48 talking to a fellow there, he said down in other areas
49 you got a 100 and some guides in one unit, hundred and
50 some guides. How in the world can that resource rebound

1 from 150 guides in an area? This unit definitely isn't
2 going to. There is no way that our resource could handle
3 that.

4
5 So you've got to set some parameters. So
6 you got to issue permits on good information. If you
7 don't, you're going to be wiping out our resource just
8 like you're starting to do here.
9 And you can say, well, it's Fish and Game that allocates
10 and manages the animals. But it's you that's issuing the
11 permits that is starting the ball game here.

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think this is one of
14 the situations where some of the proposals this council
15 has worked on affected statewide. And we've always
16 deferred to on many occasions saying that this needs to
17 be handled region by region, such as the selling of bear
18 hides. It's one of the situations each of the regions
19 are so different from one another.

20
21 We're -- in our region we have this
22 problem with moose. If these things were handled region
23 by region, taking everything into consideration we would
24 have avoided this. Maybe it's something that needs to be
25 looked at with the BLM when you're talking about your
26 management scheme is to begin -- one of the issues you
27 need to look at, we need to be issuing these permits
28 given what's happening region by region, by game unit by
29 game unit. Not cover the whole ding-dang State as one --
30 with one policy but to look at each individual area.
31 Forget about what's happening in Yukon River. The issue
32 is this specific region at a specific site area and look
33 at that instead of a blanket overall cover.

34
35 If this had happened that way, I'm sure
36 we maybe wouldn't even be discussing this. But I'm going
37 to lecture now. But does any of the other RAC's have
38 something to add to it?

39
40 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Myron.

43
44 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair, Myron
45 Savetilik. I know when the last few hours yesterday and
46 this morning, I'm just hearing run arounds and run
47 arounds and we can do this, we can do that. And the
48 process that we need to go through is like I said earlier
49 with just letter writing and keeping contact with the
50 agency that are -- that are with this -- you know, with

1 this thing that we're going through. I mean we can talk
2 all morning and we can go issue by issue and this and
3 that. We still get the run around. We need to make
4 clear that letters are written. This is what we need to
5 do. We can't say this -- you know, we can say this. We
6 can say that. And we've got boundaries too, you know.
7 And it's going to go like that.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So we'll get the
10 letters going and Tom desires to have another letter
11 written to the State. Roy.

12

13 MR. ASHENFELTER: I'll make this real
14 quick. Roy Ashenfelter, general public. I just asked
15 one of the BLM people if they're required to do an EA.
16 They told me their EA process is way out of whack. In an
17 environmental assessment you're supposed to -- in most
18 cases you're supposed to notify all agencies, all
19 personnel, the general public, the -- you're supposed to
20 notify them and the impact you're going to have. And the
21 results is is that printout is supposed to be available
22 and is supposed to identify what -- what is going to
23 happen within that EA, who's affected and if it's not
24 even affected at all.

25

26 So one of the things that's going to be
27 required here is how is the EA done and that should be
28 available in this letter too. So that you can -- we can
29 get an understanding of what type of process they use to
30 get people's input into the process so that this
31 permitting thing is not just a letter from a guide to
32 them and then they send out a general notice to nobody
33 and then they issue the permit. That's not doing the EA
34 correctly. So one of the things I would recommend in the
35 letter is making sure that the EA, well, whatever process
36 they're going to use, that is followed in a more
37 comprehensive manner.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay, it
40 looks like we'll have the letter drafted and they can --
41 I guess we will definitely go through -- I was kind of
42 avoiding -- I was kind of hoping that we would avoid
43 having it -- the draft sent to each of the RAC members,
44 that we would come up with a consensus, yes, this is the
45 way the letter's going to be. But I don't think that's
46 going -- are you comfortable?

47

48 MR. GRAY: I'm comfortable with that.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. So we'll get a

1 letter drafted. So that will be in the works and then
2 we're going to go and move on from here. So the next --
3 we're now going to agency reports, Office of Subsistence
4 Management, OMS [sic] on their agency reports.

5
6 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tim.

9
10 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, Tim
11 Jennings, with Office of Subsistence Management. You'll
12 see that in your council books there are several written
13 briefings. One on predator management policy, the
14 Federal Board; one on correspondence, one on committee
15 participation, on Federal subsistence board committees,
16 and finally one on subsistence use amounts. These are
17 written briefings. If you have any particular questions
18 about any of these, I can address that or there's other
19 staff here that could also address some of these issues
20 if you have questions.

21
22 So I'll stop here in the interest of time
23 and see if you have any questions on any of these four
24 written briefings.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The predator
27 management policy, we had looked at it before it was
28 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board. The region
29 advisor council briefing and council correspondence is
30 new. It was just developed last winter. The briefing in
31 the council correspondence policy, that's something very
32 new. So we had -- I don't -- and I think all that kind
33 of flow in together. And subsistence use amount is also
34 pretty new.

35
36 Any questions or comments for -- on these
37 issues.

38
39 MR. GRAY: Is there anything in
40 these new policies that we should be looking closely at,
41 any changes or something that could affect this group?

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The one on the council
44 correspondence is just setting up policy and what's
45 already written in FACA because we are a FACA council.
46 So pretty much the so called new policy, my
47 understanding, it's just reiterating what is already in
48 Federal Advisory Committee Act. And it's -- even before
49 this happened the majority of the way things were done
50 were already followed. There were some objections.

1 There were some problems that occurred not out of this
2 council but through different regions. And it has never
3 really impede us any way with -- these things were
4 already in place pretty much. We just followed them
5 along. It's never impeded our correspondence.

6
7 And I can't recall if it's -- it's never
8 been an issue on correspondence for our region. So even
9 if it's new, it's something that even if it's you need to
10 bring your coat, it's something that this council has
11 always followed. So in my opinion, this is my own
12 personal opinion, it doesn't impede anything we do.
13 We've always followed this procedure even though it
14 wasn't written. It was just understood. Now it's in
15 writing. It's called new written policy, new
16 correspondence policy. But there are -- there is general
17 objections to it from different councils. Unless we --
18 you know, if there's something in there that we need to
19 be concerned about, we can have it re-looked at or get
20 more information on it.

21
22 Tim.

23
24 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, Tim
25 Jennings. You're correct. The subsistence board
26 clarified its policy on predator management. That's been
27 before this council several times previously. There's
28 really not any new information there. Predator
29 management policy wasn't a big issue in this region.

30
31 Moving on to the correspondence, I think
32 you summarized that very well in that it basically puts
33 in writing what has already been the practice and hasn't
34 affected this council's correspondence.

35
36 The participation on committees, the key
37 point there is that the board on these key protocols and
38 important issues, whether it has previously been
39 committee participation by council members, the board
40 will continue to come through the council meeting process
41 to gain council input on important issues prior to the
42 board themselves making a decision. So I don't really
43 see that as dramatically changing the council's voice in
44 input in these decisions that are -- will be coming on,
45 say, Fed, State protocols or rural determinations or
46 other important issues. Those will come back before the
47 councils at the appropriate meetings when they are ready
48 for further discussion and prior to board decision.

49
50 And then the subsistence use amounts,

1 it's just an update that that continues to be a topic
2 area of mutual interest between the State and the Federal
3 program. Glenn Chen here from BIA is a member on that
4 protocol group. And I don't know if Glenn has anything
5 else he'd like to add in terms of new information that's
6 not in the briefing already. But if so, this would be
7 the opportunity for Glenn to do so.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And what I anticipate
10 on the Regional Advisory Council briefing, which is on
11 Page 50 on participating on Federal Subsistence Board
12 committees, I imagine that's going to be a hot topic.
13 From what I understand there's already a bit of
14 opposition to it.

15

16 It used to be that when there's a working
17 committee on protocols that a council member, either a
18 chair designee or a volunteer, would participate as this
19 committee went on. They're taking that council member
20 out and just go back to where it was before, which was
21 protocols are made. They're brought to the council. We
22 do -- we review them. We give our input and it really
23 doesn't happen -- it happens more than once most of the
24 time, you know. And then you make a comment in the final
25 -- final product that comes out of that committee and you
26 still have an opportunity to object to it when it comes
27 to the Federal Subsistence Board.

28

29 My experience has been with the Federal
30 Subsistence Board if there's enough disagreement it is
31 sent back to the committee that originally worked on it
32 to see if something more workable would be done. I don't
33 know what the other arguments will be regarding this --
34 this participation on Federal Subsistence Board
35 commissions.

36

37 The next board meeting I'm sure we'll
38 hear a lot about what the other regions object to. And
39 so I kind of want you to read number 50 and then see if
40 we have any comments on it. But there was a period in
41 time when this was requested that council members
42 participate on Federal Subsistence Board committees that
43 were set up to address certain things. So council
44 members were able to do that. Now that's not -- that's
45 not going to happen anymore and it -- again, it has to do
46 with FACA.

47

48 So if we have any comments, I think it's
49 very important we bring in our comments on this one if
50 you have anything to say about it. I think the part

1 where it says we'll continue without participation of the
2 regional advisory council members is kind of misleading
3 because the Regional Advisory Council will participate
4 throughout this process when products are brought to the
5 council and we review them and make our comments,
6 suggestions, objections at that point. And then it's
7 sent back to the committee and we will have an input in
8 the final product. And if we still disagree with that,
9 we'll bring it up to the board. So that part is like --
10 to me it's kind of a little misleading or could be
11 misunderstood. Anyone have any comments, anything else
12 on the subsistence use protocols? Like you said it's an
13 ongoing project and I'm sure we're going to be seeing
14 more of it.

15

16 Questions or comments.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Go ahead.

21

22 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
23 Glenn Chen from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The
24 written briefing on Page 51 does capture what the current
25 progress and the purpose of this particular MOA protocol
26 is about, subsistence use amounts. And the desire is to
27 create analogous protocol similar to what the State has.
28 The State has what's called amounts necessary for
29 subsistence ANS. And the Federal program would like to
30 develop an SUA, or subsistence use amounts, protocol for
31 determining what people need for harvest of fish and
32 wildlife.

33

34 There is a error though in the briefing.
35 And if you look down on I believe it is the third
36 paragraph, and, Grace, it pertains to what you just
37 mentioned. And that is the briefing says that regional
38 council members are part of this sub-committee and that
39 is incorrect as you pointed out, Ms. Cross. There is no
40 council members on this particular committee. So that
41 needs to be struck from this briefing.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think this is
44 something that we really need to be watching on the
45 subsistence use amounts protocol that's going to be
46 developed. I don't know who exactly is going to
47 determine how much subsistence use that I need. But I
48 really have some concerns about this one.

49

50 MR. GRAY: Well, and I'm not too sure of

1 how this committee was set up. It surprises me they've
2 got a fellow sitting on the subsistence committee that's
3 from overseas and not from White Mountain or somewhere
4 else. But, you know, subsistence has always been here
5 and the needs are, how can I say this, dependent on the
6 resource and how much resource is available. And, for
7 example, in my town you take silver salmon, there's -- we
8 could wipe out every silver in that river and still not
9 meet the needs of the people. And that's moose and
10 that's -- we can go on and on.

11

12 So how these limits and numbers are put
13 together, you know, they need to roll with what the
14 resource is doing also. But, you know, I think it's
15 important that if a board is making recommendations on
16 subsistence needs, they should have subsistence users
17 involved in this board. You have no idea what it's like
18 to go cut 200, 500 -- my family cut 500 dry fish and hung
19 them this summer. And you don't realize how important
20 that is. And I would imagine this board is made up of
21 people that are in the same boat that you are.

22

23 So I would strongly suggest that maybe
24 you -- your board somehow incorporate subsistence users
25 or somehow get a infrastructure so you interview people
26 so you understand subsistence. And, you know, what my
27 community uses for subsistence is going to be different
28 than the Yukon River. And it's going to change as you go
29 across the state. So you can't just put a platform, this
30 is subsistence.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think that once we
33 get the product and a draft to this committee then we
34 know what's on it and then we would be talking about it
35 and making our recommendations, comments. Once we get
36 the product out of this one. Usually what happens a
37 draft is sent and presented to the RACs and then we
38 review the draft. We make our comments. We make --
39 critique it if we want to and make recommendations.

40

41 And, like I say, it's not just one
42 process. The draft goes -- we may see many drafts come
43 out of this. Sometimes we don't see just one draft. We
44 see two or three because of objections from different
45 councils or recommendations we've done over again. And
46 then at some point, I mean usually about a year or two or
47 more, then something called a final draft comes in to
48 finalize and have time to do the same thing you did
49 before. If you still have objections, it goes to the
50 board. Then you present your objections.

1 So really no action is closer is what I'm
2 saying. So go ahead.

3
4 MR. CHEN: Mr. Gray, thank you very much
5 for your comments and your viewpoints. I think this
6 committee is very concerned about making sure that we get
7 local involvement, that we don't want to create
8 subsistence use amount numbers or values without local
9 information. We're still working through the process by
10 which how we drive these numbers and what the sources of
11 information are. But you can be assured that we
12 will definitely involve local groups, local communities,
13 villages and councils as we develop the numbers but also
14 in the development and review of these numbers as they
15 progress. But I think your concerns are very much
16 appreciated by the committee.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions or
19 comments.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Kyle Joly,
24 BLM.

25
26 MR. JOLY: Madame Chair, haven't had
27 enough of BLM today yet. Madame Chair, Council, I'm Kyle
28 Joly. I'm a wildlife biologist with the Bureau of Land
29 Management northern field office. I'm going to try and
30 keep this short. I have some handouts for you. The
31 Bureau of Land Management is going under some
32 realignments. I've taken over Jeanie Cole's
33 responsibilities. Jeanie's going to be working on a
34 resource management plan for the Kobuk, Seward area.

35
36 Another change that's happening is that
37 the southern Seward peninsula, Unit 22, is going to be
38 moving under the management of the Anchorage field
39 office. It's now currently under the northern field
40 office in Fairbanks. For the current year moose and musk
41 ox hunts will still be run through me. There's currently
42 hunts going on through March 2005. After that the hunts
43 will be administered through the Anchorage office and the
44 contact will be Jeff Denton.

45
46 If you have any questions on the
47 realignments, you can contact me and I'll get back to
48 you. As I said, Jeanie Cole is working on the resource
49 management plan. The scoping period has been completed
50 and reports summarizing the results is now available on

1 our web site. And I've listed the web site.

2

3

4 Some of the issues that were raised in
5 the scoping were management of recreational use of BLM
6 lands, management of the western arctic herd and
7 providing access to transportation corridors, minerals
8 and subsistence resources.

8

9

10 You can continue to provide comment to
11 the period -- to the plan as long as the draft is ongoing
12 and we don't expect to be done with the draft until
13 October of 2005. Jeanie appreciates written comments.
14 It's easier to incorporate into the plan if you send her
15 written comments but you can also contact her by phone as
16 well. I've given you her contact information.

16

17

18 Summer of 2004 was a busy year for BLM
19 fisheries. It's the 10th consecutive year for
20 cooperative salmon restoration project with Fish and Game
21 and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. BLM
22 counted smelts and returning adults from June 9th to July
23 25th. They also conducted lake manolgy (ph) and stream
24 hydrology work. The sockeye escapement was a record at
25 Glacial Lake. Also at Salmon Lake there was a record
26 return of 85,000 reds this past summer.

26

27

28 The fertilization of Salmon Lake occurred
29 in order to feed the progeny of the 43,000 salmon that
30 returned in 2003. The Bureau of Land Management and Fish
31 and Game provide the manpower to apply the fertilizer and
32 there'll be no need for fertilization in 2005. The BLM,
33 Fish and Game and Norton Sound Economic Development
34 Corporation will meet again to try and continue the
35 success story.

35

36

37 Just about a week ago the Bureau of Land
38 Management, Tom Sparks, and the fisheries biologist, Dave
39 Parker, went out to the Agiapuk and American rivers to
40 look at spawning grounds. The spawning grounds were
41 primarily in the American River above the Federal lands.
42 They also saw very few coho.

42

43

44 And, lastly, arctic char found in the
45 Kigalaik Mountains have been named to the BLM sensitive
46 species due to their genetic uniqueness, small
47 populations and isolated habitats. The BLM performed
48 population dynamic studies in order to determine if
49 populations were increasing, decreasing or remain stable.

49

50

The other issues that I had listed on the

1 handout, moose, SRPs and the update on the appeals, I
2 think we've covered.

3
4 Is there any questions from the board?

5
6 MR. GRAY: This is Tom Gray. You operate
7 out of Anchorage?

8
9 MR. JOLY: No, that's incorrect. I'm in
10 Fairbanks.

11
12 MR. GRAY: Okay. And you're going to
13 stay in Fairbanks?

14
15 MR. JOLY: I'm going to -- well, we'll
16 see about that.

17
18 MR. GRAY: Okay.

19
20 MR. JOLY: The plan is I'm going to be
21 staying in Fairbanks.

22
23 MR. GRAY: You mentioned that management
24 of the Seward peninsula is going to Anchorage. So you're
25 not going to be managing this in the end or what's going
26 on here?

27
28 MR. JOLY: It's in a state of transition.
29 The end result will be that the Anchorage field office
30 will be managing the southern Seward peninsula, unit 22.
31 So whether -- right now that's Jeff Denton. There may be
32 additional staff requirements with this realignment and
33 whether or not I'm part of that is undetermined at this
34 point. This current year is going to be a transition
35 year where I'll still be the main contact.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And where does Tom
38 Sparks fit in?

39
40 MR. JOLY: Tom will be staying here in
41 Nome and he will be under the management of the Anchorage
42 field office.

43
44 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter. I
45 have a question for you, these SRPs that we've been
46 talking about for the last several hours, is there a
47 requirement that they contact you in terms of what the
48 impacts might be in issuing an SRP anywhere in the State
49 of Alaska?

50

1 MR. JOLY: I guess I'd defer that to Tom.

2

3 MR. ASHENFELTER: The question is on
4 these SRPs that are issued what type of response do they
5 require from you in terms of issuing these SRPs, for
6 example, guiding?

7

8 MR. SPARKS: The bureau gives out --
9 they're commercial recreation permits. There are special
10 recreation permits that are issued and there's an
11 application procedure. It's a one-page application.
12 Once the bureau receives that application a NEPA analysis
13 is done. Normally it's an environmental assessment
14 rather than a full-blown environmental impact statement.
15 Just because generally the impacts are quite low.

16

17 It's a minimum of 180 days as far as the
18 bureau's ability to kick out a permit. Sometimes it's
19 less than that. But in regulation we have up to 180 days
20 to process an application. There are fees associated
21 with the permit. It's three percent of gross for a
22 guide. The other type of requirements, there can be
23 general requirements that are standard in each permit,
24 insurance requirements. Insurance is \$30,000 for
25 property damage, \$300,000 for injury and 600,000
26 aggregate. That is required in all permittees.

27

28 And there's also other permit
29 stipulations that can be added through the environmental
30 assessment that's done. Does that answer your question,
31 Roy?

32

33 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yep.

34

35 MR. SPARKS: Okay.

36

37 MR. ASHENFELTER: I have a response.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay.

40

41 MR. ASHENFELTER: Again, this is Roy
42 Ashenfelter. Again, you know, I'm kind of harping on
43 this SRP thing because it's really something that needs
44 to be brought up and processed by BLM. 180 days is not
45 very long. If you -- if a guide asks for a permit in
46 January and he's given a permit by April, there's hardly
47 any information about the impact that guide can receive.
48 If they send out a notice to the Department of Fish and
49 Game, if they send out a notice to the village and
50 regional corporation where the permit's being asked to be

1 -- to be guided in, it would be hardly time enough for
2 those resources to respond back. If in this case moose
3 were the -- an EA is done, they would say we are putting
4 guides in this area, what's the impact going to be on the
5 resources if the guide is applying for a moose and bear
6 hunt there? 180 days is not going to -- you're not going
7 to get a response from the department. Number one, they
8 don't have a census of the moose population. So
9 therefore they can't give you an answer. Why would you
10 -- why would BLM then issue a permit if it doesn't have
11 information that would support the impact that they're
12 required to do in their analysis and their EA?

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think one of the
15 things that we're going to really need to do is to impact
16 the Bureau of Land Management, BLM's land use plan that's
17 being developed. We need to express from different
18 entities from within a region what our concerns are
19 regarding the SRCs. And we need to have good impact on
20 it.

21

22 And one of the things that I would like
23 to see, which I mentioned when we picked up our topic, is
24 we need to get educated in the permit system. So one of
25 the things I'll be requesting for our meeting next year
26 is for somebody from BLM to talk about that in our next
27 meeting. So we're a little more educated than having to
28 learn things at the last minute. And you -- we are going
29 to be requesting in a letter how -- from BLM how -- maybe
30 a condensed version of this, where did all these come
31 from and how are things decided. That will be in the
32 letter. Anything else for Mr. Joly?

33

34 MR. GRAY: I'd like BLM to answer Roy's
35 question.

36

37 MR. SPARKS: Well, the 180 days is a
38 minimum. Say like when you apply, we have 180 days
39 minimum. Now we can take as long as we want on the
40 environmental assessment but it's a minimum of 180 days.
41 So if it takes longer, we can. Generally we do involve
42 the State. We post all of our NEPA registry on line so
43 that people have access to that and can comment on it.

44

45 I personally feel that there's some more
46 work that could be done in terms of reaching out. In
47 this particular case we did involve the local tribes in
48 the affected area. And, you know, I think that there's
49 some concerns that we have to address that's been brought
50 up. And I really thank the council for bringing those

1 up. It will help us.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Anything
4 else for BLM.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do you have anything
9 further?
10
11 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I just want to reiterate
12 that, you know, going through the Seward -- the Kobuk,
13 Seward peninsula plan is a good way to address these
14 issues, not only through the RAC and general public
15 comments but other user groups such as guiders.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Shall we
18 begin with BLM? No. Elmer.
19
20 MR. SEETOT: When you were talking about
21 special recreational permits, is that just only covering
22 guiding activities?
23
24 MR. SPARKS: No. It's any commercial use
25 on Federal public lands. And there's definitions in the
26 Federal registered notice there. I gave Grace a copy of
27 that this morning when we had an informal get together.
28 But there are definitions of what a commercial user is.
29 But in simplistic terms if you're making money on Federal
30 public lands and somebody's giving you money, you're
31 required to get a permit.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So maybe as a
34 beginning before I say thank you, can you mail a copy of
35 this to each RAC member so they could review it at their
36 leisure? Some of them will be answered. Maybe we'll
37 come up with more questions. So just this section.
38
39 MR. SPARKS: Absolutely.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. And Barb
42 Armstrong has all our addresses. Anything further with
43 BLM.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you guys.
48
49 MR. SPARKS: Thank you very much.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Somebody from ADG&F I
2 think is now going to be here.
3
4 MR. OLANNA: Can we take a break?
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, okay. There's a
7 request for a break. We'll take a break, 10 minutes.
8
9 (Off record)
10
11 (On record)
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, let's get back
14 in our seats so we can move on along and hopefully finish
15 by noon. We were with ADG&F -- ADF&G.
16
17 MR. GORN: All right. Thanks, Madame
18 Chair. Once again this year for the department report
19 you're stuck with the lowly assistant down the street.
20 I'll kind of pick up where Kate left off yesterday
21 talking about Unit 22(B) moose issues. The last notable
22 topic with moose this year in Unit 22 is that we're going
23 to reinvestigate and take another look at moose seasons
24 in Unit 22(A). That was a hot topic at the 2001 Board
25 and Game meeting. And those will be looked at again this
26 year.
27
28 For field projects for moose this year
29 we're going to do a census in Unit 22(A) again and then
30 we have fall composition surveys in Unit 22(B) West. So
31 that would be the Niukluk and Fish rivers. And then
32 22(C) and 22(D). So that pretty much just wraps up the
33 moose end of what we did last year.
34
35 During March of 2004 -- or I should make
36 a note that I think everyone has a copy of this. I
37 handed it out yesterday. During March of 2004 we
38 recorded locations of all the muskox groups seen during
39 our last moose census in Unit 22(B) and (C), which we
40 completed last year. In April we relocated 14 groups in
41 Unit 22(B) and classified 236 muskoxen by age and sex.
42 This was not a complete count of muskoxen in Unit 22(B).
43
44 However we did classify 25 percent more
45 muskox than were counted in the 2002 census. So that
46 shows a minimum annual growth rate of 12 and a half
47 percent in the area. All younger age classes were well
48 represented, which is characteristic of growing
49 populations and yearlings, two year olds and three year
50 olds, were found in similar proportions to what we found

1 in 2002.

2

3

4 In Unit 22(C) we found 16 groups of
5 animals and classified 212 muskoxen. Only eight percent
6 of the muskoxen classified were yearlings and that's down
7 from 19 percent in 2002. The proportion of two year olds
8 was also down slightly from 18 percent in 2002 to 13
9 percent. If the recruitment rate in Unit 22(C) remains
10 low, it will be important to determine whether calves are
11 being born or not, which could indicate whether habitat
12 or other factors are responsible.

12

13

14 We are planning a spring muskox census of
15 the entire Seward Peninsula this spring in cooperation
16 with BLM, the Parks Service and the Fish and Wildlife
17 Service. Following the census a muskox cooperative
18 meeting will be scheduled to develop proposals for
19 changes to State and Federal muskox regulations. And
20 this is really kind of a high profile project for us this
21 year is addressing the muskox population in Unit 22. I
22 suspect that we're going to have several muskox proposals
23 at next year's Board of Game meeting.

23

24

25 Moving on to brown bears, for an interest
26 in time I won't go through the numbers in front of you
27 except just to say that this year's reported brown bear
28 harvest in Unit 22 is 30, which for the time of year is
29 about average. Last year we had all time high of 64
30 bears taken in the fall time. But 30 at this time of
31 year is about more what we see every year. The majority
32 of the spring harvest has consistently been males. And
33 annual harvest has averaged about 65 percent male bears.
34 So that's pretty normal for Unit 22.

34

35

36 The last topic that I can talk about for
37 Unit 22 is what we've been doing in the world of caribou.
38 Aerial photography for Western Arctic herd photo census
39 was completed in July of 2003. And then we finished
40 counting photographs from that census by March of 2004.
41 The minimum population estimate from the census for the
42 Western Arctic herd is now 490,000 caribou. So the herd
43 continues to thrive and flourish. And on all accounts
44 when you look at the population dynamics it appears to be
45 doing very well.

45

46

47 And lastly, it's the time of year where
48 caribou are moving south and for the second consecutive
49 year it appear that they're moving very slowly. We just
50 got back from Onion Portage where we put on our new
satellite and radio collars the first week of September

1 and it was one of the most difficult projects we've had
2 up there just because there was low numbers of caribou.
3 But as we all know, this time of year they can really put
4 their heads down and cover some ground when they decide
5 to. So we'll see where they end up this winter. That's
6 all I had from the Nome office.

7

8

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Tom.

9

10 MR. GRAY: Going back to Unit 22(C) and
11 the moose, I wasn't really paying attention when you were
12 talking but I do know there's a cow hunt there. And
13 because I represent the guides and yada, yada, yada, I
14 think the question needs to be asked is there a
15 possibility that we can open up, let's say, to a
16 registration hunt so the guides can take a certain amount
17 of animals out of 22(C).

18

19 And I guess the reason I'm asking this is nowhere
20 on the Seward Peninsula are you shooting cows anywhere
21 else. And it just doesn't make sense that if you're at
22 the point that you can shoot cows, surely there's extra
23 animals around I guess. And, you know, we can talk
24 about, well, every animal that is allocated as being shot
25 but still when you shoot a cow you're shooting two
26 animals. And, anyway, what can we do to open up a non-
27 resident registration hunt so guides can take a few of
28 these animals?

29

30 MR. GORN: Okay, well, I heard a couple
31 questions in your question. First of all, right now non-
32 residents can take moose out of Unit 22(C). So it's a
33 general season hunt. It's the same type of hunt in Unit
34 22(C) as in Unit 22(B) East that we talked about a number
35 of times over the last two days.

36

37 Like Unit 22(B) East there is relatively
38 low non-resident moose harvest in Unit 22(C). So you
39 don't need a registration hunt. You can just do it.

40

41 The cow hunt issue, very, very short
42 explanation of why we have a cow hunt in unit -- in areas
43 of Unit 22(C) has to do with available wintering habitat
44 and habitat condition, moose densities. Per square mile
45 we have a lot of moose in Unit 22(C). And the third
46 component is bull/cow ratios. We have very, very
47 productive moose population in Unit 22(C). We have very
48 high recruitment in Unit 22(C). But with saying that,
49 our bull/cow ratio, how many bulls per 100 cows, is a
50 little bit low below our management goal.

1 So it's an effort to be more pro-active
2 in Unit 22(C) than to avoid some of the things we saw in
3 other areas of Unit 22, like in 22(B) West where we
4 experienced a crash in the moose population that we have
5 never recovered from and in areas of Unit 22(D) where we
6 did the same thing. And it actually seems to be a
7 management strategy that's working. The last two moose
8 censuses from Unit 22(C) saw a five percent decrease in
9 moose numbers, which is, you know, just about perfect for
10 what we would like to see.

11
12 So, anyway, that's a short description of
13 why we have the cow hunt in (C) and hopefully an answer
14 to your non-resident hunting question.

15
16 MR. GRAY: Thank you.

17
18 MR. OLANNA: Tony, in muskoxen you
19 mentioned that you relocated 14 groups. Is that from
20 22(C) to 22(B)?

21
22 MR. GORN: Jake, if I used the word
23 relocated, I misspoke.

24
25 MR. OLANNA: Okay.

26
27 MR. GORN: We went out -- well, actually
28 we did relocate but we didn't move 14 groups of muskox,
29 if that's the way you interpreted that.

30
31 MR. OLANNA: Right.

32
33 MR. GORN: We saw -- well, basically in
34 an effort to get the most bang for our buck during
35 surveys, during a moose census we had a person in the
36 airplane recording locations of muskox groups.

37
38 MR. OLANNA: Okay.

39
40 MR. GORN: Okay, so we're flying a moose
41 census and then we have another guy who's just looking
42 for muskox groups and recording that. After we did the
43 moose census and that was all said and done we took those
44 locations that we had of muskox groups, went out and
45 found them again and then did composition on the groups.

46
47 MR. OLANNA: Okay.

48
49 MR. GORN: So I didn't mean to make it
50 seem like we actually physically transported the animals.

1 MR. OLANNA: That's what I thought you
2 meant, thank you.

3
4 MR. GORN: No.

5
6 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, Leonard Kobuk,
7 St. Mic. You said something about hot topic on Unit
8 22(A). Is that -- that's the reason I come in and I was
9 kind of wondering what the hot topic -- what you mean by
10 hot topic?

11
12 MR. GORN: Okay. Well, as you recall,
13 Leonard, at the last Board of Game meeting there were a
14 lot of moose proposals for Unit 22(A) and the area was
15 broken in -- the unit, sub-unit, was broken into three
16 areas, the southern, the central and the northern. And
17 now there's all these different moose seasons. We had
18 public meetings in St. Mic. I came down to St. Mic and
19 went to Unalakleet.

20
21 And one of the things we realized from
22 those meetings and from just studying the moose
23 population in Unit 22(A) is that we need to spend more
24 time down there and we need to get better information
25 about it. So what happened is we have like a schedule
26 for our field work. Every year we do a census here, a
27 census there, for, you know, different animals. And it
28 goes around on a cycle. So because of the sense of
29 urgency that the public and us are feeling with the moose
30 population in (A), we bumped Unit 22(A) back up to the
31 top this year to go do another census.

32
33 And so that's what I meant, you know, kind of a hot
34 topic. We'll have some -- in another few months we'll
35 have some additional census data for the moose population
36 in (A). And undoubtedly we'll all talk about what we
37 found and if the seasons that are happening right now,
38 you know, are correct.

39
40 MR. GRAY: Tom Gray here. I don't know
41 too much about this 22(A) but I do know that one of the
42 issues that rose out of this thing that I heard was moose
43 migrate in the area and migrate out of the area. So when
44 you do your censuses it's -- you know, I think it's
45 really important that all the angles and issues are
46 addressed so you don't do a census that is not of real
47 value.

48
49 MR. GORN: Right. Yeah, that was -- you
50 know, what Tom's referring to is the timing of the year

1 when we do our census. And if there's known moose
2 movements from one area to the other, and we're doing a
3 census when they're not there, you know, what good is
4 that. So -- and that was one of the comments we received
5 from Unit 22(A) residents, specifically in southern Unit
6 22(A) is, you know, you guys came and you flew moose
7 hunts. That's when all of our moose moved over into the
8 Yukon. Of course you didn't count any animals.

9
10 So it just turns out that the best time
11 of the year to do any kind of a moose census in this part
12 of Alaska is March, when you have snow cover,
13 sightability is good, and the days are getting longer for
14 flying. So what you hope for is a week or 10 days of
15 good weather and you fly your tail off until you get your
16 census done.

17
18 But it's still a good point. You know,
19 are the moose moving in and out of the area? So what we
20 did this year to try to answer that was go back down to
21 those areas in the fall time and fly and look for moose
22 when hopefully the moose were there. And, you know, the
23 results still weren't very encouraging. So, anyway,
24 we'll see what we see this March. Hopefully there's more
25 animals in there and we'll go from there.

26
27 MR. SEETOT: Elmer from Brevig. Using
28 science (ph) to pick techniques on wildlife, what effect
29 does that interior fire have, you know, on the wildlife?
30 Does that displace them or do they just kind of get out
31 of that area for awhile and then move back in?

32
33 MR. GORN: Well, this is -- I mean that's
34 a pretty interesting question. We could talk about this
35 for the rest of the afternoon. But on the projects that,
36 you know, we do in Unit 22 are really low impact
37 projects. You know, we don't capture animals using
38 drugs. The most contact we have with animals is when we
39 put collars on caribou, the Western Arctic herd. And we
40 do that without the use of aircraft or drugs. What we do
41 is we wait until a caribou gets in the Kobuk River and
42 then we get in boats and just grab it when it's in the
43 water, put the collar on it and it's on its way.

44
45 So that's really kind of a low impact and
46 kind of a clever way to handle the animal. The moose
47 censuses that we complete, because of the sightability,
48 aircraft don't have to be at low altitudes. So I don't
49 believe there's any kind of an adverse impact on wildlife
50 from a moose census. You know, possibly the -- maybe the

1 highest impact project that we do, and still I personally
2 wouldn't -- don't think it's a concern at all, is when we
3 do moose composition. And that usually deploys using a
4 helicopter for that work. And we locate the animals and
5 make our observation and then we're on our way. You
6 know, we're over them for just a few seconds. So I mean
7 I think if you get creative enough, you can get good data
8 and get your work done without harassing the animals.
9

10 MR. SEETOT: I think my question was what
11 impact does a fire, you know, like in the interior this
12 past summer will have on the wildlife, you know, caribou,
13 moose; will it displace them and then get them moving or
14 will they get out of that place, go on and then go back
15 in?

16
17 MR. GORN: Okay, well, fires definitely,
18 you know, will move animals. What we've seen the last
19 couple years in the Kougatok drainage are caribou and
20 reindeer revisiting fire sites immediately the year after
21 and just absolutely grazing on those new green shoots
22 that are coming up. I can't speak too deeply into how
23 fires address moose movements just because I haven't been
24 involved in that work.

25
26 But there's a lot of local anecdotal
27 knowledge from Brevig and Teller and Nome and long-time
28 Seward Peninsula residents that in those -- the years of
29 the Kougatok fires and the years of the fires up in the
30 Fish River Flats, that it really pushes the moose down
31 into the river systems, which certainly seems to make a
32 lot of sense.

33
34 But, you know, moose are creatures of
35 habit and, you know, where there's adequate browse
36 nearby, you know, they're going to relocate, you know,
37 back into that area. And that's certainly what a fire
38 gives you. It's this mass environmental situation that,
39 you know, helps promote vegetation growth.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything else for
42 Alaska Department of Fish and Game? Okay.

43
44 MR. JONES: Madame Chair, I'm Wes Jones
45 with the fishery side of Fish and Game here in Nome.
46 And, excuse me, overall this last summer for Norton Sound
47 we had a fairly good salmon return, being much stronger
48 than the past several years, with the exceptions of a few
49 rivers that were of great concern. One, Eldorado Chum;
50 two, Fish River and Niukluk River chum and coho; and then

1 the Unalakleet, Shaktoolik chinook salmon were of concern
2 this last summer and continued concern.

3
4 The department continued to conduct the
5 same escapement projects it has in the past. We also
6 started doing more genetic work, some new genetic work on
7 chum salmon. And that will be continued this next
8 summer. It's going to be the only project funded by
9 AYKSSI in 2005, is the chum genetic work for Norton Sound
10 and that continuing.

11
12 And then for specifically the work that
13 we're going to be -- there's going to be a lot more work
14 done on the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik Rivers this next
15 year dealing with chinook salmon, which is directly
16 related to the Federal waters down there in that the
17 Board of Fisheries has mandated that we come up with a
18 management plan for chinook for the Unalakleet and
19 Shaktoolik Rivers by 2006. But we would start
20 implementing and working on what are -- the more in-depth
21 management plan we'd start implementing that this next
22 summer. And we're working with -- going to be making
23 trips to Unalakleet and Shaktoolik to work on that.

24
25 And I know that the question you had
26 yesterday of all the project -- or what all projects are
27 going on, I spoke with Charlie Lean and passed -- helped
28 to get our information to him on that. Most projects
29 that we run within Norton Sound are multi-funded. The
30 big funding sources for fisheries projects are ADF&G
31 general funds, Bering Sea Fisherman's Association funds,
32 Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation funds,
33 Norton Sound Salmon Initiative funding and we're also
34 getting now AYKSSI funding and then some OSM funding. So
35 there's, you know, about seven fairly major funding
36 sources that are being brought in -- bringing money into
37 the region for fisheries work.

38
39 I guess I can go into more specifics if
40 people want more specifics about certain areas of what's
41 being done and what's going on.

42
43 MR. GRAY: Tom Gray here. The -- I guess
44 my question, question or comments, we have a salmon
45 disaster that is here in the Nome area and now I'm seeing
46 it expand to the White Mountain area. And, you know,
47 granted this is a cycle, let's say, or whatever that is,
48 is taking a long time to address. And it's I guess kind
49 of frustrating to see the Native community put on the
50 side burner and no -- what's really frustrating is how

1 long it's taking to come up with some type of a plan to
2 address the fish. What are we going to do? It took 20
3 years to get where we're at now. Is it going to take
4 another 20 years to finally figure out how to address it?
5

6 And, you know, we have the whole world at
7 our fingertips to figure -- to pull information on. So
8 -- and a good example is I talked to Charlie Lean, oh,
9 before he retired and we were looking over numbers on the
10 silver runs. And he said, gee, look at this; we're going
11 to a similar run as the humpy's. And he identified this
12 years ago. And yet we're still analyzing and trying to
13 figure out what is -- what the problem is out there I
14 guess. And we're not fixing the problem or -- you know,
15 and Charlie brought up this egg thing. I mean that's a
16 positive. I'm glad to see that coming because it's
17 projects like that that we needed 15 years ago.
18

19 So, anyway, it's very frustrating.
20 Especially I own a fishing lodge and I'm trying to make a
21 living. I'm a subsistence user. I put up fish and
22 everything else and to see these numbers, I mean our chum
23 run went from 80,000 fish to you had less than 10,000
24 fish last year according to your count, which you see a
25 third of what was -- what you're telling us. So, anyway,
26 like I say, it's very frustrating and, you know, I got a
27 whole bunch of hats here but I'm going to stay with
28 subsistence right now because my people in the village
29 need this resource. If they don't have that resource,
30 their lifestyle is gone.
31

32 And, you know, granted it's going to take
33 a lot of money and a lot of effort and a lot of ideas to
34 finally come up with the final solution. But, like I
35 say, it's very frustrating sitting here and going year
36 after year after year and I mean you guys declared a
37 disaster on the chum run last year. And that was at
38 10,000 fish. You should have declared a disaster when we
39 went to 10,000 cohos 20 years ago. So there's some
40 priorities that need to be straightened out in your guys'
41 system and maybe some regulations addressed or -- and I
42 think all of us, all of us, need to work together in
43 coming up with this. It's just not you guys. I mean
44 we're all a player in this thing. And I understand
45 there's groups that are addressing it but on the same
46 token the wheel churns really slow. And, like I say,
47 it's very frustrating.
48

49 MR. JONES: Madame Chair, yes. I do have
50 to agree, Tom, with you that a lot of times even from my

1 -- you know, working within the department, things move
2 very slowly and it is very frustrating. And it's
3 frustrating for me and I know it's double or triple
4 frustrating for you all. As we work this winter I
5 believe you're going to see a lot more discussion
6 specifically about the Niukluk and Fish river.

7
8 One of the great concerns this year
9 specifically about the Niukluk, Fish River and then the
10 Unalakleet, Shaktoolik rivers in those species is that
11 we've had down years like in Unalakleet, Shaktoolik for
12 chinook the last several years. But also most of the
13 other river systems such as the Yukon, Kuskokwim were
14 having poor chinook returns too. All those other rivers
15 rebounded this year, had fairly decent runs, and we still
16 saw low returns. So we were concerned already. That
17 throws the level of concern up even higher and work
18 harder on it.

19
20 You're seeing a similar thing for Niukluk
21 chum and coho this year. Nome sub-district, relatively
22 much better coho and chum returns, not the case for the
23 Niukluk fish. And so that's -- you know, two years in a
24 row that's even greater concern. Some of the work being
25 done -- and this is -- it's still -- it's slow on the
26 Niukluk, Fish River, is the telemetry work for chum is
27 now being completed. And that's going to help our
28 management out greatly and hopefully they're -- it is
29 proposed to do coho work the following -- 2005 would be
30 -- we're trying to do coho work.

31
32 One of the big things that's happened,
33 this next -- the summer of 2004 will be only the second
34 time we have a real indication of what the Nome harvest
35 off the Niukluk and Fish River and that should really
36 help show one possible source of some of the problems for
37 the Niukluk and Fish River. And then you did mention,
38 and Charlie mentioned yesterday, the missed incubation
39 and some of the other enhancement type activities that
40 are being worked on. This is the first year in about
41 five or six years that real active work has been done to
42 show viability. You know, can we use this here in Norton
43 Sound? And I would say that on my list of places for
44 possible using of missed incubation is the Niukluk River
45 for coho. Right off the top that's one of the big ones
46 as a check of locations. And a lot of that from things
47 that you have told me in the past and told -- you know,
48 has been relayed to me too from other people of a strong
49 possibility there.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. GRAY: This is Tom Gray again. I'm
4 glad to see that we're going to do something positive and
5 hopefully next summer we're going to see you guys out
6 stripping silvers and doing some incubation process or
7 something, at least something in the right direction
8 because, as I say, it's been -- I've been at my fish camp
9 over 20 years and I have yet to see any kind of a project
10 on that river that enhances our fishery. There's been
11 lots of study, study, study but this will be the first
12 time there's something that actually does enhancement.

13

14 And that's in the Nome district. I mean
15 we tried egg boxes. It failed, so on and so forth. But,
16 you know, we can study this thing to death. And there's
17 got to be a point that, let's do something, even if it's
18 wrong. I mean I'm going to be dead and gone and there's
19 going to be no fish. And as to the surveys that you guys
20 are doing so you can look at numbers, you know, hopefully
21 you will change some regulations, or whatever they call
22 them, to adapt to what the resource is doing there. The
23 regulations don't match that resource.

24

25 And I'm assuming just because I'm a
26 subsistence user, I can run down there right now and
27 seine every fish in the river and there's nothing anybody
28 can do. And that's not right. I mean we need to manage
29 the resource whether we're Eskimos, whether we're a
30 fishing lodge, whoever we are, we've got to manage that
31 resource.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. National
36 Park Service.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, Council
39 members, Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, with Fred
40 Tocktoo of our office. And we'll go through this very
41 quickly and then Sandy Rabinowitch had an announcement
42 from the Park Service that he wanted to share with you.
43 Basically our comments this afternoon, you know, fall
44 into three areas. The Wales ceremonial hunt, the moose
45 actions and the muskoxen permitting process.

46

47 First of all, on the Wales ceremonial
48 hunt, the Park Service worked with the Wales RIA to
49 handle the permitting for the hunt. And the hunt was a
50 complete success. The community did take their one

1 muskoxen and their one moose for the hunt. The festival
2 itself was an outstanding success, even with an
3 international flavor, hosting a couple of dance groups
4 from Jacopi even as well as, you know, other performing
5 groups from throughout northwest Alaska, including a
6 large contingent of Point Hopers.

7
8 So the festival was a big, big success.
9 And the feedback that I've gotten from the community is
10 is that they're appreciative of the Federal programs'
11 support for the festival through providing the ceremonial
12 hunt. And I would just add that -- you know, that effort
13 and support includes the work of the RAC here, the
14 Federal Board and of course the OSM and other staff that
15 worked on developing the proposals and providing the
16 staff analysis and so forth. But it -- I think the
17 program and the hunt is making a contribution to the
18 community to maintain and revitalize it's cultural
19 heritage.

20
21 The moose, it's already been noted that
22 we had established quotas for moose in 22(D) West.
23 That's the Kuzitrin, Pilgrim, Kougarok area. And 22(B),
24 west of the Darby's. ADF&G and BLM has already indicated
25 that those shared quotas were reached very early in the
26 season. And that led ADF&G to close the seasons in those
27 two areas by emergency order. Working under very short
28 notice, the Park Service cooperated with BLM, the Office
29 of Subsistence Management and others to basically
30 initiate parallel Federal closures in those two areas to
31 try and prevent over harvest of moose.

32
33
34 With respect to the muskoxen permits,
35 we've had another pretty successful year. Fred can share
36 information with you on that in our six villages that we
37 deal with. As usual we waited until the State Tier II
38 permit results were out, then went into the villages with
39 the Federal permits to try to balance things out
40 appropriately, to provide opportunity for the
41 communities. The one -- and Fred has shared with you I
42 think a table he put together showing the results where
43 the Federal permits went to. You can ask him questions
44 if you have specific questions about that.

45
46 The one thing I would note on that that
47 Fred didn't put on the table was that working with ADF&G
48 and our discretionary areas we did actually increase the
49 number of permits into 22(E) by an additional 10 percent
50 this year. Part of the reason for that is to again try

1 to address the continuing question of people simply are
2 not filling a lot of the permits. And so we did raise
3 the number of permits in 22(E). I might note one other
4 thing, and you can talk to Fred or ask him questions on
5 this, but we are facing problems in some of our villages
6 where we're just about maxed out I think and we're having
7 problems distributing permits, getting them into the
8 hands of people. We don't -- we have more permits in
9 some cases than we have applicants. And it's raising
10 questions about permits going into -- more than one
11 permit going into a single household and so forth.

12
13 Now on the surface you might say that
14 that shows that the people don't have need for those
15 animals. But I would suggest to you perhaps just the
16 contrary, that the individual permitting system does not
17 reflect harvest patterns and customary and traditional
18 uses and the way people behave and operate and harvest in
19 the communities. I think it's a problem that we're going
20 to have to be facing down the road. Along the lines of
21 starting that the Park Service has had teleconferences
22 with the Wales and Shishmaref IRAs. Both of them
23 expressed interest in perhaps moving towards community
24 bag limits in 22(E) for muskoxen. And I think over the
25 next several months we're probably going to be pursuing
26 that. Possibly especially anticipating changes --
27 substantial changes in the very near future in the State
28 hunt, including perhaps the disappearance or the demise
29 of the State Tier II system.

30
31 That's basically our report. Like I
32 said, just before we wrap up Sandy has an announcement.
33 But if you have questions for Fred or I, now would be a
34 good time to ask those.

35
36 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, this is Tom
37 Gray. This process you're talking about of changing will
38 happen as a cooperative agreement between the State and
39 whoever after this survey that they're going to do, or
40 whoever is doing it, and see how many animals are out
41 there? Hopefully we're not just going to jump in and
42 start changing the Tier II process before we can get some
43 input here.

44
45 MR. ADKISSON: Well, let me maybe
46 quickly, very quickly, explain the basic process. Yes,
47 we like to have the best information available on which
48 to base recommendations. And one vital piece of that
49 will be the spring cooperative census that Tony
50 mentioned, that ADF&G mentioned, in which we participate

1 in.

2

3

4 We'll take that information and we'll
5 convene a meeting of the Muskoxen Cooperators Group and
6 attempt to develop a number of maybe proposal
7 recommendations. These will then go to the Board of
8 Game. Keep in mind that the cooperators are not the only
9 source of input into the Board of Game. And anyone else
10 throughout the whole state can submit muskoxen proposals
11 to the Board of Game.

12

13

14 Often we try to get those proposals
15 somehow at least reviewed and commented on too by the
16 cooperators. So the cooperators have been very active in
17 the past few years with the Board of Game and with the
18 Federal Subsistence Board. The long term sort of goal
19 out of all of this of course is to get people working
20 towards consensus on the management utilization of the
21 animals. And that's what we continue to try for.

22

23

24 Specifically with respect to the Tier II
25 that you asked about, that's almost a mechanical process.
26 The Board of Game several years back first established a
27 subsistence need level for muskoxen for the Seward
28 Peninsula. I believe that was put at 100 animals. What
29 they next do is they look at the allowable harvest and
30 they compare that to the subsistence need determination.
31 And if the subsistence need, the allowable harvest, does
32 not meet the subsistence need determination, it's almost
33 an automatic movement into Tier II.

34

35

36 Conversely, whenever the allowable
37 harvest exceeds the subsistence need level, it's almost a
38 guaranteed automatic movement away from Tier II and into
39 some form of general hunt. And with the continued growth
40 of the Seward Peninsula muskox population, the continuing
41 increase in the allowable harvest, and we're now over 100
42 animals. So I mean this -- I'm pretty sure as Tony
43 indicated to you that, you know, we're going to be
44 dealing with this issue in the next go around with the
45 State Board of Game. So it's almost a given.

46

47

48 Now a number of things could happen of
49 course. The board could reevaluate its need
50 determination and change that. Who knows. But basically
51 I think it's pretty sure that we're going to move away
52 from Tier II very soon. And that will leave parallel
53 challenges of course for the Federal program and how we
54 deal with things.

55

1 MR. GRAY: Okay. Just one short comment
2 I guess is I think it's really, really important that not
3 only you guys, but anybody that's involved in allocating
4 animals in this region, do a education process out in the
5 villages so they fully understand what is going to happen
6 here. Because it's -- if it -- if what happens like
7 you're talking about and it goes to a statewide hunt,
8 it's going to be just like the buffalo in Delta. There's
9 going to be 16,000 people applying for that hunt and the
10 locals are going to be out. And we need with the low
11 moose populations, you know, this muskox is filling some
12 of those subsistence needs at this point. So it's really
13 important that there's some type of a education process
14 in the villages so they fully understand what's coming
15 down the pike here.

16
17 MR. ADKISSON: Hopefully that will happen
18 and I would encourage communities to participate in the
19 cooperators group and for people who are a part of that
20 process to share with the villages. If you look at the
21 history of the Seward Peninsula muskoxen, you find that
22 there was a period of very rapid change in regulations
23 followed by essentially a period of stability, which
24 we're in more or less now. And very likely we'll see
25 some substantial changes coming down the pike. Of course
26 we don't have control over a lot of that. That's in the
27 hands of the State Board of Game and the Federal
28 Subsistence Board. But I think the managers goals are to
29 try to keep the thing as stable as we can and through the
30 cooperators make incremental changes.

31
32 And of course the whole process I think
33 is one of the shining examples across the state of dual
34 management actually working and to benefit a wide range
35 of users. And of course all along our commitment has
36 been to our Federally eligible users. And that was one
37 of the reasons that we actually got so heavily involved
38 in the process is because those of you who have been
39 around for awhile will remember we started out with just
40 a Federal hunt. There was no State hunt. And, frankly,
41 the Federal hunt was not working the best it could to
42 meet the needs of subsistence users, which automatically
43 led us to look towards cooperating with the State in
44 developing a better option. And we'll continue to do
45 that. So, you know, I trust that -- and this council has
46 been very active in that over the years. And there's
47 been a commitment to continue to look out for the
48 interest of those Federally eligible users and I would
49 trust that the council continues to participate in this
50 process and helps us fulfill that obligation to those

1 users.

2

3

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Fred?

4

5 MR. TOCKTOO: No comment. But like Ken
6 said, you know, I'm practically knocking on the windows
7 after the State issued the Federal -- the State Tier II
8 permits, you know, especially at Wales and Shishmaref,
9 which I have to knock on almost every door to look for
10 participants to participate in the Federal permitting
11 system for muskox. You know, so when they first started
12 out there, you know, we didn't do this. We had IRA
13 council meetings in all the villages to help just keep it
14 -- for the muskoxen, you know. And we clearly didn't
15 want a double permit. Well, each individual family had a
16 chance to do it but now with the consensus with the IRA
17 council scenario it's okay because we got x-number of
18 permits to issue out in the villages then. We'd like to
19 see this go out and be -- you know, for the history and
20 the success of the muskox hunts and for future
21 preferences. So that's where we're at right now.

22

23

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

24

25

26 MR. ADKISSON: Okay, I'll let Sandy
27 provide his announcement.

27

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, that's right. I
30 almost forgot Sandy.

30

31

32 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. I'm
33 Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park Service from Anchorage.
34 And I just have a very short item and it's actually a
35 real positive kind of thing. And I'll pass that piece of
36 paper to all of you in a moment. The Park Service has a
37 relatively new small grant program. Translation, we have
38 some money to pass out. And I have a little four-page
39 piece of paper. I'll give each of you one. I'll put the
40 extras on the table if you want to grab more than one.

40

41

42 These grants -- so you can -- you, your
43 communities, organizations, individuals, can apply for
44 these grants. They're a minimum of \$1,000, a maximum of
45 \$10,000. So it's a small program as grants go. It can
46 be one year, multiple years. And this year the
47 expectation is that there's about \$60,000 to be passed
48 out. It's eligible to anybody who can demonstrate the
49 ability to complete a project dealing with research,
50 resource monitoring, environmental protection,
51 conservation and restoration, fish and wildlife, plant

1 and resource issues, education, arts, humanities,
2 subsistence and environmental law enforcement. So it's
3 real broad. It's real, you know, laundry, a big laundry
4 list of things that fit in.

5
6 Let me see, the application process, this
7 year proposals will be due November 1st. And there's
8 criteria that are explained in this handout here. You
9 know, what -- sort of what gets you points so you compete
10 well. And then the application form is just this front
11 and back sheet of paper that I've got. So I'll pass
12 these out and if you have interest -- you know, after you
13 look this over, if you have any interest, you can call
14 myself or Ken or Fred or anybody in the Park Service for,
15 you know, any further help or whatever if you want to
16 make some kind of application.

17
18 So it's new and I'm just trying to share
19 this. You know, take advantage of a meeting here and
20 share it around to everybody.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair. Before you
25 leave, this is \$60,000, is that statewide or is that
26 region here or is.....

27
28 MR. RABINOWITCH: Total amount of money
29 available for the state. So it's -- like I said, it's
30 not a real big program but it's going to be a once every
31 year program. It's a spin out from a lawsuit settlement,
32 actually down in Southeast Alaska. It's kind of
33 complicated but the good news is there's some money to be
34 passed out on an annual basis. And we're just trying --
35 I'm trying to share it around the subsistence community.
36 That's all.

37
38
39 MR. ADKISSON: I'd like to add a note to
40 that, Ken Adkisson, we were having a little discussion
41 earlier among ourselves and sometimes it gets really hard
42 to track these. And so I can't say that absolutely that
43 this is the case but we have a pretty strong feeling that
44 Shishmaref actually applied for a grant for some
45 environmental clean up in their community last year and
46 was awarded a grant under this program. So that could be
47 a case of one local community having been successful in
48 this. And you could, again, contact Fred for any
49 information or details.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Now we'll
4 go to the Council Charter Review. By the way, that's on
5 Page 52.

6

7 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, Tim Jennings
8 from Office of Subsistence Management. As you mentioned
9 earlier in the meeting yesterday, this is now your
10 opportunity as a council to make recommended changes to
11 your charter. And, as you know, those members who've
12 done the council for awhile, your desire has been for a
13 couple years now to increase your membership size from 10
14 to 13 members. So that is certainly on the table.

15

16 In accordance with the guidance put
17 forward in the Regional Council Operations Manual from
18 the Federal Subsistence Board, here is what's on the
19 table for the councils to recommend changes to in regards
20 to charter. It's pretty limited. You could make a
21 recommended change to your name. That's on Item 1.

22

23 Item 9, you could recommend changes to
24 your membership size. If you make changes, as I expect
25 you will, to increase from 10 to 13, in that first
26 paragraph under Item 9 note that the goal of the program
27 would remain, that 70 percent of the seats would be
28 subsistence and 30 percent sport or commercial. So those
29 numbers would change if you recommend up to 13. Those
30 numbers would become nine and four to be consistent with
31 a couple other regions that have 13 members and to
32 maintain the goal of 70/30.

33

34 The other area that you have available to
35 you to make changes is under removal of members. That's
36 on Page 54, the paragraph near the top. Currently it
37 states that two consecutive unexcused absences could
38 constitute removal. So there's that opportunity as well.
39 And those are the areas that this council could recommend
40 changes to the charter.

41

42 The other areas are more purview of the
43 FACA language to set up these FACA council committees and
44 more prerogative of the Department of the Interior. So
45 I'll stop there and see if there are questions. And if
46 there aren't any questions, then, Madame Chair, you can
47 move forward with any recommended changes.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Before I -- I think
50 the only one that we've been wanting as a recommended

1 change are to change from our 10 members to 13, which
2 would change our numbers from nine representing
3 subsistence interests and four other. And we -- I think
4 throughout the years this has come about.

5
6 The last two years we've written enough
7 letters to explain why. And once this is submitted we
8 would like to have copies of our letters submitted and
9 that we are still standing with the same reasons we have
10 not changed. It's just that we want to maintain as much
11 community representation within our region and nobody has
12 objected to other users. It's just that if there's a
13 replace, we were looking at the problem of, you know,
14 certain villages not having any, communities not having
15 any representation.

16
17 We are a diverse community, region
18 anyway. So we were looking at possibly not having
19 representation from certain areas of our region. And
20 this has always been a concern. Since the beginning of
21 this council we have requested for more membership from
22 the beginning. And it was kind of like we obtained a
23 level where we were comfortable with ourselves and it's
24 -- with the new procedure it downsized our community
25 representation. Anything to add? Jake.

26
27 MR. OLANNA: Can we put it in a form of a
28 motion? So, Madame Chair, I'd like to make a motion that
29 we -- when we submit for nine members subsistence, four
30 non-subsistence.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: That would increase
33 our number from nine (sic) to 13. Nine and four are
34 thirteen.

35
36 MR. OLANNA: Right. Okay, good. So I
37 make that motion.

38
39 MR. SAVETILIK: I second that motion.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. The only area
42 we want to change in our charter is the membership. We
43 would like a 13-member council and then that would just
44 follow through with 10 representing non-subsistence users
45 and four -- excuse me, 10 representing subsistence and
46 four non-subsistence users. So we want to be able to
47 submit the -- our -- are they called proposed charters or
48 the change in the charter, recommended change, to the
49 Secretary of the Interior.

50

1 There's a motion on the floor. All those
2 in favor signify by stating aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
7 same sign.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

12
13 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Madame Chair, you're
14 correct, these are recommended changes to the charter.
15 The changes proposed will go before the Federal
16 Subsistence Board and then ultimately up to the
17 Department of Interior and the secretary's office will
18 make the final decision on changes to charters.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

21
22 MR. JENNINGS: That's the process.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Each year
25 we always have members of our RAC do additional things.
26 And Elmer has been involved in the Western Arctic caribou
27 herd for a very long time. I know we always appreciate
28 his report. So I'll turn this over to Elmer.

29
30 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, before you go
31 there, I have another question.....

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, okay, sorry.

34
35 MR. KOBUK:before we move on.
36 Removal of members, it says two consecutive unexcused
37 absences. And I know we have a member that has not been
38 here to our meetings and who's going to fill his slot is
39 coming from the same village and that was Unalakleet.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, I was going to
42 ask about that. I thought there was a resignation
43 already submitted to that position. So can you check on
44 that with Barbara and that would be Middy Johnson, yeah.
45 I thought there was a resignation.

46
47 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, I have been
48 away on a different job assignment for the last six
49 months and just returned to my job in subsistence. So
50 I'm not aware that there has been a resignation. There

1 may have been. I'll check with Barb and we'll follow up
2 on it.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And if not, this would
5 be I think the third consecutive meeting he's not here.
6 Maybe even the fourth. I'm not sure.

7
8 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, and you'll note the
9 language does say unexcused absences. So I don't know if
10 any of those absences were excused or not. And if not,
11 then.....

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There was no reason
14 stated. He just never showed up. So I guess it's -- I
15 thought that there was a resignation. So when you check
16 into it, if not, this is either the third or the fourth
17 unexcused absence.

18
19 Thank you, Leonard.

20
21 Elmer.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
24 have a written report. I just passed them out to the RAC
25 members. I didn't think that members of the staff, you
26 know, would want to be inundated with paperwork. It's
27 pretty much the same like any other meeting. You get to
28 look at the report, okay, that -- I get to know what I
29 see. But this report is primarily for the communities of
30 the Northern Seward Peninsula, Shishmaref, Wales, Teller
31 and Brevig Mission, also probably Mary's Igloo.

32
33 I'm the one that represents the Northern
34 Seward Peninsula communities. And without the State
35 providing funding, you know, to have representation of
36 all those communities that use the caribou, you know,
37 they have a system that allows representation from
38 certain communities. I got on board January of 2002.
39 And, like I said, most of our meetings are held in
40 Anchorage. This last year it was held -- or this year it
41 was held in conjunction with the caribou workshop that
42 they had in Girdwood. I have Mr. Gray and Mr.
43 Ashenfelter and also maybe ADF&G staff members and others
44 that went to that caribou workshop.

45
46 But like many meetings, you know, we are
47 still, you know, working on issues that were identified
48 at the start of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
49 Group. These are not really the opinions of those that
50 attend the meeting. But these are just observations or

1 information that I think would be useful to the
2 communities that I represent. So this is just plain
3 simple English version, you know, of the meeting that I
4 kind of go to.

5
6 The caribou workshop that was held in
7 conjunction with or after the working group meeting, I
8 think was pretty interesting to me. But most of their
9 workshops were pretty much technical information,
10 seminars, you know, stuff that I wouldn't be able to
11 comprehend. But this is what, you know, is useful to the
12 people that work with the wildlife issues. And pretty
13 much a lot like you and that I -- what we -- the
14 information that we use to gather food. It's pretty much
15 the same system -- not the same system but same
16 principles that is applied to management of wildlife
17 resources.

18
19 I was able to meet some people from
20 outside Alaska. And I was able to get their point of
21 view of, you know, how, when, where, you know, they
22 harvest or, you know, take care of their caribou. That
23 is information that I try to send to the communities, to
24 the traditional councils, to the city councils, in each
25 of the -- or the four communities that I represent. And
26 whether or not they read it, I think it's -- it would be
27 my responsibility, you know, to put this information out
28 to the communities that I represent. And that's pretty
29 much in a nutshell.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer.
34 I've always appreciated your reports in this very
35 important group. So thank you for sharing that with us
36 each time. Questions for Elmer or comments.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We had another member
41 do something differently this year too. There was an
42 invitation from Bill Latrimble, the chair of Aleutian,
43 Kodiak. Aleutian Region Advisory Council was looking for
44 a chair or a designee to go on a trip to Area M. And
45 since I have no experience in commercial fishing at all I
46 figured I'd love to go to Aleutian chain but I probably
47 would be the wrong person to go. I wouldn't get as well
48 as information as somebody who's familiar with commercial
49 fishing. So I went around asking the male members of the
50 RAC I guess because they have been -- considering the

1 amount of commercial fishing that I did and found a
2 volunteer. And Peter Buck will you please tell us how it
3 went?

4
5 MR. BUCK: Yes, I went down to the
6 Aleutian Islands with Raymond Stoney from Kiana. And if
7 you look at Area 9, way down at the bottom you can see
8 King Cove and Cold Bay and -- but we went to King Cove.
9 We spent about two days visiting with the people in King
10 Cove and meeting the different organizations that they
11 have. And after we spent some time in King Cove we --
12 well, I took a tender from King Cove. And if you look at
13 Area Unit 10, right up at the top you can see that --
14 where False Pass ends. We went down -- well, down
15 further toward the Unimak Island and we went south of
16 that around that point there.

17
18 We spent two days out on a tender
19 gathering fish and just observing how the fish are taken,
20 what is done with them. And the boat that I went on we
21 collected fish from seven smaller boat, okay. But there
22 was other boats from King Cove. Some went north. Some
23 went south. But actually there was about 45 boats out
24 there fishing and this was just the first day of opening.
25 They use extensive nets, almost quarter mile of net that
26 they use, and they set and get the fish. It's pretty
27 interesting. They put a lot of money into the equipment
28 that they have down there for the fishing industry.

29
30 I'd like to -- when they do their
31 fishing, when they receive fish, they have to call the
32 number of fish that they collected. So ADF&G we need to
33 find out how much fish that they catch down there. You
34 know, that's public information that we can use. So I'd
35 encourage this board if they want to know exactly how
36 much fish have been taken out of Area M, we should get
37 that information and have it available to us, which I
38 haven't seen yet. And -- but I found out that King Cove,
39 that's their main living that they have down there.
40 That's their thing that they do.

41
42 If the fishing is taken away from them,
43 there ain't nothing else in King Cove there except
44 fishing. There's just mountains and the sea. That's all
45 there is. So it's pretty important for them to -- for
46 those people. If they didn't have fishing, they wouldn't
47 have anything. So -- and to draw conclusions of the
48 impact of Area M, it's -- I couldn't come to any
49 conclusion because from that area, Area M, King Cove,
50 False Pass, Unimak Island, we don't know what happens to

1 the fish after they leave that area and what happens
2 between that area and Norton Sound or Kuskokwim. So it's
3 still inconclusive of what happened to the fish. So we
4 only took that one area but we don't know what happened
5 to the fish between there and Seward Peninsula.

6
7 But the people there are really nice.
8 They really treated us good down there. Raymond Stoney
9 came to the same conclusion I did. He said we still need
10 more information to get any kind of conclusions on Area
11 M. And that's about all that I have for the board. Yes?

12
13 MR. KESSLER: If you like, I do have the
14 numbers.

15
16 MR. BUCK: Yeah, okay. Well, see, we
17 need those numbers to make decisions. We need to -- and
18 the trends of the numbers that they have, are they losing
19 fish down there too? Are they -- so we need to change
20 that is happening in Area M so -- and we don't know -- I
21 don't have that information.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And by the way, Peter
24 and Raymond were both in the newspaper. I had asked
25 copies of that article be put in this one, in our packet
26 for information. But I guess it got a little overlooked.

27
28 MR. BUCK: The amount of people that
29 attended this year, a lot more people were invited to go
30 down but most of them didn't. Because it was subsistence
31 season and everybody was getting their fish. So the
32 attendance was real low. So not very many people
33 attended. Maybe you got something else to say. He was
34 down here with us out in the boat.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Peter. We
37 appreciate you having gone there and it was really nice
38 of that Region Advisory Council to send that invitation
39 over to us. Any questions for Peter, comments.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Peter.
44 Number 15 is other business. This is really the first I
45 even seen (A), council topics for 2002 board meeting.
46 I'm assuming we're talking about Board of Fish, Board of
47 Game, board of what?

48
49 MR. JENNINGS: Federal Subsistence Board,
50 Madame Chair.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Oh, okay.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: The Federal Board has
4 moved their meeting that has traditionally been held in
5 December to January. So this will be the first year in
6 recent years that they've held it in January. They will
7 take action on fisheries regulatory proposals of which
8 from this area there weren't any. And then they'll take
9 action on the fisheries information services study,
10 proposals that Steve Fried discussed both from this
11 region and statewide other regions, and then other items
12 that may come up before them at that time. Those are the
13 two main pieces of business though that the board will
14 act on at that meeting.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And we've gone over
17 both of them. I had kind of a misunderstanding. I
18 thought we were going to identify topics but that's okay.
19 Any comments, questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Then we'll move on to
24 future meeting place. Time and place of the next
25 meeting, that would be for the winter, which is pretty
26 critical for us because it's Iditarod time. And then
27 fall of 2005, winter of 2005 and fall of 2005. And
28 there's a window in your packages, the very last page on
29 Page 56.

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, if council
32 members could look at the copies, the green copies.
33 These are more recent, the ones in your book are not as
34 up to date. There are additional copies. If you don't
35 have them on the table over here, can we get somebody to
36 -- do you have those green copies in your books? They
37 should be in your -- okay, so for the winter 2005 window
38 it should say February 21 to March 25, 2005, current as
39 of 8/30/04. And then -- let's address that one first.
40 Currently you have your meeting scheduled for February
41 23rd and 24th here in Nome.

42

43 So you need to confirm that meeting time
44 and place for us. I would note that we do have four
45 meetings scheduled at the end of that week. And if
46 there's any flexibility that you all may have to move a
47 meeting, we'll ask this to the other councils as well
48 when they meet, it's very difficult for us at the Office
49 of Subsistence Management to manage four simultaneous
50 meetings and have adequate staffing to cover the

1 meetings. We know that you're up against the Iditarod
2 here in early March. So we know there are other
3 considerations and I'll stop and you can decide about
4 that winter meeting. And then we'll go on to projecting
5 the fall meeting a year from now.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Before we set up that
8 meeting, if I remember correctly, for February 23rd and
9 24th we had I think Barbara Armstrong check into what
10 other meetings were going in our region. And isn't
11 Kawerak regional conference was going on the week after
12 that maybe or week before that. So we had to take into
13 consideration what other things were going on in that
14 week and before we selected those days. We were running
15 into Iditarod. We were running out of hotel rooms,
16 airplane, other things were getting filled up. So I
17 don't think this council has much latitude unless you
18 want us to move and have the meeting elsewhere.
19 Unalakleet is out because it's pretty busy that time of
20 the year with other stuff.

21
22 The only other option we have is if we're
23 going to move, we move to Anchorage. And I -- well, it's
24 really up to us I guess basically. If there's a conflict
25 with four of us meeting at the same time, which is going
26 to probably cause staff meeting problems, there's hotel
27 rooms and other things more available than Nome and
28 Unalakleet in Anchorage. We can choose to move out of
29 our region and have a council meeting there.

30
31 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair, I wish I brought
32 my schedule, my calendar, with me. I know I'm -- I get
33 -- I'm really traveling in February. And I think what
34 was set up was good for me, if I remember right. But,
35 for example, I do a show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for
36 two weeks. Then I come home. I have a client
37 snowmachining for a week and then I know in my booklet
38 this -- I had wrote down this meeting. And it was bang,
39 bang, bang, bang, my schedule is really tight. And I
40 thought in my book I put 24th and 25th but I'm not real
41 positive. But, anyway, my schedule is tight. The March
42 7th, I think we're leaving for Greenland for a couple of
43 weeks. And then when we get later in the month of March,
44 you know, my schedule gets really bad too. So I just
45 want to throw that on the table.

46
47 Of course maybe that will speed up the
48 meeting.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, actually I think

1 on our meeting we were the only ones that were scheduled
2 for that time and we were saying, oh, boy, we're the
3 first ones and we won't have so many problems so we had
4 carefully selected the days but if it's going to pose a
5 problem and if it's us that makes the decision then I
6 would suggest if it's going to cause a tremendous amount
7 of problems then you can move our meeting to Anchorage.

8
9 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Madame Chair, well,
10 this discussion is good. I think that that was my
11 understanding from talking with Barb, there had been this
12 discussion previously. This Council has some
13 constraints. I would suggest we maintain your preference
14 for Nome, February 23rd and 24th. You are the first of
15 these four Councils that have the overlap, you're the
16 first ones to meet this fall, next week Bristol Bay and
17 Southeast meet and then the following week or two later
18 the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta will meet and so maybe we can
19 sort it out as those Councils meet and reduce the
20 conflict and if not then we'll sort it out with the
21 Councils, if necessary. But I would suggest if you're
22 comfortable with Nome February 23rd and 24th, let's leave
23 it at that and we'll see where the other Councils fall
24 out in the next several weeks.

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. And I think
27 that with the controversial issues that we're going to be
28 facing in our next meeting, moving from our region to a
29 further off place would be a little more expensive for
30 people to go and it's not going to be very good either.

31
32 MR. JENNINGS: No, Madame Chair, I agree.
33 There is a preference, I think, to have the meetings in
34 the region when possible, here in Nome or elsewhere and
35 not typically to have a meeting in Anchorage.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. Can we just
38 leave that message to the other ones and then we can make
39 a decision on our fall meeting?

40
41 MR. JENNINGS: Okay. Madame Chair, for
42 the fall meeting you should have the green sheet that
43 says Fall 2005, August 29 to October 21, 2005 current as
44 of 9/14 of '04. North Slope, Barrow, you can see
45 projected 19 and 20 of October and Western Interior's
46 projected October 4 and 5. So far those are the only two
47 Councils who have projected meetings during that
48 timeframe.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So kind of the option

1 would be to select when and where we want our fall
2 meeting. The window's open from August -- well, actually
3 the weekdays, I guess, until October 21st.

4
5 MR. GRAY: Madame Chairman, Tom Gray
6 again. One thing about me making this particular
7 meeting, I had a hunting client here and he went home
8 early and that's the reason I made this meeting. So
9 early, you know, almost any time in September we're going
10 to find that the guides are going to have a tough time
11 making it here. When you look at -- you know, I look at
12 this as a subsistence user, I'm going to go set my beluga
13 nets the first part of October and it freezes up around
14 the 12th or 13th or somewhere in there of October, then
15 I'm kind of land-locked. Any time after the middle of
16 October is perfect for me. You know, once I'm land-
17 locked from subsistence issues then that -- that fits my
18 schedule.

19
20 Anyway, I'm not sure what other people on
21 this Board, you know, their subsistence issues that they
22 deal with, seal hunting, so on and so forth. But my
23 suggestion is after freeze-up, after middle of October.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any suggestions?
26 Somebody give me some kind of a date and a place.

27
28 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair, Jake Olanna.
29 How about the week of September 22nd, say on a -- the
30 mid-week, I mean 25th, I'm sorry. Did I say 22nd?

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It was the 25th you
33 said? Elmer.

34
35 MR. SEETOT: Yeah, pretty much I think
36 September and October are pretty much subsistence use,
37 our gathering months the last part of August to middle
38 part of September, you know, you're out picking lots of
39 berries or trying to do your hunting of geese before it
40 freezes up.

41
42 I was pretty reluctant to come here
43 because, you know, I'm missing the subsistence activities
44 but I made a commitment, you know, from last fall to be
45 here so even though the dates are within the subsistence
46 gathering areas, I think I'll just go with the majority.
47 I might have my arguments but I still need to meet my
48 obligation.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

1 MR. OLANNA: How about the week of
2 October 2, like on a Thursday and Friday.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I think we really
5 should take into consideration the moose seasons.
6
7 MR. OLANNA: Yeah.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The very, very short
10 moose season, I think the shortest one we've got is
11 August 20-30th, isn't it, I think.
12
13 MR. OLANNA: Any time in October.
14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: August 1 to August
16 30th in various parts of our country is moose.
17
18 MR. BUCK: Yeah, I was thinking about
19 October 12th and 13th.
20
21 MR. OLANNA: Is that good, Tom?
22
23 MR. GRAY: Yeah, just make a date, I'll
24 try and be here. You know, October 12th and 13th --
25 yeah, any time around the middle of October usually our
26 river system freezes up, and once we're land-locked --
27 you know, I would feel more comfortable 17th/18th, but,
28 you know, 12th/13th, whatever, that's fine. I'll try and
29 be here.
30
31 MR. OLANNA: Madame Chair.
32
33 MR. GORN: Madame Chair.
34
35 MR. OLANNA: Go ahead.
36
37 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn from Fish and Game.
38 Just maybe one thing to keep in mind, I know everybody
39 has busy schedules and subsistence activities, but the
40 Board of Game is going to meet the first week of November
41 and I know that it's going to be important for the State
42 to give the RAC our plans on what we plan on going to the
43 Board with. So anyway, just something to think about,
44 the first week of November the Board of Game will meet so
45 if you're going to meet the last week of October, you
46 know, the last couple of weeks it might make things
47 tight.
48
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Where is the Board of
50 Game meeting?

1 MR. GORN: Well, that's still up in the
2 air. Traditionally, historically it's always been in
3 Region 5 in either Barrow, Bethel, Nome or Kotzebue, the
4 last couple years the State has gone through this we have
5 no money phase and the last Board of Game meeting to save
6 money was held in Anchorage. So I can't tell you where I
7 even think it's going to be because I just have no idea.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It would make
10 reasonable sense to me if we have tight enough issues
11 that we meet wherever Board of Game meet. Then we have
12 the added advantage of attending. Well, that's my
13 suggestion unless we want to meet and bring issues to the
14 Board of Game and somebody goes.
15
16 Go ahead.
17
18 MR. GRAY: I was going to say, you can
19 go.
20
21 (Laughter)
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It's just a
24 suggestion.
25
26 MR. GRAY: I'll restate again that to be
27 safe I think the week of the 17th, any time during that
28 week would be good for me and I think thinking about how
29 the freeze-up goes on the Seward Peninsula I think that
30 everybody's going to pretty much get land-locked by that
31 time.
32
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, I think the 18th
34 is a State holiday so are we going to have State people
35 coming on the 18th so before looking at October the 18th,
36 we're looking at that being a State holiday.
37
38 MR. GRAY: Is it?
39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It is, it's Alaska
41 Day, my last holiday with the State.
42
43 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: So maybe the 19th and
46 20th.
47
48 MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair.
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yes.

1 MR. JENNINGS: I would note Madame Chair
2 that we're going to have conflicts with staffing if we
3 overlap on top of North Slope, Barrow meeting because as
4 you may know Barb is your coordinator and she's also the
5 coordinator for North Slope and she can't be in two
6 places at once as other Staff that support you also serve
7 that North Slope Council. If possible, could you make
8 the previous tail end of that week of the 12th, 13th,
9 14th work for you, that could work for Staff better?

10
11 MR. GRAY: Okay, let's just -- yeah, that
12 will work. Pete proposed that, you know, some years it
13 freezes up the 7th, some years the 10th, it's always
14 different every year so let's just set a date and we'll
15 all shoot for it. You can charter a helicopter to come
16 and get me.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay, how about the
21 12th and 13th then.

22
23 MR. GRAY: Sounds good.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Where?

26
27 MR. GRAY: Bunker Hill.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Bunker Hill.

30
31 MR. OLANNA: Tom you got a homestead.

32
33 MR. GRAY: Maybe in Canada. Where has it
34 been before?

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We've met in
37 Unalakleet, we've driven to Teller but there really was
38 not much accommodations so we drove back to sleep here.
39 But we did.....

40
41 MR. OLANNA: No Teller.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: But we had him count
46 the muskoxen on the way out.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We drove up there one

1 time to hold a meeting. And then we did hold a meeting
2 in Shishmaref but it meant chartering an airplane there
3 and leaving the same day. So Unalakleet works in the
4 fall time. Winter time there may be only one member that
5 gets there and we still have to move our meeting
6 somewhere else because of weather conditions. But in the
7 fall time we have held meetings with minimal problems at
8 Unalakleet and of course Nome is always no biggie. We
9 have had, because of the problems with Iditarod, had
10 meetings in Anchorage.

11

12

So where do we want it?

13

14

MR. BUCK: I agree with the dates. But
15 I'd like to mention that especially with if we get new
16 members in, when the Regional Advisory Councils of all of
17 Alaska got together in Anchorage and met with all the
18 other RACs in Alaska and discussed their problems that
19 they were having, discussed solutions, that was really
20 informative for our RAC, how they operate. So I'd just
21 like to keep in mind this should be happening again
22 sometime. I mean we should plan for another meeting with
23 all the other RACs in Alaska so just keep that in mind.

24

25

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Okay. In the meantime
26 October 12th and 13th where do we want our meeting?

27

28

(No comments)

29

30

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Nome. 12th and 13th
31 in Nome.

32

33

MR. OLANNA: Anchorage is out of the
34 picture Grace.

35

36

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, maybe if other
37 RACs move us out of the way we can have our February
38 meeting in Anchorage and get away from all this
39 controversy, no, kidding.

40

41

(Laughter)

42

43

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Number two it says
44 topics and issues, are we talking about topics and issues
45 of the next meeting or why is that there? This is the
46 first time I've seen topics and issues again?

47

48

MR. JENNINGS: Madame Chair, I'm not sure
49 why that's there. You know I don't know why Barb put
50 that on the agenda there. I'm not sure.

1 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Well, maybe it's for
2 other topics and issues for other business that we may
3 have had. And I have not heard of any other business so
4 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

5
6 MR. SAVETILIK: I make a motion to
7 adjourn this meeting, Madame Chair.

8
9 MR. GRAY: I'll second it.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: A motion.....

12
13 MR. BUCK: Question.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Question has been
16 called, all who is in favor of adjourning signify by
17 stating aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All is opposed, same
22 sign.

23
24 (No opposing votes)

25
26 MR. GRAY: Okay, I do have one question.
27 There's been a lot of talk and a lot of addressing
28 different issues and different things. It would be nice
29 if our Staff could come up with a dialogue or something
30 to send out, not minutes, but something in a one sheet of
31 paper or something stating this was an issue, this was an
32 issue, this was an issue.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a letter that
35 goes out.

36
37 MR. GRAY: Okay, I just want to make sure
38 of that because a lot of this stuff I.....

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a letter
41 that's sent to the Federal Subsistence Board that
42 outlines that.

43
44 MR. GRAY: Okay. Just to revisit this so
45 to speak. Thank you.

46
47 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
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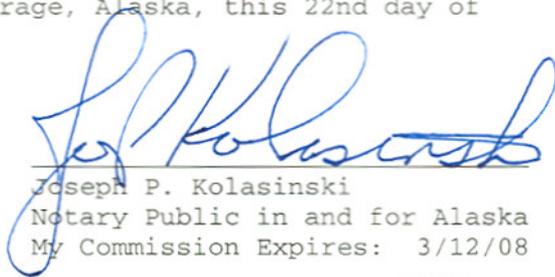
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THAT the foregoing pages numbered 121 through 178 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 22nd day of September 2004, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Aurora Inn, 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 22nd day of September 2004.


Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 3/12/08

