

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

SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Aurora Inn  
Nome, Alaska  
February 24, 2005  
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Grace Cross, Chairman
- Peter Buck
- Vance Grishkowsky
- Thomas Gray
- Leonard Kobuk
- Jake Olanna
- Charles Saccheus
- Elmer Seetot, Jr.
- Myron Savetilik
- Regional Council Coordinator - Barbara Armstrong

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC  
3522 West 27th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99517  
907-243-0668  
jpk@gci.net

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

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 2/24/2005)

(On record)

CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Good morning. It's now a little after 9:00. We'll get the meeting started. We'll start with Monitoring Program Project Investigator presentation. Sandy Tahbone is here. Then we'll go to Kate after.

MS. TAHBONE: Good morning. For those of you that don't know me, I'm Sandra Tahbone. I work for the Kawerak Subsistence Program. Born and raised here in Nome. We're going to have a two-part presentation and then we'll answer any questions that you have.

As you know, Kawerak and ADF&G are partners in this customary barter and trade research project. We're looking at the customary barter and trade of fish in the Seward Peninsula. We're going to conduct studies in four communities within the region. We currently have permission from the tribal governments, Brevig Mission, Shaktoolik and Nome. We did seek to work in Unalakleet. Unfortunately, they chose not to participate in the project, so we'll be looking at another community or several other communities, possibly Elim.

The purpose of the project is to provide an understanding of the extent of barter and customary trade practices of subsistence-caught fish and describe the current and historical barter and trade of fish. Part of our process, we go into the communities and hold a community meeting and part of what we do is provide them information on the current State and Federal regulations. Of course, to provide a report to you and to both Board of Fish and Federal Subsistence Board.

The methods that we're using is that we first get permission from the tribal government to conduct this research within their community. We don't go house to house. We just identify those households that are involved in barter or customary trade and we have a survey instrument that we sit down and interview them. We also try to conduct interviews with elders or those people that have knowledge of historical barter or customary trade within their community.

1                   One of the big issues, because customary  
2 trade is not legal within the regulation, there is some  
3 hesitation, so we try to really let the people know the  
4 information we collect won't be used for enforcement, but  
5 it still is an issue. People are still somewhat hesitant  
6 to be involved. Jim has some information on Shaktoolik  
7 and Brevig and we're wrapping up Nome and he'll give you  
8 more information on that.

9  
10                   The sample we're using, how we arrived at  
11 it, was back in 2003, the last time we did the regional  
12 salmon harvest survey, which was a joint project. Within  
13 that survey we had a question on there whether or not the  
14 household was involved in barter or customary trade, so  
15 that was our initial start on which households did  
16 indicate. And then, as we went into the households, we  
17 would ask information. We had an opportunity at the  
18 community meeting. When they signed in, we asked them if  
19 they were involved and that was another way we arrived at  
20 our sample. In 2001, when we did the Nome study, we had  
21 a questionnaire that asked if they were involved in  
22 barter or customary trade. And then, of course, word of  
23 mouth.

24  
25                   I think that's about it. So I'll let Jim  
26 take over.

27  
28                   MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. My name is  
29 Jim Magdanz. I work with the Division of Subsistence,  
30 Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue. Thanks, first  
31 of all, to the committee for allowing some flexibility on  
32 its agenda so Sandy could be present this morning. Sandy  
33 and Kawerak have been a great partner on this project and  
34 we're moving ahead quite well on it.

35  
36                   What I'd like to do is show you the  
37 presentation that we give in the villages. I've added a  
38 couple slides to bring you up to date on our progress  
39 that we haven't shown in the villages. The community  
40 meetings have been really wonderful in the villages. The  
41 turnout in Nome wasn't very good, but in Brevig and  
42 Shaktoolik we had 40, 50 people come. The show took  
43 about 30 minutes and we usually had an hour's worth of  
44 questions and discussion about customary trade in both  
45 the village meetings.

46  
47                   One of our objectives in this project was  
48 to explain to the public what the regulatory situation is  
49 with customary trade and I feel like the meetings have  
50 been successful in doing that. I'd like to now walk

1 through this presentation. Study is on both customary  
2 trade and barter. One of the very first thing we do is  
3 define customary trade and barter. This is an example of  
4 customary trade. This is a sign that was posted on a  
5 grocery store here in town two years ago advertising dry  
6 salmon for sale from Port Clarence.

7  
8 Customary trade in both State and Federal  
9 regulations is defined as the sale of fish and game from  
10 a subsistence harvest for cash. Barter is defined as the  
11 exchange of fish and game from a subsistence harvest for  
12 other goods or services. So if you trade a bundle of dry  
13 fish for seal oil, under the regulatory terminology,  
14 you're bartering. Even though most people call it trade,  
15 the regs call it barter.

16  
17 Sharing is the giving of fish and game  
18 from a subsistence harvest for nothing in return. This  
19 is the most common kind of exchange of wild food in rural  
20 Alaska. So those are the three kinds of exchanges.  
21 We're not studying sharing in this project.

22  
23 Why do people trade? Some kinds of food  
24 are hard to get. People may have extra food they can  
25 trade. People need food that they can't get. Those are  
26 the kinds of exchanges that we're interested in in this  
27 project.

28  
29 The regulations on the Federal side and  
30 the State side are different when it comes to customary  
31 trade. This is a quick summary of what the Federal  
32 regulations are for exchanges. It's always okay to share  
33 subsistence food. It is always okay to barter. You can  
34 barter subsistence food for other subsistence food, you  
35 can barter it for gasoline, you can barter it for  
36 ammunition, snowmachine parts. It's always okay to  
37 barter.

38  
39 Customary trade, that is to sell  
40 subsistence-caught fish, is always okay between rural  
41 residents provided the fish come from a Federal fishery.  
42 So the fish have to be caught in Federally-managed  
43 fisheries for customary trade to be okay on the Federal  
44 side. Customary trade is usually okay between rural and  
45 urban residents. The limitation here is that you can't  
46 resell the fish. It is never okay with a fisheries  
47 business. You can't sell fish to a business from a  
48 subsistence-caught fishery.

49  
50 Most of the exchanges that are happening

1 with subsistence-caught fish in rural Alaska are  
2 permitted by Federal regulations. This is a recent  
3 development. This reg has only been in effect for about  
4 two years.

5  
6           The State regulations are somewhat  
7 different. Sharing is always okay. Barter is always  
8 okay. Customary trade, however, is okay only for herring  
9 in Southeast Alaska. That's the only case where the  
10 State regulations recognize customary trade. The State  
11 Board of Fisheries has not recognized customary trade in  
12 any other fish from State-managed fisheries. So  
13 customary trade usually is not okay for fish caught in  
14 State waters. So that seems fairly clear if you're  
15 aware of where your fish are coming from.

16  
17           There's another aspect to it.  
18 Regulations can change. Federal regulations changed two  
19 years ago. The State regs have been in place for almost  
20 since statehood. Under State law, customary trade is  
21 permitted. It's recognized as a subsistence use in the  
22 State law and under State law it has a priority over  
23 non-subsistence uses, like commercial fishing and sport  
24 fishing. So customary trade, just like harvesting food  
25 for your family, harvesting food for barter, harvesting  
26 food that goes into customary trade is allowed by State  
27 law. It's actually one of the subsistence uses  
28 recognized in State law.

29  
30           The State regulations on the other hand  
31 don't provide for customary trade. However, laws trump  
32 regulations. The herring fishery in Southeast Alaska  
33 that is a customary trade fishery came to be after some  
34 local fisherman in the Ketchikan area sold 279 buckets of  
35 herring roe and kelp to a Japanese fisheries buyer and  
36 were cited by Federal agents. They claimed customary  
37 trade. They were convicted. They had a quarter million  
38 dollars worth of herring roe and the court did not  
39 believe that was customary trade. The courts also said,  
40 the State's Department of Law also said to the Board of  
41 Fisheries, look, you can't enforce small scale exchanges  
42 for cash because they should be allowed under law and  
43 your regulations prohibit them. You need to provide for  
44 customary trade in regulation, so the Board did. That's  
45 the only case where the Board has done that, but that  
46 certainly is a problem for people and the State because  
47 the regulations and the law are not consistent with one  
48 another.

49  
50           The catch is the tradition needs to be

1 documented. That's how we manage subsistence, is we  
2 document these subsistence practices. If the regulations  
3 don't provide for those subsistence practices, then we go  
4 to the Boards with the documentation and sometimes to the  
5 courts with the documentation. That's a short summary of  
6 Federal and State lands.

7  
8                   Some of the problems, Federal regulations  
9 are very liberal. The State regulations are fairly  
10 strict. It's confusing for the public and it creates  
11 some loopholes in the laws. Is it subsistence, for  
12 example, and these are real examples, when tourist shops  
13 sell smoked king strips to tourists? Is it subsistence  
14 when a Japanese fish buyer buys 579 buckets of herring  
15 roe for a quarter million dollars. So those are some of  
16 the regulatory items that we face with customary trade.

17  
18                   Our goals are to describe barter and  
19 customary trade in fish in the Seward Peninsula area and  
20 to explain the regulations to the public, provide  
21 information to the Federal Subsistence Board and to the  
22 State Board of Fisheries. My own experience in Northwest  
23 Alaska has shown me that customary trade is widespread in  
24 all kinds of fish. It usually doesn't present a  
25 conservation problem. White fish are bought and sold.  
26 Dried salmon are bought and sold. But there are  
27 instances where there probably does need to be regulatory  
28 action and we hope to provide some documentation to help  
29 sort out these issues for the Boards.

30  
31                   In our research we're asking people what  
32 kinds of fish are traded and where those fish are traded  
33 to, where those fish are coming from, to whom, and we  
34 don't ask people the names of who they're trading with,  
35 but we're interested in where those fish are going, to  
36 relatives, friends, urban residents, other villages, and  
37 we explore some of the reasons that people might trade.  
38 There's a historical component. We're interviewing  
39 people about their trading practices in the past.

40  
41                   The progress so far. In December, we  
42 were in Brevig Mission. We conducted a community  
43 meeting. We completed surveys with eight households and  
44 we completed interviews with four. In Shaktoolik, in  
45 February, we did a community meeting. We also conducted  
46 an elders meeting that Sandy recorded for the Eskimo  
47 Heritage Program where the elders talked about customary  
48 trade. We surveyed four households. We had 11 or 13 on  
49 the list and only four were interested in doing  
50 interviews with us. We completed interviews with two

1 households. In Nome we conducted a community meeting.  
2 We completed surveys with about 18 households and we  
3 conducted an interview with one. That Nome effort is  
4 still continuing.

5  
6 Unalakleet was one of our original study  
7 communities and I went down to the Unalakleet IRA Council  
8 in October and met with them and explained the project.  
9 They had some recommendations. They wanted us to survey  
10 customary trade work in every Norton Sound community.  
11 They wanted us to contact every household in Unalakleet  
12 and they wanted local people to be hired as project  
13 workers. We did contact every household to ask about  
14 customary trade in our harvest survey and we did plan to  
15 hire local people and sign a cooperative agreement with  
16 the IRA, but we don't have the funds to do this project  
17 with every household in Norton Sound and every village in  
18 Norton Sound and we couldn't meet that recommendation.  
19 There was a change of administrators and once they got  
20 their new administrator we went back to them and asked if  
21 they made a final decision, so on February 15th the IRA  
22 voted not to participate in the project.

23  
24 So we are seeking an additional study  
25 community to replace Unalakleet in the study, a community  
26 that's active in customary trade and barter in Norton  
27 Sound, Port Clarence region. We're open to suggestions  
28 from the Council about another study community. Sandy  
29 has already talked to some people in the communities. If  
30 we do another community, we would only do it after the  
31 community gave us a resolution of support.

32  
33 So that's where we are right now. I  
34 appreciate the Council support for this. It's been an  
35 interesting project and I think it will produce some  
36 interesting results for us.

37  
38 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, I have a  
39 question. I'm Leonard Kobuk, St. Michael. As you all  
40 know, St. Michael does not have a customary trade ever  
41 recorded that I know of. When I first got on board I  
42 didn't know Stebbins had a customary trade with Yukon  
43 until I became a member of this RAC. Since I represent  
44 St. Michael and Stebbins, there's always the issue that  
45 comes up that they want to present to this committee, and  
46 even though we're connected by a road system, the only  
47 time I ever go there is to the store if I need a part. I  
48 wondered if St. Michael ever asked to be part of this  
49 study that you're doing.

50

1 MS. TAHBONE: No, they haven't, Leonard.  
2  
3 MR. KOBUK: I think St. Michael might be  
4 interested in finding out more about this. I went  
5 through all the customary trade and tried to find out why  
6 St. Michael was never included like Stebbins was.  
7  
8 MS. TAHBONE: No, they weren't included.  
9 Back when we were putting together the research proposal,  
10 we did provide information in a letter to each of our  
11 communities asking for support of our project, so the  
12 information did get out there that we were going to be  
13 conducting this study, but there was no formal request  
14 from any communities to be a study community.  
15  
16 MR. KOBUK: The reason I ask that  
17 question is because I know for a fact that barter and  
18 trade does happen because we love the Yukon fish because  
19 it's oilier, especially in the strips, and we do barter  
20 and trade and we do buy when we need to buy. As you all  
21 know, traveling by boat and snowmachine is getting very  
22 expensive nowadays, so they do sell it to purchase gas or  
23 heating fuel for their homes. Our stores are expensive,  
24 so they have to have a way to buy food that they need  
25 from the store.  
26  
27 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair. I'm sitting  
28 here thinking about how my community could be involved in  
29 bartering and trading and so on and where our resource  
30 comes from. I don't know if you guys have taken that  
31 into consideration in the areas you're studying, but it  
32 might be interesting to look at the different land  
33 status. I'll give you an example. If you look at fish  
34 in my community, that's all surrounded by Native lands.  
35 No fish comes out of State or Federal land unless you  
36 consider Native land State or Federal. So all the fish  
37 on my river that goes into my community, if you step on  
38 the land, it's Native land. I don't know if that makes a  
39 difference in what you're doing, if it categorizes things  
40 different.  
41  
42 I'm not too sympathetic about selling  
43 things for a dollar. I mean, you know, I sell things for  
44 a dollar. I sell fishing trips and hunting trips and  
45 stuff. As soon as it turns into a dollar, it's  
46 commercial. So I'm probably going to be the first one to  
47 jump up and wave a flag that it's commercial no matter  
48 what the issue is.  
49  
50 Anyway, I really think you guys should

1 look at your study areas and look at the land status and  
2 make sure that your piece of the puzzle has different  
3 land managers or whatever so you've got a broader picture  
4 of what's going on.

5  
6 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, Tom, that's one of  
7 the questions that we do ask on the survey is where are  
8 these fish caught so we know whether it's State waters or  
9 Federal waters. There is a lack of solid information. A  
10 lot of people out there aren't real clear, so there's  
11 some confusion on that. Predominantly what we're finding  
12 is that the exchange of fish for other goods is sharing.  
13 There's some barter occurring. Some communities are more  
14 experienced than others.

15  
16 MR. GRAY: I'll give you an example of a  
17 fish. That fish doesn't know land status and when that  
18 fish comes into the Fish River it goes through Native  
19 lands, then it goes through State selected lands that BLM  
20 is managing, then the trout, for example, will go all the  
21 way into the mountains, which is BLM lands, so what are  
22 we calling that resource? Is that managed by the State,  
23 by the Feds? I'd hate for our people to get their hands  
24 slapped on a technicality, so there's a gray area that  
25 needs to be addressed.

26  
27 MS. TAHBONE: There's certain regions  
28 within our area that there's real clear acknowledgement  
29 of those being Federal waters. I think it would be  
30 beneficial and helpful to our region if the Federal  
31 government would clearly identify all of our rivers and  
32 streams that are Federal waters so our people would know  
33 and have a clear conscious on the fish they're getting  
34 and what they can legally do with it.

35  
36 This is another issue I wanted to raise.  
37 Jim and I have had some discussion, as we get closer and  
38 closer to drafting our initial report, on the intent of  
39 this project, how it can benefit the communities and how  
40 the communities can utilize the information to be able to  
41 carry out their subsistence activities legally.

42  
43 One of the things I pointed out is that  
44 our people were overregulated, all the Agencies that we  
45 have to deal with, all the managers we have to deal with,  
46 and it might not mean something to someone, oh, you're  
47 just doing a little bit so we don't need to legalize it,  
48 but to the individual out there in the community that's  
49 selling fish, it might be a bundle of fish a year to help  
50 with their expenses, they're committing a crime. So I

1 think it's real important that once we've completed the  
2 study that the people that are in the position to  
3 legalize our traditional activities do that. So it's one  
4 of the biggest things that the people out there are  
5 concerned with, is trying to legalize their subsistence  
6 activities.

7  
8 I don't know if that answered your  
9 question or if I should just write a book.

10  
11 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair. One thing I  
12 failed to mention is that St. Michael and Stebbins,  
13 because we sit not far from the Yukon River and not far  
14 from Unalakleet, we weren't allowed to commercial fish.  
15 In both villages our jobs are limited to the City  
16 government or the tribal government or the schools. For  
17 people to live in the village, they need to find a way to  
18 pay bills, as you all know. I'm just wondering how the  
19 village of St. Michael can get into this study or who do  
20 we contact?

21  
22 MR. MAGDANZ: I guess I wanted to respond  
23 to a couple ideas here. One, Sandy and I will talk with  
24 Amy at FIS and with communities about which community  
25 will do the study and which is the fourth community. One  
26 of the things we'll look at is how many people in that  
27 community recorded being involved in customary trade and  
28 barter on the survey. I don't know off the top of my  
29 head what St. Michael and Stebbins responses were to  
30 that, but that's one of the things we'll look at.

31  
32 MR. KOBUK: I wish it would be done soon.  
33 We don't have very many elders, maybe five or there may  
34 be more. So I wish this would be done before they go on.

35  
36 MR. MAGDANZ: Our time frame is in a  
37 matter of weeks, so we'll make a decision pretty quickly.

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Helen.

40  
41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to say,  
42 Sandy, we have maps. I'll make sure we send you one and  
43 Jim, showing which rivers are under Federal jurisdiction  
44 in the Norton Sound. We didn't bring one today, but  
45 we'll make sure we bring one next time.

46  
47 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. To follow on  
48 the discussion Sandy and Tom were having, our goal in  
49 this report is to document what is happening and then to  
50 provide that information to this body, to the Federal

1 Board, to the Advisory Committee and the State Board so  
2 that the regulatory process can then decide how customary  
3 trade should be managed. I'm not in the business of  
4 making those management decisions. Once the report is  
5 done, Sandy and Kawerak certainly have a good track  
6 record with taking these ideas and putting them into  
7 proposals and we would work together. Our goal with this  
8 report is to provide information and not to manage. The  
9 management will be done by this body and the State  
10 Advisory Committees and the Boards.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was going to say  
13 when I was on the Customary Trade Task Force the  
14 recommendation was to make the definitions be regional  
15 specific, for example. Is that part of the reason this  
16 study was done? We didn't come up with any definition.  
17 We just left it be.

18

19 MR. MAGDANZ: When the Federal Board  
20 adopted the customary trade regulations, there was the  
21 expectation that in some areas and with some species  
22 there would probably be the need for additional  
23 management action, but the action that would be taken  
24 depends on what happens in those areas and with those  
25 species and that's part of what this report would  
26 provide.

27

28 MS. TAHBONE: Grace, what we're  
29 documenting is what's occurring right now and what has  
30 occurred in the past and what species are involved and  
31 where these fish are coming from. This will be  
32 information you will need when proposals come before you.  
33 You will be able to cite or utilize the information we  
34 get to help you make that decision.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions or  
37 comments.

38

39 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. The survey  
40 that was done in Brevig, was that actual individuals or  
41 households that did the customary trade and barter? You  
42 probably asked the whole community and out of that  
43 community just those numbers came up for the actual  
44 barter and customary trade, those were actually done by  
45 the people in the community.

46

47 MS. TAHBONE: Correct. Like Jim  
48 mentioned, we have the number of households that  
49 indicated they were involved and we do realize even  
50 within asking that there were individuals that are

1 involved in customary and barter, but they chose not to  
2 participate. So we're trying to get the best information  
3 we can. There's still that hesitancy out there to  
4 participate because it is illegal within State waters.

5  
6 MR. SEETOT: So the actual number was  
7 high in the community but very few responded.

8  
9 MS. TAHBONE: Maybe Jim has percentages,  
10 but, no, it's not high. When you look at the percentage  
11 of subsistence harvesting households of fish, the  
12 percentage of people that are involved in either  
13 customary or barter is very low. I think we have one  
14 community where it might be 18 percent. Elim is the  
15 highest with 18 percent and the rest are less than 10  
16 percent that are involved.

17  
18 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Being in Unalakleet, I  
19 know the Chirokey River there's Federal waters above  
20 there and then State below there, but I think a lot of  
21 people who live in Unalakleet it's just the Unalakleet  
22 River and they really, honestly, a lot of people probably  
23 don't know the distinction. If there's different laws  
24 for both places, I think there needs to be an awareness  
25 made somehow for those people to know that.

26  
27 MS. TAHBONE: Yeah, that's one of the new  
28 things that we're doing under this study. We go in the  
29 community meeting and provide information. We get  
30 questions on other species, not only fish. There's a lot  
31 of information there and when you start dividing up which  
32 waters are State and Federal and at what point, it could  
33 be a real enforcement issue if it ever came to that.

34  
35 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: That's why I thought  
36 I'd bring it up. I mean if it's fine if everybody is  
37 going back and forth and doing it, but then if it becomes  
38 an enforcement issue, there needs to be an awareness so  
39 people do know there is a difference. What is it, lack  
40 of understanding of the law doesn't make you innocent.  
41 Yeah, ignorance of the law. But if it's posted, at least  
42 people would know there was a difference.

43  
44 MR. MAGDANZ: We really wanted to do this  
45 study in Unalakleet because of those kinds of issues.  
46 Unalakleet is both at risk for enforcement and is a  
47 fascinating case study because there is some customary  
48 trade in salmon in Unalakleet. When you get back to  
49 Unalakleet, you might explore with the Council members  
50 about their concerns about doing the project because I

1 think Unalakleet would have been a great case example for  
2 this study.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Comments or questions.  
5 That whole conversation, I don't want to belittle this,  
6 but about fish being in different governmental agencies  
7 in the same river reminds me of this cartoon a high-  
8 schooler in Gambell made. The cartoon had a walrus  
9 sitting between an international border, between Russia  
10 and USA, the ice flow was right in between and it was  
11 laying down looking very smug and there was a seal  
12 looking at it and the question of the seal was, what do  
13 you mean you're a bilingual, bi-cultural, bi-national  
14 walrus? I guess we should ask our fish are you a State,  
15 Federal or tribal fish.

16

17 I think you're doing a very good project  
18 and I'm sure the Council appreciates it. These things  
19 are very hard for participants to do and I'm glad you're  
20 finding people willing to do that. It is a difficult  
21 task when there's two conflicting laws and you're not  
22 sure what's going to happen to you.

23

24 MR. MAGDANZ: I just wanted to say we  
25 appreciate specifically Myron's help in Shaktoolik and  
26 Elmer's help in Brevig Mission. We really appreciate the  
27 support that you guys provided. The support is what  
28 makes this project possible. If people don't understand  
29 the big picture about why we're doing this, they do  
30 become afraid of the enforcement angle and it's important  
31 for people to see the big picture and appreciate we're  
32 not doing this as wardens, we're doing this to try to  
33 improve the system so that people can do the things they  
34 have traditionally done in a responsible way.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you very much.  
37 Maybe we'll take a break so they can dismantle that.

38

39 (Off record)

40

41 (On record)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We're back to our  
44 agenda. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Kate  
45 Persons.

46

47 MS. PERSONS: Good morning, Madame Chair,  
48 Council. Kate Persons with Fish and Game. Does  
49 everybody have a copy of this three-page handout that I  
50 passed out yesterday?

1 Well, the first thing I wanted to talk to  
2 you about is we have a Board of Game meeting that will be  
3 coming up next November and the deadline for submitting  
4 proposals to the Board is August 6th. The proposal  
5 period is not open yet. It will open after the March  
6 meeting. I just wanted to bring to your attention some  
7 of the issues that we're going to be either bringing to  
8 the Board ourselves or the cooperators will be bringing  
9 to the Board.

10  
11 The first thing I touched on yesterday is  
12 that both the subsistence law and the intensive  
13 management law may kick in and resolve in some changes to  
14 the way we manage moose in Unit 22 and that's because for  
15 the first time the harvestable surplus of moose, which  
16 right now, as we calculate it with the information we  
17 have at hand, is 283 moose. That could change this  
18 spring after our spring field work. The only project we  
19 have that will actually get numbers that's likely to  
20 change that is the Unalakleet moose census. From what we  
21 hear, it's probably not likely that a lot more moose will  
22 be found there. So we'll have to wait and see on that.

23  
24 Anyway, this 283 number falls within the  
25 range that the Board determined for the amount necessary  
26 for subsistence, so that means that they'll at least have  
27 to consider Tier I moose hunting in Unit 22 and that  
28 would eliminate non-resident moose hunters from the unit.  
29 If the 283 number goes down below 250, then it would be a  
30 Tier II situation and moose hunts potentially could  
31 become Tier II.

32  
33 Then the other thing is that the  
34 harvestable surplus is below the harvest objective and  
35 that means the Department is going to have to come up  
36 with an intensive management plan probably and that's  
37 what opens the door for both regulatory things, like two  
38 bear a year bag limits and predator control options, that  
39 aren't normally possible. So we'll just have to see on  
40 that.

41  
42 The second thing I also talked quite a  
43 bit about yesterday, the Department is going to be  
44 recommending a uniform short season along all parts of  
45 the Nome road system. This year we're going to  
46 accomplish that with the emergency order that I talked  
47 about and the season will be this year, September 1  
48 through 14. There will be harvest quotas in all the  
49 areas. There will be a 40 bull harvest quota in 22C.  
50 That is something new. We're going to limit harvest in

1 these areas to one moose per household and that's  
2 something that the Northern Norton Sound Advisory  
3 Committee recommended.

4  
5 In the longer term, we'll be working with  
6 the Advisory Committee and the public to come up with a  
7 more long-term regulation that will be presented to the  
8 Board. So the September 1 through 14 season may be just  
9 a one-time thing. We'll have to see what we can come up  
10 with.

11  
12 The third thing is that, again, I  
13 mentioned this yesterday, if the Board doesn't establish  
14 Tier I moose hunting in Unit 22, which would get rid of  
15 non-residents, then we will be looking to limit the  
16 number of non-resident moose hunters in eastern 22B and  
17 we'd accomplish that by recommending either a drawing or  
18 a registration hunt with a small harvest quota.

19  
20 The fourth thing is that when we do our  
21 moose census in Unalakleet, unless we find a significant  
22 increase in the number of moose, we're going to recommend  
23 a shortened season. We're thinking of something like a  
24 two-week season. But we'll be meeting with the public to  
25 talk about this and there will be a Southern Norton Sound  
26 Advisory Committee meeting in Unalakleet at some time  
27 before the end of the regulatory year, May or June  
28 probably.

29  
30 The Department is going to propose to  
31 eliminate the brown bear drawing hunts in 22B, C, D and  
32 E. Right now there are only 27 non-residents that can  
33 get these drawing permits in 22B and C and 12 that can  
34 get them in D and E and we're just going to take the  
35 final step -- we're going to ask the Board to take the  
36 final step that we have in liberalizing brown bear  
37 regulations that normally can be taken. That's the last  
38 little tool in our kit that we have that we haven't taken  
39 advantage of, so we'll ask them to do that.

40  
41 We've been working with the villages of  
42 Wales and Shishmaref to work out a plan for a  
43 registration hunt for hunting muskox in 22E. That's  
44 something they're very enthusiastic about. We're working  
45 out the details with Park Service and the villages and  
46 hopefully we'll have a proposal put together that will be  
47 brought to the muskox cooperators meeting which will be  
48 sometime in June probably.

49  
50 The Department also supports increasing

1 the harvest quota for muskox in Unit 22C and that's  
2 something we'll work with the cooperators on. Charles  
3 Saccheus has been wanting for several years now to add  
4 muskox to the list of species that can be taken by proxy.  
5 That regulation is only up for review every three years.  
6 This is the year to do it, so we'll be working with him  
7 to develop a proposal that he'll probably submit to the  
8 Northern Norton Sound A.C. for their support.

9  
10 Leonard brought a final thing to mind  
11 yesterday. We had a teleconference meeting with the  
12 Southern Norton Sound A.C. about a month ago and Fred  
13 Peet from Stebbins mentioned that they would like to  
14 shift the winter moose season from December to January.  
15 Apparently that December season was shortened to one  
16 month from two months. At the time they felt they wanted  
17 December and now they want January. The Department will  
18 support that if that's what the community wants.

19  
20 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair. The reasons  
21 for that is that at the time it was opened it was cold  
22 for the first week and then after that the weather warmed  
23 up and it was dangerous to travel and there was high  
24 water. That was the main reason he wanted to have that  
25 changed. That's how the St. Michael residents feel, too,  
26 the hunters.

27  
28 MS. PERSONS: I guess they left it that  
29 Fred Peet will be bringing a proposal that he'll bring to  
30 the Southern Norton Sound A.C. for their support, but  
31 there won't be any opposition from us on that. Before I  
32 move on, does anybody have any questions about this  
33 regulatory stuff?

34  
35 MR. GRAY: Under number two you talk  
36 about 22C and having a 40 bull harvest quota. Is that 40  
37 bulls or 40 animals up or down and what's going to happen  
38 with the cow season?

39  
40 MS. PERSONS: The thing with that is that  
41 for years now the bull harvest has been about 40 bulls.  
42 It's usually the upper 30's and we've been comfortable  
43 with that. The bull/cow ratio in 22C is very low. Our  
44 goal is 20 bulls per 100 cows in 22C, which is lower than  
45 in the other units, but because it's such a small unit we  
46 know there's exchange between 22C and surrounding areas.  
47 So the goal that I inherited from my predecessors, and I  
48 agree with it, is just 20 bulls per 100 cows, but we  
49 haven't been achieving that for many years. Yet 22C is  
50 where we have a very healthy moose population. So we've

1 been able to live with this 40 bull harvest and bull/cow  
2 ratio that's below our goal.

3  
4 Last year 53 bulls were taken out of 22C.  
5 When we did our composition surveys this fall, the  
6 bull/cow ratio was 11 bulls per 100 cows, which is just  
7 scary. Bulls go into the winter in much poorer condition  
8 than cows and if you have a hard winter, you can easily  
9 lose half your bulls. If you lose half of 11 percent,  
10 you don't have much left and we really could have a  
11 problem. So this 40 bull quota is just to keep it at  
12 what has been working.

13  
14 Part of what happened last year is that  
15 these other areas had to be closed early by emergency  
16 order because their quotas were reached and then all this  
17 extra pressure ended up in 22C and that may be in part  
18 what resulted in such a high harvest. Hopefully, having  
19 a 40 bull quota won't change what's been possible to take  
20 out of that unit for a long time.

21  
22 MR. GRAY: This is a registration hunt?

23  
24 MS. PERSONS: Yes. All of the road  
25 system is in one registration hunt. There have been  
26 different seasons and bag limits in different parts of  
27 this one registration hunt because there have been  
28 different biological and harvest patterns in the  
29 different units. So it seemed like it made sense when we  
30 established it, but it just hasn't worked out because of  
31 all this shifting around and the fact that the moose  
32 population in your area took such a decline and we had to  
33 reduce the harvest quota there.

34  
35 MR. GRAY: What about the cow hunt, is  
36 that still in place or is that something you decide  
37 later?

38  
39 MS. PERSONS: We've asked the Board to  
40 re-authorize that. The Board re-authorizes that every  
41 spring and they don't do it without the approval of the  
42 Advisory Committee. A letter was sent around to the  
43 Advisory Committee recently asking for their support and  
44 I actually don't know yet how that has shook out. We are  
45 at this point recommending that it continue and that is  
46 because we're concerned that the moose population in 22C  
47 is above our management goal. We're concerned about  
48 habitat. We don't want the same thing to happen in C  
49 that happened in B and D 15 years ago. If there is a lot  
50 of mortality this spring, the cow hunt, even if the Board

1 authorizes it, we may cancel it. It depends how moose  
2 come through the winter.

3

4 MR. GRAY: I have one other question here  
5 regarding the muskox in 22E. You're talking about doing  
6 a registration hunt which would eliminate the Tier II, I  
7 imagine. Does this make all Alaskans eligible for this  
8 hunt? Are we going to compete with Anchorage and  
9 Fairbanks and everybody else for this hunt?

10

11 MS. PERSONS: If we end up with a  
12 registration hunt in 22E, all Alaskans will be eligible.  
13 It would be a subsistence hunt and there would be certain  
14 restrictions that are in place now with the Tier II hunt  
15 and would still apply. There would be trophy  
16 destruction. There would be certain restrictions that  
17 would discourage certain hunters from coming there, but  
18 the people in 22E realize that this may bring people from  
19 outside the area in to hunt and they want to see as many  
20 muskox harvested out of that area as we allow, so they  
21 supported this. They initiated this.

22

23 MR. GRAY: Thank you.

24

25 MS. PERSONS: Moving on. With regards to  
26 moose, last fall we did a couple composition surveys.  
27 The first one was in 22C. I touched on that a little  
28 bit. We found a very low bull/cow ratio, which is of  
29 great concern to us. We also found one of the highest  
30 calf/cow ratios that we've seen. I mean 31 calves per 100  
31 cows is certainly great. If they survive the hard  
32 winter, it's probably enough to see this population grow.  
33 Moose are doing better in 22C than any place else in the  
34 unit and that's been the case for a long time.

35

36 In 22D we saw a much improved bull/cow  
37 ratio, 30 bulls per 100 cows is our management goal.  
38 Last year it was up to 26, but most of the bulls were  
39 young, small bulls. This time a lot more medium and  
40 large bulls. Things are looking better in that regard,  
41 but the calf/cow ratio is still very low and the  
42 recruitment rate is very low, not enough to sustain the  
43 population.

44

45 The fall brown bear harvest was tied for  
46 the second highest fall brown bear harvest that we've  
47 had. We had more female bears than males harvested, but  
48 that's fairly common in the fall hunt. It should be a  
49 good spring season for bear hunting, too.

50

1                   We haven't yet seen in our harvest data  
2 anything to indicate we're really knocking this  
3 population down, but our own observations and  
4 observations from a lot of people that we talked to who  
5 are out in the field and reports of nuisance bears,  
6 problem bears, have gone way down. All these things  
7 indicate that bears are at least stabilizing and it seems  
8 like they're probably starting to decline at least in the  
9 areas that are accessible to the Nome hunting public  
10 because Nome hunters have a very high interest in bear  
11 hunting and the harvest around the Nome area has been  
12 very high now for five years. So it seems like it's  
13 starting to reduce the number of bears, but we haven't  
14 yet seen any improvement in moose calf survival in these  
15 areas.

16  
17                   Caribou, I passed around the latest  
18 caribou location map that I think was from yesterday.  
19 Our radio collars show that we have at least 75,000  
20 caribou on the Seward Peninsula. Most of them are spread  
21 out north of the Bendeleben Mountains and across into  
22 22E, almost to Shishmaref. We have a minimum of 200,000  
23 caribou in the Nulato Hills and Shaktoolik Flats area.  
24 Reports from around the region have been different as to  
25 the condition of caribou. It seems like people in the  
26 Nulato Hills at least had been finding them and reporting  
27 they were in good condition and fat, but in some other  
28 parts of the range that hasn't been the case. They've  
29 been skinny and even starving to death.

30  
31                   We issued a couple weeks ago 16  
32 additional Tier II muskox permits and some of the hunt  
33 areas where it looked like we weren't going to be  
34 reaching the harvest quota, that's something the  
35 cooperators asked us to do two years ago. We did it last  
36 year and this year and hopefully we'll come closer to  
37 reaching our harvest quotas in all of the areas.

38  
39                   And I just included a calendar of our  
40 activities for the next two months. We're going to be  
41 doing moose recruitment surveys in northern and southern  
42 22A. That's in Leonard and Myron's area. In the  
43 Unalakleet drainage we'll be doing an actual moose census  
44 and that's in conjunction with BLM. All this is with the  
45 help of BLM actually. And then we'll be doing a muskox  
46 census of the whole Seward Peninsula. We'll be doing  
47 village harvest surveys hopefully in Koyuk and  
48 Unalakleet. We have a Southern Norton Sound Advisory  
49 Committee meeting that will come up in May or June.  
50 Hopefully the week of June 20th-24th there will be a

1 Muskox Cooperators meeting and a Northern Norton Sound  
2 Advisory Committee meeting.

3

4 That's all I had, but Jim had a bit of  
5 additional information.

6

7 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, I have a  
8 question. That last teleconference meeting we had that  
9 you weren't there we were told that most of the Board's  
10 time had ran out and that was the last meeting. I'm  
11 wondering if you ever got new members in your Game Board.

12

13 MS. PERSONS: We had a teleconference  
14 meeting just a month ago. The issue of getting new  
15 members did come up and that was something Charlie Gregg,  
16 the coordinator, was going to be working on and hopefully  
17 that will be taken care of before the next meeting in May  
18 or June.

19

20 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair, I have another  
21 question. Have Fish and Game ever talked to the local  
22 guides in our areas? Jerry Austin is a local guide from  
23 St. Michael and he told me he ran into a lot of moose  
24 where they never used to be and they're going back to  
25 where they originally spent their winter or summer.

26

27 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, we do talk to Jerry  
28 and he sends us a written report of his observations and  
29 we know that in the fall time when he's hunting there are  
30 a lot more moose in that area than there are in the  
31 winter time, that they do move over into the Yukon River  
32 drainages to winter.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MR. KOBUK: Also, I had to go to  
37 Unalakleet for caribou hunting. I was kind of hoping  
38 Fish and Game would herd them farther south with their  
39 chopper. Anyway, going through the South River in  
40 Unalakleet we saw a lot of moose tracks in there and a  
41 lot of wolf tracks. Just thought I'd bring that up.

42

43 MS. PERSONS: Yeah, thank you. We've  
44 heard the same thing from people in Unalakleet, that that  
45 is where they're seeing the moose in South River and not  
46 much up through the north.

47

48 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. Just a  
49 comment to add to your moose kills made by wolves. We  
50 see very few moose carcasses. There are reported wolf

1 kills, but I guess they're getting the moose within these  
2 systems possibly because the caribou are away from their  
3 normal range and that's something you need to consider.  
4 Also possibly some kind of verification of moose numbers  
5 by hunters, I saw so much in this area, compared to your  
6 aerial survey.

7

8 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Elmer.

9

10 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. Real  
11 briefly. During the discussions yesterday about guides  
12 and the number of guides that are allowed into an area, I  
13 wanted to make the Council aware that there is a bill  
14 pending before the State House, House Bill 76, that would  
15 re-establish a big game commercial services board of nine  
16 members to regulate commercial hunting services, guides  
17 and transporters. Four members of that board would be  
18 guides or transporters. The other members would be  
19 landholders, a Board of Game member. The bill itself is  
20 28 pages or so long, but it basically transfers a lot of  
21 the authority that is now with the Department of Commerce  
22 and Economic Development to the Board. There's an avenue  
23 there to make some of the kinds of changes that you were  
24 talking about yesterday and it's currently winding its  
25 way through Committee and the House. You could talk to  
26 Richard Foster, his Staff, about it. House Bill 76. We  
27 could talk about it away from the table if there's  
28 interest.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you.

31

32 MS. PERSONS: Wes wants to talk with you  
33 about fish.

34

35 MR. JONES: Madame Chair. I'm Wes Jones  
36 with Fish and Game Commercial Fisheries Division here in  
37 Nome. Just some information that I passed out during the  
38 break. I handed out the Norton Sound 2005 outlook for  
39 the salmon fishing this summer. It's about a half page  
40 little note, kind of just a general of what we expect.  
41 It's not really that specific. The second and third page  
42 are the summary of the new permit -- tally of the new  
43 permit system for the Northern Norton Sound communities.  
44 In 2004, in the Board of Fish meeting in January, they  
45 implemented a new permit system for salmon fishing from  
46 Elim west for Norton Sound and Port Clarence.

47

48 A couple notes on the bottom. It says  
49 Page 59, Table 2. The totals for each area there, you'll  
50 see like Nome subdistrict total, that's the number of

1 permits that fished. Above there, as you go down for  
2 each area, the numbers for each area don't add up to the  
3 number of permits that fished because permits can fish  
4 multiple places. But across the total line, that's the  
5 total number of fish there. So like in the Nome  
6 subdistrict, some permits fished more than, you know,  
7 fished in marine waters and then also like the Bonanza  
8 River or something like that. So that number of permits  
9 there doesn't add up, but that's why.

10

11 Then down at the bottom there's a  
12 footnote. You can see how many permits we actually  
13 handed out and how many were returned and there's a lot  
14 more permits handed out than actually fished because the  
15 number up on the total lines are just the number that  
16 actually fished. For example, like the Nome subdistrict,  
17 we handed out 443 permits. We had a return of 434, which  
18 is down under the subnote, but only 324 of those permits  
19 fished last summer.

20

21 Then the last page is a summary of the  
22 Tier II permits that were fished last summer here in the  
23 Nome subdistrict. So just more informational packet for  
24 you all about how the fishing went. There were community  
25 harvest surveys done for salmon in Shaktoolik and  
26 Unalakleet this last fall and those numbers have not been  
27 fully compiled yet at this time. That's basically all I  
28 have.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions or comments.

31

32 MR. GRAY: I guess I'd like to make one  
33 comment. This Golovin subdistrict on cohos, there was  
34 652 cohos taken basically in the whole river system, I  
35 guess.

36

37 MR. JONES: Yes, 652 cohos taken on  
38 subsistence permits.

39

40 MR. GRAY: The point I wanted to make and  
41 share with everybody is that the counting tower counted  
42 1,000 fish going by, cohos. So here's a good example of  
43 a resource and subsistence people are hammering a  
44 resource very badly. We don't have that resource. If we  
45 keep taking a third of the resource or a quarter of that  
46 resource, it's going to be like the moose.

47

48 Anyway, just a comment.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. National

1 Park Service. Ken Adkisson and Charlie Lean.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
4 Park Service. We'll make this report very, very brief.  
5 First of all, the Park has gone through some pretty major  
6 staffing changes. Effective earlier this month the  
7 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve got a new  
8 superintendent and his name is Tom Heinlein. He was here  
9 briefly yesterday morning and some of you may have got a  
10 chance to meet him. You'll be seeing more of him. In a  
11 few months the overall cluster or group Western Arctic  
12 National Parklands, which includes the Bering Land Bridge  
13 as well as the three units in Unit 23, will be getting a  
14 new superintendent also. We have no idea at the current  
15 time who that will be.

16

17 I've assumed the responsibilities as  
18 Chief of Resources for all four units, so that's probably  
19 going to impact the time that I can devote to subsistence  
20 things, but we'll see how that works its way through. So  
21 much for our staffing woes. Let's say we're short-  
22 staffed right now.

23

24 Muskoxen, there's some things going on  
25 with that. Not much harvest is currently going on, as  
26 Elmer mentioned. No Federal muskoxen taken over at  
27 Brevig Mission and that's pretty much the status  
28 throughout the hunt area. As usual, we expect the  
29 harvest to pick up in the last couple weeks of the  
30 season.

31

32 I might come back to the question that  
33 Tom Gray raised about Unit 22 and briefly make a couple  
34 comments on that. So far we've been working with ADF&G  
35 on education information and outreach with the primary  
36 communities in 22E, that's Shishmaref and Wales. We're  
37 going to be gearing up to a Muskoxen Cooperators meeting  
38 the latter part of June, probably 20th and 21st. Kate  
39 has plans to follow that up with a Northern Norton Sound  
40 Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Of course, one of the  
41 main topics on that will be proposed changes to create a  
42 registration hunt, a Tier I registration hunt in 22E.

43

44 Tom asked a question about whether  
45 everybody in Alaska would be eligible. Yes, all Alaskan  
46 residents would be eligible. A couple options Kate  
47 didn't mention that had been discussed with the  
48 communities especially is whether the permits should be  
49 available throughout pretty much the season where you can  
50 pick up moose tickets or whatever or whether available

1 for only a short period of time, similar to the moose  
2 registration hunt currently going on in 23 or also where  
3 the permit should be available, throughout the state or  
4 only in the affected communities or the area community  
5 such as Nome.

6  
7                   If you're really interested and starting  
8 to really follow the process now, I would recommend that  
9 you contact ADF&G for one of the information sheets and  
10 alternative sheets that we've been providing to Wales and  
11 Shishmaref for our discussions with the communities and  
12 the IRA's there.

13  
14                   Several of you in various capacities,  
15 such as the Chair, or whether you're from the affected  
16 communities in the hunt areas or on a local Fish and Game  
17 Advisory Committee, participate in the Muskoxen  
18 Cooperators meeting and I would urge you to continue to  
19 do so. If you would like information prior to that, if  
20 you've been signed up as a cooperator, you will receive  
21 information before the meeting. If you're interested  
22 ahead of time, you might want to contact ADF&G for those  
23 information and alternative sheets that have been  
24 developed. Keep in mind those are all tentative. We've  
25 been using them as a framework for our discussions with  
26 the communities to get some idea of where we think this  
27 thing might possibly go.

28  
29                   I don't know how it's going to affect the  
30 Federal hunt though, but you folks again will probably  
31 meet in the fall. We're not anticipating any real  
32 changes in Federal regs at that time, but we'll see what  
33 comes out of the cooperators meeting. If so, we will  
34 probably see a Federal proposal initially for the first  
35 time in the fall and that will work its way through the  
36 Federal system. Like I said, right now we're not  
37 anticipating any major changes in Federal muskoxen  
38 regulations.

39  
40                   That's pretty much it unless you've got  
41 any questions. Charlie.

42  
43                   MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, Council Members.  
44 I have a really brief report on the salmon things I've  
45 been up to. I'm the Federal Fisheries Manager for Norton  
46 Sound. Even though I work for the Park Service, I've  
47 been involved with the Unalakleet salmon fishery. The  
48 Federal Board wrote a special action to parallel the  
49 State's closure of king salmon late in the season on  
50 kings in the Unalakleet River last year.

1                   There's been talk at your previous  
2 meetings about king salmon management. The Unalakleet  
3 IRA has seen a reorganization recently and I've been  
4 talking with Henry Oyunik, who is now in their resource  
5 management position. I've been talking with Wes Jones  
6 and Jim Menard also at Fish and Game. Fish and Game is  
7 about three weeks away from having a draft of the  
8 management plan for the salmon fisheries this season.  
9 I've been talking to them about how to manage king salmon  
10 and also encouraging both Henry and Fish and Game to have  
11 a meeting in Unalakleet to discuss king salmon management  
12 in Eastern Norton Sound.

13  
14                   I think I'm a little more optimistic than  
15 the Fish and Game outlook with regard to king salmon in  
16 Eastern Norton Sound. I think this will be the strong  
17 year in the cycle. It's a six year cycle. Hopefully it  
18 won't be a bad season. Nevertheless, I think now is the  
19 time to talk about king salmon management when we can all  
20 be rational and not mad at each other. Once the problem  
21 comes up we need to act quickly and effectively.

22  
23                   I don't have a lot of concrete results to  
24 tell you, but that's what I've been doing with regard to  
25 salmon management mostly here in Norton Sound.

26  
27                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Questions or comments  
28 for Charlie.

29  
30                   MR. SEETOT: What's the outlook for  
31 salmon this coming year and how do you think that October  
32 storm affected smelt and fry in the waters. We had a  
33 real bad fall storm pretty much all around. How do you  
34 think that would affect the future salmon runs if any at  
35 all?

36  
37                   MR. LEAN: With regard to the storm, I  
38 think we were lucky it occurred when it did. I don't  
39 think the storm did much to salmon. I think it had a bad  
40 effect on tom cod. I heard other people talk about tom  
41 cod being stranded and I personally witnessed that  
42 myself. The fish that lived in the near shore or the  
43 estuaries, the lagoons and so forth got hammered in that  
44 storm, but salmon were either eggs laid well upstream  
45 away from saltwater where it couldn't reach them or they  
46 were little fingerling fish and even those fingerling  
47 fish don't like to be in the lagoons. The lagoons, as  
48 they freeze down, become saltwater bodies and baby salmon  
49 aren't prepared to be in saltwater at that point. So I  
50 don't think this affected grayling or trout or salmon

1 much, but I do think it affected smelt and tom cods and  
2 bullheads, things you would see near the beach.

3

4 I guess with regard to the salmon  
5 outlook, I already said I think this is the strong year  
6 in the cycle. We've had poor returns in the last five  
7 years, but I think it would be closer to average. That's  
8 not made with a lot of confidence, but that's where I  
9 think we are. I'm hopeful on chum salmon. The age  
10 composition last summer looked like a good number of  
11 three-year-olds. There was a high catch in the near  
12 shore trawl fisheries too, indicating there was more chum  
13 salmon out there than usual. So I'm hopeful the chums  
14 won't be as bad as they have been. Pink salmon is an odd  
15 year. I don't expect many pinks. Silver salmon I'm not  
16 hopeful about at all. I think that's a poor outlook.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions or  
19 comments.

20

21 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I have a question on  
22 the salmon there. Being it's a six-year cycle on those  
23 kings and you felt it was an average run, is that average  
24 from the last five years or is it a 20-year period or  
25 what?

26

27 MR. LEAN: I'm speaking more in a long-  
28 term perspective, so 20-year, 15-year.

29

30 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I'm curious because as  
31 an average run we used to have a commercial fishery there  
32 for what, 10, 12 years probably and this average cycle --  
33 if we had a commercial run then, there was a whole lot  
34 more fish than there is now, so I don't quite understand  
35 the average. We've lost the commercial fishery and the  
36 numbers are as low as they've ever been, but yet we have  
37 an average run.

38

39 MR. LEAN: '99 was the last run that had  
40 any commercial fishery and that's the parent year for  
41 most the females returning to Unalakleet this year. I  
42 guess I don't think it's going to be as bad as it has  
43 been. I'm not willing to give you a number. I don't  
44 know what the number will be.

45

46 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I guess what I'm saying  
47 is that in those years when we've supported a pretty good  
48 commercial fishery, this average is the same as what we  
49 had when we had those commercial fisheries, huh? Or our  
50 escapement is roughly the same then as what we had when

1 we had those commercial fisheries.

2

3 MR. LEAN: The goal is to get the  
4 escapement, regardless of what the harvest is, so if  
5 you're the fish manager, you make up the difference by  
6 cutting the commercial fishery first, then the sport,  
7 then the subsistence fishery, still trying to make the  
8 same escapement.

9

10 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: That was my question.  
11 I think you got it. I was just curious whether our  
12 escapement was the same as it was back in those earlier  
13 years when we were allowed to have a commercial fishery.  
14 Then there's got to be some other variables playing into  
15 this whole thing when our run is pretty low. If our  
16 escapement has been pretty much the same, there's  
17 something else causing this.

18

19 MR. LEAN: No. I'm speaking of this  
20 coming season. Last season I think we got 80 percent of  
21 our escapement goals in the Unalakleet. So, no, we  
22 didn't get as many fish there as we wanted. In  
23 hindsight, I wish we'd acted a week earlier on our  
24 closure, but the goal was to make the escapement.

25

26 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Okay. Well, that's  
27 good. I didn't know. Thank you.

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. With the  
30 changing weather patterns, do the salmon change their  
31 behavior? Like I know they come earlier when breakup  
32 comes early. But the summer fish and during the spawning  
33 time, they pretty much have a spawning period or they  
34 just spawn whenever they reach their spawning grounds?

35

36 MR. LEAN: That depends on the kind of  
37 salmon. I would say the king, chum and pink salmon are  
38 going to come earlier if the weather is warmer. Their  
39 egg maturity is like herring. It's determined by what we  
40 call temperature units or the accumulated warmth. Just  
41 like when the ice goes out, the herring are right there.  
42 As the ice is going out, the salmon, especially king  
43 salmon, are feeding on the herring. Everybody is running  
44 in sequence just one after the other. So I would say  
45 that those three species would come earlier. If the  
46 weather was a week early, then they would be a week  
47 early. With fall run chums or say coho salmon that come  
48 late in the season, they seem to be more tied to daylight  
49 period, I guess, so I think they're more stuck on the  
50 calendar than the earlier fish. I don't know if I

1 explained that well.

2

3 MR. BUCK: I have a question for Charlie.  
4 Did anybody report that in Golovin the Chinik Creek their  
5 pink salmon last year died off about a month before all  
6 the other fish? The other fish in the other rivers  
7 didn't die off until about a month after. So the one on  
8 Chinik died about a month earlier than the other rivers.  
9 We were wondering if anybody made a report on that.

10

11 MR. LEAN: I wasn't aware of that, but  
12 maybe Fish and Game was. That's mostly a pink salmon  
13 run, right?

14

15 MR. BUCK: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Any more questions or  
18 comments for these two?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Were going  
23 to take a short break after Elmer does his Western Arctic  
24 Caribou Herd report.

25

26 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Madame Chair. I  
27 forgot my notes this time. I'll have them at the next  
28 meeting. Seward Peninsula is represented by at least  
29 five voting chairs, three of which are in the room right  
30 now; Tom, Clarence, myself. There's Roy and then Frank  
31 from Koyuk. Under caribou roundtable discussion at least  
32 for Brevig Mission area I mentioned that very few caribou  
33 were harvested in the region where we hunt but that maybe  
34 more caribou were harvested in Shishmaref because I think  
35 there's a resident population there that was established  
36 over the years. It all depends on migration and maybe  
37 hunting pressure if there's more or less caribou each  
38 year.

39

40 Other areas during the fall migration at  
41 least around the Kobuk area they were mentioning that  
42 caribou were crossing the river further downstream, maybe  
43 by pressure from non-subsistence uses, kayaking,  
44 sightseeing and stuff like that, and the caribou were up  
45 around the Kobuk area late fall before they start moving  
46 south.

47

48 Western Arctic Caribou Herd has applied  
49 for a U.S. wildlife grant. Manilaaq is helping the city  
50 of Noatak get that grant in the neighborhood of \$270,000.

1 That would just be for one year to fund the Western  
2 Arctic Caribou Herd working group. Future funding would  
3 be uncertain because that is kind of competitive among  
4 the Native communities, but it would provide a tribal  
5 coordinator and two meetings a year with the Western  
6 Arctic Caribou working group, two editions of The Trail  
7 newsletter that is published by Department of Fish and  
8 Game.

9  
10                   There was a lot of discussion on the  
11 National Petroleum Reserve Alaska portion, the  
12 southwestern portion of NPRA, especially by residents of  
13 North Slope. Very few representatives. At least Point  
14 Hope had an issue on that. The North Slope/Brooks Range  
15 is a critical area for habitat for calving and then for  
16 insect relief. Develop in that area was one of the main  
17 issues that wasn't quite resolved. We had Mr. Schneider  
18 of BLM Fairbanks talking about that portion. The ironic  
19 thing about that is that while they were saying that no  
20 development would take place, the next day in the  
21 Anchorage newspaper a headline saying that Lake Tushipuk  
22 area in the North Slope that BLM would lease some ground  
23 for wildlife exploration and that, I think, got some of  
24 the members from that area ticked off about that issue.

25  
26                   We had a guest speaker from Nuiqsut.  
27 Later on he became a voting chair from the North Slope  
28 because Anaktuvuk Pass has not sent a representative  
29 during the past couple meetings. He was talking about  
30 oil development pretty much on the northern parts of the  
31 North Slope and said that roads and pipelines kind of  
32 hampered migration of caribou. They were kind of  
33 hesitant to cross man-made developments such as the road,  
34 the oil pipeline. Not much discussion was taken on  
35 issues that concern NPRA. Still unclear on some of the  
36 issues that were talked about.

37  
38                   There's seven elements of the Western  
39 Arctic Caribou Herd management plan. I think that once  
40 most of the issues have been settled with caribou, that  
41 education is also a major point that was discussed.  
42 There's several subcommittees in the working group.  
43 Education was one of them that was selected for this past  
44 year. Pretty much all the expenses were paid by Wildlife  
45 Division of ADF&G. If the wildlife grant funding goes  
46 through, then it will alleviate some the State funding.  
47 The State and other resource agencies fund our working  
48 group.

49  
50                   That was kind of my detailed report. In

1 generic Eskimo report, three sentences. I went to  
2 caribou meeting, I go to caribou meeting, I go back.  
3 Generic report.

4  
5 Thank you.

6  
7 MR. GRAY: Something to add to this  
8 thing. You think there's politics in everything we do.  
9 This Trail newsletter that this group puts out has issues  
10 on how the caribou and the oil industry are having  
11 problems. Well, I just got done talking with Sue  
12 somebody and the governor didn't want this thing  
13 published and they wanted to shut down this newsletter  
14 and it is going to get published, but there's a good  
15 example of money influencing what people are doing these  
16 days.

17  
18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any  
19 questions or comments for Elmer.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer. In  
24 other business we have only two items. One, if we have  
25 any comments and recommendations to the Federal  
26 Subsistence Board we can go on with it. I know we made  
27 our comments in the earlier part of the meeting. Do we  
28 have anything further to add to that or do we have any  
29 recommendations?

30  
31 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair. The only  
32 recommendations I have for the Federal Subsistence Board  
33 is that Stebbins have their own representative. The  
34 reason being they are with the Yukon, customary trade  
35 with the Yukon and they have issues in that area. That's  
36 the only comment I have on that.

37  
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We'll discuss that  
39 with Ann when she gets on. Anything further for that.  
40 If not, I don't know if every one of you got this from  
41 Clifford Weyiouanna. He had written a letter, like five  
42 pages, and I wanted to add that to our minutes so it will  
43 be part of the record. Okay. Ann Wilkinson. This is  
44 regarding our RAC composition.

45  
46 MS. WILKINSON: Good morning, Madame  
47 Chair, Council Members. This Council made a request with  
48 their charter review to have the membership increased to  
49 13 members. The Staff Committee and the Board did review  
50 that request along with the request from the

1 Kodiak/Aleutians Regional Advisory Council and the Board  
2 did make a recommendation to the Secretary regarding  
3 that. The Board has a policy though that none of their  
4 recommendations that go to the Secretary are disclosed  
5 until after the Secretary makes a decision.  
6

7 I sent the information to the Secretary  
8 in January and they told me that they're holding off on  
9 doing the charters until they do the nominations process  
10 all together. So we won't know anything until probably  
11 late October. I made sure though that all the  
12 information that goes to the Secretary has your full  
13 requests, all the information is included, so they get  
14 the full picture. So I don't know what the result will  
15 be. I know that's not a full answer, but that's the only  
16 one I have.  
17

18 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I appreciate that  
19 answer because it's been a concern for a number of years.  
20 People have an interest in adding communities, so it's  
21 kind of an ongoing process. Any questions or comments to  
22 Ann.  
23

24 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair. I have a  
25 question and it's the same question I just brought up  
26 recently. I would strongly suggest that Stebbins have  
27 their own representative because the wildlife refuge is  
28 at our doorstep and we do hunting and fishing in those  
29 areas of all animals and fish, but mainly because  
30 Stebbins has a customary trade with the Yukon but St.  
31 Michael doesn't. There are always issues come up. So I  
32 talked with the IRA president and told them that they  
33 need to write a letter to the Federal Subsistence Board  
34 saying they want their own representative and they should  
35 be allowed their own representative because we're the  
36 only two villages in Norton Sound that's next to the  
37 government lands.  
38

39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I wanted to make  
40 another comment. Every time our charter comes up for  
41 recommendation, if we want to make changes, we can always  
42 bring that up even though the decision may not go  
43 according to how we wish, but we can always make the same  
44 request. If we don't increase to 13, there's always the  
45 next time when we review our charter, we can always ask  
46 again. Maybe at some point in time they'll get tired of  
47 us asking. Any questions or comments for Ann. Elmer.  
48

49 MR. SEETOT: I think my recommendation to  
50 Leonard's request would be to at least encourage tribal

1 communities that are affected mostly by Federal land  
2 mostly in the Norton Sound area. In our area, BLM only  
3 manages about six percent of BLM land in close proximity  
4 to Teller and Brevig, and the rest of the land is  
5 National Park Service, the Bering Land Bridge, which is  
6 in the northeast quadrant of our subunit. I would  
7 encourage the tribal government communities to encourage  
8 interested people to submit their applications to be on  
9 the Regional Advisory Council. Since appointments are  
10 made by Secretary of Interior, that you have endorsements  
11 from your tribal organizations and also from the regional  
12 organization to seat these people on the Regional  
13 Advisory Council.

14  
15 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chair, if I may  
16 respond to Elmer. I agree that it's very important to  
17 get good applicants from the communities and especially  
18 if they are encouraged by their tribal organizations,  
19 then at the bottom of the application just signed by  
20 them. If they have a good recommendation from their  
21 tribal organization, then that makes it even better  
22 recommendation for them.

23  
24 For advertising this there's nothing  
25 better than word of mouth by local people. I think we  
26 get the best response when the people in the region talk  
27 about it amongst themselves. If you know of someone who  
28 you think would be a good representative, then please do  
29 talk to them and give them my phone number and I can  
30 answer any questions they have or Barb Armstrong.  
31 Because I'm in this position I'm in now, we do talk to  
32 people year round. So if somebody is interested, we don't  
33 have to tell them you have to wait until the next cycle.  
34 I appreciate that very much.

35  
36 Thank you.

37  
38 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I wonder if it would  
39 help if we would get written local support for our  
40 request. The next time around, if we get local entity  
41 support, local IRA's, local Native corporation support,  
42 that would help.

43  
44 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chair. After we  
45 see what happens this time, if it wasn't a favorable  
46 result, then, yes, I would say take more effort and get  
47 more support.

48  
49 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Anything further.

50

1 MS. WILKINSON: On that one subject I'm  
2 finished. Every so often we review the Regional  
3 Council's operation manual and I'm getting ready to do  
4 that again. There are some things that very much do need  
5 updated. While I'm doing that I thought I would find out  
6 if Council Members have any comments about this book. If  
7 you use it, if it's helpful to you, I need to know that.  
8 If it's not helpful to you, I would like to know that.  
9 If it contains information you need or if there are  
10 things missing that you would like to see, I would like  
11 to know those things. If the format is easy for you to  
12 read. It's written in a question and answer format. I  
13 would like to know if that's helpful or difficult. I  
14 know Barb sent you a message in November about this that  
15 it was coming up. Please consider this and let me know.  
16 You can either contact Barb or if you have any  
17 suggestions now, I could hear them. I'm going to start  
18 working on this in April probably. Do you have any  
19 comments about it now or do you want to wait?

20  
21 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. At least for  
22 my information, I agree with the format. When it becomes  
23 narrative, you look at the first paragraph, the last  
24 paragraph and something in between you kind of miss out.  
25 I find it comfortable for at least trying to find stuff I  
26 need answers to. That's my personal opinion.

27  
28 MS. WILKINSON: I appreciate that. I  
29 wouldn't want to tackle the formatting on the whole book  
30 and then find out it was better the other way. Thank  
31 you.

32  
33 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: The way it is it's  
34 really easy to find information. I rely a lot on that.  
35 The way it's written it's to the point, it's not  
36 complicated and there's explanations in there. It's very  
37 useful. The format is very good I think.

38  
39 If there's nothing further for Ann, thank  
40 you very much.

41  
42 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: We've already  
45 established time and place of meeting. Our fall meeting  
46 is scheduled for October 12 and 13. I guess we're  
47 supposed to be selecting a spring meeting. We seem to  
48 have a lot of problems with February.

49  
50 MS. TAHBONE: I was wondering if you do

1 have your meeting in February, there is also the Elders  
2 and Youth Council which will be this next year, I would  
3 suggest you look into a meeting space at the rec center.  
4 There is room where the RAC could meet and it might  
5 provide opportunities for those regional participants  
6 that are here for the elders, that they might be able to  
7 do some observation of the work that you do and it might  
8 provide more opportunities for people to provide  
9 testimony. So you might want to consider maybe looking  
10 into that.

11  
12 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Do you know when the  
13 next dates of the meeting are going to be for the Elders  
14 and Youth Conference?

15  
16 MS. TAHBONE: It's usually the last full  
17 week of February. I'm just saying that, I don't know,  
18 but that's usually the way the meetings are set.

19  
20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: It looks from February  
21 20th to 24th, 2006.

22  
23 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Are we going to try to  
24 get a date at this time then before we adjourn?

25  
26 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Yeah, we always do two  
27 years in advance.

28  
29 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: The reason I asked is  
30 there are a lot of things going on right now. I was  
31 curious that with Iditarod coming up and these  
32 conferences and things and this being crowded to where we  
33 may not get a hotel during those other time frames or a  
34 place to stay. Apparently it's kind of tight here right  
35 now with all these things going on. Maybe in January  
36 when there aren't these things going on. That's just a  
37 suggestion. I'm open to either way.

38  
39 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: January is out of the  
40 cycle, but I was going to ask the RAC to explore having  
41 RAC meetings in the last two weeks of January. We always  
42 seem to run into little snags. For example, some of the  
43 RAC members are participating in other meetings and not  
44 able to participate in our meeting. It would make sense  
45 if we're not going to have a RAC meeting the same time as  
46 the Elders conference, then we could have a meeting ahead  
47 of time and then ask to report on issues of importance in  
48 the region and maybe have somebody available there that  
49 people could refer to.

50

1 MR. GRAY: Madame Chair. Late January,  
2 about a month in January that I'm traveling. It starts  
3 in January and ends like the 18th of February. Ideally,  
4 this time would have been good for me, but I had a client  
5 and stuff. I think all of us are going to have problems  
6 with our scheduling. I mean my schedule next month gets  
7 to where I only have a few days here, a few days there  
8 until June. This time of year, late February, is good  
9 for me. I don't know about the rest of these guys. If  
10 we're going to change to January, I have an outdoor show  
11 the first part of January, an outdoor show the second  
12 part and the February I have two weeks booked up and  
13 that's every year. It might speed up the meeting without  
14 having me here.

15  
16 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I was just suggesting.  
17 Anyway, we'll just go ahead and pick out days. We either  
18 can have it in the windows that are open to us and it  
19 looks like nobody else has selected any because we're the  
20 first ones that are meeting, or we can ask something out  
21 of the ordinary, have meetings in January, or see if  
22 there would be room for us closer to the rec center.

23  
24 So maybe we can try and have it the same  
25 time as the Elders and Youth Conference. Either the  
26 22nd, 23rd or 24th of February next year. That would be  
27 either Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. I think it's a  
28 good idea especially with the Elders Conference. They  
29 can't always be moving around and having to wait, but at  
30 least we can announce these issues are coming up and  
31 people interested can go.

32  
33 MR. GRAY: And this might be a good time  
34 to -- you know, Leonard brought up the fact that you  
35 better come to my village before my five or seven elders  
36 die. Maybe we can make a slot just for elders to speak  
37 to the RAC or these folks here and make more of it than  
38 just have an opportunity for people to come in.

39  
40 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I really like that.  
41 It's better than my January.

42  
43 MR. SEETOT: The meetings I've attended  
44 over the years you see very little participation unless a  
45 specific issue in that region requires that we go to that  
46 community or area to talk about these issues and most of  
47 the meetings have been in Nome. This may give elders,  
48 people the opportunity to comment or raise issues or  
49 concerns that they didn't raise in the community and  
50 going with a region-wide meeting like that that they

1 would be able to raise concerns.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: And I think it would  
4 be very good for our youth. Tom.

5

6 MR. GRAY: I was going to make a motion  
7 that we have this meeting the 23rd and 24th. Does that  
8 work?

9

10 MR. SAVETILIK: I second that motion.

11

12 MR. KOBUK: Question.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion to  
15 having the meeting on the 23rd and 24th in Nome at the  
16 rec center. All those in favor signify by stating aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed same  
21 sign.

22

23 (No opposing votes)

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Tom.

26

27 MR. GRAY: I would make a suggestion that  
28 our staff in the meantime look at bringing in some  
29 special speakers to talk on subsistence issues. We've  
30 got a year's time to do this. Maybe look around and  
31 bring one or two people in just to talk about their  
32 community. Maybe this is something we can build on in  
33 the future. Every year we get somebody involved from a  
34 different region or different area. I think it will add  
35 a little insight and give everybody a broader picture.

36

37 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: I really like your  
38 idea and perhaps our coordinator can meet with the  
39 subsistence division of Kawerak and maybe we can have a  
40 guest speaker talk to us, an elder perhaps. I think it  
41 would make it worthwhile. Any more comments.

42

43 MR. SAVETILIK: Madame Chair. I move to  
44 adjourn.

45

46 CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: There's a motion on  
47 the floor. Does anybody care to second that one.

48

49 MR. KOBUK: Second.

50

1                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those in favor  
2 signify by stating aye.  
3  
4                   IN UNISON: Aye.  
5  
6                   CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: All those opposed same  
7 sign.  
8  
9                   (No comments)  
10  
11                  CHAIRWOMAN CROSS: Thank you for coming  
12 to our meeting.  
13  
14                   (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 108 through 144 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL II, taken electronically by Nathaniel Hile on the 24th day of February 2005, beginning at the hour of 8:20 o'clock a.m. at the Aurora Inn in 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 7th day of March 2005.

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