

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE

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REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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PUBLIC MEETING

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VOLUME II

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11

February 24, 2006

12

8:30 A.M.

13

Aurora Inn Conference Room

14

Nome, Alaska

15

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

17

18 Grace Cross, Chair

19 Peter Martin, Sr.

20 Michael Quinn, Secretary

21 Clifford Weyiouanna, Vice Chair

22 Peter G. Buck

23 Myron Savetilik

24 Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.

25 Charles F. Saccheus, Sr.

26 Thomas Gray

27 Vance E. Grishkowsky

28

29 Barbara Armstrong, Coordinator

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 2/24/2006)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm calling the meeting of the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council to order. It's now 8:30.

Our agenda shows that we are down to Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. I understand there's no one here to do the presentation.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair. The handout did not get to me before I left for this meeting, so I'll be sending that to you once I get back. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. But there's nobody to do any reporting on it.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, there is no one here from FIS. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: The next on our agenda is call for proposal to change Federal fisheries regulation. I understand there's no proposals.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: None.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. So we'll move on to agency reports. OSM. Review of rural determinations briefing.

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That's informational only. (Indiscernible, mic not on) number 2, draft closure review policy briefing.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: So we're doing number 2?

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Number 2. Review of rural determination is briefing, informational only.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

MS. CLARK: Good morning, Madame Chairman. Council members. My name is Maureen Clark, and I'm wit the Office of Subsistence Management.

1 And in Pages 100 through I think it's
2 121 you have our draft closure review policy in your
3 books. The reason we have a draft closure review
4 policy is because about a year ago Governor Murkowski
5 sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior's office
6 expressing some concern about how the Federal
7 Subsistence Board makes determinations on closures to
8 non-Federally-qualified users. So the Secretary's
9 office asked the Board to write a written policy
10 explaining exactly how they make these decisions, and
11 that's what you have on Pages 100 through 121.

12
13 The Board will consider any comments
14 you have on this policy when it meets in May, and it
15 will make any changes at that time, and then it will
16 forward it on to the Secretary's office. And the
17 comment deadline is April 1st.

18
19 MR. GRAY: Okay. Has this been given
20 to Kawerak and their staff to review?

21
22 MS. CLARK: This is their opportunity
23 to review. I don't think it has been given to them
24 specifically. It's a statewide policy.

25
26 MR. GRAY: Okay. We need to make sure
27 they get -- especially Austin.

28
29 MS. CLARK: Sure.

30
31 MR. GRAY: Austin needs to get a copy
32 of this so he can review it.

33
34 MS. CLARK: Absolutely.

35
36 MR. QUINN: And then he and us, too,
37 can comment on any of these closures?

38
39 MS. CLARK: Specifically you're
40 commenting on the policy, but you could comment on
41 closures as well.

42
43 MR. QUINN: Would the Board technically
44 reverse a closure at their meeting from comments from
45 other people?

46
47 MS. CLARK: No, this is just an
48 opportunity to review the policy itself. The policy
49 calls for a review every three years of closures to
50 non-Federally-qualified subsistence users. I think you

1 have some in this region, closures on moose and muskox
2 to non-Federally-qualified.

3

4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And if you look at
5 Page -- beginning Page 105.

6

7 MR. ARDIZZONE: Madame Chair. I
8 believe we already reviewed a number of the ones for
9 this region last meeting, and they stayed status quo.

10

11 MS. CLARK: And what this policy does
12 is establish that there will be a review every three
13 years of those closures.

14

15 MR. GRAY: I guess the reason I want
16 Kawerak involved in this thing, I want them aware that
17 this review is going on, and I don't want them to get
18 caught blindsided. I think it's probably important
19 that we send this also -- a notice to -- I think Roy's
20 the head of the Norton Sound Advisory Board for the
21 State side, so at least he's also aware that
22 something's going on. And he may opt to do nothing,
23 but at least he's not going to be ignorant of what's
24 happened.

25

26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. The review
27 documents look very similar to, you know, analysis, and
28 there's -- I mean, we did it last fall, and the Council
29 would get to see documents, and it would be a public
30 process. It wouldn't just be, oh, hey, I'm going to
31 open it up or I'm going to close it. So there would be
32 plenty of time for review from Kawerak and everybody
33 else.

34

35 MR. GRAY: Yeah. I just want to make
36 sure the key people in the system are going to get the
37 opportunity.

38

39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. Understand.

40

41 MS. CLARK: And they'll have until
42 April 1st that you can review either as a Council or
43 individually, you can submit comments by April 1st.

44

45 MR. QUINN: Now, I've got another
46 question. Like we just went over all these hunting
47 regulation proposals. Closures can be changed by a
48 proposal, right?

49

50 MS. CLARK: That's correct.

1 MR. QUINN: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And they have in the
4 past depending on what's going on with the game or
5 fish.
6
7 Does anybody have any questions or
8 further comments to make on this issue.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 MS. CLARK: Thank you.
13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Number 3,
15 subsistence use amount protocol briefing, Greg Bos.
16 Okay. Reintroduce yourselves.
17
18 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. I'm
19 Sandy Rabinowitch with the Park Service, and this is
20 Terry Haynes with Fish and Game. We're going to
21 jointly give you a presentation. I'll start it and
22 Terry will jump in whenever I fall off the right rail
23 here, and then have some additional things to say, too.
24
25 So in your book, if you go to Page 122,
26 and if you can follow along a little bit, it will
27 actually help on this and I think be easier to
28 understand.
29
30 There's three documents here that run
31 sequentially. On 122 we start with a briefing. If you
32 turn the page you'll see there's questions and answers,
33 and if you turn another page after that, you'll see the
34 actual draft SUA, which stands for subsistence use
35 amounts protocol. So I'm going to start on 122 and
36 kind of work toward the back. And I'm going to go a
37 little, excuse me, slower than I might, because there's
38 kind of a lot of things to swallow here, and so I'll
39 kind of go slowly over this briefing part, and then
40 much more quickly over the rest.
41
42 This draft protocol flows out of an
43 interim memorandum of agreement. For those of you that
44 have your Council manual, I'm going to hold up, this is
45 the book I'm talking about, that full MOA is on Page 83
46 in this. So from the MOA document in this manual is
47 sort of the beginning, and this protocol that we're
48 talking about here today flows out of that.
49
50 In a nutshell, the State and the

1 Federal programs have agreed in this MOA protocol from
2 the year 2000 -- if you look at it, you'll see that's
3 when it was signed, so it was five and a half, six
4 years ago -- to work towards better cooperation and
5 coordination between the programs. And in that
6 protocol there were -- I'm sorry, in that agreement
7 there were several protocols that were envisioned to
8 follow, and this is one of those.

9
10 So I'm going to move down through the
11 bullets and do a little bit of reading here. The State
12 and the Federal Boards recognize an obligation to
13 provide a subsistence priority for subsistence uses of
14 fish and wildlife as mandated in ANILCA, the Federal
15 statute, and State statutes and allow for other
16 beneficial uses of fish and wildlife when harvestable
17 surpluses are sufficient.

18
19 The overall MOA document provides
20 guidance for that coordination between the two
21 programs. And as I said, the need for this protocol,
22 the SUA, was identified at that time.

23
24 There's been quite a bit of work that's
25 gone into this. Terry actually has been part of the
26 group that's really done the hard work and the heavy
27 lifting for several years. Maybe more than several
28 years now. And if you have more detailed questions
29 about sort of how we got here, Terry can do a better
30 job answering those than I.

31
32 A little terminology now. The letters
33 SUA stand for subsistence use amounts, and that's sort
34 of a Federal term. The word ANS stands for amounts
35 necessary for subsistence, and that's State
36 terminology.

37
38 SUA and ANS findings are supposed to
39 help implement the subsistence priority, and they set
40 neither a cap nor a limit. So they don't set a cap and
41 they don't set a limit. Nor do they establish minimum
42 levels for subsistence harvest.

43
44 The SUA refers to the amount of a fish
45 or wildlife population that Federally-qualified users
46 harvest for all the ANILCA defined subsistence uses.
47 And ANS findings indicate the levels of harvest of fish
48 stocks or wildlife populations that are customarily and
49 traditionally used for subsistence under Federal law.

50

1 Now, let me come off the page for a
2 second and do something that i did in North Slope that
3 I think helped a little bit.

4
5 If you ask me, can you give me an
6 example of an ANS, I can hand you some paper --
7 actually Terry can, can hand you some paper and say
8 here's some ANS, amount necessary for subsistence.
9 They're in a book, they're written down. If you ask me
10 for an SUA, I can't hand you anything, because none
11 exist. It's an idea that's not been implemented. So
12 it's important to understand that. ANS exists, it's
13 existed for a long time. And subsistence use amount is
14 an idea that hasn't been implemented yet. So it's
15 important to understand that.

16
17 MR. QUINN: Well, so then how are you
18 using it? If you don't know what it is, how are you
19 using it?

20
21 MR. RABINOWITCH: It hasn't been
22 created and hasn't been used yet. This protocol lays
23 out how it's envisioned to be used.

24
25 But another thing the protocol will
26 explain, and I'm not going to read through all the
27 pages and pages of that, I don't think you want me, you
28 know, to sit here and read to you, but what it explains
29 is that the Federal program will use the State ANS as
30 long as basically everybody agrees that it's going to
31 work. If the Federal program believes that an ANS
32 won't work, for whatever reason, then you'd go down the
33 path of creating the Federal SUA, subsistence use
34 amount number.

35
36 MR. QUINN: Oh, okay. So like for all
37 these closures we had, they're using ANS figures to
38 help determine that they need to close an area?

39
40 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I think it's
41 safe to say that the Federal program probably has not
42 used ANS for all the closures that are on the books.
43 It's probably reasonable to say that they've -- some of
44 them have been brought up at various times, you know,
45 over all the years that these things have happened.
46 But I would not say they have been used, you know, on a
47 regular basis by the Federal program. I think that
48 would be an overstatement. Yeah, go ahead, jump in.

49
50 MR. HAYNES: Let me interject

1 something. I think it is important to -- there is a
2 linkage from our view in the State, there is a linkage
3 between the State ANS findings and these Federal
4 closures, because if there is a closure of Federal
5 lands to non-Federally-qualified subsistence users, as
6 you do have for moose and muskox hunting, the ANS
7 findings help to determine is there a need for that
8 closure. And if the documented harvest information is
9 above the number of animals that are available to be
10 harvested, that's one signal that you may need to have
11 a closure, or some time of restriction. So from the
12 State's perspective, we believe that the State's ANS
13 findings can be a useful tool in the Federal process.
14

15 But as Sandy pointed out, there could
16 come a time where those numbers could differ, where the
17 State's ANS findings for a moose population in Unit 22
18 for how many moose are needed to accommodate
19 subsistence uses, there might be a conclusion that
20 those numbers are out of date, they don't reflect
21 current subsistence use patterns. And if this protocol
22 is implemented, the Federal process might change those
23 numbers, or would undertake to get new information,
24 current information, and possibly change those numbers.
25 So the State numbers are a starting point.
26

27 MR. GRAY: Okay. Now, the State
28 numbers, when you develop State numbers and State ANS,
29 are you developing it for the whole resource, including
30 Federal lands, and then when you develop a Federal ANS,
31 are you including the State lands, or are you just
32 going on Federal lands?
33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: You know, I've got to
35 look down to -- I think I know the answer but I've got
36 to look down to make sure. If you've got it, help me
37 out.
38

39 MR. HAYNES: This is a real important
40 point. I'm glad you raised that question. When the
41 State made its amount necessary for subsistence
42 determinations, that process started before Federal
43 management started in 1990. And the State numbers
44 apply to all lands, State, Federal.
45

46 If the Federal Board made changes to
47 those findings, I think that is a question of how they
48 would apply. One reason the State did not want -- the
49 State is interested in having the Federal system use
50 the State numbers, but not adopt them, because if they

1 were adopted into Federal regulation as official tools,
2 they could only apply to Federal lands, and then they
3 would not accurately -- in our judgment they wouldn't
4 accurately reflect.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What's being
7 practiced.

8
9 MR. HAYNES: Right. So, for example,
10 out here if in one of -- in Unit 22, if the amount
11 necessary for subsistence for moose hunting was 50 to
12 100 moose let's say, if that number was to be used only
13 for Federal lands, it would not reflect the harvest on
14 Federal lands out here, because there's so little
15 Federal land involved. A substantial part of the
16 harvest occurs on State-managed lands. So the harvest
17 on Federal lands.....

18
19 MR. GRAY: This is why I asked the
20 question, is every time we talk about Federal and
21 subsistence issues, it always comes back to we're only
22 talking about Federal land, and we're only talking
23 about we can't go speaking on behalf of State lands.
24 And all of a sudden we're creating an ANS here, and I
25 want to be assured that this ANS that the Federal side
26 is developing is something that is going to overlap
27 onto State lands, because if it isn't, you guys have
28 spent a lot of time creating something that's really a
29 waste. You might as well go back to base one again.
30 You need to manage a resource. You can't draw lines on
31 a map and say, well, we're going to do it on this side,
32 and we're going to develop an ANS over here, and yet
33 the subsistence users are bigger and broader than that.

34
35 MR. HAYNES: Let me clarify. If the
36 numbers were -- there was a conclusion that these
37 numbers don't accurately reflect current subsistence
38 harvest, the process would be hopefully to get new
39 information, take that information to the Board of Game
40 or the Board of Fisheries and ask the State to revise
41 the numbers.

42
43 MR. GRAY: Okay. The Federal side now.

44
45 MR. HAYNES: The Federal side would use
46 those numbers but -- excuse me, you go ahead.

47
48 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, continue. You're
49 doing good.

50

1 MR. HAYNES: The idea is that the
2 Federal Board, Federal system would use the State
3 numbers, but there would be recognition that it really
4 -- like you say, you can't sort -- it's very difficult
5 to sort out how much harvest is occurring on Federal
6 lands, how much is occurring on State lands. That
7 could vary from time to time.

8
9 So what we want to see is numbers used
10 to ensure that subsistence opportunities are being
11 provided for, but that other uses aren't unnecessarily
12 being restricted.

13
14 MR. GRAY: And it should be gone a
15 little bit further. As long as there's surplus
16 resources.

17
18 MR. HAYNES: Absolutely. Absolutely.
19 Conservation is number 1.

20
21 MR. QUINN: And the ANS figures you've
22 currently got are by species and by unit, right? Or
23 are they broken up by subunit as well?

24
25 MR. HAYNES: That varies. In some
26 areas they're by unit, some areas by subunit. And they
27 are subject to revision from time to time depending on
28 the issue that's before the regulatory board, and the
29 level of detail for which information is available. It
30 may not be available on a subunit basis in some cases.
31 It may not be needed on a subunit basis in some cases.
32 I have a handout that shows the findings for the Seward
33 Peninsula region that I can provide you if you want
34 that for discussion purposes.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think maybe a good
37 example would be moose. You know, like 22C and along
38 the road system things are very different from 22D,
39 22E. The amount to be taken is very different in each
40 within our own 22 Game Unit.

41
42 MR. RABINOWITCH: Madame Chair. Greg's
43 helped me out here finding a little more of an answer
44 to Thomas' question. And if you look on Page 125, it's
45 question and answer number 10. I think that's the
46 concrete answer, or the short answer to the question
47 that you were asking about if there were a Federal
48 subsistence use amount, how would it work. So you see,
49 the second sentence says the SUA would include only the
50 harvest of Federally-qualified users on Federally

1 managed land.

2

3 Again, I would repeat that there are no
4 SUAs at this time. So you only get to a Federal
5 subsistence use amount if the State number for, you
6 know, whatever reason is just not working out, people
7 are real unhappy with it. I mean, it would be people
8 like yourselves, it would be a Council like yourself,
9 would say, that number's not right, you know, and you'd
10 have your reasons why you thought that was the case.
11 Then you would move down the road -- or could move down
12 the road toward developing a Federal SUA. There are
13 steps along the way as Terry has already explained.

14

15 Are there other questions, or should we
16 continue.

17

18 MR. SEETOT: So these numbers are used
19 as guidelines to implement or to set bag limits on
20 wildlife resources on Federal lands. Is that part of
21 the process? Like if you are seeing a certain amount
22 of animals, and the State has a certain amount that
23 they use to determine bag limits, then you would
24 coordinate with the State agencies to determine how
25 much moose will be taken from that subunit. The ANS
26 number are used as guidelines to set bag limits on
27 Federal lands?

28

29 MR. RABINOWITCH: Let's do this in a
30 couple of parts. I repeat, current ANS have not been
31 rigorously used by this Federal program. Okay. So
32 we're talking -- all this discussion is about the
33 future. I want to make sure everyone understands that
34 part. Terry, help me a little bit with -- and, oh, Jim
35 you want to jump in?

36

37 MR. MAGDANZ: Yes, I guess I would say
38 seasons and bag limits.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Jim, mic.....

41

42 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz. The seasons
43 and bag limits reflect the biological situation.
44 They're set to try to conserve the resource. The ANS
45 in the State side is a metric that once the season is
46 over and you've added up the animals that are
47 harvested, have you provided for subsistence needs.
48 And if you haven't, then you need to take some action
49 on competing uses. If competing uses, like sport
50 fishing or sport hunting are gone, then the ANS tells

1 you you need to start making some changes in
2 subsistence and maybe go to Tier II. But the bag
3 limits and the seasons reflect the biological
4 situation, the ANS reflects how you should respond to
5 shortfalls in subsistence harvest. Does that make
6 sense?

7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: And the other thing I
9 would add is, and other people may want to jump into
10 this, too, but in terms of the Federal program using
11 the State ANS, which is sort of the first step that
12 this protocol takes you down, I think where you'll see
13 it brought up by the Staff, you know, when Chuck
14 Ardizzone come up here and talks about a proposal in
15 the future, you're going to see it where there's a
16 potential for a closure being discussed. Close this
17 area to nonsubsistence users for moose hunting or
18 muskox hunting or whatever. And as all of you are
19 aware, you know, you have several examples of that that
20 are already in place from, you know, past discussions.

21
22 So in the future when we had an example
23 like that, that the State ANS would be -- it would be
24 in the analysis that you would get for sure every time.
25 There would be some more discussion about that State
26 ANS number and where it came from and so on and so
27 forth, and you all then have an opportunity, you know,
28 to speak to whether you think it's a good number, you
29 know, a good fresh number, an old bad number, whatever
30 you think, and then we all kind of go down the road
31 from there.

32
33 Is that reasonably accurate, you think?

34
35 MR. HAYNES: Yeah. Madame Chair. And
36 I think the -- you have, your Council has more
37 experience dealing with these closures than some others
38 might, because you've had conservation problems with
39 moose in this region, and you've had to take steps to
40 reduce opportunity, and to ensure that subsistence
41 users get the highest priority. And so you've seen the
42 regulations tightened up for moose hunting, and you've
43 seen closures established so that the only people who
44 can hunt on Federal lands in most of the moose hunts in
45 Unit 22 are local Federally-qualified subsistence
46 users. And supporting that closure is the need to
47 provide highest opportunity to hunt those moose by
48 local Federally-qualified subsistence users.

49
50 MR. GRAY: Are you saying a

1 registration hunt is part of the subsistence user
2 program then? You know, the majority of our moose
3 hunting here on the Seward Peninsula is through a
4 registration hunt, which is kind of -- it's open
5 statewide to people. They could fly in here and apply
6 for this thing, so.....

7
8 MR. HAYNES: But not on Federal lands.

9
10 MR. GRAY:there is -- like our
11 winter hunts -- okay. Yeah. There's lots of
12 opportunity for outsiders to come in here and that's a
13 frustration that some of the local people in this
14 region still have is.....

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: With the State lands.

17
18 MR. GRAY: Yeah, and I understand that.
19 But the -- yeah. Okay. This is what my wife, you
20 know, that speech about the Eskimo, taste your words
21 before you spit them out, my wife put that up on the
22 wall. And I think she put it up for me, because
23 sometimes I think before -- or speak before I think.

24
25 MR. HAYNES: Well, this is complicated,
26 Madame Chair, and Mr. Gray. It's a process that is
27 going to be new on the Federal side. The State has had
28 experience dealing with it, and it's -- on the State
29 side, we think it is an important tool to be used, and
30 the intent is not to impose restrictions but to, number
31 1, ensure that subsistence uses are being provided for.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think a good example
34 would be the chum situation in Nome from the State
35 standpoint. The Tier II on the chums, when that was
36 implemented, there was just not enough for everybody to
37 go around, and then only a few were able to get Tier II
38 permits, and the ones that can show the most use. Am I
39 kind of correct on that in terms of using that as an
40 example?

41
42 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair. That's kind
43 of getting to the extreme, when there aren't enough
44 fish even to provide for all subsistence users, then
45 you go to Tier II, and you're -- only a subset of all
46 subsistence users are eligible, because you don't --
47 and only the people that meet certain standards score a
48 certain number of points.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But it all started

1 with commercial fishing and sport fishing and taking
2 those out, and then limiting the number of fish to be
3 taken by subsistence users, and then it went down to
4 extreme.

5
6 MR. HAYNES: That's correct. Yes.

7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: And I would just add
9 in that example on the sort of Federal language, we
10 refer to that as an 804, when you get down to not
11 enough of a resource for all the subsistence users, we
12 then move into an 804 analysis, and I think you've had
13 a couple of those that have been done. I think Helen
14 has probably been the author of those, you know, and
15 explained those to you in the past where you're
16 divvying up between the subsistence users only. All
17 the other users have already, you know, been closed out
18 to other users already.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: White Mountain and
21 Golovin's winter hunt.

22
23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Right. With moose.
24 Yeah.

25
26 Your questions have actually done a
27 good job at continuing to move us through the material
28 I wanted to provided, so I'm not going to sit here and
29 read things that you've just asked about, and hopefully
30 we've you, you know, reasonable answers.

31
32 I think the prudent thing for me to do
33 is flip a couple of pages to 126, and again I'm not
34 going to read this to you, but I want to make sure that
35 you see where this is. So this is the actual document
36 that we're talking about that is the draft. It's
37 pretty straight forward in the sense that, you know,
38 there's a purpose portion and background, and some
39 basic principles. You've all seen documents like this
40 before. It kind of lays out the groundwork.

41
42 And then there are several sections
43 about how this gets implemented. And again I think
44 your questions have actually done a good job bringing
45 it out.

46
47 So I'm going to just I think repeat my
48 summary and then stop and we'll see if there's more
49 questions.

50

1 There currently is no Federal SUA.
2 That this protocol's about is recognizing and using the
3 State ANS numbers. Again, they're codified in State
4 regulation. If those are useful, then they would work
5 -- presumably they would work just fine. You probably
6 really won't pay much attention to them unless there's
7 a discussion about closures, closing a moose hunt or a
8 muskox hunt or, you know, something like that, that's
9 when they would bubble up and they'd really get talked
10 about.

11
12 You may or may not be comfortable with
13 a State ANS, and if not, that's where you would begin a
14 discussion about what to do about it. And as Terry
15 said, the first step would be try to get more
16 information and see if you could make that more
17 appropriate, bring it maybe more up to date. And that
18 still wasn't wasn't working, then you move towards a
19 discussion of creating a Federal subsistence use
20 number, which would only be for Federal land and for
21 Federal users.

22
23 Let me see if I think there's really
24 anything else. Anything I'm forgetting, Terry? I'm
25 just trying to summarize the pieces.

26
27 MR. GRAY: Are there any Federal SUAs
28 in Alaska?

29
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: No. There are none.
31 That's why I was trying to hold up before and say if
32 you ask me to give you an example of a Federal SUA, I
33 can't do that, because none exist, whereas for the
34 State there are codified.....

35
36 MR. GRAY: And I think -- you know, I'm
37 sitting here thinking if we could force this on silver
38 salmon in my river. And every time I talk about my
39 river and the silver salmon, the Feds come in and say
40 we don't have any jurisdiction there. We don't want to
41 deal with it. And the State is not managing that
42 resource very good. They're doing a piss-poor job.
43 And we're going to have a situation like the chums here
44 in a few years, because the State is doing such a
45 terrible job managing that resource. And it's ironic
46 that it's going to have to go to a crisis before
47 something happens, but that's where it's going.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think then the
50 question would be if A SUA's going to be challenged,

1 you said the first step is to work with the State. And
2 who does that? The RAC can bring a particular problem
3 to OMS and OMS works with the State to see if something
4 can happen that can change things. Or how does the
5 process begin if we are unhappy with a situation? And
6 SUA.

7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm actually going to
9 see if Terry's willing to try to answer that, because I
10 think he's done more thinking -- he's helped build this
11 and probably done more thinking about it.

12
13 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair. I think one
14 step for a Regional Council would be to submit a
15 proposal.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: To the State or to the
18 Feds?

19
20 MR. HAYNES: Well, I was trying to
21 think of a specific case.

22
23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, scenario.

24
25 MR. HAYNES: Usually I think where
26 you're going to determine whether or not you're happy
27 with the numbers will be in the context of a regulation
28 proposal you might be reviewing. So if there was a
29 proposal concerning Unit 22 moose, and as one step of
30 the Staff analysis for that proposal, I think you would
31 see some new information that referred to the State ANS
32 numbers. And if in that process -- at this stage of
33 the process, if you said, we're not comfortable with
34 those numbers we're not sure they're accurate, that
35 would be the point at which those of us working in this
36 process would have to make note of that, and the.....

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We've said that
39 before, of being uncomfortable with numbers, because
40 they were so old. There hasn't been a count for so
41 many years. We brought this information about it, and
42 the State would make an effort to try to get a more
43 accurate count.

44
45 MR. HAYNES: And what this process is
46 designed to do is to -- because some of the State
47 numbers are old, quite frankly, because the Division of
48 Subsistence, which has done a lot of the research
49 that's responsible for development of those numbers,
50 hasn't had sufficient funding to update a lot of those

1 studies and get current information. It's had to set
2 priorities for where it can be doing the work. This
3 process ideally would set up another mechanism to
4 provide some funding to get this information that would
5 be needed for the Federal process. So it could well be
6 that in discussing, just using the hypothetical of Unit
7 22 moose, if there was a conclusion reached that the
8 current ANS finding for 22 moose were way out of date,
9 the Regional Council felt that those numbers were
10 inaccurate, there would be a goal of trying to get
11 information collected to update those numbers, and to
12 have those existing -- the numbers that are currently
13 in the regulations changed if the new information found
14 that the old numbers were inaccurate. So there is -- I
15 think that's the primary mechanism is to, when you have
16 an issue before you, that provides one vehicle to
17 trigger a response by the system to see if there can be
18 come new information gathered, and the numbers
19 potentially changed.

20

21 MR. GRAY: You know, these subsistence numbers,
22 too, I mean, you can look at the resource and what's
23 available out there, and plan on the resource, but the
24 village that I live in is White Mountain. When I moved
25 there, there was 150 people there. I'm the mayor in
26 that village. I just a report that there's 224 people
27 in my village now. So my village has grown by 25
28 percent. The subsistence needs I would say have grown
29 by 25 percent.

30

31 When you look at regionwide, every
32 village, if they have the growth that we have, it's
33 growing fast, too. So these numbers need to be
34 assessed pretty regular, you know, every five years or
35 so to ensure that the needs in subsistence are real
36 numbers. You know, in 25 years 25 percent really
37 doesn't sound like much, but you put 17 villages
38 together, that's a lot of need. And I'm not sure if
39 these figures are factored in in what you're talking
40 about here, but they need to be a player, because I
41 mean, you know, there's what, 10,000 people in this
42 region, and they're all subsistence users.

43

44 MR. RABINOWITCH: Madame Chairman.
45 One, just to go back a couple of comments that I wanted
46 to make to Tom in terms of the river you were talking
47 about. This whole discussion about ANS and SUA, this
48 isn't going to help you. This isn't a silver bullet.
49 And I just want to make sure that I said that. You
50 probably already know that.

1 MR. GRAY: And I have heard that so
2 many times, and I go look at a map of who owns what
3 land there, and I see BLM owns the major portion of the
4 land. It's selected by the State, but BLM still holds
5 title to it. to me, there's a partnership there.
6 There's an agreement. You both have bought into the
7 chip, you both should manage it until one or the other
8 strictly owns it. Then it should go to a separate
9 management. I say you guys are wrong in pawning it off
10 on the State. You guys technically own -- you may have
11 given the rights away, and I think that you guys giving
12 those rights away were wrong. But that's another
13 argument in another place I think.

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Madame Chairman.
16 Again I think your questions actually have done a very
17 good job drawing this out, and I really don't think
18 there's anything more I can add to this. It is
19 complicated, you know, as Terry said a minute ago.
20 It's new. It would add some things to the process.
21 And I guess I'll look to Terry to see if there are any
22 additional comments you think we need to make, Terry.
23 But I think we've probably covered it.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have another
26 question, too. One last question. If there's a
27 question about subsistence use amount, and we want a
28 more accurate picture of what's being used by
29 subsistence users, is that to be contracted to -- is
30 there a provision where it could be contracted to such
31 as Kawerak which really does a really good job doing
32 surveys of subsistence use amounts. Or would that be
33 done by the Federal Staff or the State Staff or would
34 it be one of those where like Kawerak would submit a
35 proposal to do the work, where it would be contracted
36 out to a native organization for example.

37
38 MR. RABINOWITCH: Let me start with an
39 answer, but I'm going to quickly turn to Terry, because
40 I think he has more of the background. Ultimately
41 decisions about expending Federal dollars will be made
42 by the Federal program. But I'm going to stop there
43 and ask Terry to jump in and share what's been talked
44 about to the extent that it has.

45
46 MR. HAYNES: I'll tell you what I hope
47 happens, and to the extent that -- what we've talked
48 about is that there would be -- there's a conclusion
49 that there is new information needed, the Office of
50 Subsistence Management would be one potential funding

1 source. And I think the next step would be, if there
2 is funding available to collect the needed information,
3 who can do that most efficiently and effectively. And
4 I think Office of Subsistence Management has tried hard
5 to develop working relationships with native
6 organizations throughout the State. Alaska Department
7 of Fish and Game, Subsistence Division does a lot of
8 that type of work, and it typically does it working
9 closely with native organizations. So, you know, it's
10 hard to know right now who would be the entity that
11 would do the research, but I think you're correct.
12 Kawerak has established a good history of doing good,
13 solid research, and that would work in its favor if
14 there was a need for information in this region. But
15 ultimately if it was Federal funds being used, the
16 Office of Subsistence Management would make that
17 determination.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The reason I say that
20 is because, you know, the fisheries monitoring
21 projects. It would be kind of something maybe that
22 ought to be looked at if we're going to be looking at
23 protocols for subsistence use. Because I think, from
24 my experience, a person from U.S. Fish and Wildlife or
25 from ADG&F can go out, they don't get as much
26 information as somebody in the local entity does, like
27 Kawerak. Kawerak certainly gets a lot more information
28 when they send persons out, and send out surveys.
29 People are more responsive. But that's all I have to
30 say about that.

31
32 MR. RABINOWITCH: But it's a good
33 comment, and, you know, we'll make sure that other
34 people hear that and it's shared.

35
36 MR. QUINN: Can I jump in here. Well,
37 Terry, you're not giving them really the whole picture
38 here, and, Grace, you're somewhat wrong. The State --
39 doesn't the State maybe in conjunction with Kawerak put
40 a person or have a person in almost every village, go
41 through every year and count -- figure out how much was
42 actually started? We've even seen references to that
43 in here, you know, like there was so many animals
44 harvested according to moose tags, but when the State
45 or Kawerak guy came through, they found out there was
46 more animals harvested, so actually the State does have
47 some pretty good information on how many animals are
48 harvested in these villages, and through that medium
49 how much is needed for subsistence. Am I correct?
50

1 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair. Mr. Quinn.
2 That's not true on a statewide basis.

3
4 MR. QUINN: Well, I didn't say on a
5 statewide basis.

6
7 MR. HAYNES: In some areas Subsistence
8 Division or Kawerak or other native organizations,
9 other regional organizations have had support to do
10 harvest monitoring in its region. So in some area
11 there is information that has been collected for one
12 year or for several years. But in other areas harvest
13 information hasn't been collected systematically for a
14 much longer period of time. So it's a mixed picture
15 across the State.

16
17 MR. QUINN: Well, how is it doing here?
18 Austin?

19
20 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you. Madame Chair.
21 Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak subsistence director.

22
23 Actually you're skepticism is actually
24 very well welcomed. To say that the State has no
25 information, that's not true. They have some
26 information. It's not the greatest information, simply
27 because of the response rate to a harvest ticket or a
28 harvest report isn't all that great. It's a fairly
29 decent sort of tool to index harvests in our region.
30 And what has happened with the State is that the salmon
31 harvest surveys, which could have been tied to a lot of
32 other types of activities, those funds were cut.
33 There's no more money for those kinds of things. And
34 the big game harvest surveys, funding is very limited,
35 and it generally can only go to at most three
36 communities per year in our region, and we do those
37 surveys on about \$8,000 a year, and that mount of funds
38 simply doesn't allow you to spread out your effort to
39 assess harvest in our region adequately.

40
41 So both types, a household survey is
42 utilized by Kawerak in contract with Subsistence
43 Management, as well as the actual green harvest tickets
44 for like an index to some.

45
46 Yeah, like Mr. Haynes indicated, the
47 effort is spotty, and it takes a fair amount of work on
48 both agencies to figure out what's going on.

49
50 MR. QUINN: But you're doing three

1 villages a year in our region at least for big game
2 harvest, is that right?

3

4 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah. Uh-huh.

5

6 MR. QUINN: And you rotate those
7 villages, so.....

8

9 MR. AHMASUK: Right. Right. Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. QUINN: So there is some
12 information available at the State level as to.....

13

14 MR. AHMASUK: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15

16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What I was trying to
17 say is that a better picture is developed for the State
18 and the Federal Government to utilize when Kawerak did
19 household-to-household surveys, because like you read,
20 you know, in our materials, what people report to the
21 State on pieces of paper are not exactly -- not
22 everybody does that. Household surveys project --
23 brings out a bigger picture of what's going on.

24

25 MR. GRAY: You know, I think Fish and
26 Game and Kawerak have both learned over the years how
27 to get information. I do know Fish and Game has used
28 some of their Staff in White Mountain to do surveys,
29 and Kawerak has used local people to do surveys.

30

31 I guess my question is you're managing
32 a resource, managing a need, and the survey stuff is a
33 tool to manage that resource. If we don't have the
34 right information for the surveys, you're going to have
35 a hard time managing the resource. How do we get more
36 money to Kawerak or -- yeah, we've 17 villages I think
37 in our region, am I right? And we're surveying three
38 villages. I guess, you know, I'm not going to worry
39 about the rest of Alaska, but why aren't we surveying
40 all 17 villages? We need to get to that point. How do
41 we get there. I mean, we have lots of agencies here,
42 we have lots of money here. Can't you guys -- you've
43 signed the agreement to put this together, you've
44 signed an agreement that you're going to manage this
45 thing. Let's get the tools to do it now. Kawerak is
46 sitting there, they've got the staff, they've got the
47 know how. We just need to throw some money at it. We
48 need to figure out a game plan here of how we're going
49 to deal with this. And like I say, I'm not worried
50 about the rest of Alaska. To heck with them. I'm

1 worried about my people.

2

3 MR. HAYNES: Madame Chair. What I
4 would encourage the Council to do is to read over the
5 material that's in this book, and you may well have
6 questions. And it may further confused you. But I
7 think it will help you to better understand what Sandy
8 and I have tried to summarize for you today.

9

10 If it would be helpful to you, I have
11 prepared a handout that includes some other information
12 about how the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game make
13 decisions concerning subsistence uses and where the
14 amount necessary for subsistence findings fit into this
15 process. I have another chart that shows how the
16 Federal customary and traditional use decisions are
17 made. And then I have attachments showing the current
18 amount necessary findings for subsistence for fish and
19 wildlife in this region. The Boards of Fisheries and
20 Game haven't made a lot of those determinations in this
21 region, but I have -- I can show you what is currently
22 on the books. So when this protocol is implemented,
23 the numbers that are currently in State regulation
24 would be the ones that would be -- you would start with
25 in the Federal system. They would be subject to
26 revision and change over time, and the State Boards
27 might make additional findings to the State fish and
28 wildlife regulations, but this would be where you would
29 start. So if this might be a useful handout for you
30 like that.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think it would be.

33

34 MR. HAYNES: Okay. But again I think
35 from my point of view, I think if you take the time to
36 review this material, if you have questions, route them
37 through Barb. She can get those to us, and I would
38 think we would have a responsibility to come back to
39 your fall meeting and provide you with more information
40 if we don't provide that to you before then.

41

42 MR. GRAY: Well, I've already threw
43 something at you guys, and I hope everybody was
44 listening. We've got three villages surveyed. I want
45 to see us get to all 17 villages surveyed. I want to
46 see us put together some kind of a plan of how we're
47 going to get to that point. If it takes us 20 years to
48 get to that point, so be it, but let's get some goals
49 and objectives here. Let's set some dates. Let's set
50 some people accountable. And this is the baseline for

1 what you guys are doing and what you're talking about.
2 If you don't have that information on these surveys,
3 you don't have anything. Does that make sense?

4
5 MR. RABINOWITCH: I think it makes a
6 lot of sense, and I think probably everybody in this
7 room would be happy if we could make that happen. But
8 I'm not going to tell you it's going to happen
9 overnight either, because it's just not. And that's
10 just the reality of funding and budget, and I think you
11 understand that. So, I mean, I hear you and.....

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, we heard you.

14
15 MR. RABINOWITCH:appreciate that,
16 but certainly neither or us or none of us in the room
17 can tell you a year from now we'll have it all done,
18 because I just don't think that's reality.

19
20 MR. GRAY: And I don't think that's the
21 intent. The intent is let's set some long range goals.
22 Everything's accomplished by goals. Let's set some
23 goals here and let's work towards those goals. And,
24 you know, granted we may not need them, but if things
25 go the way they're going, we're not going to have a
26 resource for these goals to be tied to, and we'll be
27 arguing a moot point in effect sometimes. So my thing
28 is, let's set some goals.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think that obviously
31 from the way the discussion is going, I think we really
32 need to revisit this. So I will ask that this very
33 issue be put back on our fall meeting, so we can
34 further discuss it. I don't think we're going to go
35 any more further with it now, but I think if we all go
36 back and read the materials, perhaps correspond with
37 Kawerak people, too, they will more questions, perhaps
38 some more ideas, and maybe look at this situation in
39 terms of what's happening to our region in terms of big
40 game. So I think -- he's nodding, he'll get more
41 information on it.

42
43 MR. QUINN: Let me say -- I'm sorry,
44 Grace. Let me say something. You guys are already
45 putting money in to help count the animals. Tony just
46 said there's going to be a BLM guy in Unalakleet this
47 week I think with an airplane. Or two BLM guys. You
48 probably should put some money into counting people and
49 seeing how much animals they use since you want to use
50 this SUA and ANS stuff in your determinations, you

1 might as well help get the information, you know, so
2 talk to who you need to talk to. You said OSM might --
3 that's how you we need to ask, well, ask them I guess
4 and give either Kawerak or the State some more money to
5 count more stuff.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I think that,
8 you know, wherever -- to me I kind of see us see the
9 Council going the direction of where we need it the
10 most. Right now I think in moose population,
11 Unalakleet has the most need to be looked at.

12
13 But anyway, I think that's really
14 something for us to start considering. Bring us more
15 information. If there's any part of the State that have
16 started SUAs between now and our fall meeting, or you
17 may want to start looking at how we could utilize it
18 within our region. Because I think it will be a very
19 good tool, but it will be a hard process. But we can I
20 think with our situation limit it to a given area,
21 given game unit.

22
23 But anyway, that's just a thought. So
24 I think we really do need to move along, too.

25
26 MR. RABINOWITCH: Just a closing
27 comment, kind of to connect the dots. What Terry
28 handed out here in this protocol, these handouts are
29 some of the appendices that are listed at the back of
30 it. So if you see appendices, that's what Terry's
31 handed out here.

32
33 Thank you, Madame Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken Adkisson had
36 raised his finger.

37
38 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
39 Park Service. Madame Chair. Council members.

40
41 I think this discussion this morning's
42 been useful, but I think it also shows that this is a
43 complex, complicated issue. It's far from a perfect
44 system. And there's a lot of, I think, room for
45 wriggle let's say in the process.

46
47 You're going to get within the next two
48 years, and Jim Magdanz will probably have more to say
49 about this, but you're going to get some hands-on
50 experience with this process. The Board of Game in its

1 November meeting asked the Cooperators, the Seward
2 Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Group, to come back in two
3 years, so that's 2007, with recommendations for muskox
4 ANS by subunit areas, or the hunt areas as we're
5 managing them. So, you know, the charge is to the
6 Cooperators, but as you well know, the Cooperators try
7 to work closely with the local fish and game advisory
8 committees, the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
9 Councils, some of you participate in the Cooperators
10 effort, and you're obviously going to have
11 opportunities to comment and have input into this
12 process. But this is going to be a very important
13 stage in the future of muskoxen hunting out on the
14 Seward Peninsula, because those ANS figures and things
15 will largely determine whether the Federal lands
16 continue to remain closed or not. And it's not a
17 simple process. Much of the existing harvest
18 information is based on a permitting system, and much
19 of the actual in-fact harvest, because it's a
20 re-introduced species is probably largely an artifact
21 or a construct of the permitting system itself. And
22 so, you know, now do we get information, how do we make
23 estimates of what the ANS -- it's a real time problem,
24 but, you know, life goes on, and the Board is going to
25 want answers in two years, and we're going to have to
26 give them some. And there will be decisions made based
27 on that information as perfect or as imperfect as that
28 information is. so you're going to get some hands on
29 experience with the process and how it works.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Any
32 further questions or comments.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Do you
37 guys want to take a break now or -- okay. We'll take
38 not too long of a break.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (On record)

43
44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Are we ready to
45 start our meeting again. Okay. I'll call the meeting
46 back to order. It's now almost 9:45. The next on our
47 agenda is Jeff Denton, BLM.

48
49 MR. DENTON: Good morning. Thank you,
50 Madame Chair and members of the Council. My name is

1 Jeff Denton. I'm a biologist with the Anchorage field
2 office of the BLM.

3

4 And I'll just kind of give you an
5 update. I handed out a BLM planning process, kind of
6 where we're at in the Seward/Kobuk resource management
7 planning process. I think you've been exposed to this
8 in past meetings, so this is just an update of where we
9 are. I think within probably days here it's going to
10 be going to the printer. In mid April it will come out
11 for a 90-day comment period. This will be the public's
12 opportunity to comment, and it will be available -- it
13 will be made available in a lot of local areas, in
14 libraries and -- if I can find my cheat sheet here, I
15 can tell you all about that. The copies will be
16 available. It's actually going to be a two-volume set.
17 These are pretty intimidating things, these resource
18 management plans, so don't -- try not to be intimidated
19 by it, and you've got to kind of look at the parts that
20 really are going to affect you within it. You know,
21 the thing looks really big and intimidating to start
22 with, but it's basically a two-set volume. Some people
23 are on the mailing list. I think is on it as the
24 chairman of this group, so she'll be getting a copy.
25 It will also be available in CD for folks that want it
26 that way. And it's also available on the BLM Alaska
27 State office web site, so it's available in several
28 ways where you can look at it. And we'll make it
29 available in the Kobuk/Seward communities at the IRA
30 councils, the native regional corporation offices and
31 borough governments. They'll all have a copy
32 available, it will be sent to them. The library in
33 Nome and Kotzebue will have a copy, and there will be
34 some going to the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group,
35 and then any BLM office. Tom Sparks here will also
36 have a copy here in this office here.

37

38 Now, if there's folks that are in
39 outlying communities like Unalakleet who have some
40 vested interest in some of these resources and
41 management on the Seward Peninsula, you probably need
42 to go through one of these other sources. It won't,
43 you know -- or request a copy to go to that community
44 like Shageluk would be one, Unalakleet would be one,
45 even folks from Stebbins and St. Michaels have an
46 interest in these resources and how management's going
47 to go for the next 10 to 15 years. Get a copy. BLM
48 will find a way of getting you a copy so you can review
49 it.

50

1 So it's real important. This is
2 probably your one major shot at making some comments on
3 all BLM planning and all BLM kinds of decisions, the
4 way they're going to manage their lands for the next 10
5 to 15 years, so, you know, it's a big chunk of time, so
6 it's a fairly important thing.

7
8 And the comment part, these will be
9 probably in April they'll actually be available.
10 That's when the printing will be done, and when it will
11 hit the streets.

12
13 Any questions on that land use plan.

14
15 MR. GRAY: How do we get on the mailing
16 list or how do we get a copy of this.

17
18 MR. DENTON: I'll tell you what I can
19 -- Jeannie Cole, I can give you her address. She's the
20 coordinator for this.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Maybe a start would be
23 if people are interested in getting a copy, they could
24 put their name and address.....

25
26 MR. DENTON: That would be great.
27 Yeah, go ahead and do that, and I'll get that to
28 Jeannie Cole or Tom Canon or whatever. So that would
29 be good.

30
31 And an update on other things BLM is
32 going to do in this area. I guess we're cooperating
33 with Fish and Game over the next two weeks here,
34 weather willing. We're going to do a moose recruitment
35 survey in 22A, in the Unalakleet area, to assess, you
36 know, recruitment of calves, survivorship of calves,
37 this sort of thing down there for that.

38
39 Within two years we're planning on
40 doing then a full fledged census that we had done here
41 last year to compare, to see if the moratorium or the
42 closure down there is actually accomplishing what we
43 want it to do, and to see if we're getting some
44 response in the moose population down there.

45
46 And also in the next couple weeks we're
47 going to actually be doing 22D, a full census on 22D.
48 I believe Fish and Game is actually going to do 22E as
49 well. So they're going to do a complete census on
50 those two hunt units for moose.

1 So that's really all the information I
2 have right now. Most of it's, you know, what we're
3 doing is yet to come here in the next few weeks.
4
5 If there's any questions, I'd be glad
6 to answer them, or if I can't answer them, I'll get you
7 answers somehow.
8
9 (No comments)
10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jeff.
12
13 MR. DENTON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Alaska Department of
16 Fish and Game.
17
18 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair, my name's
19 Jim Magdanz. I work with the Division of Subsistence
20 in Kotzebue for Fish and Game.
21
22 Kate Persons wanted to be here this
23 morning, but the weather is such that she decided when
24 she came in this morning that if she didn't turn around
25 and go back home out on Banner Creek, that she wouldn't
26 get there for a day or two. So she's hopefully either
27 home or almost home right now. Tony has a child at the
28 doctor's at the morning.
29
30 So I have a printed copy of Kate's
31 summary, and then I wanted to talk some about amounts
32 necessary for subsistence for muskox. So I believe
33 that Barb has or has already handed out the summary
34 that Kate provided, a report to the Seward Peninsula
35 Regional Advisory Council. And this summarizes the
36 actions by the Board of Game in Kotzebue in November on
37 Pages 1 and a little bit on Page 2. And then she
38 summarizes some of the results of their surveys.
39
40 I can briefly go through this with you.
41 If you have any substantive questions about the
42 biological material.....
43
44 MR. HAYNES: I think they're having
45 trouble finding it.
46
47 (Pause)
48
49 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. Too much paper. A
50 Report to the Seward Peninsula Advisory Council

1 prepared by Kate Persons. I'm not sure exactly what
2 your cover looks like. It looks like the Chair has it.
3 It's about three pages long.

4
5 (Pause)

6
7 MR. MAGDANZ: There we go. Thank you,
8 Barb.

9
10 And if you look through those items on
11 Page 1, I think many of those you've already discussed
12 here, because there were parallel regulations before
13 the RAC. And so you're going to be familiar with the
14 issues.

15
16 For brown bears, we talked about
17 yesterday the resident bag limit was changed to two
18 bears per year in 22A and the season was lengthened to
19 include 15 additional days in June in 22A north of the
20 Golsovia River. So those are the changes in bear
21 regulations in 22A.

22
23 For caribou, and you talked about this
24 yesterday, the caribou season was shortened to October
25 1 to April 30th in Unit 22B. This was at the request
26 of the Reindeer Herders Association.

27
28 Then the moose season in a portion of
29 22A was closed. Again you talked about that yesterday.

30
31 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I've got one question
32 here. On that two bears. Are they -- is there any
33 tags that are required, or is it just -- how did that
34 work?

35
36 MR. MAGDANZ: Through the Chair.
37 Vince, the bear -- you know, I'm going to defer that
38 question to Kate. Because I know in unit 23 where I
39 deal with these things all the time, we do not have a
40 sealing requirement -- I mean, there's no seal
41 required.

42
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: There's no tag
44 requirement.

45
46 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: No tag requirement.

47
48 MR. MAGDANZ: No tag requirement.

49
50 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: There's still a

1 sealing requirement.

2

3 MR. MAGDANZ: But the seal after the
4 harvest is still required. You have to have both bears
5 sealed. But you wouldn't have to buy a tag in advance
6 of the hunt.

7

8 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: There's no tags.
9 Okay. Thank you.

10

11 MR. MAGDANZ: Coming back to moose,
12 they closed a portion of 22A for conservation reasons.
13 At the request of Stebbins and St. Michael, the winter
14 moose season in 22A was moved to January. In eastern
15 22B, that's upper Koyuk -- the Koyuk River, a
16 nonresident drawing hunt was established with up to 10
17 permits available. And in the Nome Road system, we've
18 created a uniform two week season, Unit 22B west, 22C,
19 22D, Kuzitrina, 22D southwest.

20

21 The Board spent a fair amount of time
22 on muskox. I'll talk some more about that in a minute.
23 They established a registration hunt in 22E, which
24 means that no longer will people wanting to hunt in 22E
25 have to apply for the Tier II permits. A registration
26 hunt for muskox, it'll work just like a registration
27 hunt for moose. You come and register for the hunt, and
28 then you report your harvest.

29

30 In order to manage the Seward Peninsula
31 muskox herd in both a Tier II hunt for the areas around
32 Nome and 22D, 22B, and a registration hunt, the Board
33 had to make an additional ANS finding. They relied on
34 information that the villages provided several years
35 ago, in 1998, and set the amount necessary for
36 subsistence at the amount that was recommended
37 originally by the villages of Wales and Shishmaref.
38 And so that amount was 40 to 52. So they made what we
39 call a nested determination, the amount necessary for
40 subsistence for all of the Seward Peninsula remains at
41 100. They did not change that. But within that
42 amount, they made a determination that the amount
43 necessary for subsistence was 40 to 52 muskox in Unit
44 22D. The harvestable surplus was greater than that,
45 and so they went to a registration hunt there.

46

47 They made some other changes in muskox
48 regs. They reflect the recommendations of the
49 Cooperators. The Board adopted the Cooperators'
50 recommendations with the exception of the proxy hunt.

1 They did not adopt a proxy hunt for muskox.

2

3 So let me talk for a moment. The Chair
4 asked yesterday that we review what the Board of Game
5 did with proxy hunting in its January meeting.

6

7 The Board added some language to the
8 existing proxy regulation. It used to read the
9 resident hunter or the proxy holding a valid resident
10 hunting license may take only moose, caribou and deer
11 for another resident who is blind, physically disabled
12 or 65 years of age or older. That is still true.
13 However, new language, proxy hunting will be allowed
14 for caribou and deer in areas where the bag limit is
15 greater than one. Proxy hunting will be allowed for
16 moose in cow hunts or any bull hunts. Proxy hunting
17 will be prohibited in specific hunts if the use of the
18 proxy would allow circumvention of harvest restrictions
19 specified by the Board.

20

21 One other change they made to the
22 regulation. The existing regulation said a person may
23 not be proxy for more than one beneficiary at a time.
24 They added language to say, a person may not be a proxy
25 more than twice per season per species.

26

27 The challenge that the Board faced with
28 proxy hunting was that the number of people who were
29 participation in the proxy system was growing rapidly.
30 It increased by 20 percent in 2004 from 1598 to 1909,
31 from 2003 to 2004. Almost all of the people who were
32 participating in the proxy system were urban Alaskans,
33 Fairbanks, North Pole, Juneau. There was evidence of
34 abuse. Literally people going into Pioneer Homes and
35 getting elders to sign over proxy hunting permits to
36 them. There was one hunter in North Pole who had eight
37 separate proxies to go hunting. Because the State --
38 we did not see those kinds of things happening in this
39 region, or rural Alaska in general. These things were
40 happening in the urban areas. And the Department
41 believed that some hunters were using this proxy
42 hunting system to increase their own personal bag limit
43 at the expense of the elders and the disabled. And
44 because on the State side we can't make regulations
45 that apply only to rural residents, we can't manage
46 people by geography, which the Federal system can do,
47 we have no way to make a regulation that prohibits the
48 use of proxies by urban residents, and allows the use
49 of proxies by rural residents. So the Board felt it
50 needed to manage the situation to control some of these

1 abuses, and so that's why it has been more restrictive.

2

3 As we said yesterday, local Staff
4 believe, Fish and Game Staff, that these kinds of
5 problems aren't an issue in Northwest Alaska, and we
6 have no problem with the Federal program proceeding
7 with the designated hunter program. And the reluctance
8 of the State to move forward with proxy reflects the
9 legal framework that we find ourselves in, and not the
10 facts of the situation as they exist in Northwest
11 Alaska.

12

13 Kate has some additional information in
14 here, and I'm not going to review that now. You can
15 look at it here. She's got results of fall composition
16 counts, Unit 22C and 22D. And some muskox information.
17 She summarizes on the third page what they're working
18 on right now. They're planning, as Jeff mentioned, a
19 moose census in Units 22D and 22E. They're going to do
20 a wolf survey in the Unalakleet drainage. There's a
21 moose calf weight study in Western 22B. There's a
22 muskox composition survey with NPS coming up in April
23 in 22D, and a habitat survey in western 22B for moose.

24

25 I wanted to move on now to something
26 that you've heard about already, the request from the
27 Board of Game for amounts necessary information. I'd
28 like to hand out a couple things right now for that.
29 There's two sheets of paper.

30

31 (Pause)

32

33 MR. GRAY: What is this for, moose?

34

35 MR. MAGDANZ: Muskox.

36

37 MR. GRAY: Muskox.

38

39 MR. MAGDANZ: This is a work in
40 progress. It should be labeled more thoroughly than it
41 is, but eventually it will.....

42

43 MR. GRAY: I was going to make a point,
44 if you don't mind. Tom Gray. I was going to make a
45 point when the Board of Game changed this muskox thing
46 from a registration hunt to a -- or from.....

47

48 MR. MAGDANZ: Tier II to a

49 registration.

50

1 MR. GRAY:a Tier II to
2 registration hunt, the Board of Game had to use some
3 ANE numbers you said. And they used old numbers from
4 two villages. Here's a good example of needing to
5 utilize Kawerak staff or local staff to be sure and get
6 numbers ready so Board of Game people that are working
7 with regulations have good numbers.

8
9 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. Well, this is not
10 the case here. We have very good harvest data for
11 muskox, and what I think you'll see when you look at
12 the harvest data is that you might appreciate the
13 Board's restraint in not using the more recent numbers.

14
15 MR. GRAY: Right. So you have good
16 subsistence numbers from Wales and Shishmaref?

17
18 MR. MAGDANZ: For muskox we do.

19
20 MR. GRAY: Okay. Why were you saying
21 that they're using old numbers then?

22
23 MR. MAGDANZ: Because they did not rely
24 on the recent harvest data to make the ANS
25 determination. And why don't we walk through where
26 those numbers take you, and then you might appreciate
27 the situation.

28
29 These two charts have the same
30 information, except that the one chart with the little
31 black lines, the first one that went down the line.

32
33 (Pause)

34
35 MR. MAGDANZ: All right. I believe all
36 the members of the Council have this now. So the sheet
37 that I'm going to talk about first has a scale that
38 goes up to 250 on the left, so let's look at that one
39 for a moment. The blue column at the bottom is the
40 number of muskoxen in each subunit that we believe are
41 available for harvest. Now, this isn't calculated.
42 First we census the animals in that subunit and then we
43 take a percentage of that based on the Cooperators'
44 recommendations, and the Board's regulations to
45 determine the harvestable surplus in each subunit. All
46 of these have been managed in Tier II so far.

47
48 The black line, 125, 109, 160, are the
49 number of applications that we have received for the
50 Tier II hunt in each subunit. Now, people can apply

1 for more than one subunit, so they might -- we actually
2 have about 275 applicants, but as you can see, if you
3 add these numbers up, it's greater than that.

4
5 The number of permits actually issued
6 is the yellow line. So you can see that in Unit 22B we
7 issues 19 permits, and this is in 2004/2005. So 19 of
8 125 people actually got to hunt muskox. Six permits
9 were issued in 22C, six out of 109 applicants. In Unit
10 22D, 51 out of 160 applicants. In Unit 22E though the
11 picture's really different. There we issued 62 permits
12 for 68 applicants, and in fact I believe everyone who
13 applied got a permit, because we had some applicants
14 that were from a household, and we only give one permit
15 to a house. So in 22E in the last two years we've
16 given out -- everybody that's applied in 22E has gotten
17 a permit. And finally in Unit 23 southwest, 18 out of
18 48 got permits.

19
20 So there's the Tier II system. The
21 black and the yellow are the Tier II permit
22 distribution system.

23
24 Now, on the second chart I have taken
25 out the Tier II applications to give you a better
26 scale. On this one the scale is only 70, so you can
27 see more clearly what is happening with the hunt
28 itself.

29
30 The number of animals that are being
31 harvested over time are shown by the red, blue and
32 green bars there. So the maximum number of animals
33 that have ever been taken in Unit 22B is eight. On the
34 average, six muskox have been taken in 22B. And the
35 minimum harvest was three since 1998. From 1998 to
36 2005. And you can look, that's the case all the way
37 across. The average we'll look at was 6 in 22B, 4 in
38 22C, 24 in 22D, 19 in 22E, and 5 in 23 southwest. But
39 in no case has the maximum harvest in any of these
40 units exceeded the amount of muskox that are now
41 available for harvest. We have never ever taken more
42 muskox, nor as many muskoxen as there were to harvest.
43 We're always leaving muskox in the field that could be
44 harvested. And the muskox that are being left in the
45 field, so to speak, is the greatest in Unit 22E where
46 the average harvest is 19 and the harvestable surplus
47 is 42.

48
49 In the past when the Board of Fisheries
50 and the Board of Game have made amount necessary for

1 subsistence determinations, they have looked at these
2 kinds of information to set the ANS. They've looked
3 back at the average harvest over time, and the minimums
4 and the maximums, and then they have set a range of
5 amounts necessary for subsistence based on that hunt
6 history.

7
8 If the Board were to look at these
9 data, at the hunt history, and ignore the fact that
10 it's been managed in Tier II, which has certainly
11 restricted people's efforts, but if they looked simply
12 at the hunt history, it would be reasonable for them to
13 establish an ANS that ranged -- let's look at 22E, from
14 say 20 to 30. The average there is 19, and the maximum
15 harvest ever was 29. So the Board could justify a
16 establishing an ANS from 20 to 30. In 22D they could
17 probably establish a 25 to 35 range and defend it
18 legally. If the Board were to do that, in every unit
19 except 22 -- well, in every unit really, there would be
20 an amount remaining in the harvestable surplus above
21 the amount necessary for subsistence. We'd have more
22 muskox than you need for subsistence according to that
23 metric. And you would no longer be in Tier II. You
24 would be in a registration or a general hunt situation.

25
26
27 The confounding factor is Tier II,
28 because we've been in Tier II, and in Units 22B, C, D
29 we've got harvest demand, three, four, five, in some
30 cases 15 times what we have permits available. It
31 isn't reasonable to think that we could really move out
32 of Tier II along the Nome road system, for example.
33 But that's where the data would take them if they
34 ignored the Tier II system.

35
36 So over the next year the Cooperators,
37 advisory committees and the RACs will have
38 opportunities to make some recommendations to the Board
39 about what level -- what the ANS levels should be. And
40 I suppose I'll -- I'm going to stop right there and see
41 if there are questions about what I've just presented.
42 Madame Chair.

43
44 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I have a question
45 here. On these permits, the yellow is an indicator of
46 the number of permits issued, and how do you get that
47 number? How is that obtained?

48
49 MR. MAGDANZ: We used to give out no
50 more permits than there were muskoxen to be harvested.

1 So if we had a harvestable surplus of 20, we gave out
2 20 permits.

3

4 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: So looking at 22E
5 there, if everything went well, those 62 permits, if
6 they were filled out, that would fulfill your
7 obligation for that unit?

8

9 MR. MAGDANZ: History has shown us that
10 anywhere from, you know, 35 to 67 percent of the
11 permits are successfully filled. And so we issue more
12 permits, up to 33 percent more permits.

13

14 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Why would -- is it
15 weather or is it people not going out or what is the
16 factor that when you issue out permits people don't
17 fill them out? What's causing it?

18

19 MR. MAGDANZ: Through the Chair.
20 Vance, weather's a factor. And I think another factor
21 is that people have to apply for these permits in May
22 in advance of the hunt, and most of the harvest occurs
23 10 months later in March, and people's circumstances
24 change between May of 2006 and March of 2007, and they
25 may not need the muskox in March of 2007, whereas
26 someone else who didn't get a permit might need that
27 muskox. So there's some -- that's one of the problems
28 with a Tier II system is it requires such an advanced
29 decision on the part of the hunter.

30

31 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Okay. Yeah. Thank
32 you. I had one other question, too, but this doesn't
33 deal with this one. On like the two bears per year, in
34 Unalakleet it's (indiscernible, mic not on) would
35 that bag limit pertain to (indiscernible, mic not on).

36

37 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm not sure what the
38 answer to that question is, Vance. I mean, the Federal
39 -- for subsistence the Federal Board would have to
40 adopt a parallel regulation for that two bear bag limit
41 to be in effect on Federal land.

42

43 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Well, I mean, we've
44 got it here at our Federal subsistence meeting, right?
45 It's on our sheet here?

46

47 MR. MAGDANZ: Those are the State
48 regulations that the State will apply to State lands.
49 But on Federal lands, I believe this RAC would have to
50 approve a parallel regulation for that two bear bag

1 limit to be in effect on Federal lands.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
4 Park Service. Jim is correct in the sense that if you
5 want to hunt brown bear under Federal regulation, you
6 would need a proposal to go in, go to essentially
7 parallel the State's proposal. However, unless the
8 Federal program took an action to close Federal public
9 lands in that area, you could continue to hunt there on
10 the Federal lands under the State regulation.

11

12 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Okay. So it would
13 mirror. We're the same -- the bag limit would be the
14 same?

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: If you're hunting under
17 the State system, which you can do.

18

19 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Right. You can do.

20

21 MR. ADKISSON: So you don't have to
22 worry about the Federal regulation, but if you want to
23 tidy things up, you would need to get a parallel
24 Federal regulation moving in your next cycle.

25

26 MR. GRAY: I guess what Vance is asking
27 is as you go up the Unalakleet River, the land status
28 changes, and can you hunt under State regulations on
29 Federal lands, and I'm hearing that you can.

30

31 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, that's the way it
32 appears.

33

34 MR. GRAY: Listening to you, that's the
35 way.....

36

37 MR. MAGDANZ: That's what I'm hearing.

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: That is correct, unless
40 there has been a specific Federal action to say close
41 the Federal public lands to nonsubsistence uses in that
42 area, and there hasn't been, except for like maybe
43 moose.

44

45 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Okay. Thank you.

46

47 MR. GRAY: Okay. I do have -- and Ken,
48 don't run away here. I think you're probably the one
49 that's going to answer this. I guess I'm a little
50 concerned. There's a lot of applicants that apply for

1 these permits, and a lot of people aren't filling them.
2 Has the Muskox Cooperators talked about extending the
3 season to maybe April 15th or something so -- I know I
4 have a State permit, and I have been waiting. It was
5 cold weather. It was snowing. And I generally wait
6 until the end of February or the first part of March to
7 go get my muskox. I know a person back home last year
8 did the same thing, and he never got his muskox,
9 because the weather went sour. And I do know there's
10 factors in that. You know, from the middle of February
11 the weather changes and everything changes, so people
12 kind of hold out I think, and I'm not sure, maybe
13 through your guys' reporting system, you see most of
14 the musk ox taken at certain times of year. Is there
15 -- has there been talk about adjusting the season to
16 try and accommodate some of these issues?

17
18 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
19 Park Service. Through the Chair. Mr. Gray, yes, there
20 has been a lot of talk about seasons and I think if you
21 look at the history of the muskoxen regulatory process,
22 you'll find that the seasons have been lengthened
23 several times, both by special action and regular
24 regulatory changes.

25
26 I think you're probably not going to
27 see additional season lengthening again. And the basic
28 reason for that is not that we're not willing to talk
29 about it, but it's basically biological, and it has to
30 do with stressing the animals when they're in a really
31 critical energy deficit period, and the impacts to the
32 young animals, and losing their mothers, and so forth.
33 The Cooperators made a very conscious decision when
34 they first established the cow hunt that they would
35 rather lose a foetus, lose an unborn muskox through the
36 taking of the mother than they would rather lose an
37 orphan whose mother was taken early on. So I don't
38 think you're going to see a lengthening of the season
39 much more into spring for that reason.

40
41 The Cooperators are very concerned
42 about the fact that, and I think Jim mentioned it, you
43 have to apply for a permit often early on. Your
44 conditions change. Your snowmachine breaks down, you
45 can't afford to get it fixed. You can't hunt. That's
46 one of the reasons that, for example, you just dealt
47 with the designated hunter permit. It will allow the
48 hunters maximum flexibility to when the weather is
49 good, that they can get out and take a sufficient
50 numbers of animals in one hunt period, bring them back

1 and distribute them as they should.

2

3

4 That's also why, as Jim mentioned in
5 the past when we have had areas where they haven't
6 filled their quotas ADF&G and the Park Service issued
7 additional permits in attempts to do that. But frankly
8 that has not been extremely successful, simply again I
9 think because for much of the hunt there are these
10 problems, and the individual permitting system is
11 largely incompatible with village circumstances.

12

13 But to directly answer your question, I
14 mean, it's always -- the Cooperators can always put it
15 on the table for discussion, but I think we've
16 lengthened the season to where we're now up against a
17 biological wall that I don't think you're going to see
18 change.

19

20 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, and I guess I
21 look at this muskox as another resource that people are
22 going to resort to because of low moose populations.
23 In my area the caribou didn't come this year. So
24 they're going to look around for something different.
25 But what I do -- what I fear, I guess, is looking at
26 the moose hunt on the Seward Peninsula last fall, it
27 was like a whirlwind. I mean people just hammered the
28 moose in a two-week period and it was all over with.
29 And you know, if we don't get caribou and the moose
30 don't come back, all of a sudden it's going to happen
31 to this resource. And I'm just throwing it out that
32 let's beware and be careful as we progress here,
33 because I can see that happening to this resource.

34

35 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Madame Chair, I'll
36 respond to questions. I don't think I have more to
37 say, but if there are questions, I'll be glad to
38 respond.

39

40 MR. SEETOT: The Board set the amount
41 necessary for subsistence in Subunit 22E at up to 52
42 muskox. At the first Cooperators meeting, the ANS was
43 at least 100. If that ANS is revisited next year, and
44 then the amount is higher, will the State resort back
45 to the subsistence hunt? You know, Tier II.

46

47 MR. MAGDANZ: To the Tier II hunt. If
48 the State finds itself shutting the 22E hunt down
49 because the harvestable surplus has been harvested in
50 the first two weeks, or even the first month, because
51 mostly the harvest there has been in the spring, but if

1 we have a flood of hunters into 22E because now anyone
2 in Alaska can hunt in there under subsistence rules,
3 and we have a management problem, that suggests that
4 the demand for that hunt and the amount necessary for
5 subsistence is -- the demand is high, and the ANS is
6 too low, and then we'll have to revisit that ANS
7 determination. And if we find out that we've got
8 hundreds of people that want to hunt muskox up there
9 under that registration hunt, and the harvest is taken
10 very, very quickly, then we'd move back I would expect
11 into a Tier II kind of hunt. That's why we're going
12 slowly here, and 22E is the only area that we've opened
13 up that way. We want to see what happens. Madame
14 Chair.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm going to say it's
17 kind of -- I'm not going to say it. Any.....

18
19 MR. GRAY: Well, I want to say one
20 thing. Of all the tools or of all the resources that
21 we have, I think muskox is probably the best managed,
22 and I applaud Fish and Game and all the players in
23 managing this resources, because there's a lot of
24 players involved in it. So I'm not too worried about
25 it. I'd suggest everybody move carefully. But you
26 guys have done a great job managing this.

27
28 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. The
29 Cooperators have done a great job managing this herd.
30 There have been a lot of players involved. And the
31 Department is just one of those players. Ken has been
32 a big player on the Cooperators group, and a number of
33 you have been in those Cooperators meetings. And the
34 reason that we have been able to manage this over time
35 is that the cooperators have basically been driving the
36 bus here, and I, you know, urge this group and all of
37 you who are part of that Cooperators group to try to
38 stay ahead of this game and figure out the problems are
39 before they land in the Board of Game's lap or the
40 FSB's lap, because I think as long as you're proactive
41 and ahead of the -- you know, thinking ahead of the
42 game, you'll be able to maintain your control here, and
43 I think it's been an excellent example of cooperative
44 management.

45
46 MR. QUINN: Madame Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

49
50 MR. QUINN: Well, but muskox are a lot

1 easier to manage than some of the other animals, right?
2 They're easier to count. The hunt has always been Tier
3 II so the harvest has always been very recordable or
4 reportable. You know, it's a little different ball
5 game managing muskox than it is moose or caribou, and
6 so, you know, so far everything's been a little easier.
7 Maybe some day it will get harder if we go to general
8 hunts, but even so, the animals are easy to count.
9 Correct?

10

11 MR. MAGDANZ: That is correct.
12 Counting is much easier, and harvest reporting has been
13 excellent, so those two things make this much -- we
14 have good information, and that makes management
15 easier.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any more questions or
18 comments.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

23

24 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Madame Chair.
25 Members of the RAC.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken Adkisson.

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Council
30 members. This will be a really quick report. I don't
31 have anything written prepared for you.

32

33 But just to let you know, what limited
34 staff we have, much of our effort since your last
35 meeting has been taken up with regulatory proposal
36 issues both related to the State Board of Game in
37 November, at their January and now most recently at
38 their March -- in the process of their March meeting.
39 Federal regulatory proposals both for Unit 22 and 23.

40

41 On the biological front, we'll be
42 cooperating with ADF&G in their moose work in the
43 northern part of the Seward Peninsula. We're also
44 preparing for a bear survey in the northern part of the
45 Seward Peninsula, as well as our ongoing wildlife
46 survey projects in Unit 23, which include sheep, moose,
47 and muskoxen.

48

49 We've also gotten funding this year for
50 a major baseline subsistence harvest study which is

1 going to this year target Kiana in Unit 23.

2

3 I might also add maybe because some of
4 you may not be aware of it, a lot of the harvest survey
5 work that's done is -- funding is often difficult to
6 come by, and it's a complex arrangement. You're doing
7 three villages a year down here, largely because we're
8 funding most of ADF&G's work in Unit 23. If that
9 funding was not available through the Park Service
10 budget, ADF&G would then have the responsibility under
11 the big game project of conducting those surveys and
12 paying for them up there, which likely would reduce the
13 number of villages you could do down here. So it's a
14 very complicated thing. And I just add that for, you
15 know, thought and discussion purposes.

16

17 That's basically the report.

18

19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Questions or comments
20 to Ken.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

25

26 MR. ADKISSON: You're welcome. Thank
27 you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

30

31 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 I couldn't find a copy of it, but I do have a written
33 report for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
34 Group meeting that we held in Anchorage February 8 and
35 9. Pretty much we had about maybe 13 to 15 communities
36 that were present at that meeting.

37

38 Last year we did request that a tribal
39 government apply for funds from U.S. Fish and Wildlife
40 Service. The Native Village of Noatak along with
41 assistance from Maniilaq Association did apply for a
42 grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which they
43 got, I think in the amount of pretty close to \$250,000.
44 The closing date of the grant was March of this year,
45 but the working group extended the grant period at
46 least for another year. Some of the projects that were
47 identified were completed, and there were still a lot
48 of projects that needed to be done.

49

50 A lot of information was given out

1 during those two days. We had the resource agencies
2 giving out presentations. Mr. Dahl of the Kotzebue
3 area gave a presentation on the present range of the
4 caribou. He was saying that the southern range was
5 pretty much Shaktoolik.

6
7 Under caribou round table, the villages
8 of Noatak and Kiana stated that moose were late in
9 coming, possibly due to the warm weather. And they
10 were talking about a lot of predators, especially
11 wolves following the caribou.

12
13 We did get a presentation on the
14 climate changes in the range of the caribou. People of
15 UAF were getting comments. They were getting study
16 patterns and such from local people and then from other
17 agencies. They were talking that it was getting warm
18 in winter and wetter summer, and that extreme events
19 were occurring in the weather.

20
21 We did have Mr. Jacob Iwonona (ph) of
22 Nome be a guest speaker for the Western Arctic Caribou
23 Herd, and he gave pretty good insight of life before
24 the caribou and during the caribou, and during the
25 caribou come back. And then he also gave, you know,
26 personal incidents in his life of what his grandparents
27 told him, and what to expect.

28
29 We did talk about National Petroleum
30 Reserve, Alaska Southwest and what impact it would have
31 on the caribou calving grounds. So that was a big
32 concern to the North Slope villages.

33
34 Selawik school, they tried to request
35 that satellite information be presented to the schools
36 up in Kotzebue, but not only to the Selawik school, but
37 pretty much it would be open to students K through 12
38 statewide, so that was part of the request that they
39 requested it be given to students statewide.

40
41 Pretty much second day, Unit 23
42 discussion. There was a lot of issues and concerns of
43 difference user groups, pretty much from August to mid
44 October. They presented satellite information on
45 sports hunters, and I think that the sports hunters
46 situated in the southeast corner of Selawik Lake kind
47 of got the migration of the caribou altered a little
48 bit. It's pretty much like a water faucet, like when
49 you put your hand close to the tip of the faucet, it
50 spreads out, and then when you put your hand further

1 away, it just kind of trickles over. And I think
2 that's what the caribou did when the sports hunters
3 were right around their migration route, that they were
4 able to alter the migration, and then more toward the
5 Noatak area. Or more toward the Nulato Hills area than
6 more to the Seward Peninsula area, so it -- and also I
7 think the predators had a big impact on the migration.

8
9

10 Even though Unit 23 is a different game
11 unit than what we represent, I think that what they do
12 up there when the caribou start migrating will really
13 determine where the caribou will winter. And then even
14 though we leave the issues to even 23, I think we
15 should be kind of concerned, because the caribou winter
16 range is pretty much determined I think at the onset of
17 the fall migration.

18

19 And we have our next meeting scheduled
20 for January 2005, so our grant from U.S. Fish and
21 Wildlife Service is pretty much for two years.

22

23 ADF&G used to be the lead agency in
24 providing funding for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
25 but through a grant from Fish and Wildlife Service,
26 we're able to at least probably get more projects done,
27 with the funding that we do get.

28

29 Copies of my report can be made
30 available, maybe with the National Park Service, if I
31 can use their copier, if you so request a copy of the
32 report.

33

34 That's all I have.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Elmer. Any
37 questions for Elmer.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Then we'll --
42 the only other thing I had under other business was
43 proxy hunting, and we've already taken care of that.

44

45 So we'll move on 15. Okay. Sorry.

46

47 MR. MAGDANZ: Madame Chair. Jim

48 Magdanz.

49

50 One thing I failed to mention during my

1 presentation was that Austin Ahmasuk has handed out
2 copies of a salmon research project that we did with
3 Kawerak, a patterns and trends study. I don't plan to
4 talk about it, but I did want to let you know that that
5 project was completed. It looks at the history of
6 salmon harvest in Norton Sound, and I just want to say
7 how productive the working relationship that we have
8 had with Kawerak over the last several years has been,
9 and this is just one example of their good work.

10

11 We also plan -- we're planning to
12 expand the customary trade project. Last year at the
13 spring meeting of this RAC, Leonard Kobuk asked if we
14 would consider doing that project in southern Norton
15 Sound, and Kawerak has talked to Stebbins and St.
16 Michaels. Stebbins has said, yes, they would like to
17 do it. We're still waiting to hear back from St.
18 Michaels. We've requested a small amount of additional
19 funding from OSM to pay for some additional data
20 analysis in the project. So if we get that funding,
21 we'll plan to incorporate Stebbins at least, and
22 perhaps both Stebbins and St. Michaels in a customary
23 trade project. And we should have a report for you on
24 that next year. Ma'am.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Tom.

27

28 MR. GRAY: Okay. Earlier when we
29 started this meeting, I thought I said I'd bring an
30 issue up and talk about it, and that's the satellite
31 collar program. And, Jim, you're not going to be on
32 the hook.

33

34 I just want to talk a little bit about
35 it, which this -- the end result is this website thing.
36 But the program starts with agencies putting all their
37 monies together. They go to Onion Portage. They put
38 satellite collars on animals, and it's a management
39 tool that the State uses to manage the caribou herd in
40 Alaska here. And the end result is this map.

41

42 One of the good things about this
43 program is kids are involved in this program. That's a
44 real positive thing. My son went to Onion Portage and
45 helped put collars on caribou. My son also took a
46 netting gun, and we put collars -- he himself netted
47 animals out of my reindeer herd, and we put collars on.
48 So he's kind of been around the block with satellite
49 collars.

50

1 But what I'm after is, and I'm going
2 going to make a motion, I want a motion -- or I'll make
3 a motion that we send letters to whoever's involved in
4 this thing supporting the satellite collar program and
5 the website program.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Or you can direct the
8 Chair to. I don't necessarily need -- Barb, do we
9 necessarily need a motion to do it, or I can just be
10 directed?

11
12 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No, you can do that.

13
14 MR. GRAY: Okay. Well, if there's
15 support, I'd suggest the chair write letters supporting
16 this whole program from the very beginning when all the
17 agencies put their money together, and the project to
18 the kids, to the end result of the website program.

19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And what I'll contact
21 Tom, and if anybody -- does anybody else on the Council
22 want me to contact them before a letter is written out?

23
24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'll talk with Tom and
28 then a draft will be sent out to everybody, and then --
29 before it's sent. Thank you, Tom.

30
31 Okay. We're down to confirm
32 October.....

33
34 MR. GRAY: I withdraw my motion.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: October 5th and 6th,
37 to confirm our October 5th and 6th meeting in Nome.

38
39 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Madame Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

42
43 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I'd like to say the
44 IRA Council strongly requested that maybe a meeting be
45 held down in Unalakleet, and they wanted me to make
46 sure that it was mentioned. At some point they'd like
47 to have a meeting down there.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It might be -- it this
50 mainly on fish or.....

1 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: No, our next meeting
2 when we meet next fall.
3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, no, but I'm saying
5 our next meeting will be regarding fish.
6
7 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Oh, I'm sorry, I
8 think you were getting ready for something else. Yeah.
9 Okay.
10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: But which will they
12 prefer though if we were to consider having a meeting
13 in Unalakleet, which would be the preference of the
14 IRA, to discuss game or discuss fish.
15
16 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I can ask.
17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The meeting's already
19 set for Nome on October 5th, so we could take that into
20 consideration in our winter meeting.
21
22 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Yeah. They just said
23 that they would like to see it moved around the
24 district at some point, and they would like to be on
25 there.
26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think we'll have to
28 see. Remember earlier when we had the meetings, they
29 were talking about trying to hold -- I guess it has to
30 depend on U.S. Fish and Wildlife's budget. I'll have
31 Barb check into it.
32
33 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: You know, as a
34 representative, I had to bring it forth.
35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. I appreciate
37 that. No problems with October 5 and 6 meeting.
38
39 MR. GRAY: Well, I might be beluga
40 hunting. Some of us have subsistence lives. You know,
41 I have tried to put forward that the end of October,
42 first part of November, after freeze up, a lot of us
43 people, you know -- us guys at the table here really
44 live subsistence lives in the villages, and our lives
45 kind of slow down after the ocean freezes up, after the
46 rivers freeze up, and that happens mid October. So,
47 you know, I really suggest we look at late October,
48 early November for dates on this fall meetings.
49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, we pretty much

1 go through the window that's provided for us, and if
2 you look at our next meeting on Page 133, that's the
3 meeting window that's set by U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
4 And then sometimes we ended -- other Councils have
5 already met and they pick up the prime dates, and we're
6 kind of left with leftovers. I know we went through
7 this before on October 5th and 6th, and I think we were
8 trying to -- the reasoning why it moved up so high was
9 to try to accommodate Tom Gray. We were looking at
10 later in October, but we kind of try to work around
11 you. So for now I think we're kind of stuck with.....

12
13 MR. GRAY: Well, what about the 16th,
14 the week of the 16th? I mean, for that -- like I say,
15 the -- when we go earlier and the rivers are open --
16 first of October, believe me, I'm going to have beluga
17 nets out, and I'm going to -- if I have to come to a
18 meeting, my nets are going to stay there by themselves,
19 and I could -- it could be a problem. But October 16th
20 is open. Is it possible to have a meeting during that
21 time? And, you know, I don't know. I mean, I have
22 problems, but I think maybe we need to work with
23 everybody.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's the week of AFN.
26 Remember, we discussed this the last time, and we were
27 trying to avoid having a meeting during the time of
28 AFN, because many of the Council members do go to AFN
29 convention. The reason why we didn't pick that week
30 was because AFN Elders and Youth Conference start I
31 think on the 16th, and AFN is during that week. And
32 then we were trying to figure out where we could place
33 you and where we could try to accommodate, you know,
34 your subsistence and your game guide. We picked
35 October, the early part of October.

36
37 MR. GRAY: Okay. Charlie had
38 something.

39
40 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah. Madame Chair. I
41 know some of these advisory group here have got -- wear
42 more than one hat, and we've got to go like between
43 different meetings, you know, like we travel a lot.
44 Like AFN or, you know, there will be a lot of meetings
45 in October, and you've got to kind of go in between
46 meetings. And like I wear more than one hat for my
47 village, and sometimes I have a hard time coming to
48 this meeting -- I mean, meetings in October. So you've
49 got to kind of avoid them other meetings for the people
50 that wear more than one hat.

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So I think maybe one
2 of the things that we should implement for this Council
3 is that each Council member should let us know ahead of
4 time when we're discussing these of where I'm going to
5 be in another meeting that week. But like the reason
6 why we didn't have October 16, that week, is because
7 AFN is at the time, because many of you will be going
8 to AFN meeting. So right now we have October 5 and 6,
9 and since it's already set, it's my inclination if we
10 would just go ahead and meet at the time. And we'll
11 look at the spring calendar.

12
13 MR. GRAY: Okay. As far as I'm
14 concerned, I'll do my best to be in the meeting, but I
15 do think that there needs to be some -- I don't want to
16 call it compromise, but some kind of a working
17 relationship. You know, most of us come from a
18 subsistence lifestyle and subsistence is important to
19 us. And if there's another window of time, let's say
20 November would be a better time to have our meetings,
21 you know, the agencies need to understand this. And we
22 need to at least sit down at the table and talk about
23 this.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think it's one of
26 the things that we should express as a concern in our
27 letter. When we write a letter, we can express that as
28 a concern from our region. We always had problems with
29 our fall and our spring meeting, because -- in our
30 spring meeting because of Iditarod, and fall meeting
31 because of our subsistence hunting. We couldn't meet
32 in September, because of the shortened moose season,
33 and everybody wants to go out and try to get moose, and
34 there's other subsistence activities were going on, so
35 we always have a difficult time with this.

36
37 But let's just kind of leave October
38 5th and 6th as scheduled and go and see where we can
39 meet for our winter meeting. And the winter meeting
40 calendar is in -- I mean, the window is in 133.

41
42 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Madame Chair, North
43 Slope has picked March 1 and 2, for your information.
44 March 1 and 2, so we'd have to avoid those two dates,
45 because I go to North Slope also.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MR. WEYIOUANNA: This time here is
50 actually really good for me, you know. I have

1 scheduled -- I've got a muskox hunt I've got to do next
2 week. I've got a caribou hunter coming the next week.
3 I've got a wolf -- wolverine -- I mean, my schedule is
4 really -- but this here is good for me. I just got
5 back from a month of traveling Outside. so as far as
6 I'm concerned, this timing here is good for this date.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: How about the rest of
9 the Council.

10
11 MR. SACCHEUS: It's not very good for
12 me, because I have guiding operations starting Sunday,
13 and I should be home preparing.

14
15 MR. GRAY: It's going to get worse
16 though as.....

17
18 MR. SACCHEUS: But I'll live with
19 whatever date that come up.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: How about earlier in
22 the week instead of a Thursday and Friday?

23
24 MR. SACCHEUS: I think earlier in the
25 week would be nice.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Like the 20th and the
28 21st?

29
30 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah, or Tuesday or
31 Wednesday.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Tuesday -- February
34 20th and 21st.

35
36 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah, that would
37 probably work a lot better. Like now for some of us
38 that have to travel home, we're stuck I think. I
39 called the airlines this morning, and they're on hold,
40 and we're going to run into Sunday to where there's
41 only one flight on Sunday if the weather keeps on
42 going, so it's kind of bad for us village people to get
43 back home, and getting close to a weekend.

44
45 MR. WEYIOUANNA: I'm good with earlier
46 in the week.

47
48 MR. SACCHEUS: Thank you.

49
50 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: I'm pretty flexible

1 on our end, the 20th sounds go to me. I move that we
2 tentatively schedule our next meeting starting on
3 February 20th, 2007.

4
5 MR. GRAY: Second

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And the 21st?

8
9 MR. WEYIOUANNA: 20th and 21st.

10
11 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. We need to
14 establish a place. Nome for now until we get word as
15 to whether or not we could move it to -- at the request
16 of Unalakleet IRA, depending on the budget I guess.

17
18 MR. GRISHKOWSKY: How about if we put
19 we'll establish Unalakleet with Nome as a last resort.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. However you
22 want it, you can amend your.....

23
24 MR. WEYIOUANNA: I've been to a lot of
25 meetings in Unalakleet being on the Bering Straits
26 School District. It's always an extra day of trying to
27 get the hell out of there.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Or getting there.

30
31 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Yeah, or getting
32 there. So, you know, I -- there's a bunch of us from
33 village people that Nome is their hub. And it's a lot
34 easier for us to go in and out of Nome. I have nothing
35 against Unalakleet, but it's just hard to get out of
36 there. It's just an extra day going down there, and an
37 extra day getting out of there.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I don't think it would
40 be possible anyway, because based on what they were
41 saying, the travel budget is so low, I don't think it
42 will be granted anyway. So my recommendation is to say
43 that the meeting will be Nome unless there's approval
44 to have it in Unalakleet.

45
46 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Would this be a two-
47 day meeting or would it all depend on the Chair or all
48 depend on you guys, Fish and Wildlife, whether it's a
49 one day meeting or a two-day meeting? Because I think
50 sometimes, too, we just, you know, zoom right through

1 the agenda, and then like some of you say, that a lot
2 of subsistence activities do take place. I wouldn't
3 mind going home today, but, you know, it's just weather
4 that affects travel.

5
6 And then also the Federal Subsistence
7 Board puts notices in the newspapers saying that we
8 would have meetings. And yet I don't see, you know, no
9 meeting going to the meeting, other than the resource
10 agencies or the nonprofit agencies come to the meeting,
11 and then, you know, giving their comments. That's what
12 I've seen over the years. We advertise these meetings,
13 but nobody comes, and then I think they assume that we
14 are representing, you know, the people of Seward
15 Peninsula. Even though I live in a subunit that does
16 not have very much land close by, I still try to
17 provide for the people within 22D, and that's what I
18 try to bring to the meeting.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I usually like to
23 schedule for two days, but normally like in our
24 fisheries meeting, we have no proposal. It will
25 probably be done in one day anyway. But just in case
26 there may be some more issues that we may have to
27 discuss, I like to schedule the meetings for two days.
28 If we don't meet the second day, we finish the first
29 day, fine. Then we leave early.

30
31 MR. WEYIOUANNA: But I guess we've got
32 to tell the Fish and Wildlife Service, don't send me a
33 notice saying I have to owe you money, because our
34 meeting ends a day ahead.

35
36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Well, but you're not
37 going home (indiscernible, mic not on).

38
39 MR. WEYIOUANNA: No, I mean in meetings
40 such as I think one meeting ago we got down earlier,
41 and then I got notice from them, you owe us, because we
42 overpaid you. I don't think they overpay us. I think
43 they, you know, they're just sticking by their policy.

44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, it's the
46 budget people that do that. I have no control over
47 that. So it goes with how they -- how you get your
48 travel packages in and (indiscernible, mic not on). I
49 have no control over it. (Indiscernible, mic not on).

50

1 (Indiscernible, mics not on)
2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And Barb's -- well,
4 she won't be there, it's the weekend, but my home phone
5 number is 5992, in case people need rides or something.
6 I do have a vehicle.
7
8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And Grace has my
9 home number.
10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And I'm home all the
12 time, so -- Okay. So if everybody feels comfortable
13 about it, we'll set aside February 20th, and possibly
14 21st.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. I want to thank
19 everyone for coming, and welcome the new members. It
20 was a pretty good meeting I think.
21
22 MR. QUINN: Grace, can I say something?
23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sure.
25
26 MR. QUINN: Well, you skipped over
27 number 14, other business. Either that, or I didn't
28 hear it.
29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We had other -- we
31 didn't. Under other business we had proxy hunting
32 and.....
33
34 MR. GRAY: Did you want to bring
35 something up?
36
37 MR. QUINN: Yeah. Remember, I.....
38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, sure. Go ahead.
40
41 MR. QUINN: Well, the northern Norton
42 Sound Committee has a proposal before the Board of Game
43 that's going to be heard in March. It's an out-of-
44 cycle proposal, because it was kind of important to
45 some of us. The Southern Committee also approved it or
46 supported it. It's to open the beaver -- it's to
47 extend the beaver trapping season. I'll try and do
48 this as quick as I can.
49
50 In 2003 the Board of Game approved a

1 proposal by Austin to give us a year-round beaver
2 trapping and hunting season, all traps, all hunting,
3 year-round, no limit. Well, that was the year that
4 somebody sued them, and they had to meet by
5 teleconference in December. And at that teleconference
6 meeting they changed their decision, and they changed
7 it so that from June 11th to October 31st, even though
8 the trapping season's open, it's firearms only. So you
9 can't use traps or snares or anything during that time
10 period.

11

12 Most of us didn't even know that.
13 There was actually people that were trapping out of
14 season for the next two years, because nobody knew it.
15 We heard that they approved it.

16

17 Anyway, we now have a new proposal
18 before them to open trapping September 15th so that
19 there's an open water period there in the fall that
20 guys that want to catch beaver either for food or fur,
21 or to get rid of them because they're damming up the
22 culvert or whatever, can use traps.

23

24 So that's the proposal. It's been
25 supported by the Northern Committee, the Southern
26 Committee. Kawerak's written a letter in support of
27 it. And I just wanted to see if I can get your guys'
28 support, you know, even though it's State, just the
29 Federal Council supports that proposal.

30

31 And at our next meeting in October,
32 I'll probably have some stuff ready to see if you guys
33 want to make a proposal to change the Federal lands to
34 a similar season in Unit 22.

35

36 MR. GRAY: Yeah, I think that's a good
37 idea. You know, Beavers have done nothing but
38 detriment in this country up here, and they've been a
39 real negative thing to our fishery. I believe they've
40 hurt our fishery. So I support anything that takes out
41 beavers.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What I'd like to
44 recommend is to send a copy of the proposal to each of
45 the Council members, and then Barbara can do a
46 telephone poll.

47

48 MR. QUINN: Well, I don't know if I've
49 got time, because the meeting starts March 10th, and
50 I'm going to -- hopefully I'm going to go to that

1 meeting.

2

3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You'll have time to
4 meet up (indiscernible, mic off)

5

6 MR. AHMASUK: Madame Chair, Austin
7 Ahmasuk, Kawerak subsistence.

8

9 It's my proposal that's currently
10 before the Board of Game. The deadline for comment is
11 actually today, and Mike knows that. The proposal book
12 is out, and like Mike said, it is a proposal to open up
13 the open water period for beaver trapping, and the
14 comment deadline is today.

15

16 MR. GRAY: Well, would it be
17 appropriate for us as a board to direct our Chairperson
18 to write a letter in support of that thing, is that
19 what you're asking for?

20

21 MR. QUINN: Well, that would probably
22 work. I was hoping that I could just go to the
23 meeting, and I'll just verbally say that the -- or
24 Grace could give me a letter, and I can read that
25 letter at the time of the meeting, that the Council
26 supports that proposal. Something like that. Yeah,
27 she could write a letter, but the written comment
28 period's end is today, and it has to be faxed or mailed
29 today.

30

31 MR. GRAY: But I guess I.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Where is Barb?

34

35 MR. GRAY: What I'm after here is if
36 you guys are willing to sit down and work on a letter
37 with Grace and Barb, you could have that letter by the
38 end of the day, and you can fax it wherever.

39

40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Barb is leaving on the
41 next jet. What is the wish of the Council. We can say
42 that we support the motion and ask him to convey that
43 to him. Somebody needs to do a motion, and there is no
44 Federal Staff here. Okay. I need somebody from the
45 Federal Staff to say something about this. If we
46 submit a motion, support it by motion, and have him
47 convey that, is that.....

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's fine.

50

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.
2
3 MR. QUINN: Okay. I'll move that we
4 support the proposal before the Board of Game.
5
6 MR. GRAY: And I second.
7
8 MR. QUINN: Question.
9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those in favor of
11 the motion signify by stating aye.
12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.
14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed,
16 same sign.
17
18 (No opposing votes)
19
20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries.
21
22 MR. AHMASUK: Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Okay.
25
26 Now we'll go back to -- I was just
27 saying I wanted to thank every one of you for coming
28 here, and welcoming the new members. I think we had a
29 very productive meeting. And I want to thank the
30 Council for entrusting me again to be their Chair. And
31 I hope everybody will have a safe trip home. And
32 that's it. If we're ready -- we're now adjourned at
33 11:00.
34
35 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 126 through 181 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOL II, taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 24th day of February 2006, beginning at the hour of 8:30 o'clock a.m. at Nome, Alaska;

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

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

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

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