

1 SEWARD PENINSULA  
2 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
3 ADVISORY COUNCIL

3 Taken at:  
4 Aurora Inn & Suites  
5 Nome, Alaska

5 September 26, 2001

6 ATTENDANCE

7 Council Members Present:

8 Grace Cross, Chair  
9 Johnson Eningowuk  
10 Frances A. Degnan  
11 Peter G. Buck  
12 Elmer K. Seetot, Jr.  
13 Toby M. Anungazuk, Jr.  
14 Perry T. Mendenhall

12 Coordinator:

13 Ann Wilkinson

14 Others Present:

15 Tim Jennings, US FWS; Carl Jack, BIA/US FWS;  
16 Pat McClenahan, US FWS; Bill Knauer, US FWS;  
17 Jim Magdanz, ADF&G; Richard Uberuaga, US  
18 FWS; Stephen Fried, US FWS; Ken Adkisson,  
19 NPS; Warren Eastland, BIA; Jeff Denton, BLM;  
20 Austin Ahmasuk, Kawerak; Fred DeCicco,  
21 ADF&G; Rose Fosdick, Kawerak; Dave Parker,  
22 BLM; Jeanie Cole, BLM; Charles Lean, NPS;  
23 Carl Jack, OSM; Kate Persons, ADF&G; Dave  
24 Spirtes, NPS; Julia Arrotti, KNOM; Dave  
25 Angungazak, Wales; Clyde Angungazak, Wales;  
Norman Menadalook, Teller; Willis Kugyok,  
Teller.

## 1 PROCEEDINGS

2 MS. CROSS: I'll call the meeting  
to order. It's now 8:40 in the morning.

3 Good morning, everybody. After a  
grueling day yesterday, we'll begin today.

4 We're going to be doing 22  
Southwest first thing this morning. We'll  
5 start with these two ladies.

6 MS. DEWHURST: Probably, I guess,  
the first thing to do is look at what the  
7 State is proposing. We have to deal with  
the special action first, I guess, is the  
8 question. What the State is proposing for  
the future for permanent regs would be  
9 basically mirroring the Kougarok system, but  
it wouldn't be a part of the registration  
10 hunt. It would just be an open hunt.

11 MS. PERSONS: A proposal -- since  
there's no registration hunt....

12 MS. CROSS: August 20 to what --

13 MS. DEWHURST: September 14.  
14 What we have to deal with first  
is if we want to extend our special action  
15 in this unit. Originally the request was to  
go through January 31 in 22D Southwest, and  
16 include -- add a cow season, so the question  
is whether or not we want to follow through  
17 with that, whether we want something  
different. That needs some input on how or  
18 if we want to extend the special action in  
the 22D Southwest.

19 MS. CROSS: There are workers --  
20 there are members from Teller here. Maybe  
we should hear from them first.

21 This is the area we're going to  
be talking about, your area. You guys have  
22 met, and we want to be hearing from you as  
to what your desires are.

23 Good morning.

24 MR. MENADALOOK: My name is  
Norman Menadalook from Teller Traditional  
25 Council; and we've been talking about the  
moose population in our area.

1  
2 MS. CROSS: We're talking about  
3 what you think should happen within the area  
4 that you guys hunt in.

5 MS. DEWHURST: Whether or not  
6 they want to winter hunt for this year.

7 MS. CROSS: And what you think of  
8 the season now.

9 MR. MENADALOOK: Our -- as for  
10 our area, we're concerned about the moose  
11 population and we'd like to stop -- have it  
12 begin by taking the operation on the river  
13 since the moose populations are going to  
14 be -- to be -- since our moose population  
15 has gone down. We're concerned about it and  
16 we'd like to have the big game guides stop  
17 their operations since they will be going  
18 from tier to tier in our area. We don't  
19 want to see that. We want to be able to  
20 hunt moose like you do.

21 MS. CROSS: Is there any desire  
22 in that area to have a winter hunt?

23 MR. MENADALOOK: We want a winter  
24 hunt on American River.

25 MS. DEWHURST: The area that  
26 you're talking about is the Canyon Creek  
27 area.

28 This area, basically is more in  
29 the Tisuk area. And it's only Federal  
30 public lands, these two areas right here  
31 (indicating). This is the area for this  
32 meeting that we can write regulations for  
33 (indicating).

34 MR. MENADALOOK: As for that  
35 area, we don't usually hunt around that  
36 area. Since there's not many people that  
37 have cars to hunt in falltime. As for  
38 wintertime, we don't see any moose there.  
39 All the moose will be up toward mountains  
40 and other areas.

41 MS. CROSS: So, even if it was a  
42 very short season like the State proposals,

1 it would not affect your hunting?

2 MR. MENADALOOK: No. It hasn't  
3 affected our hunting, because usually we  
4 don't hunt in that area.

4 MS. CROSS: It's American River  
5 and --

6 MR. MENADALOOK: Right.

7 MR. MENDENHALL: Norm, to do  
8 emergency order, would you rather not that  
9 we started September 1 to 25th, three weeks  
10 in there rather than August 20th when it's  
11 hot?

12 MR. MENADALOOK: Yes, for the  
13 hunters to -- they usually wait to September  
14 to start their hunting when it's colder.  
15 That way they're able to keep their meat a  
16 lot of longer.

17 MR. MENDENHALL: Are you  
18 proposing -- would you like to have an  
19 emergency order, like it says right here,  
20 August 20th to September 14th, you'd like to  
21 see it September 1 to 25th?

22 MR. MENADALOOK: Yeah.

23 MR. MENDENHALL: Or do you want  
24 it for the whole month of September 1 to  
25 31st?

26 We took action yesterday on the  
27 northern part of Federal lands to be during  
28 the whole month of September 1 to 31st when  
29 it's the coolest part rather than the  
30 hottest part. You know how fast meat goes  
31 when it goes. Once it starts, it starts to  
32 go.

33 MS. CROSS: I guess what I want  
34 to know from you is would that matter in  
35 that small area that you traditionally are  
36 saying that you don't hunt?

37 MR. MENADALOOK: Yes.

38 MS. CROSS: If the season was the

1 same with the State from August 20 to  
2 September 15th, in that Southeast area that  
3 she was showing you, would that make it --  
4 would that matter? Do people normally hunt  
5 in the American River, which is basically  
6 unchanged, right? It's totally unchanged in  
7 the American River. It has the same seasons  
8 as before where you hunt before. I guess my  
9 question is: In that small area where  
10 you're saying that people normally don't  
11 hunt, do you want to see that go from  
12 September 1 or 31st or leave it the way the  
13 State is proposing?

14 MR. MENADALOOK: I'd rather see  
15 it in September.

16 MS. CROSS: What would have been  
17 a reasonable period for you? At what time  
18 period are you thinking of?

19 MR. MENADALOOK: You have to  
20 speak up. I'm losing my hearing.

21 MS. CROSS: What time period are  
22 you thinking of?

23 MR. MENADALOOK: That area,  
24 September 1st to the end of September before  
25 the bulls start getting too strong.

MS. CROSS: Anymore questions?

MR. SEETOT: Is this just for the  
Federal management or for the State?

MS. CROSS: Federal only.

MR. SEETOT: I think what Norm is  
saying, that is not a traditional moose  
harvest area other than maybe for people  
that camp down there or -- in that area it's  
mostly small creeks, foothills, but the  
moose do, you know, stay there during the  
summer; and I don't see very much moose  
there during the wintertime. They probably  
move away from that area, other than the  
Canyon Creek area, you know, where the  
habitat is a lot better for their wintering  
state.

1

MR. MENDENHALL: Like he was saying too, the meat turns, you know, in hot August, and trying to look for cooler weather also when the moose start -- the bulls start to move around a little bit more than when it closes.

5

MR. MENADALOOK: Right.

6

MR. MENDENHALL: When they're actually working there, they're spending quite a bit of their income to go up that river.

8

MS. CROSS: Can somebody please show it on the map, what area we're talking about --

10

MS. DEWHURST: It's hard to see, two little yellow blocks basically where my finger is, that's basically the area we're talking about, two little BLM blocks that are basically off Cape Douglas, between Cape Douglas and the road, basically, south of Teller. And that's the only region that we're talking about that these regions are applying to.

15

MS. CROSS: American River, and what is it, Canyon Creek?

17

MS. PERSONS: Canyon Creek is between those. It's on State/Federal land.

18

But the American is -- up --

19

MR. MENADALOOK: The area you're talking about is a wide-open area. There's no real tall bushes. Only bushes will be in the valleys, and the moose don't like to stay where it's wide open. They prefer taller shrubs where they'll be able to hide during the day and come out in the evening.

23

MS. CROSS: The State had concerns in that little region.

24

Can you explain, Kate?

25

MS. PERSONS: Well, in 22D Southwest, just as Norman said, it's not

1 really moose habitat. There aren't many  
2 moose there at all. The average harvest has  
3 been about eight moose a year. Our concern  
4 was that since we're shortening the season  
5 on other parts of the road system, that if  
6 we didn't make the season the same in this  
7 part of 22D, that there would then -- that  
8 would be the only place where it was open to  
9 hunt along the road system. You'd have a  
10 lot more people looking for moose in that  
11 area. And already there aren't very many  
12 there. You know, we don't want to see them  
13 all taken. So it made sense to treat the  
14 road system the same.

15 MS. DEGNAN: Would it shorten the  
16 season?

17 MR. MENDENHALL: You want it  
18 opened during September only as emergency  
19 order?

20 MR. MENADALOOK: Yes.

21 MS. CROSS: Do you know where  
22 most of the catch come from?

23 MS. PERSONS: In that area?  
24 Along the road.

25 MS. CROSS: Do you know from what  
communities?

MS. PERSONS: It's mostly from  
Teller, actually, but there is some from  
Nome and there's some nonresident and other  
Alaskan harvest.

Most of the land along the road  
is Teller Native Corporation land and they  
have a policy of closing it to moose hunting  
for people who aren't shareholders.

That's right, isn't it Norman?

MR. MENADALOOK: Yes.

MS. PERSONS: But there are  
people that don't abide by that. There is  
harvest by other people in that area that we  
have to be concerned about.

1 MR. MENADALOOK: Teller made a  
2 memorandum agreement with Brevig Mission and  
3 King Island so that we can hunt on each  
4 other's lands without getting a permit,  
5 because we've been hunting in that area  
6 for -- for generations.

7 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question.  
8 In terms of process, do you require permits  
9 for the Federal taking of moose?

10 MS. DEWHURST: If the season was  
11 different than the State season, we would  
12 have to have permits.

13 MS. DEGNAN: The recording, like  
14 the catch where the hunter gets --

15 MS. DEWHURST: They have to turn  
16 the permit back in. They have to mail it  
17 in, or call.

18 MS. DEGNAN: So you have  
19 control -- I mean, you have access to what's  
20 actually been taken?

21 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

22 MS. DEGNAN: And the State has  
23 the same program?

24 MS. PERSONS: Well, in this area  
25 we weren't planning to have a registration  
26 hunt, but if you end up having a different  
27 season from what we have, we would then have  
28 a registration hunt. Probably the quota  
29 would be the average of what has been taken  
30 there in the past, eight moose.

31 MS. CROSS: What would your  
32 feelings be if the RAC decides to have a  
33 hunt in that small area for residents of 22D  
34 only?

35 MR. MENADALOOK: What -- I know  
36 how much it would be affecting Teller.

37 MS. CROSS: I mean, that's where  
38 you are. It would just mean cutting off 22C  
39 from hunting in that area. The only

1 residents that would hunt is from Teller,  
2 Brevig --

3 MR. MENADALOOK: It would mean  
4 that there has been a -- to our community,  
5 if they made it for the residents of 22D,  
6 there would be a lot less pressure on the  
7 moose.

8 MS. CROSS: Elmer?

9 MR. SEETOT: Teller residents  
10 probably use the road system. I know Brevig  
11 goes to Jones Point for the fall  
12 berry-picking season. If they do see a  
13 moose within the Federal areas, then they  
14 will bag one. But I think it's a matter of,  
15 you know, packing the meat up. They're not  
16 right there, you know, just waiting. We'd  
17 have to look for them in the valleys.  
18 That's the only moose harvest that I know  
19 that occurs pretty much during the fall  
20 berry-picking time or when it's open. They  
21 rarely use that Jones Point area. Most of  
22 them prefer the land around Brevig where  
23 they can go by Fort Waller.

24 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, at the  
25 State meeting they had the past year, it was  
a decision made because they got any  
river -- I mean, moose up the Pilgrim River,  
they wanted it closed, you know when you  
guys are doing your fall hunt. There was no  
people there from Teller or Brevig at that  
meeting except the representative that came  
in. And he was not a Native resident. He  
contributed to the decision to close it at  
that time similar to this August 20th to  
14th. And I think that this is your  
opportunity, I think, to say we want -- you  
want it open September 1, for the whole  
month, on Federal land?

MR. MENADALOOK: Yes.

MR. MENDENHALL: I was at a State  
meeting when that took place, and everybody  
got bent out of shape because they said you  
folks were going by four-wheeler and coming  
back with all the moose, depleting the area

1 of moose, they were saying. There was no  
2 Natives there from your area. That's what  
3 I'm saying. People in Nome, they get a  
4 misperception of what takes place out there  
5 in Teller/Brevig. So, they don't contribute  
6 it to the deadline, and you're wanting it to  
7 be open during that month of September.  
8 It's a start -- I mean on the Federal  
9 section to try to say that's what you want.

10 MS. CROSS: I guess the other  
11 question that I have is you certainly  
12 probably don't want any sports hunting in  
13 that small area anymore?

14 MR. MENADALOOK: No, I don't want  
15 to see any sport hunting in that area.

16 MS. CROSS: Anymore comments?  
17 Johnson?

18 MR. MENDENHALL: What about --  
19 they say to January 31st, do you want that  
20 on the regular basis from -- just regular  
21 moose hunt, August 1 to January 31st, you  
22 would like to see that, as to lots of moose?

23 MR. MENADALOOK: As for January  
24 31st, in January, I prefer that there be no  
25 hunting in 22D in the month of January.  
26 Pretty much all the hunters know that the  
27 moose are real skinny by that time.

28 MR. MENDENHALL: But they have  
29 under proposed regulations from August 1 to  
30 January 31st, the regular hunting season.  
31 We like -- you don't want that to happen.

32 MR. MENADALOOK: I prefer the  
33 moose hunting to close the month of -- end  
34 of December.

35 MR. MENDENHALL: That's  
36 interesting.

37 MS. CROSS: I think one of the  
38 things that we've all got to keep in mind is  
39 that we are all concerned about the moose  
40 population. It is drastically down, and I  
41 think we all have to make some kind of

1 sacrifices to make sure that our future  
2 generations will have the opportunity to  
3 hunt for moose. And us being Natives we're  
4 traditionally conservationists. When our  
5 population of one animal goes down, we  
6 traditionally go and try to hunt something  
7 else so that population can come back up  
8 again. And I really think that I am real  
9 concerned that if we overkill, even though  
10 it's for subsistence, we're -- what,  
11 basically, we're doing is we are cutting  
12 subsistence moose hunting for our  
13 grandchildren, for our children, same thing  
14 that happened to our fish here. You know, I  
15 can't take my grandchildren and set out a  
16 net and get the same amount of fish that I  
17 used to with my children. My children can't  
18 do that anymore, because we don't have  
19 anymore fish. And I think sometimes we do  
20 have to make some kind of sacrifices until  
21 the numbers get up again, and certainly --  
22 we will certainly be changing things when  
23 the numbers go up in certain areas. Like in  
24 the American River area, nothing changed  
25 because the moose population in that area is  
26 nice and healthy. Recruitment is good. So  
27 all the seasons are remaining the same in  
28 that region. The area of concern is that  
29 little, tiny portion where it's on Federal  
30 lands, and that's the area of concern that  
31 Kate was saying approximately eight moose  
32 are taken from that area from residents of  
33 Teller, from nonresident hunting, and from  
34 residents of 22C, which is Nome. So I think  
35 that as we make this decision and we're only  
36 affecting a very little portion of land, we  
37 must keep in mind that we are also  
38 conservationists. Traditionally when  
39 something -- when a certain group of animals  
40 or birds that we normally eat, if their  
41 numbers are less, traditionally we go out  
42 and try and get something else. We  
43 sacrifice, namely because we want to be able  
44 to preserve what we have for future  
45 generations.

24 MR. MENDENHALL: I sort of have  
25 to push forward the fact is we're trying to  
26 promote subsistence for your people too, and  
27 our people. So I think subsistence is a big

1 question here as to your needs for protein.  
Like you have a bad fish year, moose is  
2 going to be -- muskox alternatives, but I  
think what we're looking at subsistence use  
3 on is the Federal side. Would this time  
period be useful to you? You say you want  
4 to close it December 31st, which would help,  
you know, on the conservation part of it.  
5 That's what he's proposing.

6 MS. CROSS: Actually, what's the  
time period for American River?

7  
8 MS. PERSONS: August 1 through  
January 31st with an antlerless season in  
December.

9  
10 MS. CROSS: That's where the  
American River -- it's not changed -- from  
August 1 to January 31st and they can take  
11 cows.

12 MS. PERSONS: In December?

13 MS. CROSS: In December. That's  
the season for the area that's called  
14 American River right now.

15 MR. MENADALOOK: We have an early  
snow, snow machiners will go out and moose  
16 hunt and if you close the hunt then December  
31st, it would be putting a lot less  
17 pressure on the moose. When the moose get  
pressure, they move out of the area.

18  
19 MS. CROSS: Which moose are we  
talking about?

20 MR. MENADALOOK: This --

21 MS. CROSS: That little portion.

22 MR. MENADALOOK: Or the whole  
area.

23 It used to be where there would  
be a moose calving back in every valley.  
24 It's a time now where you don't see that  
anymore, like you do with the bear  
25 population, also with the wolves. The  
wolves come in around with the caribou. You

1 got more caribou than before.

2 MS. CROSS: That's good.

3 MR. MENADALOOK: And then  
4 muskox -- reindeer, moose, they're scared of  
5 muskox. They think they're a bear when they  
6 first see them. You would find sightings on  
7 bears, because some people think it's a bear  
8 when actually it's a muskox. But we do have  
9 overpopulation of bears in that area to get  
10 into the cabins and fish cabins. They're  
11 tearing up the racks.

12 MS. CROSS: Bears are becoming a  
13 big problem.

14 MR. MENDENHALL: So you would  
15 like to see opening on the regular season,  
16 August 1 through December 31st only, is that  
17 what you're looking at, or would you like to  
18 keep it the same on the regular system?

19 MR. MENADALOOK: The whole  
20 area -- maybe best would be if we go from  
21 September to December 31st.

22 MR. MENDENHALL: Then on the  
23 emergency order you want it just for  
24 September?

25 MR. MENADALOOK: (Nods head.)

MR. SEETOT: The current special  
action is August 1 to January 31. So that  
would be one month less than what is  
currently on the books.

MR. MENDENHALL: Then you would  
like to see it through January 31st?

MR. SEETOT: No, no, no. That's  
what it says in the book anyway, on the  
special action. That area we usually don't  
go down in that area when it freezes up  
because ice conditions are still thin. We  
prefer to go inland and not cross the water,  
because -- I don't think anyone has bagged a  
moose in the wintertime, you know, in 22D  
Southwest, unless they're really looking.

1

MR. MENDENHALL: Moose don't go  
down that way.

3

MR. SEETOT: But it would help  
Teller that way, because they're in the  
close proximity of that area. They have a  
road system, but they also, you know, use  
both to pretty much use that area if need  
be.

6

MR. MENDENHALL: Would you agree  
that you would like to have it like he  
wanted from September to December?

8

MR. SEETOT: If that is the  
wishes -- even though we use this area, it's  
primarily during the spring -- spring and  
fall we don't use it any other time other  
than winter for --

11

MR. MENDENHALL: I'm trying to  
get where we can get Teller to marry into  
the season.

13

MR. SEETOT: The area, Federal  
areas, are pretty small compared to, you  
know, the rest of the points; so it wouldn't  
be too much if he asks for September 1 to  
December 31.

16

MS. CROSS: That would be  
deviating quite differently from what the  
State wanted. Now, would it help if we had  
a longer season just to close it to the  
residents of 22D, meaning just Brevig and  
Teller would be able to hunt in that area  
and no other?

20

MR. SEETOT: It would help in a  
way that I think Teller would benefit more  
from it because it's right in their  
backyard.

23

MR. MENDENHALL: So, those  
seasons will fulfill your subsistence need,  
right, for your village?

24

MR. MENADALOOK: Yes.

25

1 MR. MENDENHALL: And yours, too?

2 MR. SEETOT: Even though our  
3 harvest from the moose from that area is  
4 very minimal.

5 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. But even  
6 then would you agree with what he said, he  
7 would like to see where you see to be opened  
8 from September only?

9 MS. CROSS: Actually, we're  
10 talking special action.

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Or special  
12 action, rather than August 20th to September  
13 14th. He said he would like to see that  
14 area when it's coolest.

15 MR. SEETOT: I would think so,  
16 because the weather temperature, climate  
17 changes from year to year. This year it's  
18 different.

19 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question  
20 for you.

21 MR. MENDENHALL: He would like to  
22 see it in September.

23 MR. SEETOT: I like it in  
24 September, because when it's warm and you  
25 bag a moose in the warmer country, it has a  
tendency to spoil quicker than when you just  
hang it when it's cool.

MS. DEGNAN: When you go down  
into that area in the spring and the fall,  
do you see any moose?

MR. SEETOT: Very rare.

MS. DEGNAN: So really --

MR. SEETOT: Most of our hunting  
is on the coastline for migrating geese and  
ducks.

MS. DEGNAN: So you really don't  
ever see moose in that area?

1

MR. SEETOT: Very rarely, except if you follow the valleys, creeks, you'll see occasional moose or so. And that's primarily during the spring to summer months. The residents of Brevig would not have access to the Federal areas other than snow machine; and if they do, it would be by four-wheeler. But they rarely travel to these areas just to hunt moose.

6

MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

7

MS. DEWHURST: Madam Chair, I think it might -- to clarify, for the special action, even talking about September is moot at this point. All we need to know is whether you want the hunt extended past September for this year. I.e., do they want to extend this year's hunt from the end of December -- through the end of December -- from the end of September through the end of December or not? As well as extending the season dates, that would be the permanent proposal.

14

MS. CROSS: Special action, 22D, that section is from August 1 to January 31st.

15

MS. DEWHURST: But the active period we have to deal with is after September. We've already decided through September.

18

MS. DEGNAN: If we take action, it would be --

MS. DEWHURST: It would continue the opening.

21

MS. DEGNAN: If we don't take action, then it's closed?

MS. DEWHURST: Right. For this year only.

24

MR. MENDENHALL: For FY2001, they want to know if you want to extend it to the end of December?

25

1

MS. CROSS: For this year.

2

MS. DEGNAN: Do you want it open to the end of the year? Do you want it open to the end of the year this year, right now, this current time?

3

MR. MENADALOOK: For the Federal area, for that area?

4

MS. DEGNAN: Yeah.

5

MR. MENADALOOK: I prefer that by the end of September it be closed or close it -- close it completely if you're concerned about the moose -- if you're concerned about the moose population, just to have no hunting in that area, no.

6

MS. CROSS: So, for this year, you prefer it closed, and then we'll be talking about year 2002?

7

MR. MENADALOOK: Yes.

8

MS. CROSS: Now, 2002 would be the regulations, and Donna can explain that a little bit.

9

MS. DEWHURST: Basically, it would be what the new regulations would say in the book what your permanent season would be. So, if you want your permanent season to only be for that area, to be only September 1 through September 31st, or do you want it September 1 through December 31st, or you can have it September and the month of December. If you're not hunting during October and November, we've done that, where we've had a December hunt and a September hunt kind of thing. That's another possibility.

10

MR. MENADALOOK: That option would be ideal, September and December. September would be cooling off, and then by December you'd have access to the area by snow machine.

11

1 MS. CROSS: And that would be for  
the regulations?

2 MR. MENADALOOK: (Nods head.)

3 MS. CROSS: What do you think,  
4 Elmer?

5 MR. SEETOT: I'll go along with  
the residents of Teller. And what they're  
6 asking right now, would you want the season  
to remain open until December 31 or January  
7 31 this year or just close it end of  
September?

8 MR. MENADALOOK: End of  
9 September. But, there's also that option,  
too, of having it reopen again in December.

10 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm hearing you  
11 want it open in September and also December  
for this year?

12 MS. CROSS: That's for permanent  
13 regulations 2002.

14 MR. SEETOT: For this year, you  
want it closed on September 30?

15 MR. MENADALOOK: Yes.

16 MR. MENDENHALL: We would have to  
17 hear your motion when you come down to it.

18 MS. CROSS: Do you have anything  
further for us?

19 MR. MENADALOOK: For the --  
20 whatever the Board does, you know, I'd like  
to see a letter from the Board to the  
21 residents of Teller about the proposed  
regulations, and have -- so there would be  
22 more input from the other residents besides  
me.

23 MS. DEWHURST: Madam Chair, I  
24 guess one other question. Would you have a  
problem if it was bulls only for the hunt,  
25 for that little area, if we kept it to bulls  
only to conserve the cows, or do you want

1 cows to be taken in December?

2 MR. MENADALOOK: For that area,  
3 it may be better for the month of December,  
4 for that area, but have it only open in  
5 September.

6 MR. MENDENHALL: But do you  
7 want -- she's asking if you want a bull hunt  
8 or a cow hunt, bull and cow?

9 MR. MENADALOOK: It would be only  
10 bull.

11 MR. MENDENHALL: Only bulls?  
12 Here we're trying to help you with your  
13 subsistence but you're restricting your hunt  
14 and you're saying you only want antlers.  
15 That's an opportunity for your subsistence  
16 needs.

17 MS. DEGNAN: You can go for a  
18 moose.

19 MR. MENDENHALL: For your people.

20 MS. CROSS: Kate, it would be --  
21 Kate said that area for the State lands,  
22 where the State lands -- when the State  
23 opens that area it will be restricted and  
24 there will be a certain amount of permits  
25 only.

MS. PERSONS: It depends what --  
in the end, if our season is different from  
your season, then we would have to have a  
registration hunt with a limited number of  
permits.

MS. CROSS: And what would be --

MS. DEWHURST: We would have to  
get together with the State and decide how  
many animals can be taken out a year. We  
would issue unlimited permits, but we would  
close the season when the cap has been  
reached.

MS. MENDENHALL: It stands to  
reason that Teller is in an economically

1 depressed area for sure, and they really  
2 depend on whatever they can catch. And I  
3 think that some people would like the  
4 opportunity to hunt more into December just  
5 to meet that moose need, you know, for the  
6 family, but you want to close that at the  
7 end of this month, you know, and that  
8 shortens your opportunity for your people to  
9 get subsistence moose on Federal land.

10 MR. MENADALOOK: Yes, that would  
11 be only for Federal land. The Federal land  
12 is so small.

13 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

14 MS. CROSS: Were you going to be  
15 the only one that would be speaking on this  
16 topic or is somebody else going to be? Are  
17 you going to be the only one from Teller  
18 speaking on this topic, or is somebody else  
19 going to be talking?

20 MR. MENADALOOK: Right now,  
21 there's Willis and I.

22 MS. CROSS: Willis, would you  
23 like to say something?

24 MR. KUGYOK: I understand you  
25 were talking about the Parks Service lands  
or -- only right now?

MS. DEWHURST: BLM. Between Cape  
Douglas and the road south of Teller.

MR. KUGYOK: And the BLM lands,  
right now they're open from August to  
September 15th -- 14th?

MS. DEWHURST: That was the  
special action. What we're asking is if you  
want to extend it past that or if that was  
good enough this year.

MR. KUGYOK: I think, as for  
myself, I think a longer season would be  
best for our residents, and maybe -- maybe  
for next year to go for a cow too, maybe in  
December. Like the State -- I think the

1 State of Alaska --

2 MS. PERSONS: No more.

3 MR. KUGYOK: No?

4

5 MS. PERSONS: No. It has been  
that way, but no longer.

6 MR. KUGYOK: I know there's some  
people that like to go out along the road.

7 They have four-wheelers and before it gets  
too dark, you know, they go out on the road  
8 and look for moose. Those that have  
four-wheelers like to do that from Teller  
9 and maybe a longer season would be good for  
the residents right now, except BLM lands  
10 are quite a ways off the road, I see.

11 MS. CROSS: That's what we're  
strictly talking about, the BLM lands only.

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: Madam Chair, Ken  
Adkisson, National Parks Service. I'd like  
to offer one observation on perhaps an issue  
14 that you might want to consider in your  
discussions. I mean, from personal  
15 experience driving out to Teller, the open  
road to Teller, I've noticed a number of  
16 times several pickup trucks from Nome, nice  
big pickup trucks with trailers, and hunters  
17 out there. I know there's interest, and if  
you create a longer season, what normally  
18 Nome residents would have access to, I only  
raise the possibility that that will act as  
19 a magnet to draw those people who have those  
capability -- trying to access by  
20 four-wheelers those Federal public lands and  
once there, they're really not going to  
21 know. It raises question on trespass on  
Teller Corporation lands, whatever they want  
22 to do for it. Plus if there's an increased  
harvest from Nome, that's only going to  
23 increase the opportunity for Teller  
residents. I think that's a real  
24 possibility unless this Council was to  
attempt to restrict that longer season to  
25 Unit 22D residents. But I think you'd have  
to say, as you did in Eastern 22D, you know,

1 Nome has a fairly long history of hunting in  
2 that area, so -- but I think, again, the  
3 problem of dealing with the regional center  
4 and the larger population relative to the  
5 smaller outlying communities, I think it's a  
6 real issue.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. CROSS: Do you have anything  
9 further?

10 MR. MENADALOOK: No other  
11 comment.

12 MS. CROSS: Willis?

13 MR. KUGYOK: No.

14 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you, Norman;  
15 and thank you, Willis.

16 MR. MENDENHALL: Seems like Elmer  
17 would be able to make that motion regarding  
18 22.

19 MR. SEETOT: D Southwest.

20 MS. DEWHURST: Basically, we need  
21 two motions. One that will deal with the  
22 rest of this year. If you want some sort of  
23 hunt, we want a motion about what the season  
24 would be and whether or not it would include  
25 bulls, cows, that sort of thing. We need  
one motion for this year, and then another  
motion for what you'd want the permanent --  
the entire permanent season to be. Like, if  
you wanted to start on September 1 or  
whenever you wanted to start and when you  
wanted to go to, or if you want it like this  
gentleman suggested, a September hunt, and  
then a December hunt with the December hunt  
including cows, then we can phrase it that  
way. There's a lot of different ways we can  
phrase it. Anyway, we need basically two  
separate motions. The first one we need is  
just what we're going to do this year.

26 MS. CROSS: What I heard Norman  
27 say is to close September for this year, on  
28 the special action.

1 MR. SEETOT: So this would be a  
2 matter of either extending the special  
3 action or to -- how would you phrase that  
4 where you continue your special action?

5 MS. DEWHURST: The special action  
6 would say that season is closed, as of,  
7 actually, September 14th. It will remain  
8 closed the remainder of this regulatory  
9 year.

10 MR. ENINGOWUK: You want a motion  
11 to extend?

12 MS. DEWHURST: We do -- if we  
13 don't, the season -- the current season is  
14 open on the books, so in order to close the  
15 season, we have to have the motion.

16 MR. MENDENHALL: That decision  
17 would affect Brevig quite a bit, because  
18 you've got Federal land right over there  
19 right behind Brevig.

20 MR. SEETOT: Just that portion.  
21 Just on the Teller side.

22 MR. MENDENHALL: All right.

23 MR. SEETOT: And the count was  
24 that they were -- wish for it to remain  
25 closed for the rest of it --

MS. CROSS: For the rest of 2001,  
but for 2002, they would like to have a  
September 1 to September 30th -- or 31st,  
whatever --

MS. DEGNAN: 30.

MS. CROSS: And then December 1  
to the end of December, those two months for  
the regulatory 2002 year.

MR. SEETOT: Say it again, extend  
the special action?

MS. DEGNAN: Extend the special  
action to September 30th --

1 MS. CROSS: Norm wanted it  
closed, special action closed, no more  
2 hunting.

3 MS. DEGNAN: For this year.

4 MR. SEETOT: How would I phrase  
it?

5 MS. DEWHURST: One motion would  
6 be just to continue the closure for this  
year.

7 MS. CROSS: It would be continue  
8 to closure of the 200 -- 2000 --

9 MS. DEWHURST: 2001.

10 MS. CROSS: 2001.

11 MR. SEETOT: I move to continue  
closure for 2001 for Unit 22D Southwest.

12 MS. DEGNAN: Second.

13 MR. KOBUK: Question.

14 MS. CROSS: There's been a motion  
15 to continue the closure for year 2001,  
special action.

16 There's been a second.

17 MR. KOBUK: Question.

18 MS. CROSS: Question has been  
called.

19 All those in favor, signify by  
saying "aye."

20 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

21 MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
22 same sign.

Motion carries.

23 MS. DEWHURST: I think you would  
24 be getting your permanent reg, which would  
be September 1 through 30 would be bulls  
25 only -- all this would be by Federal  
registration permit. The quota will be

1 determined. We'll have to get with the  
2 State and figure out a quota. September 1  
3 through September 30, bulls only. December  
4 1 through 31st, it would be one moose, and  
5 we'd add that classic line, "No person may  
6 take a cow accompanied by a calf," usually  
7 we always say that on those.

8 And then the only other question  
9 I have is: Was this going to be restricted  
10 to residents of 22D only?

11 MS. CROSS: 22D only.

12 MS. DEWHURST: So that's  
13 basically -- that would be the reg. So if  
14 you want to make a motion there.

15 MS. CROSS: Can you read it in?

16 MS. DEWHURST: September 1  
17 through 30th, by Federal registration permit  
18 only, one bull, residents of 22D only.  
19 December 1 through 31st, one moose, no  
20 person may take a cow accompanied by a calf,  
21 and this would also be residents of 22D  
22 only.

23 Because we put that line in, we  
24 don't have to put in the line about Federal  
25 public lands are closed to only Federally  
qualified users, because that automatically  
does that. So we're covered.

MR. SEETOT: I move for Unit 22D  
Southwest for 2002, a motion to have a  
season September 1 to 30 for one bull only  
and December 1 to December 31, one moose by  
Federal registration only.

MS. CROSS: And residents of 22D  
only.

MR. SEETOT: I got that.

MS. CROSS: No cow accompanied by  
calf.

MR. SEETOT: Residents of 22D,  
and no cow accompanied by calf.

MR. KOBUK: Second.

1 MS. CROSS: Motion on the floor.  
2 Seconded by Leonard.  
3 All those in favor, say "aye."

4 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

5 MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
6 same sign.  
7 Motion carries.

8 MS. CROSS: Shall we take a  
9 break?

10 (Break.)

11 MS. CROSS: I'm going to call the  
12 meeting back to order. It's now quarter to  
13 10:00, and we're going to be addressing a  
14 couple of proposals regarding muskox.  
15 Are we done, Donna?

16 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, I didn't  
17 know -- I could go back. I didn't know if I  
18 need to be here or not.  
19 Ken, do you want to take the  
20 lead?

21 MR. ADKISSON: I think we need to  
22 get the issue out on the table and we can  
23 have a discussion, if Johnson would like to  
24 raise the motion of the harvest level to  
25 22E, and the rest will follow a discussion  
or whatever.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Madam Chair, our  
current season for muskox is January 1 to  
March 15, not more than 14 cows, not more  
than 23 animals. However, I thought maybe to  
advise the council the proposal to raise the  
muskox in order to speed up -- perhaps, I'll  
just make a motion to complete the harvest  
level of muskox in 22E. I would offer the  
motion to raise the harvest level to 8  
percent with up to 4 percent being cows.  
This amount would -- this would amount to an  
increase of 1 percent in the cow harvest and  
an increase of 3 percent in overall harvest  
level above the current levels. The Federal  
and State managers agree that muskoxen can

1 sustain this additional harvest while  
2 remaining healthy and with continued growth  
3 consistent with the Seward Peninsula  
4 Cooperative Muskoxen Management Plan. This  
5 proposal would increase the subsistence  
6 harvest opportunities for residents 22E at a  
7 time when we are faced with declining moose  
8 numbers.

9 MS. DEGNAN: Second the motion.

10 MR. ENINGOWUK: This proposed  
11 regulation would read: "For 22E one muskox  
12 by Federal permit or State Tier II permit;  
13 however, cows may be -- may only be taken  
14 during the period January 1 to March 15.  
15 Federal public lands are closed for taking  
16 of muskox except by Federally qualified  
17 subsistence users. The change would be not  
18 more than 18 cows may be taken, and the  
19 total combined harvest not to exceed 37  
20 animals."

21 MS. DEGNAN: Second.

22 MS. CROSS: Discussion?

23 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

24 MS. CROSS: A motion has been  
25 made, seconded and question has been called.  
All those in favor of the motion, signify by  
saying "aye."

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
same sign.

Motion carries.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Madam Chair,  
also, I think there are times when our  
residents of 22E have difficulty in filling  
their muskox permits. Perhaps, I think, I  
would like to see the villages get together  
and see if they could start talking about a  
designated hunter for those people that  
probably get hurt during -- during the --  
during the muskox season. Sometimes it's  
difficult for the villages when they get

1 hurt or they have mechanical problems with  
2 their equipment. They can't fill their  
3 permanent fill. Perhaps it would be a good  
4 idea for the villages to talk about a  
5 designated hunter for muskox.

6  
7 MS. CROSS: Ken, is that  
8 something that you are going to be putting  
9 in the agenda for the muskox group?

10

11 MR. ADKISSON: Madam Chair, Ken  
12 Adkisson, National Parks Service, two  
13 issues, perhaps first is an explanatory note  
14 to Johnson's motion to increase the harvest.  
15 A series, of, you know, various  
16 teleconferences and formal meetings,  
17 discussions with various people in the  
18 villages actually went on during the spring  
19 in the process of issuing State Tier II  
20 permits, and Federal permits, and culminated  
21 in July in a fairly large public meeting in  
22 Shishmaref to which a contingent of Wales  
23 folks were invited and were present at which  
24 time the basics for raising this harvest  
25 level to 8 percent of which up to 4 percent  
could be cows was settled upon by the  
communities and the Alaska Department of  
Fish & Game and the Parks Service.

16 We haven't run that proposal by  
17 the cooperators' group yet, but we'll  
18 probably try to do so between now and the  
19 winter RAC meeting, probably an informal  
20 telephone poll or some form of communication  
21 just to make sure that the cooperators are  
22 on board. This is actually more complex  
23 than it might appear. You know, our Federal  
24 portion of the agreement that was developed  
25 at Shishmaref is fairly simple as Johnson  
indicated. It's actually just a change in  
numbers, but the Alaska Department of Fish &  
Game -- and Kate can go into this -- is  
preparing a recommendation for the Alaska  
Board of Game when it meets in Kotzebue in  
November. And that recommendation will  
include a limited sport harvest in 22E.  
Rather than make sweeping changes all across  
the board for the Seward Peninsula, an awful  
lot was accomplished last year in

1 preparation for this year's hunt. As you'll  
2 recall with the Council's support, a new  
3 hunt was established in 22B. Actually, on  
4 the State side a new hunt was established in  
5 22C that really didn't affect the Council  
6 here and the harvest was instituted. So a  
7 number of sweeping changes were made. And  
8 it was felt better to take things a little  
9 slower and for a number of reasons maybe  
10 focus the change this year on 22E. And  
11 residents of Wales and Shishmaref have been  
12 asking for some time for an increased  
13 harvest quota. So, basically that's why we  
14 did that rather than making sweeping changes  
15 across the peninsula. After we get the next  
16 census count, the 2002 census count of  
17 muskox, we'll probably try to get the  
18 cooperators together and look at the results  
19 of this year's hunt and see where we go from  
20 there. But that's the reason for the  
21 limited 22E action rather than other  
22 changes.

23 As I say, you may want to listen  
24 to Kate, because this does invite a sport  
25 hunt component which is not evident in the  
Federal side of the equation.

That's all I really got on the  
issue of this muskoxen hunt activity.

With respect to the second point  
Johnson raised, I think it's very  
appropriate that we begin discussion with  
the communities about implementation of some  
sort of alternative permitting system, be it  
designated hunter permits which may be one  
of the simpler actions to take or maybe even  
perhaps community bag limits, but the one  
concern I would have is we haven't really  
had time to stabilize this muskox stuff and  
see what some of the consequences of it are.  
We've kind of been leapfrogging from one  
year to the next, and I think it's maybe  
time for some of us to slow this down. We  
have had permitting problems as you all  
know, year after year after year, as Johnson  
has said. What I'll try to do is set up a  
few conferences with the communities and  
move toward some other permitting systems,  
and it would be very easy, I think, to  
institute a designated permit hunting  
system, Johnson, so we will work with the

1 communities on that.

2 MS. CROSS: Thank you, Ken.  
Kate, have you got anything?

3  
4 MS. PERSONS: Thank you, Madam  
Chair. At the cooperators' meeting that we  
5 had a year ago August, Units 22E and 23  
Southwest asked for a 3 percent cow harvest.  
6 And when we presented that to the Board of  
Game asking for a 3 percent cow harvest,  
7 they declined to do that. They very  
reluctantly agreed to a 2 percent cow  
8 harvest and made it absolutely clear that  
they were not going to further increase the  
9 harvest rate or slow population growth, do  
anything that would slow population growth  
10 unless there was some opportunity for some  
other Alaskans to participate even in a  
small way in this muskox hunt.

11 So -- and in all of the meetings  
that I'd had with people from Shishmaref and  
12 Wales, the communities had made it very  
clear to me that they wanted to see this --  
13 the population growth slowed, and they  
wanted more opportunity to harvest muskox.  
14 And so we started thinking, "Well, how can  
we accomplish this? How can we get the  
15 State Board to agree to move on this?"

16 And I was reminded of something  
that Toby had suggested way back at the  
beginning of the State hunt, actually, about  
17 perhaps allowing some outside hunters to  
come in and take old bulls because the  
18 subsistence hunters are interested in  
younger animals that have tender meat and  
19 these large, old bulls really don't do  
subsistence hunters any good at all, but yet  
20 they are competing with people for grains  
and berries and causing problems, and so  
21 after a series of meetings in Wales and  
Shishmaref we came up with this proposal  
22 that would allow -- let's see, that would  
be -- well, it works out to be four -- based  
23 on the current population and the current  
composition of old bulls in the population,  
24 four permits available next year for a  
drawing permit hunt, and it would be for  
25 mature bulls, four-year-old bulls or older.  
And subsistence hunters would still be

1 allowed to take older bulls. Half the  
2 harvest would be cows, and that would be  
3 entirely for the subsistence hunt, and then  
4 younger bulls would be entirely for the  
5 subsistence hunt and 2 percent of the older  
6 bulls would be also allotted for the  
7 subsistence hunt and 6 percent of older  
8 bulls for this drawing hunt, and that works  
9 out to be four permits. Of course, that  
10 will change as the population increases or  
11 the composition changes. And so what we'd  
12 be looking at, if the Board approves this  
13 proposal, would be, you know, upping the  
14 overall harvest to 8 percent and the 37  
15 animals would be available, and four of  
16 those would be for this drawing hunt in  
17 Alaska.

18 MR. SEETOT: You've talked about  
19 sports hunters taking older bulls or more  
20 mature bulls. Would they have a  
21 requirement -- do they have a requirement to  
22 salvage all the meat, am I correct?

23 MS. PERSONS: Absolutely.

24 MR. SEETOT: Some of these sport  
25 hunters in order to comply with these  
26 regulations, they'll give the meat to the  
27 community or the villages?

28 MS. PERSONS: They may, if  
29 there's somebody that wants that meat.

30 MR. SEETOT: Then you talk about  
31 more mature bulls. I think we need to find  
32 some ways, you know, to address, you know,  
33 the meat issues, where it can be edible for  
34 the Natives. Because you're also stating  
35 that we prefer younger animals because, you  
36 know, the meat is more tender. I think you  
37 can look at that situation from the State  
38 side that there will be more uses for the  
39 species, you take care of subsistence  
40 hunters, sports hunters, not subsistence  
41 users, stuff like that. Your requirement is  
42 no meat be wasted.

43 MS. PERSONS: Oh, yeah,  
44 absolutely. And there are people who have

1    hunted here in 22D that have hunted for  
2    large bulls and find the meat fine. But  
3    it's been the preference of most of the  
4    people that I've talked to in 22E that they  
5    prefer younger bulls. But I guess if you  
6    cook it up for a long enough period of time,  
7    you can, you know, tenderize even the meat  
8    from the older bulls because there are  
9    certainly people here that are hunting some  
10   large trophy-sized animals and really  
11   enjoying the meat.

12           MR. SEETOT: Does the Board of  
13   Fish & Game or National Parks Service have  
14   any brochure or information about how to  
15   process the meat from tougher animals and  
16   stuff like that? I know they have booklets  
17   about -- no parasites, from the animals. I  
18   think that would be good for the hunters and  
19   put more information about preparation of  
20   muskox from mature bulls that you say are --  
21   that have tough meat, and I think there  
22   would be more interest in harvesting muskox.  
23   Because this is a new species and in order  
24   to continue to harvest, you know, you have  
25   to enjoy --

          MS. PERSONS: Have a good  
          experience.

          MR. SEETOT: Right. It took me a  
          while just to get the right preferred method  
          of cooking tough meat. You boil it and then  
          you bake it or roast it. It's a matter of  
          trial by error. And you learn from that.

          MS. PERSONS: That might be a  
          good project for the cooperative extension  
          service. They put out all sorts of those  
          types of brochures.

          MR. SEETOT: Johnson was talking  
          about a designated hunter. On the Federal  
          permits they have a primary hunter and then  
          alternate. There should be some sort --  
          where a designated hunter system would be in  
          place for both the State and the Federal  
          agencies in order to have a harvest excess  
          rate of -- those high numbers.

1 MS. PERSONS: This winter, the  
2 Board of Game will be addressing proxy  
3 hunting, and we're going to -- actually, I'm  
4 going to talk to the advisory committee next  
5 week and see if they would be interested in  
6 putting in a proposal asking for muskox to  
7 be added to the list of species that you  
8 could hunt by proxy and that would address  
9 the issue on the State side.

10 MR. ADKISSON: As I indicated to  
11 Johnson, we can do that on the Federal side  
12 fairly easily.

13 MS. DEWHURST: Madam Chair, if  
14 you would want to do a designated hunter,  
15 keep in mind anything you submit now isn't  
16 going to get decided until next May. There  
17 would be adequate time to discuss it, if you  
18 would want to make a motion now to add a  
19 proposal. Just add designated hunter  
20 permits. That is an option.

21 MS. CROSS: Johnson?

22 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think we still  
23 have time. I think I'd like to hear from  
24 the villages too to be sure they would go  
25 for it. It might be a good idea to have  
26 them talk it over, if they want it or if  
27 they don't want it. I'm pretty sure they  
28 would want it.

29 MR. SEETOT: I would think that  
30 Unit 22E, Shishmaref has a pretty high  
31 success rate with the harvest of muskox  
32 compared with maybe -- and also for portions  
33 of 22E, Nome area, maybe just the  
34 communities of Teller/Brevig that we don't  
35 find the conditions right for a fall hunt  
36 sometimes, and then when it's time to hunt,  
37 no snow conditions, and then mechanical  
38 problems or that person just backs out  
39 because they just change their mind. So, we  
40 have to go for hunters that have either high  
41 success rate or have bagged, you know, game,  
42 and then will process it after they've  
43 bagged the animal.

44 MR. ENINGOWUK: Shishmaref is  
45 kind of fortunate. We're surrounded by

1 parklands and Federal lands. It is a little  
2 distance for Wales to go there for permits  
3 because they have to come toward us to 22E.  
4 But we're surrounded by parks -- by parks,  
5 so we're in proximity to fill out permits,  
6 and we have a lot higher success rate than  
7 maybe Wales.

8 MR. ADKISSON: Madam Chair,  
9 council members, as you're aware of, for  
10 this year's hunt, we're actually doing  
11 something different than we have in the past  
12 also. And that is we were issuing permits  
13 in excess of what the allowable harvest is,  
14 which means we're going to have to monitor  
15 the hunt more closely. But as I think most  
16 of you are also aware of, an awful lot of  
17 the harvest -- because of the kind of  
18 conditions that Elmer has suggested and  
19 indicated to you, an awful lot of the  
20 harvest comes right at the tail end of the  
21 season, so making things in one sense,  
22 super, super easy I think may result in an  
23 overharvest situation or could. And so what  
24 we're trying to do is fine-tune this in  
25 increments to always, though, try and keep  
in mind, you know, what's wrong with the  
permit system and how can we make it better  
and more compatible with customary and  
traditional practices. So, you know,  
nothing that we're doing is the end of the  
story, and we're going to continue to work  
with this thing, and we will -- and the  
designated hunter permit is maybe one of the  
solutions we will try to institute.

We've also discussed, like I say,  
started discussing with the communities,  
community bag limits. We've also suggested  
going to what would be the equivalent of an  
unrestricted registration hunt where we  
issue anyone who is eligible and wants a  
permit gets a permit.

The risk that we run there is  
that some of the communities like Shishmaref  
that are favored by geography may suck up  
the allowable harvest before some community  
like Wales can get to it. So, these issues  
are not simple, and while they may appear so  
on the surface, there are sometimes negative  
consequences of them. And we'll continue to

1 work in those directions to improve the  
2 permitting system.

3 One other additional note that,  
4 you know, you should be aware of in terms of  
5 the State thing that Kate mentioned, as you  
6 all know when we started this hunt it was  
7 strictly a Federal hunt. That had a lot of  
8 problems in terms of access and so forth,  
9 and I think, you know, this last several  
10 years have proven that a joint State/Federal  
11 hunt probably works best under the current  
12 conditions to work towards meeting the needs  
13 of the subsistence needs of the local users.  
14 There is another issue that's kind of  
15 hanging out there is the subsistence need  
16 level, and we've kind of skirted around that  
17 and have been successful in doing so. The  
18 Alaska Board of Game doesn't have that  
19 luxury always, and for a number of reasons,  
20 people have been reluctant to tamper with  
21 the original need to have a determination  
22 level that was made by the State Board of  
23 Game in order to lay the groundwork for the  
24 Tier II hunt. As a part of this, even  
25 though the ADF&G is recommending a limited  
sport hunt to the Board of Game, on the  
Federal side, we -- as part of this proposal  
that Johnson made, we are not recommending  
that we open Federal public lands at this  
time. So, the Federal public lands will  
remain closed to nonsubsistence users which  
will give them an added advantage on those  
lands and some much in the protection. It  
will also force some sport closer into the  
villages where some of the problem animals  
are occurring, so hopefully that will  
alleviate some of the situations that we  
keep hearing about meeting after meeting.

I think that's all I've really  
got on the topic unless you have questions.

MR. ANUNGAZUK: I think I'd like  
to bring up that what would Wales need to do  
to apply for a special hunt for -- to be  
used during the dance festival or something  
like that? Similar type with dance last  
spring, while we harvested moose, with the  
State permit.

MR. ADKISSON: I believe there --

1 this is probably where you probably need to  
2 talk to Donna and Pat. I believe that there  
3 are a couple of options for a permanent reg  
4 to have kind of one-time permits for  
5 educational purposes and cultural purposes,  
6 and they can fill you in on that, and you  
7 can work with them. I think you brought a  
8 list with you of a few things you'd like to  
9 consider.

10 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Yeah. Donna,  
11 Pat.

12 MS. CROSS: Perry?

13 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, I would  
14 like to commend the muskox people for  
15 considering both bulls and cows in their  
16 hunts, and I feel that it meets the  
17 subsistence needs of the people in our  
18 region, and I'm glad that you also increased  
19 it a little because some villages are  
20 getting used to their muskox and some still  
21 aren't used to it, and it's going to take a  
22 while, but I guess -- like I said, I already  
23 helped get it to March 15th. So, I'm happy  
24 with that, because that's when the muskox is  
25 not that musky. So, I'd like to commend the  
26 staff on their efforts. Plus working with  
27 the villages, showing that they can make  
28 changes, positive changes to put subsistence  
29 meat on the table. And as for cultural  
30 things, we're trying to bring cultural trade  
31 and festivities back. I think that's a plus  
32 for them because they have -- they have a  
33 rebirth of that happening, like I have at  
34 Gambell or Wales. They have visitors from  
35 Russia, the people coming back from all over  
36 the world to Wales during their time of  
37 celebration.

38 MS. CROSS: Toby?

39 MR. MENDENHALL: Thank you.

40 MR. SEETOT: Question to Kate:  
41 When you go issue permits, do you find the  
42 interest in obtaining the permits more  
43 favorable in one community than the other,  
44 like in Brevig, I have to coax the members

1 to get some permits from the State?

2 MS. PERSONS: There are a few  
3 people now in Brevig that are really anxious  
4 to apply every year. There is getting to be  
5 more.

6 MR. SEETOT: Is it the same in  
7 all communities, or is there more interest  
8 in communities like Shishmaref?

9 MS. PERSONS: Shishmaref has a  
10 lot of interest. Of all the communities,  
11 there is the greatest interest in  
12 Shishmaref. There is interest in Wales.  
13 Probably Brevig has the least interest, and  
14 Golovin has very little interest.

15 MR. SEETOT: We could have  
16 hunters. We could have said, No, I think  
17 all our permits should go to Teller and  
18 Brevig. These people in these communities  
19 do not show an interest in muskox by not  
20 getting permits at the present time. If  
21 they use the resource more, I think that  
22 they will use, you know, more of the permits  
23 available. And 22D is pretty much a heavily  
24 used area not only by the communities of  
25 Teller and Brevig, but pretty much by the  
26 whole Seward Peninsula, one way or the  
27 other, because of the road system and other  
28 areas that are used now for such purposes.

29 MR. MENDENHALL: Is there -- is  
30 there muskox hunt on 22C?  
31

32 MS. PERSONS: Yes, there is now.  
33 This is the first year on it.

34 MR. MENDENHALL: The one on Cape  
35 Nome.

36 MS. PERSONS: Those are not in  
37 the hunt area.

38 MR. MENDENHALL: Lot of people  
39 have -- they see them getting rid of their  
40 blackberries and blueberry patches. That's  
41 why they're a little bit worried about that.  
42 A lot of people that picked berries on top

1 of the mountain, the muskox -- because of  
2 the bear, they stay quite near the road  
3 picking berries. That's the fear, because  
4 muskox can attack just about as bad as a  
5 bear too, so, and they have no rifles or  
6 guns with them, most of the berry pickers.  
7 I'd sort of like to see something open up at  
8 22C, Cape Nome, couple muskoxen.

9 MS. PERSONS: Next time we have a  
10 cooperators meeting we'll have to put that  
11 on the table.

12 MR. AHMASUK: There is some  
13 problems, I think, with the way the State  
14 issues Tier II permits. For one thing, when  
15 you apply for a Tier II permit, you're  
16 scored a person -- a person is scored on a  
17 series of five or six -- I think five  
18 questions. The State of Alaska asks you  
19 five questions and from those mere five  
20 questions, the State of Alaska is able to  
21 determine who customary and -- who are  
22 customary and traditional users. However,  
23 that's, in my opinion, tremendously  
24 inadequate. For instance, with these  
25 brand-new muskox hunts in 22C, and  
elsewhere, what the State of Alaska did --  
it's just the way that their regulations  
are. When people apply for those permits,  
they answer those five questions. In the  
case of brand-new hunts everybody gets  
basically the same score. And then that  
hunt is turned into a drawing. So, well,  
you apply for a permit for muskox and you  
expect to be scored as a customary and  
traditional user, you're going to find that  
there is no way that the State of Alaska can  
determine who are customary and traditional  
users, in my opinion. Because those  
questions that are asked on the State permit  
are so generic and not tuned -- they're not  
able to determine who C and T users are, as  
is the case with these brand-new hunts in  
22C.

By mere luck, I think that some  
of those people who receive permits on the  
State system for muskox luckily, they are  
customary and traditional users. Some of  
them are not. Some of them are people who  
have lived here for a year or less or a

1 couple.

2 MR. MENDENHALL: They will go  
after them with a bow and arrow.

3  
4 MR. AHMASUK: That's their  
choice. They never take into consideration  
the hunting method, just five questions  
5 and -- even in the case of those five  
questions, a person who can answer a  
6 question that carries a lot of points, for  
instance, if you say -- if you answer the  
7 question: How much meat from this resource  
is utilized for yourself? and you put, Well,  
8 five years ago I harvested a dead animal.  
In the case of brand-new Tier II hunts, like  
9 the muskox, a person like myself couldn't  
say five years ago I harvested a dead  
10 animal. I used it for my food, and the  
State system, they cannot score that.

11 So, right away, if you think that  
the State Tier II system can determine  
12 customary and traditional users, you're  
wrong, because it's only by mere luck and  
13 the mere process of filling out applications  
year after year after year. Which is  
14 probably why some ambivalence and some  
frustration is found with the Tier II, Tier  
15 II system.

16 MR. MENDENHALL: So would you  
like to see the application tweaked to  
17 measure up to subsistence users?

18 MR. AHMASUK: The application  
should be tweaked. The State Tier II permit  
19 application.

20 MR. MENDENHALL: So that would  
help subsistence users get a permit -- such  
21 a permit from the State?

22 MR. AHMASUK: Yeah, I think these  
people here in this region, we have asked  
23 for muskox hunts long before -- longer than  
they've been opened, they've only been open  
24 for six years. I think our people have been  
asking for muskox hunting longer than what  
25 we've used. Muskox has been on the  
peninsula for 30 years. There are people

1 out there who have lived there all their  
life who wished that they could go to  
2 muskox, but we just went along with the  
people who just introduced them, we just  
3 went along with them and said, "Don't hunt  
them for a period of time."  
4

MS. CROSS: Kate?

5  
MS. PERSONS: Well, now is the  
6 chance to do something about that, because  
the Board of Game is going to be considering  
7 changes to the Tier II -- or not just  
muskox, but Tier II applications at their  
8 winter meetings, and they'll be accepting  
proposals, suggestions for ways of changing  
9 that application form to make it more fair,  
and it's a statewide problem. It's not just  
10 here. It's not just with muskox, but the  
Tier II process is perceived by many, many  
11 people as being grossly unfair and the Board  
themselves put this on their agenda for the  
12 winter meeting because there just have been  
so many complaints from the public, and so  
13 if -- if people have ideas about how to make  
the application more fair, you know, now is  
14 the time to get proposals in.

15 MR. MAGDANZ: October 26th, I  
think, is the deadline, and it only comes  
16 open once every four years. This particular  
section of the regulations, typically is  
17 open once every four years, so right now is  
the time.  
18

MR. MENDENHALL: Also, special  
19 people working on the subsistence issue were  
rewriting the State regs, and in regards to  
20 the subsistence summit that was held in  
August, and I think the value systems of  
21 that first day is -- that they wrote for the  
whole State of Alaska is great, but the  
22 action plan, they never fully agreed to  
that, how to address subsistence. Like we  
23 would like to see it or some other villages.  
So, I think the State needs to be brought up  
24 to speed regarding ANILCA and the way the  
Federal is recognizing subsistence.  
25

MR. MAGDANZ: Just a comment, the

1 muskox hunt is bizarre in the customary and  
2 traditional framework because it's the only  
3 hunt that didn't have a hunt history when it  
4 opened. Most -- for chum salmon or Nome  
5 subsistence, or caribou, or on the Kenai,  
6 where we do have -- and other cases, people  
7 do have subsistence, you are granted points  
8 based on the resource and the availability  
9 of the resources. Those are the only two  
10 criteria in State law as it's now written  
11 that we can use or the Board can use to  
12 evaluate. But when you open a hunt where  
13 there is no recent history of hunting, it's  
14 impossible -- right away the hunt history  
15 criteria just is everybody's equal and it  
16 becomes a part of alternative resources that  
17 determines who gets it. You're right. You  
18 get kind of bizarre results, because the  
19 Tier II system wasn't designed for new  
20 hunts.

21  
22 MR. MENDENHALL: These types of  
23 hunts went out the window and the gold  
24 miners mostly got the muskox and hunted. We  
25 had muskox here, in my ancestral history and  
26 legends. They exist on the Seward  
27 Peninsula, like my grandparents told me that  
28 you be careful with these animals, like they  
29 are bizarre --

30 MR. MAGDANZ: The hunt is, the  
31 Tier II hunt is.

32 MS. CROSS: What I hear Austin  
33 saying is that maybe one of the criteria  
34 should be let the residents in the gaming  
35 unit --

36 MR. MAGDANZ: Used to be -- the  
37 Supreme Court threw it out -- used to be,  
38 that was one of the original determinations.

39 What we're dealing with basically  
40 is a public divided on how to do what Austin  
41 is saying. There are people in Alaska, that  
42 have been residents and residents used --  
43 these are urban residents, they want an  
44 equal footing for hunting.

45 MS. CROSS: Maybe if the State  
46 had rural preference this would --

1

MR. MAGDANZ: This would be easy if the State had a rural preference, because in 22E, you can have C and T for muskox. We can have a Tier 1 hunt for 22E. We wouldn't have to take into account demand for other areas; if we had a rural priority, a lot of these problems would go away.

5

MS. CROSS: Any comments from Elmer, Johnson, Toby?

7

MR. ANUNGAZUK: I'd like to ask Kate, what was the first numbers for composition of muskox --

8

MS. PERSONS: I don't have them with me and I don't have them on the top of my head, but I will send them to you.

10

MR. ENINGOWUK: I know, Madam Chair, we still believe our muskox population was going to be well, and it's continuing to be well. I know one of the comments in one of our cooperators' meetings, that a long time ago when the moose came around, we had lots of willows. Now that we have moose here, we have small willows, and they are gone for now. I think if we have no more willows, we are not going to have anymore moose. And when the muskox introduced that his comment was that pretty soon we're going to have no more tussocks too for this, because of the muskox.

18

(Laughter.)

19

MR. ENINGOWUK: It's time to point some of them to 22C or someplace.

20

MR. SEETOT: When you received more than the number of permits, more permits than the number of animals to be harvested, who rates the permit system? Do you in Nome rate the permit system or an office someplace other than Nome?

24

MS. PERSONS: You're asking who actually decides who gets the permits?

25

MR. SEETOT: Uh-huh.

1

MS. PERSONS: It's done in  
2 Anchorage by a computer. Somebody enters  
3 all the data from those applications into  
4 the computer and the computer just spits out  
5 the top, you know, point winners for each  
6 hunt area.

MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair,  
7 too, I have a question.

8 I never got a moose this fall  
9 which I've been crying about, you heard me  
10 yesterday. My wife is now after me to go  
11 muskox hunting. How would I as a  
12 subsistence user get a muskox permit on  
13 State -- make an application?

MS. PERSONS: You'd make an  
14 application in May. May is the application  
15 period.

11

MR. MENDENHALL: That's the  
12 downside of trying to go subsistence. You  
13 have to have it in May, but why can't  
14 subsistence users make application other  
15 than May?

14

MS. PERSONS: That's the Tier II  
15 system. Yeah.

MR. MENDENHALL: I know, just for  
16 subsistence use, like would I have the same  
17 problem with the Federal side on getting the  
18 subsistence muskox permit?

18

MS. PERSONS: After April  
19 actually, you would.

MR. MENDENHALL: I would have a  
20 problem.

21

MR. ADKISSON: Part of that is  
22 because with the limited number of permits,  
23 what we've been doing is, since we started  
24 this joint arrangement with the State, there  
25 are other problems with the State Tier II  
program that favors people who have that  
established history. So once you take an  
animal, you can score higher than someone  
else, and because of that, it tends to

1 concentrate the permits, and to compensate  
2 for that, what we've been doing is holding  
3 off issuing the Federal permits until we  
4 know how the State permit distribution went  
5 and then, for example, for this coming hunt  
6 that will start -- actually, the one we're  
7 in right now, Brevig and -- Deering and  
8 Buckland, almost all of the State Tier II  
9 permits wound up in Buckland for some  
10 reason. So by agreement with those two  
11 villages, we took almost all of the Federal  
12 permits and put them into Deering to  
13 compensate for it. So, it's sure not a  
14 perfect system by any means, but one of the  
15 things that we're going to, I think, start  
16 exploring -- and we've pretty much left it  
17 open on the Federal system to the individual  
18 communities on how they want to do this. If  
19 they want a -- if they want a community of  
20 Elders to do it, that's what we do.

21  
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Your problem --

23 MR. ADKISSON: Your problem is  
24 you're a resident of 22C and don't have a  
25 Federal C & T.

26 MR. MENDENHALL: We did have --

27 MR. ADKISSON: But for 22C, and  
28 we don't have any Federal lands.

29 MR. MENDENHALL: We did establish  
30 years ago that you can get muskox.

31 MR. ADKISSON: If you can get the  
32 State to score that.

33 MR. MENDENHALL: How do  
34 subsistence users in the Nome area -- how  
35 would the subsistence user make an  
36 application in May only?

37 MS. CROSS: That's what Kate was  
38 talking about. People have the opportunity  
39 to bring up those issues at the State Board  
40 of Game and will be able to write proposals  
41 and see if changes can be made with the Tier  
42 II system, period. Which is the same for  
43 any -- sounds like to me for any mammal.  
44 It's the same everywhere.

1

MR. MENDENHALL: I'm trying to address the whole issue of 22 unit, period, Federal and State. How do subsistence users get subsistence muskox? Like I'm saying subsistence moose, same as muskox, how does a subsistence user in need get muskox, truly establish a need for that?

5

MR. AHMASUK: They have to hope they're lucky. The way the Tier II big game regulations read, as Jim mentioned, it's bizarre, the way that it's scored is based upon the peculiar regulations that they come across, and that is when the hunt was closed. Muskox was never closed and there was never a hunt before until six years ago. It was brand-new opened.

10

So, it's a -- it's -- as he mentioned, it's peculiar; it's bizarre, because that's the way the Tier II game regulations are. Tier II fishing is different. They're able to adequately score, I think -- there's only one Tier II fishing in the State that's here in the Nome district. The Tier II fishing regulations are different. They're not as bizarre. It's an application that uses a limited number of questions that score potential Tier II permitting.

16

MS. CROSS: Toby, I have a question for you. Are you going to be submitting a proposal on your ceremonial muskox? We can take a break if you want to talk to Pat so we can address --

19

MS. DEWHURST: He can submit it himself. It doesn't have to come from the Council, we will take it up at the winter meeting.

21

MS. CROSS: Do you want to take it up at the winter meeting or take it up now?

23

MR. ANUNGAZUK: Doesn't matter to me.

24

MS. CROSS: Pretty much your choice.

25

1  
2 MR. MENDENHALL: My issue still  
3 stands. We need to tweak that for both  
4 Federal and State on how subsistence users  
5 can truly get a subsistence permit for meat  
6 on the table. There's a need, maybe -- I  
7 think I would encourage Federal and State  
8 staff to try to see how that can be done  
9 other than make an application in May.

10 MS. CROSS: Another  
11 recommendation that I would give to you,  
12 Perry, is when the muskoxen cooperative  
13 group meets that you bring it up to them and  
14 have that as one of the points of -- one of  
15 the issues to be discussed.

16 MR. MENDENHALL: They already had  
17 the muskox meeting. When was that?

18 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, on  
19 the State side. Kate can tell you when the  
20 Board of Game's proposal period closes.  
21 There's a Norton Sound Advisory meeting here  
22 in town, I believe, on October 2nd, and I'm  
23 assuming that that would be still an  
24 appropriate time to submit proposals or  
25 whatever and proposals could go forth  
regarding the C and T program. The sheer  
reality of it is that in some respects the  
Federal system has a lot more flexibility  
and -- but right -- and we can, in working  
with the villages, do some things  
differently, and we kind of tinker with it,  
but because of some of the unique  
constraints, we've still been limited to or  
currently are limited to a narrow window  
when we go into the communities and issue  
permits by whatever system. It could be  
that we can explore sort of like a -- with  
the IRA or whatever, sort of a roster system  
where they collect names and information,  
and then we do a drawing or a selection  
process from those. The thing I don't like  
with it is we're stuck with going in the  
community in May and issuing permits now and  
actually soliciting applications for permits  
at a period when people can be out at camp  
and things and that's not really a good way  
to do it.

1  
2 MR. MENDENHALL: That's what I'm  
3 saying; May is usually seal hunting, walrus  
4 hunting.

5 MS. CROSS: Somebody else had  
6 their hand -- did you?

7 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, I was  
8 distracted for a moment. But this  
9 discussion we've had for the last 30 minutes  
10 reminds me a lot of the Nome salmon working  
11 group discussions where people expressed a  
12 huge degree of frustration with how the law  
13 was structured and spent a whole lot of time  
14 on their frustrations and sort of neglected  
15 to deal with the management problems that  
16 had to be dealt with within the framework,  
17 and the result was that when the Board of  
18 Fisheries came up here to make a decision,  
19 the committee members, many of them, were  
20 adamant that they wouldn't go Tier II, but  
21 the Board had no choice. Staff is aware of  
22 your frustrations, Perry and Austin; and we  
23 are as frustrated as you are by this  
24 situation. The problem lies at the highest  
25 levels of our Government in the State and in  
the nation, and the energy to tackle this  
problem needs to go to those levels. It  
needs to go to the Legislature and the  
Governor, and our Senators and our  
Councilmen. That's where the problem lies.

18 MR. MENDENHALL: I remember going  
19 to the Board of Game with Ken here in  
20 Fairbanks to ask for muskox, and we got it  
21 on the State side. We were instrumental in  
22 opening up the State Tier II.

23 MS. CROSS: I think at this point  
24 we should move on and take a break at this  
25 time and then move on to our -- back to our  
agenda.

26 MR. MENDENHALL: There's a  
27 motion. Did they call for the question on  
28 the motion?

29 MS. CROSS: We already passed the  
30 motion.

1 MR. MENDENHALL: Did you?

2 MS. CROSS: Yeah.

3 (Break.)

4 MS. CROSS: I'm going to be  
5 calling the meeting back to order, the time  
6 is ten to 11:00, and we're going to be  
addressing our favorite problem, which is  
bears.

7 MS. DEWHURST: I think some of  
8 you may have the right book. If you have  
9 the regulations book, the Federal one, if  
you go to page 127, you'll see what our  
current regulations are just for frame of  
reference.

10 To refresh your memory, last  
11 year, I believe we went to 22E, went to that  
opening date of August 1, that was one of  
12 our proposals. Last year or the year  
before. I get mixed up. We went to that  
13 August 1, but that was the only subunit we  
went to. What I'm recommending -- I think  
14 most people will like this, it would  
liberalize our Federal season and match the  
15 State season. In the State proposals that  
are going to the Board of Game in November  
16 at Kotzebue, there's Proposal 7 which says  
that they want all of Unit 22, the bear  
17 season, to open up August 1. And then  
Proposal 8 has one bear per regulatory year.  
18 We already have under Federal regulations,  
one bear per regulatory year. That's not an  
19 issue, but the August 1 opening is a good  
idea. From my understanding talking to  
20 Kate, there's going to be broad support on  
the State side. It makes sense we should go  
21 ahead and do it on the Federal side. So,  
what I would propose is under "bear" to  
22 strike all this subunit stuff. You see it's  
broken up by subunit, strike all that and  
just say: Unit 22, one bear by State  
23 registration permit August 1 through May  
31st. It would grossly simplify the  
24 regulations. It would match what the  
State's going to be doing, and it would open  
25 up more opportunities to take bear.

1 MS. DEGNAN: So, under the  
2 Federal regs, you have to be a resident of  
Unit 22 to harvest?

3 MS. DEWHURST: Correct, correct.

4 MS. DEGNAN: But under the State,  
5 then it's open to the entire State of  
Alaska?

6 MS. PERSONS: And nonresidents.  
7 And some areas -- in your area, they just  
8 have to have a guide. In other areas, they  
also have to have a drawing permit.

9 MR. KOBUK: Madam Chair, didn't  
10 we also open up hunting too for female bears  
without a cub at the last meeting in  
Stebbins?

11 MS. PERSONS: In Stebbins, you  
12 addressed this proposal to open the season  
13 August 1. Already you can hunt female bears  
14 if they don't have cubs. But by opening the  
15 season in August, there's a longer period of  
16 time where you may be more likely to harvest  
17 a cow if she has weaned her cubs or lost her  
cubs earlier in the season. She's legal,  
because she doesn't have cubs and probably  
by next spring she'll, again, have cubs and  
not be legal. So, it may increase the  
portion of female bears taken in the  
harvest.

18 MS. DEGNAN: This is for brown  
19 bear only?

20 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

21 MS. CROSS: We would be striking  
22 out --

23 MS. DEWHURST: Strike out all the  
24 subunit details, make it Unit 22, one bear  
25 by State registration permit, August 1st  
through May 31st.

MS. DEGNAN: That opens 22C.

MS. DEWHURST: There's about a

1 mile square parcel in 22C that is in the  
corner -- do you have that map? Where is  
2 Jeanie? Is Jeanie here?

3 A map that shows where this  
little parcel is.

4 MS. COLE: It's on the wall up  
here.

5 MS. DEWHURST: It's such a tiny  
6 parcel, I wouldn't worry about it one way or  
the other.

7 MS. COLE: It's right up here,  
8 the northwest corner of 22C.

9 MS. DEWHURST: I wouldn't worry  
about it. Just for purposes of simplifying  
10 the regulations, I'd just say 22C -- I mean,  
22, Unit 22.

11 So, yes, it opens it up. It's  
not opening anything. It's opening a little  
12 itty, bitty piece of land.

13 MS. CROSS: Maybe the State can  
hunt the bears.

14 MS. DEWHURST: The State hunt  
15 will be open so it doesn't matter. The  
State hunt will be open in 22C. Their  
16 regulations will be the same as ours, and  
basically the regulations will flow across  
17 the whole area if you do this, which would  
be nice. So everything would be nice, and  
18 it would eliminate a lot of confusion too.

19 MS. CROSS: Somebody make a  
motion?

20 MR. MENDENHALL: Quite a few  
21 bears shot at the coast, some people  
protecting their cabins and fish.

22 I'm finally glad to see that we  
are able --

23 MS. DEGNAN: I would move to  
24 accept the recommendation of the brown bear  
hunt, Unit 22 on Federal lands for August 1  
25 through May 31st.

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

2 MS. DEGNAN: In 22 --

3 MS. CROSS: For one bear.

4 MS. DEGNAN: For one bear.

5 MS. CROSS: There's a motion,  
6 been seconded.  
Call for the question?

7 MR. KOBUK: Question?

8 MS. CROSS: Question has been  
9 called. All those in favor, signify by  
stating "aye."

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

11 MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
12 same sign.  
Motion carries.

13 So, now we're down to 12, call  
for proposal to call for subsistence  
14 wildlife regulations. We basically did that  
unless we have a new proposal of some kind.  
15 I don't hear any, so we'll move on to  
customary trade. Richard Uberuaga and Carl?

16 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Madam  
17 Chairman, members of the council. My name  
is Richard Uberuaga. I'm a fisheries  
18 biologist with the office of subsistence in  
Anchorage. I represent four areas in the  
19 State, North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Seward  
Peninsula, and the Kodiak/Aleutian areas.

20 In your council books,  
specifically, Tab I, you'll find a briefing  
21 entitled "Customary Trade." Here you'll  
find a written briefing, draft regulatory  
22 language, and a schedule of interests  
working towards the final rule.

23 My purpose here today is to  
receive your comments on the customary trade  
24 task force working towards a draft language,  
draft regulatory language. I'm going to  
25 cover four areas: History of customary  
trade and why the issue is before you; a

1 brief discussion of the proposed regulatory  
2 language; a schedule of events or the time  
3 line that we're working on with this --  
4 towards this final rule; and the importance  
5 of the Council's input into this process.

6 I'm going to speak a little while  
7 and then Carl Jack is going to follow me and  
8 give you a briefing on the tribal  
9 consultation process that is -- consultation  
10 process that is occurring throughout the  
11 State.

12 First we need to establish what  
13 is meant in regulatory terms when we discuss  
14 customary trade. Customary trade, as we are  
15 dealing with this, pertains only to the cash  
16 sales of subsistence- harvested fish. In  
17 regulations, the act of bartering is treated  
18 separate, is not included in the term  
19 "customary trade."

20 So, when I talk about "customary  
21 trade," I'm referring only to cash sales and  
22 not the aspect of bartering. It's very  
23 important that I emphasize that we're only  
24 dealing with fish here and not wildlife  
25 species.

Current Federal regulations  
specifically address customary trade and  
barter. However, the language, the  
regulatory language pertaining to customary  
trade is not specific enough to define  
allowable levels. An important factor of  
current Federal regulations in defining  
customary trade is that the regulations  
clearly recognize and allow for the cash  
sales of subsistence-harvested fish as long  
as those sales do not constitute a  
significant commercial enterprise.  
Unfortunately, the drafters of this original  
regulatory language didn't define what does  
constitute a significant commercial event  
price. So, at times what you have is  
uncertainty as to what's permissible when  
subsistence-harvested fish are exchanged for  
cash.

The current regulations are  
perceived by most people as being  
unenforceable. This current regulatory  
language would invite abuse from those who  
wish to move subsistence-harvested fish onto  
the market for monetary gain to the

1 detriment of subsistence users. If the  
2 limits of cash exchange are not defined,  
3 then by allowing this exchange to go  
4 unchecked, it could result in a negative  
5 impact on subsistence users and uses.

6 This is why the Federal  
7 Subsistence Board established a customary  
8 trade task force, which would hopefully  
9 clearly define customary trade and specify  
10 some limits.

11 A lot of planning and thought  
12 went into this task force, formation of this  
13 task force to make sure that people on the  
14 task force had the expertise and background  
15 to deal with the issues. This is why  
16 Regional Council members made up the bulk of  
17 this task force.

18 I'd like to acknowledge that  
19 Grace participated on this task force, I  
20 believe at all the meetings, and was active  
21 in what we came up with as a task force.

22 I want to move through this  
23 discussion -- I hope to follow it by Carl,  
24 and then we'll briefly discuss the draft  
25 regulatory language, and then after that, we  
26 want to open up the floor for your questions  
27 and comments and I'm sure Grace will be able  
28 to help answer a lot of these questions too.

29 The goal of the task force was to  
30 develop draft regulatory language that  
31 provided for long-term -- long-term practice  
32 of customary trade consistent with  
33 definitions of subsistence uses in ANILCA  
34 which defined limits of cash sales.

35 The task force met on three  
36 occasions, the last meeting was in August,  
37 the 1st and 2nd of August where we finalized  
38 some draft language. This language is now  
39 before you and before all the Councils. The  
40 underlying themes of the proposed language  
41 was to develop language that was fair,  
42 prevented abuses, met the needs of Federally  
43 qualified users, and didn't prevent or limit  
44 the trade or sale between communities and  
45 villages.

46 Now, I'd like to go through the  
47 time line that we are working on. On page 5  
48 of your -- in your book, under Tab I, you'll  
49 find the final rule -- actually, that's the  
50 final rule that we will go through after

1 I've given you the schedule of events or the  
time line.

2 The first step was what we're  
into right now, bringing this draft  
3 regulatory language to the Councils and  
hearing from the Councils.

4 By the 1st of November, all of  
the comments from the Councils will be  
5 summarized and distributed to the task force  
members. The task force will then review  
6 the comments, recommend the staff committees  
and the Federal Subsistence Board how to  
7 address these Council comments. It's  
important to note that this is not the only  
8 time that you will have to provide your  
comments. You, as a Council, will be  
9 involved in this process in final comments  
clear through May 2002. As I said, in  
10 November, the task force is going to meet  
and bring comments from the Regional  
11 Councils, Tribal governments and general  
public and recommend how to proceed prior to  
12 the December meeting of the Federal  
Subsistence Board. The interagency staff  
13 committee will review all of the comments  
that have been received, and it's going to  
14 develop some draft language, proposed draft  
regulatory language to move forward.

15 At their December meeting, the  
Council is going to do this -- or excuse me,  
16 the Federal Board will move this language  
forward, this draft language. That language  
17 will result in a proposed rule which will be  
published in the Federal Register.

18 The Councils, the Tribal  
governments, and the public will then have  
19 an opportunity to comment on this proposed  
rule again. The Councils will be asked for  
20 their recommendations during the winter  
meeting in February and March, and those  
21 comments will be brought to the Board before  
their May meeting in 2002, next spring's May  
22 meeting when the Federal Board meets.

The interagency staff committee  
23 will be reviewing these comments pertaining  
to the proposed rule and also will develop  
24 some recommendations.

25 At the May 2002 meeting of the  
Federal Subsistence Board, the Board will  
take a final action considering all the

1 comments from the Regional Councils, Tribal  
2 governments, and public and the staff  
3 committee. Hopefully that will result in a  
4 final rule which will occur in May again.

5 The goal was to have the final  
6 rule in effect by July 2002.

7 So, before we look briefly at the  
8 proposed draft regulatory language, I would  
9 like Carl now to address the interagency  
10 consultation process -- excuse me, the  
11 Tribal consultation process that's occurring  
12 statewide with all the tribes. I think it's  
13 a very important process. Carl?

14 MR. JACK: Thank you, Richard.  
15 Madam Chair, members of the Council, on this  
16 Tribal consultation, on January 19th, 2001,  
17 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the  
18 four Federal agencies, along with the  
19 assistant secretary of -- special assistant  
20 to the secretary in Alaska signed a -- an  
21 Alaskan policy on government-to-government  
22 relations with Alaskan tribes and a process  
23 for consultation with the Federally  
24 recognized tribes.

25 And I have provided a summary of  
26 how the consultation is occurring right now,  
27 and -- and during this last March meeting, I  
28 believe I talked about the -- and summarized  
29 that particular document.

30 The customary trade or proposed  
31 regulations will impact all of the Alaska  
32 Natives, members of the Federally recognized  
33 tribes throughout the State. And the  
34 service, Fish & Wildlife Service as the lead  
35 agency has an OSM because of the importance  
36 of the customary trade and how it will  
37 impact the Alaska Natives and the tribes.

38 As initiated, the Tribal consultation, which  
39 was started about three weeks ago, whereby  
40 the proposed regulatory language was -- and  
41 the briefing paper, along with the  
42 transmittal letter was mailed to each and  
43 every one of the 229 tribes in Alaska. And  
44 the comment period is specified in there as  
45 being from September through October 31st.

46 When the customary trade task force began  
47 its serious -- serious discussions on the  
48 proposed regulatory language last winter, in  
49 preparation and as a precursor to tribal

1 consultation, we -- and that is the staff in  
2 the Office of Subsistence Management -- met  
3 with the statewide Tribal organizations,  
4 Alaska Intertribal Council, and during their  
5 subsequent executive committee meetings  
6 provided updates as to how the customary  
7 trade task force was doing its work.

8 So, in consultation with AIPC  
9 last winter, we -- we came up with kind of  
10 like a two-phased Tribal consultation  
11 process.

12 One was the mailing of the  
13 regulatory language to each and every one of  
14 the 229 tribes, and secondly, if the tribes  
15 have questions, we indicated in the letter  
16 that we would make every effort to meet with  
17 them one on one.

18 So, that -- and the reason for  
19 the Tribal consultation is because of the  
20 unique -- the unique legal relationship that  
21 exists between the Alaska Federally  
22 recognized tribes and the United States  
23 Government.

24 And accordingly, the comments  
25 from the tribes will be submitted directly  
26 to the Federal Subsistence Board as Richard  
27 stated in his presentation. In addition,  
28 once the -- a proposed rule is developed,  
29 OSM, like any other Federal agency, is bound  
30 by the Administrative Procedures Act whereby  
31 the proposed rules would be published and  
32 the public would be provided an opportunity  
33 to comment before the final rule is adopted  
34 by the Federal Subsistence Board.

35 Earlier I mentioned the comment  
36 period from September to October 31st. Now,  
37 this -- while it's closed on October 31st,  
38 this does not foreclose the tribes to submit  
39 testimonies at the time when the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board takes it up in December.

41 In general, with respect to Tribal  
42 consultation, the office of subsistence  
43 management is committed to consultation with  
44 Alaska Federally recognized tribes in  
45 accordance with the executive orders and  
46 policies that got the service in this area.

47 Consultation on the customary  
48 trade issue and the draft regulations  
49 developed by the customary trade task force  
50 is occurring as I've stated, and before the

1 final -- and the final rule will not be  
2 adopted until such time the tribes have had  
3 the opportunity to provide comments on the  
4 proposed rule.

5 Madam Chairman, that concludes my  
6 presentation.

7 MR. UBERUAGA: If I can refer you  
8 to page 3 now of the draft language, briefly  
9 I'd just like to move through the three  
10 significant points of this language, and  
11 then -- and then open up for comment and  
12 discussion amongst the Council what your  
13 feelings and thoughts are on this.

14 The first part of the proposed  
15 regulatory language deals with cash sales of  
16 subsistence fish between rural residents,  
17 rural Federally qualified subsistence users.

18 In summary, the task force is recommending  
19 that no limits on cash sales between rural  
20 residents be established.

21 MS. DEGNAN: On fish?

22 MR. UBERUAGA: On fish.

23 The second section deals with  
24 cash sales between rural residents and  
25 others, such as nonqualified Federal users,  
urban users and such. The language  
establishes an annual cap for the sale of  
salmon and other fish species, but the task  
force has recommended an annual cap only for  
salmon of \$1,000 per member, per person.  
What the task force recommended for other  
fish species such as herring, whitefish,  
sheefish, et cetera, is that if a cap is  
needed or desired by the Regional Council,  
then the regional -- the specific Regional  
Council can recommend an amount for further  
discussion.

And then the third section deals  
with sales of subsistence fish to fisheries  
businesses, and the task force has  
recommended that the sales to fisheries  
businesses of subsistence fish be  
prohibited.

So, at this point, I think we  
would all like to hear from you and your  
questions and I'll call on Grace and Carl to  
help answer your specific questions about

1 your thoughts on this draft regulatory  
2 language, and I want to emphasize, again,  
3 this is draft language and your  
4 recommendations do -- are very, very  
5 important and mean a lot. We've received  
6 real good suggestions and recommendations at  
7 the Council meetings that we've been to so  
8 far and we're hoping to hear more from you.  
9 Madam Chair?

10 MS. DEGNAN: Grace, I have a  
11 question. Why is it only addressing salmon?

12 MR. UBERUAGA: Real good  
13 question. The law enforcement personnel  
14 brought to us some problems that they  
15 perceived as problems with the  
16 Yukon/Kuskokwim area with commercial sales  
17 of subsistence fish moving into major  
18 commercial markets, and they feel that there  
19 is -- as written, the language is  
20 unenforceable and people who want to abuse  
21 subsistence-caught fish can get away with  
22 it. And that's why they felt that they  
23 would like to deal with strictly fish at  
24 this time.

25 MS. DEGNAN: In reference to  
abuse of fish, have you looked at the sports  
fishery and then when people come up, if  
there's no limit for them taking elk --  
sometimes the eggs only, certainly relates  
to subsistence-caught fish is also  
sports-caught fish too. So only ones that  
do commercial sale of fish are the ones with  
the permit, and there's only so many permits  
issued in the State of Alaska for commercial  
fishing. And with the price of fish so low,  
there's a lot of commercial people aren't  
participating in the fisheries. The  
fisheries aren't being opened, and so I  
really feel that the -- it always hits the  
subsistence users the hardest whenever any  
shift goes around and enforcement goes  
mainly on the subsistence user and does not  
look at the sports or the commercial  
participants. So I think that kind of thing  
needs to be weighed. Weighed also, and I  
don't like the idea of a cap -- a cash cap  
on anything because the value of the dollar  
fluctuates and prices are always going up in

1 rural Alaska. They never come down. And we  
2 pay much more for any of our necessities of  
3 life than what you pay for in Anchorage and  
4 Fairbanks and further out toward Seattle.  
5 So, the prices just keep going up, and  
6 that's just a fact of life, and every vendor  
7 blames it on the freightage cost. So, I  
8 really feel that if there's going to be a  
9 customary trade and there's -- the trade is  
10 for cash that there really not be an  
11 in-cement dollar cap, but it goes how your  
12 range goes with index and that sort of thing  
13 it's always fluctuating in the international  
14 trade and commercial markets that  
15 subsistence isn't an economy itself out  
16 here, and I don't like to see pegged dollar  
17 amounts. That's my opinion.

18 MR. UBERUAGA: And that's been  
19 expressed at several meetings, and I just  
20 want to remind you that cash sales are not  
21 limited between communities or villages, but  
22 this proposal does limit cash sales  
23 between --

24 MS. DEGNAN: I understand that.

25 MR. UBERUAGA: Yes, I'm sure you  
do. I appreciate your opinion. Thank you.

26 MS. CROSS: I think I'd like to  
27 mention two things. The limitation has  
28 always been a point of contention among the  
29 task group. What -- number one, we had a  
30 problem of having law enforcement give us  
31 specific examples of where subsistence-use  
32 salmon was abused in terms of selling, you  
33 know, significant and commercial sales. The  
34 law enforcement alluded to Southeast Alaskan  
35 herring, but apparently that's not going to  
36 be addressed, and he also alluded to the  
37 advertisements in Cabela's of salmon sales,  
38 which they could not say was related to  
39 subsistence users, and we were also pointing  
40 out that literally only 3 percent of salmon  
41 fishing is taken by subsistence users. So,  
42 we are limiting ourselves or being added on  
43 another regulation for a small percentage of  
44 fisheries, which is us subsistence users,  
45 versus addressing perhaps the real issues.

1           It was a real difficult year in  
2 terms of trying to come up with these, and  
3 we really need some strong advice on these.  
4 These are not concrete. So, we'd really  
5 appreciate a lot of input from this  
6 committee too.

7           MR. MENDENHALL: Practices such  
8 as some stores between -- Native -- stores  
9 in villages they trade for dried fish, but  
10 they sell it when they trade between the  
11 stores, and some people do pay by fish their  
12 store bill, a bill. And they get gas, and  
13 they -- the store does turn around and sell  
14 that to people who do need that dried fish  
15 or muktuk, just to show an example of this.  
16 In Gambell, I see dried fish appear in their  
17 store, and it's gone within the very day  
18 it's put in. So, somebody had to sell that  
19 in order to pay for their gas, camping  
20 expenses too. Maybe even just to buy  
21 clothes for the kids. Because cash does not  
22 always come readily to subsistence users in  
23 villages. And I think that's important to  
24 note that, or else those villages would  
25 never be there because they're there for  
26 subsistence purposes, but there's no cash.  
27 Our Unit 22 is an economically depressed  
28 area, recognized, and it's been that way --  
29 it's probably going to get worse because  
30 they're down the road, and people aren't  
31 paying their bills, they're getting cut off  
32 from electricity, given the new subsidized  
33 homes that are more expensive to run by  
34 Federal Government and State housing  
35 program, but they need food in their belly,  
36 but they also need cash too, so they -- we  
37 all like dry fish, they have good drying  
38 weather, they catch them, we buy it. Cost  
39 me eight bucks for two dried fish. That was  
40 the price. Well, I went up there one time,  
41 that's between the barterers. And when we  
42 can't get fish here, they have it; we'll go  
43 up and buy it if we have to, because the old  
44 folks, they want that fish.

45           MS. CROSS: Another information I  
46 want to pass on to the RAC members, the  
47 majority of the RAC task force, the desire  
48 is to have, if there's going to be a

1 monetary cap, that that be decided by the  
2 regions, not have a statewide one, because  
3 in each of our regions, if they sell a fish  
4 or salmon, it may cost \$8 in Teller, but it  
5 might be \$20 somewhere else. So each region  
6 is to decide whether or not there should be  
7 a monetary cap to begin with. If the region  
8 decides that there will be a monetary cap,  
9 then that region decides what the amount  
10 should be.

11  
12 MR. MENDENHALL: I order smoked  
13 strips from Unalakleet or Bethel, you know,  
14 too, because I crave smoked salmon. Now,  
15 how would that affect my want in Nome and  
16 trading with another region or within the  
17 region too? That shows barter and trade and  
18 even where we buy it. And people from  
19 Shishmaref, we buy that in gallon, it costs  
20 40 bucks.

21  
22 MS. CROSS: I think this brought  
23 up another subject. One of the fears that  
24 we had those of us that were on the task  
25 force from the Regional Advisory Councils is  
26 how this regulatory language for fish will  
27 eventually go over to game and how will that  
28 affect it? So we do know that what -- this  
29 is going to grow. I mean, there is going to  
30 be -- there is going to be regulations, so  
31 it's extremely important that we provide  
32 input for it.

33  
34 MR. MENDENHALL: The other factor  
35 involved, like I trade crab in Barrow for my  
36 stuff, a box, basically a fishery product.  
37 They don't get crab up there. It's a luxury  
38 to them. Hopefully they're alive.

39  
40 MR. JACK: For the most part,  
41 those that you mentioned are covered by  
42 rural to rural, where there is no cap, no  
43 limit.

44  
45 As Grace pointed out, this whole  
46 effort is driven by the enforcement section  
47 and that -- and that was based on the  
48 observation and suspicion that large amount  
49 of salmon strips were being sold through  
50 like Cabela's in large quantities. And  
51 their feeling was -- and the current --

1     there is a -- there is existing regulatory  
2     language on customary trade, but I guess the  
3     solicitor's opinion is such that it cannot  
4     be enforced. So, this effort is to tighten  
5     the regulations so that whoever is cited can  
6     be -- that's -- you know, it can hold up in  
7     court.

8             MS. DEGNAN: Are you saying that  
9     they couldn't enforce the Cabela one?

10            MR. JACK: Yes.

11            MS. DEGNAN: So, I would hope  
12     that would be just a one-time --

13            MS. CROSS: Actually, they would  
14     not say it was subsistence users that sold  
15     to Cabela's. They were using it as an  
16     example, as a suspicion, but enforcement  
17     division could not say positively to the  
18     task force that these fish that Cabela's had  
19     came from subsistence users. They couldn't  
20     say.

21            MS. DEGNAN: It could have been  
22     from sports users.

23            MS. CROSS: Could have been  
24     from -- Charlie, you had your hand up?

25            MR. LEAN: I guess I do think  
26     this is an incredibly important regulation,  
27     but within the State of Alaska, businesses  
28     are -- must have a business license, either  
29     a fisheries business license or a regular  
30     business license. And as I understand it,  
31     most grocery stores have regular business  
32     licenses whereas most fish buyers have  
33     fisheries business licenses. It seems to me  
34     here that the intent here is to allow for  
35     the sale of fish to the grocery stores, but  
36     not to commercial processors; is that right?

37            MS. DEGNAN: Is that correct?

38            MS. CROSS: I think --

39            MR. JACK: The only prohibition  
40     is to fisheries businesses. No purchase by  
41     fisheries business and that's 813. It's

1 specific in the Alaska statute as cited  
2 there. It's specific to that.

3 MS. CROSS: I was adamantly  
4 opposed to having any of the State  
5 regulations added to the Federal regs simply  
6 because maybe my reasoning is not really  
7 sound, simply because the State has not  
8 recognized rural subsistence purposes. And  
9 I still feel really strongly that the State  
10 regulations are there. I do not think that  
11 the Federal regulations should just add it  
12 on to subsistence issues. They are already  
13 there. That's my feeling on it.

14 I'd like to hear what the other  
15 RAC members have to say.

16 MR. KOBUK: Well, my feeling is  
17 like most of you guys. It costs a lot of  
18 money when a motor breaks down in a village  
19 because you have to fly it in. And setting  
20 a limit to what a subsistence person, if he  
21 wished to sell his fish or whatever to buy a  
22 part because in the village jobs are  
23 limited. You either can work at home -- we  
24 only have two stores -- you either work in  
25 stores, the schools, the IRA office, or the  
26 city office. But most of those jobs are  
27 always taken by relatives. And I kind of --  
28 for my own opinion, don't really like the  
29 idea of setting a limit. What a person does  
30 with his or her catch because it takes a lot  
31 of work, and it takes a lot of time, and  
32 there are times everything depends on Mother  
33 Nature, just -- and that's just my opinion  
34 about this because we're going to make  
35 criminals out of our own Native people.

36 MS. CROSS: It seems to me that  
37 the RAC members' original desire, which  
38 would be family member does not exceed  
39 specified amount by the RAC. If needed I  
40 prefer to see something similar to that  
41 language versus having a statewide amount  
42 that the amount -- if there's going to be an  
43 amount, that it is determined by the entire  
44 area's RAC. I don't know how you guys think  
45 about that. This is going to be -- we are  
46 going to end up with a regulation, and I  
47 think we need to have the wisest  
48 recommendation as to how that language is

1 going to be. I don't like to see an amount  
2 set by the enforcement. I would rather that  
3 amount, if it's going to come, come from the  
4 region; like if there's going to be an  
5 amount that's going to be set for the sale  
6 of salmon, I would rather that come from our  
7 RAC versus from some other entity. I don't  
8 know how you guys feel about that. I'd like  
9 to hear something about what your feelings  
10 are on it.

11 MS. DEGNAN: I'm against a cap,  
12 period. We shouldn't be stating a monetary  
13 cap. But where you're, you know, covered is  
14 no purchase by fisheries business or  
15 commercial entity, that covers that.

16 MR. MENDENHALL: Case of  
17 scenario, how much is gas up in Shishmaref,  
18 Johnson?

19 MR. ENINGOWUK: \$2.60 a gallon.

20 MR. MENDENHALL: Teller I know --  
21 \$3 a gallon.

22 A SPEAKER: Right now it's at  
23 2.97 a gallon.

24 MR. KOBUK: In St. Michael we  
25 have a tank farm for all the gas that's  
26 shipped to all the villages. Even though we  
27 have this tank farm in the village, we still  
28 end up paying a lot more for gas than the  
29 surrounding villages because in St. Michael  
30 I think our gas is close to 2.70 something  
31 or 2.80. Whereas in the village next door  
32 by the road system, you can get it for 2.50.  
33 Where in Yukon, Kotlik it is only 2.46.

34 So, what we can't seem to  
35 understand at St. Michael is here we have  
36 this big tank farm where they bring all this  
37 stove oil, all this gas, and yet we have to  
38 pay a higher price than the surrounding  
39 regions, villages.

40 MS. DEGNAN: It's the same thing  
41 like Alaska produces the oil and gas and we  
42 pay higher than the rest of the world.

43 MR. KOBUK: Yep.

1

MR. MENDENHALL: I brought that up for what the cost in the village -- what families can exist on in the village. Nome is different. Some of the prices here in Nome is just as cheap as in Anchorage because of the competition on food.

So, with the villages, they don't have that luxury. They either have to -- when they come to Nome, make their purchases here or order it by phone. A lot of these stores here in Nome do phone orders to the villages, and I think the more that we recognize why those villages exist is for subsistence, the more that -- unless we can find another alternative -- economic alternative for them to have jobs, there's nothing right now, nothing.

I get tired of that term, time immemorial. We hear that a lot. That's why the villages are there. That's why some villages peter out, too expensive to live there; they move out.

Subsistence needs to be recognized as a cultural lifestyle and that way it should not be penalized. In a way it's a form of age, it's a form -- a way of living off the land. We're not exactly farmers, but we do go out and we use what we can, both game and berries and whatever.

So, this customary trade is necessary because some areas in our regions lack fish, we have to trade.

Like I mentioned to somebody here, Norm. I said, "Norm, I'll bring gas. I go hunting with you, maybe, for seals."

So I provide the gas; he provides me means to eat a seal. Will I be penalized for that, coming in from urban Nome to rural Teller? They look at Nome as urban. We don't want to be recognized as urban, but we'd like to have rural status, no road systems to the Lower 48.

I'm for the definition of customary -- customary trade and -- to be defined, but like some people, to have no dollar amount on that trade.

MS. CROSS: Johnson?

1 MR. MENDENHALL: There's no money  
2 out there anyway for that trade unless they  
ask for it.

3 MS. CROSS: Johnson?

4 MR. MENDENHALL: Some people are  
5 too kind to ask for money, you know. They  
just trade.

6 MS. CROSS: Johnson?

7 MR. ENINGOWUK: I like the  
8 recommendation that between rural residents  
there would be no limit to how much you can  
trade between residents.

9 However, I do have some mixed  
feelings between rural residents and others.  
10 I think maybe the cap should be -- I  
wouldn't know what the cap should be. I  
11 think it would have to be determined by each  
region. But I'd like the recommendation of  
12 the task force that between rural residents  
there be no cash amount to cap because  
13 sometimes when we do trade for fish we don't  
have anything to trade with, so we pay cash  
14 for it, and that's -- I like that. It's  
still the same kind of a trade, but between  
15 rural residents. I like that.

But I think there should be some  
16 sort of a cap between rural residents  
selling subsistence fish to other people.

17 MS. DEGNAN: I have family and  
friends who live in urban areas who have  
18 fallen No. 2 cap, and I'll send my family  
their subsistence foods that they grew up  
19 with, and there's others that would like,  
you know, the same consideration. I tell  
20 them I'm sorry, I can't supply you with  
needs because I only go for so much, and I  
21 know that there is a large group of former  
rural residents that crave that food, and I  
22 would hate to see a monetary cap placed on  
that section also simply because most of  
23 those people living in those urban  
communities are relatives and then all  
24 others who are not indigenous would fall  
under that -- no purchase by fishery  
25 businesses or nonindigenous. That's what I  
would offer. That would be my want as being

1 a fair outlook on customary and traditional,  
and I know my uncle who died at 99, we were  
2 talking about how trade was back in his  
mother's time and his grandmother's time.  
3 He said that -- I showed him some trade  
beads that I had, and he said that's the  
4 kind -- I had one red one. He says that's  
the kind that my grandma wanted, but they  
5 had to give that much furs to the trader for  
one bead (indicating.)

6 So, it's just what the different  
values are. And then if you wanted a rifle  
7 your furs went to the purchase of the rifle  
(indicating.)

8 So, you know, I don't look at all  
value things differently, but as far as the  
9 dollar value for indigenous people, I think  
it should not be a cap. That's my personal  
10 opinion.

11 MR. MENDENHALL: The big question  
I had is the subsistence lifestyle that we  
12 have in this region, why does it have to be  
put in definition regulations? That's very  
13 much of a -- like a religious question.  
What God do you believe in? You know, just  
14 like trying to define the customary trade  
is -- I think is a sacred thing of practice  
15 among our people. I don't see why it needs  
to be on the books or why it has to be  
16 enforced, because we tend to try to enforce  
it ourselves. What can we do? The fear  
17 that we had in the '70s when they were  
trying to put a dollar amount on subsistence  
18 food was taxation by IRS. This could be a  
step in that process for recognizing so much  
19 subsistence food and, therefore, you get to  
pay the IRS so much. How do you pay IRS?  
20 By fish, you use salmon for payment of tax.  
That's a question that we need to deal with,  
21 and I don't see how we can really try to  
regulate customary trade when it's already  
22 been going on for years. And I think that's  
a frustration the elders were trying to  
23 handle. And I think it's -- it's hurting  
our cultural identity. It's a cultural  
24 identity thing that we need to try to  
protect. It's the privacy act too how we --  
25 what we do with our food that we catch for  
subsistence.

1           And then trying to make a living,  
it's hard out there. I've seen -- I've  
2    taught in villages where there's nothing in  
the cupboards except dried fish, or hardly  
3    any dried fish at all.

4           MS. CROSS: Another area that I  
was really, really kind of torn up is what  
5    is the definition of "others"?

          It's still unclear to me what it  
6    is. I don't think we even tried to define  
it. What is "others"?

7  
8           MR. ENINGOWUK: I think others  
would also mean those people that live in  
Anchorage or someplace that we would limit  
9    subsistence food to be sold to them because  
by economics, as I live in the sister --

10           MS. CROSS: Or your sister.

11           MR. ENINGOWUK: My sister lives  
in Anchorage. Of course, we don't sell to  
12    our family, but that would be the others.  
That was urban.

13           MS. CROSS: I think "others" is  
14    overinclusive.

15           MR. MENDENHALL: I like the  
comments where he said we're making  
16    criminals out of our own people if we have  
definitions. I remember when we became a  
17    state in the '60s, early '60s. Under the  
Migratory Bird Act, they arrested one fellow  
18    up there in the '60s and, my God, the whole  
village ended up with a duck in their hand  
19    and said, "You're going to arrest us, the  
whole village of Barrow?" Where would they  
20    put them? That's how much they were  
standing behind that one person who was  
21    arrested. We're making criminals out of  
subsistence hunters that go for walrus. We  
22    take away their guns and their boats, they  
can't hunt. Now they want to move over to  
23    Lost River. So, that's in essence what  
happens there. They've lost some of their  
24    best hunters, their means of livelihood  
forcing them to move from that Little Rock.  
25    Are we going to force people to  
move to Nome and to Anchorage? Are we going

1 to extinguish some of the villages by  
2 regulatory customary -- defining regulatory  
3 customary trade?

4 I think we probably need to mull  
5 over this thing probably during lunch, come  
6 back at -- I think we need to talk amongst  
7 ourselves, perhaps.

8 MS. CROSS: Charlie?

9 MR. MENDENHALL: I think we,  
10 like, need to protect --

11 MR. LEAN: I think there's times  
12 when this issue has come up locally. It  
13 wasn't addressed to monetary limits, but it  
14 was addressed to the advisory committee and  
15 the RAC. Example that comes to mind  
16 recently in Norton Sound there was a -- a  
17 market increase in subsistence harvest of  
18 king salmon by subsistence users for barter  
19 and trade. And, you know, over the years,  
20 we've grown to expect so many fish to spawn  
21 and, therefore, that left so many for the  
22 commercial harvest, and what happened when  
23 those people stepped up their effort, the  
24 escapement wasn't -- wasn't available  
25 anymore. That meant the commercial fishery  
had to be closed. And a number of  
commercial fishermen didn't make any money.  
And they were stopped from fishing.

And then the subsistence fishers  
further upstream from that fish camp  
suddenly were having a difficult time  
catching their king salmon, and those  
people, you know, are -- those people in  
their immediate family and their extended  
family, they weren't trying to make their --  
the bulk of their cash income off of that  
one subsistence fishery.

So, these things do happen. It  
happened in another community in eastern  
Norton Sound as well, only about ten years  
ago on a slightly different scenario.

Another method of fishing for king salmon  
was found, and the local advisory group  
determined that that was not traditional,  
and established regulations to close that  
fishing. And that's how that was addressed.

But there is this potential for

1 fisheries that don't have very many fish,  
2 but each fish is worth quite a lot of money  
3 to -- it could be king salmon; it could be  
4 king crab; it could be a number of different  
5 things; and it has the possibility of  
6 upsetting the apple cart and people that  
7 have been earning their income one way.  
8 Commercial fishing would suddenly find  
9 themselves without a fishery, because  
10 subsistence has priority, or you could find  
11 that subsistence families that really  
12 depended on the resource for their needs  
13 suddenly were competing with other families  
14 that were conducting a business, and in some  
15 cases, that may be okay, and other cases it  
16 may not. That's the issue here, and that's  
17 why this is important. Whether you address  
18 it using money or whatever means is a whole  
19 different issue.

20 MS. DEGNAN: The subsistence --  
21 the subsistence preparation of foods is very  
22 labor intensive and it's regulated by  
23 humidity or weather patterns and all that,  
24 because I do that, and I limit myself to  
25 what I can handle, and this is individual,  
26 and I like all of my array of Native foods.  
27 So, it's very labor intensive and I don't  
28 see how a person can really pump out a big  
29 amount of subsistence food unless you had a  
30 lot of people working together and the  
31 weather was perfect. So, it's not a thing  
32 that's going to happen every single year and  
33 then I really feel that if you have  
34 consultation on the local level for the  
35 community to handle the issues in the local  
36 community, that this -- you know, abuses  
37 could be stopped in their tracks. I really  
38 believe because everybody wants to make sure  
39 of the survival of the species and to make  
40 sure that there aren't any abuses in -- for  
41 reduction of ability for others to harvest  
42 also.

43 MR. JACK: Madam Chair, I think  
44 it's -- the train has left the station on  
45 this. And it's running. In terms of the  
46 Federal Board addressing it to the commit --  
47 through the committee process, we're now in  
48 the consultation area, and as you look at

1 the time frame the Federal Board is going to  
2 take a first cut at it in December, and  
3 that's a couple months from now.

4 So -- and I believe that the  
5 Federal Board will be -- will -- will be  
6 serious in taking comments or getting  
7 direction by the Regional Councils as well  
8 as from the Tribes.

9 Because we're in this rule-making  
10 process right now, and at the end something  
11 could come out at the end. So, it's going  
12 to be important for like this Council to  
13 develop the strong position supported by  
14 the -- by the statements that have been  
15 made, for example, by -- by Mr. Mendenhall  
16 there and others.

17 I heard one option and that was  
18 by the Chair and that is not to have a  
19 dollar amount, but that amount to be set by  
20 the Regional Councils of a particular  
21 region, if any. And that's -- if any is  
22 very, very --

23 MS. DEGNAN: Important.

24 MR. JACK: -- important.

25 On a bigger policy issue, rural,  
right now, recently, I believe the contract  
is going to be awarded for rural  
determination as to how the communities will  
-- will be determined rural or nonrural.  
And when you look at the practices that have  
been conducted, especially by the indigenous  
people, although barter is not part of this,  
that determination process in itself  
sometime down the road is going to affect  
Nome where it might shift from rural to  
nonrural. And in a way, on the bigger  
policy issue, an argument can be made,  
probably, that, for example, ANILCA is an  
act that will upset Native cultures way  
down. So, there exists the rationale for  
the effects of the -- what you might call  
the society -- the industrial society having  
a very strong impact on, in our case,  
Natives.

As I said, the train has left the  
station. It's important to have comments,  
and I believe the Federal Board will take  
those comments really seriously when we take

1 this up. Thank you.

2 MS. CROSS: I did hear one thing  
3 that I think maybe all of us are in  
4 agreement on, that we like the No. 1 portion  
5 of it.

6 MS. DEGNAN: Then the last one --

7 MS. CROSS: We agree on the first  
8 one.

9 Why don't we take a break for  
10 lunch, and think about it so we can discuss  
11 customary trade between rural residents and  
12 others. Break for lunch now, because my  
13 stomach tells me I'm very hungry. 1:15  
14 okay, again?

15 (Lunch break.)

16 MS. CROSS: Okay, we're going  
17 back on the record at 1:20, and we're going  
18 to go back to discussion on customary trade.

19 MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair, I  
20 feel very uncomfortable trying to determine  
21 a statewide definition for customary trade  
22 because I don't know what the customs are in  
23 the interior or Bristol Bay, and therefore I  
24 would like to make a motion that we would  
25 have the Regional Advisory Council set the  
26 definition for customary trade with the  
27 definitions to be defined by that Council.

28 MS. DEGNAN: Of the region?

29 MR. MENDENHALL: On the regional  
30 basis of our own, and no dollar amounts to  
31 be set right now because I have a fear that  
32 they will -- there will probably be more  
33 arrests if we put a dollar amount on such an  
34 act -- type of trade on fisheries,  
35 especially salmon was trying to do with  
36 fish. We already have in the Nome Nugget, a  
37 couple that went to court for fish  
38 violations on Fish River, and I think that's  
39 the start, and they probably need -- if we  
40 do define it -- that's my motion right now.

41 MS. DEGNAN: I'll second the

1 motion.

2 MR. MENDENHALL: Discussion is  
3 that it seems enforcement officers have not  
4 very much to do but see whether or not you  
5 have a fish permit or a permit to do  
6 subsistence fish. If you are, you're doing  
7 subsistence fish trading for other  
8 subsistence needs and foods and even  
9 dollars. So that's my fear is that  
10 enforcement officers may have nothing to do,  
11 but will try to see -- invade our privacy,  
12 let's put it, as a people, what we're doing.

13 I think our people pretty much in  
14 our own regions police ourselves quite well  
15 because we have the Eskimo Walrus  
16 Commission. When the State had the walrus,  
17 it went down; but when the Eskimo Walrus  
18 Commission took over, the walrus population  
19 went up. When the whaling went down on a  
20 whaling level, Eskimo Whaling Commission got  
21 it and it went back up. So I think that  
22 illustrates our own thing that we can do. I  
23 even kind of toyed around with the idea of a  
24 customary trade commission, I mean, if you  
25 need that, between -- you know, the regions  
that we trade with. But right at this time  
it should be just regional.

15 MS. CROSS: Norm?

16 MR. MENADALOOK: I'd like to make  
17 a comment on the customary trade between  
18 rural residents and others. I like that  
19 idea because I do have nonresidents going to  
20 the store which I manage and ask me if I'm  
21 selling dried fish. Which person would have  
22 some dried fish for sale? And also on this  
23 one here, I don't like the idea of that  
24 \$1,000 for each family, there's some  
25 families that have -- from the same blood  
they might have five, six families. They do  
their own fishing, and they don't know  
exactly how much fish each family is  
selling. So, I prefer that there be no  
amount on that thousand dollars because you  
can't go to each family member for a  
different sale. Then if you get that \$1,000  
cap there, you'll just be hurting your other  
family members.

1

MS. CROSS: Thank you.

2

MR. KOBUK: Yeah, the dollar amount is what really bothers me because in the village sometimes they have to pay their light bill otherwise they get turned off, and the only way that they're able to pay their light bill or store bills is by selling what -- they don't try to sell everything that they have, but they sell what they can sacrifice, what they can to pay bills. And I like Perry's idea of just leaving it up to each region to police their own.

9

MS. DEGNAN: And just for my information, what would the light bill be a month in your --

10

11

MR. KOBUK: Well, it depends. The new housings that they -- newer houses that they brought in to St. Michael, they have the cook stove right now, electricity.

12

And it's about close to -- depends on how much electricity you use. Sometimes it's over 200 bucks. Sometimes it can be a little less depending on what you have in the house, how much TV you watch, teenagers who watch a lot of -- TV is on, seems like 24 hours a day. So....

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

And to go out and subsistence fish isn't cheap either, because you have to buy a lot of stuff, even Blazo now for one gallon is \$16 a gallon. That doesn't include the motor oil, gas, sometimes you have to buy parts.

20

MS. DEGNAN: And a net.

21

MR. KOBUK: Or a net.

22

So -- and that's all I wanted to speak of. What Perry just mentioned, I like that, what he said, that would be a good idea, leave it up to the regions.

23

24

25

MS. CROSS: That was pretty much the Regional Advisory Council members -- that was pretty much -- because there is a Regional Advisory Council said there's a

1 need in some of the regions to set some kind  
2 of a cap, and I figured, well, if you need a  
3 cap, the Regional Advisory Council can set a  
4 cap for that region in lieu of having a  
5 statewide one, because it doesn't make  
6 sense. It doesn't make sense because the  
7 cost of living certainly is higher in Barrow  
8 than it is here. Cost of living is  
9 certainly not as high as you get closer to  
10 Anchorage, and to set a thousand -- a  
11 thousand dollars in our region does not go  
12 very far. And we all know that it doesn't  
13 go far.

14 I mean, sometimes that doesn't  
15 pay all the monthly bills.

16 MR. KOBUK: \$1,000 is just like  
17 \$1 in the village.

18 MS. CROSS: So, I think there are  
19 regions that need to set some kind of  
20 monetary cap, that's up to them if they need  
21 to have one, but for those of us that don't  
22 need one, it should be left up to us to  
23 determine if we need to make a monetary  
24 value at some point in time if we need to.  
25 But that should be the decision of the  
region itself.

MR. MENDENHALL: And I don't feel  
that management and the enforcement officers  
should be free to interpret.

MS. CROSS: Let me ask a  
question: We're comfortable with No. 1,  
right? That's the feeling that I got from  
everybody, customary trade between rural  
residents -- right, Johnson? Toby?

MR. ANUNGAZUK: Uh-huh.

MS. CROSS: Peter?

MR. BUCK: Yeah.

MS. CROSS: Entire RAC is  
comfortable with No. 1. No. 2, we would  
like to see that decided by the region. If  
there's going to be an amount, the region is  
going to be the one to make the decision if

1 there is going to be one.

2 MR. MENDENHALL: I call for  
3 question on the motion.

4 MS. CROSS: All those in favor of  
5 the motion, signify by saying "aye."

6 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

7 MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
8 same sign.

9 Motion carries.

10 MR. JACK: 812, I was just  
11 alerted by a colleague here, when you look  
12 at the first paragraph, "customary trade and  
13 barter," that may be -- and barter may be a  
14 typo or -- from my recollection, this thing,  
15 according to the customary trade task force  
16 discussion was the barter would be excluded  
17 from this particular, so that -- I think it  
18 was meant to be there, "and barter."

19 MS. CROSS: I think it was  
20 originally there but we took it out simply  
21 because -- it was taken out.

22 MR. JACK: Barter was just  
23 trading food for another food. Doesn't  
24 involve cash.

25 MS. CROSS: There was some  
26 discussion about barter meaning trading for  
27 a washing machine or something like that,  
28 something expensive. But we decided -- I  
29 think it was decided that how do you enforce  
30 that, how do you police that and how do you  
31 enforce that, so we dealt only with cash.

32 MR. MENDENHALL: I would make a  
33 motion to strike out "barter," because it's  
34 a totally different issue than customary  
35 trade.

36 MS. CROSS: There's a motion to  
37 strike out "barter."

38 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that  
39 motion.

1

MS. CROSS: There's a second.  
All those in favor, signify by stating  
"aye."

2

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

3

MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
same sign.

4

Motion carries.

5

So, if it's not -- if it's not a  
typo, then we like -- we'd like that  
stricken out.

6

And on No. A-13, what is the  
feelings of the Council?

7

MR. KOBUK: For me, I like the  
way it's written because there are some that  
seem to break rules as there is in all  
society, you have that problem. So I like  
that part A-13.

8

9

MS. DEGNAN: You like it?

10

MR. KOBUK: Yeah.

11

12

MS. CROSS: Our No. 1 question  
was -- this occurs quite often -- is  
fisheries business license -- if I  
understand that to mean it's just for  
fisheries business.

13

14

MR. MENDENHALL: Well, then, I  
would like to strike out "barter" or solicit  
to barter for commercial businesses. I  
don't think barter and solicit for barter --  
to barter should be in there. I would make  
a motion, therefore, to strike "or barter or  
solicit to barter" because that's a totally  
different issue than what's being addressed.  
The purpose is --

15

16

MR. JACK: It might be in the  
statute itself. I don't know.

17

18

MR. MENDENHALL: I'm looking at  
it from a different point of view because I  
think barter is a different issue  
altogether. We're doing customary trade.

19

20

MS. CROSS: It needs to be

21

22

23

24

25

1 stricken out too.

2 MR. MENDENHALL: We need to tell  
3 the Subsistence Board that barter is totally  
4 different than customary trade.

5 MS. CROSS: Is there a second on  
6 the motion?

7 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that  
8 motion.

9 MS. CROSS: Question?

10 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

11 MS. CROSS: The motion is -- the  
12 motion is that we strike out barter here, or  
13 solicit to barter -- barter or solicit to  
14 barter.

15 All those in favor of the motion,  
16 signify by saying "aye."

17 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

18 MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
19 same sign.

20 Motion carries.

21 MR. MENDENHALL: I would  
22 recommend that this be said strongly to the  
23 Subsistence Board, that barter is a totally  
24 different issue. It's not customary trade.

25 MR. KOBUK: The way I understand  
26 barter, like say I want to trade some seal  
27 oil for Yukon strips, that's the way I  
28 understand barter.

29 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.  
30 Enforcement officers will probably -- and  
31 management would probably look at it to  
32 interpret it many different ways than what  
33 we're doing as customary trade.

34 MR. KOBUK: I'm expressing my own  
35 understanding of what that barter means to  
36 me.

37 MS. CROSS: My take on that is  
38 not to mention the State law in there. It's

1 there. Why not put it in as part of ANILCA  
2 is my question?

3 MR. MENDENHALL: We're kind of  
4 defining it on our own with our power from  
5 ANILCA with customary trade.

6 MS. CROSS: Why couldn't it have  
7 been, as a regulation?

8 MR. MENDENHALL: The interior and  
9 the Yukon, I think that they -- the State  
10 had a problem with salmon roes being taken  
11 out and sold commercially but meanwhile  
12 we're using the fish for drying. I think  
13 that's where that came from. Years, over  
14 ten years ago, it became an issue.

15 MS. CROSS: If the RAC is  
16 comfortable, I'll go along with whatever the  
17 RAC decides.

18 Does anybody else have anything  
19 to say about this from the audience?

20 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madam Chair, I'm  
21 kind of having a problem with what we just  
22 did. I think after looking at this that we  
23 probably should have left it in there mainly  
24 because fisheries business may interpret  
25 this -- they could interpret it as, I think,  
26 to prohibit a person for commercial  
27 purposes, subsistence fish -- subsistence  
28 taking fish. They could determine it to  
29 where it would be -- they can get away with  
30 it. So, I think that we should leave it up  
31 to the Federal Board to look at this.  
32 Because it could -- if we take it off --  
33 barter....

34 MS. DEGNAN: Bart -- barter.

35 MR. ENINGOWUK: For protection of  
36 the fish -- subsistence-taken fish, I think  
37 we should have left it in there.

38 MS. CROSS: I just keep wondering  
39 why it is here. Was there --

40 MR. UBERUAGA: I think --

1 MS. CROSS: Because it is already  
2 a State law --

3 MR. UBERUAGA: I think the task  
4 force should address it again.

5 MS. CROSS: It seems to me that  
6 it's already a State law. The State law  
7 already exists, why repeat it in ANILCA. I  
8 mean, we're adding a State law as part of  
9 ANILCA. That really bothers me.

10 MR. MENDENHALL: That's how the  
11 Katie John situation came about too.

12 MS. CROSS: But this really  
13 bothers me, and I think that maybe we could  
14 take that out to make a recommendation for  
15 the task force to look at it more closely.

16 MR. MENDENHALL: By striking it  
17 now, they may come back and recommend that  
18 we keep it and we can act on it again in  
19 February. Right now we can show our  
20 dissatisfaction for using that term  
21 "barter," if they want to keep that in there  
22 making a recommendation and give the reasons  
23 why. Right now it's uncomfortable to have  
24 it in there because it's mixing apples and  
25 oranges in the definition.

MS. WILKINSON: When Johnson  
mentioned that, it made me start remembering  
a conversation during one of the task force  
meetings when we were discussing this about  
business license -- or licensed fisheries  
businesses. It was a concern about barter  
that if they were restricted from selling  
then they would just say, "Okay, we can give  
you a new refrigerator or we'll give you  
this or that instead."

It can be -- the idea was that  
the fisheries businesses shouldn't be  
allowed to barter for it because they can  
substitute an item of value for cash and get  
the same effect.

MR. MENDENHALL: I think  
commercial purposes covers it.

1 MS. WILKINSON: No, if you take  
2 "barter" out of that paragraph, then it will  
3 allow people who are licensed fisheries  
4 businesses to barter for the fish --

5 MS. CROSS: I'll give you a TV  
6 for your fish?

7 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

8 MS. DEGNAN: You will?

9 (Laughter.)

10 MS. WILKINSON: I just remember  
11 that there was a conversation about that  
12 especially in one of the meetings and they  
13 decided that they would have it in there.

14 MS. CROSS: Maybe --

15 MR. MENDENHALL: We're having a  
16 discussion to take it out right now and let  
17 them come back with the defense why they  
18 want it in there. I think that would be  
19 prudent for that to happen. Meanwhile,  
20 we're striking out barter, because I still  
21 think that barter is a different thing for  
22 refrigerators or TV's. I think commercial  
23 purposes covers that, because they would  
24 still get the fish themselves.

25 MS. CROSS: Maybe use some kind  
of alternate word -- it still can be covered  
using different words other than "barter,"  
is that what you're saying?

MR. MENDENHALL: Right. Or that  
task force can say, Well, we would rather  
have -- we'll be meeting again in February,  
March; and, therefore, we would -- we could  
address that. Because the final draft is  
going to be coming out in May, right?

MS. CROSS: I think it's a good  
understanding from each of the Council  
members -- when the task force meets again,  
it would be expressed.

MR. MENDENHALL: Give it back to

1 us for a second meeting. Was that the  
2 process that's going to be done after they  
3 do their December work, give it back to us  
4 and say, "Hey, I think you guys messed up.  
5 Let's put barter back in." They would  
6 defend that. We would have that time to  
7 change or not.

8 MS. CROSS: Carl, what is your  
9 memory of this?

10 MR. JACK: I cannot recall. It  
11 may be stated in the Alaska statute itself.

12 MS. CROSS: I mean if it's stated  
13 in it -- the thing about it, I don't  
14 understand. If it's already stated in the  
15 Alaska statute, why are we adding Alaska  
16 statute to our regulations under ANILCA? I  
17 don't understand.

18 MR. UBERUAGA: I believe it's for  
19 the reason that Ann mentioned. I think that  
20 her recollection is correct now that she  
21 mentioned that it might be a potential  
22 loophole to skirt the law or regulations.

23 MS. CROSS: Under the Federal  
24 Subsistence Management. But if that happens  
25 even if it's on Federal waters, wouldn't the  
26 State still have the power to say, "Hey,  
27 look. You violated this regulation?"

28 MR. MENDENHALL: It could be --  
29 Madam Chair, at A-13(a) no barter by fishery  
30 business, period.

31 MS. CROSS: But what my question  
32 is: If that -- even if this was gone, even  
33 if this is not added to ANILCA, part of  
34 ANILCA regulations, doesn't the State have  
35 the power anyway --

36 MS. WILKINSON: No.

37 MS. CROSS: Okay. That answers  
38 it. So, this is the reason for putting it  
39 in?

40 MR. JACK: In Federal.

1

MS. CROSS: In ANILCA.

2

MR. MENDENHALL: I also think  
3 it's by enforcement as well. I think a lot  
4 of people would be jeopardized too by this  
if we -- first they watch us quite closely.

5

MS. DEGNAN: This is relating to  
salmon only, salmon.

6

MR. MENDENHALL: Fish.

7

MS. CROSS: Taking fish parts or  
8 eggs. There is no definition as to fish  
under this regulation. It's any fish.

9

MR. KOBUK: Includes all fish?

10

MS. CROSS: Includes all fish,  
11 including bullheads.

12

MR. MENDENHALL: I have a history  
of this while going to the fishery meetings  
13 about the reason behind this is, in Yukon  
they would restrict it to, A, throw the  
14 carcasses away, and sell the eggs, which is  
big in the Japanese market. That's why they  
15 were saying there's hardly any chums. They  
would strip the roe out and throw the  
16 carcass.

17

MS. CROSS: Johnson, we passed  
the motion that from this RAC we will get  
18 answers from the task force and relook at it  
in February.

19

MR. ENINGOWUK: Can we do that,  
20 we voted on this, and for this reason we  
voted and bring it back to the task force to  
21 consider?

22

MS. CROSS: Can the message be  
clear to that task force, that we voted on  
23 it, but if they give us the reasons why this  
came and more explanation, we'll relook at  
24 it in February and change our mind?

25

MR. UBERUAGA: I think as soon as  
the task force convenes we can address this

1 directly at your request.

2 MS. CROSS: Okay. Then maybe in  
3 February have a little bit better  
4 understanding, a little more information, we  
5 can make our -- or stick to what we voted on  
6 today or we can change our minds.

7 Okay. Are we through with this  
8 now?

9 Okay. Let's move on because we  
10 are -- as far as I'm concerned, we are  
11 behind schedule. Thank you, Carl and  
12 Richard.

13 14, Regional Council Charter,  
14 review and recommend changes, if necessary.  
15 And I think Ann is coming up here.

16 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, Tab J, Madam  
17 Chairman, every Federal Advisory Committee  
18 has a charter and it needs to be renewed  
19 every two years. At this time, the Council  
20 has an opportunity to review their charter  
21 and if they would like to make changes on  
22 the following items they may make a  
23 recommendation to the Board to have that  
24 change. You can recommend a name change, a  
25 boundary change, the size of the Council  
membership, you can ask for specific  
subsistence resource commission  
appointments, or you can change the criteria  
for removing a member.

So, at this time you can review  
it, your charter and if it's all right you  
can just say that we don't need any changes  
at this time, or if you have recommended  
changes, you can tell me now.

MS. CROSS: Personally, I feel  
comfortable with the way it is. I don't  
know about the rest of --

MS. DEGNAN: On page 3, on  
compensation, I know the Council has  
previously written to the Board that the  
members should be -- take some sort of  
stipend, and I think we should reiterate  
that and encourage them to pursue through  
the proper channels the value of time that  
commission members, the Advisory Council  
members put in and also not for it to be  
counted as any in kind.

1

MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

2

MS. CROSS: That's not exactly a  
3 change. That's just to re-request that --

4

MS. DEGNAN: Re-request that --

5

MR. ENINGOWUK: Madam, can we do  
6 this, can we strike off that first sentence  
completely so that if -- it says members of  
7 all terms of Council will receive no  
compensation as members, if we strike it  
8 out, then we -- because of the charter,  
we're already saying that, just leave it out  
9 completely? We've been fighting this for so  
many years, and if we strike it out it gives  
10 us a little bit of reference behind it. We  
may need to change the sentence, it would  
11 mean members -- take that however off, if we  
strike out that first sentence, we'll be  
12 allowed to cover expenses for per diem as  
persons employed. Would there be any  
13 problems if we strike that one out?

13

MS. CROSS: I'm sure it would be,  
14 but we can do what we want --

15

MS. WILKINSON: That's a problem.  
16 I thought of that. I was reading our backup  
rules. It says committees may or may not  
17 receive compensation depending on the call  
of the secretary, but it is included in the  
18 charter, and then at the same time it's a  
thing that is not allowed to change in the  
19 charter.

19

MR. MENDENHALL: We can't change  
20 the charter?

21

MS. WILKINSON: We may not change  
22 that part of the charter.

22

MS. CROSS: You may not change  
23 the compensation portion of it?

23

MS. WILKINSON: No. I already  
24 asked about that. But if you want to write  
a letter stating or make a motion and have  
25 that be brought up, I can certainly present  
that to the Board.

1

MS. CROSS: Why even bother to bring our charter to us for changes when we can't change a portion of it? That doesn't make sense.

4

MS. WILKINSON: You can change some certain items, but not that one. Just those.

6

MS. CROSS: What -- I'd also like to see this discussion be part of our letter -- 804 letter that we wanted to strike that out, that portion out, but we're told that we cannot do that.

7

8

9

MR. MENDENHALL: To modify.

10

MR. ENINGOWUK: That was just a suggestion. I think I got my answer back.

11

12

MS. CROSS: Okay. Well, the answer is no.

13

MR. ENINGOWUK: And on No. 7 -- estimated upbringing costs, there's a dollar amount there, that doesn't change?

14

15

MS. WILKINSON: I don't think we've gone over that effort.

16

17

MS. CROSS: Is that dollar amount -- that -- never mind, I got my own answer. I just had to read it a little closer.

18

19

MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair, on the Chair issues, I also have an addition of vice chair. It's not listed. We have had that practice for years of having a vice chair. In relation to Chair, vice chair will also be selected in the interest the Chair is not available. That's all.

20

21

22

23

MS. WILKINSON: Well, that is a common practice -- excuse me, Madam Chairman, that is a common practice to have chairman, vice chair, and secretary. I think this is a safeguard.

24

25

1 MR. MENDENHALL: It could be just  
2 a formal thing to mention it. All by-laws  
3 have that for offices that are going to be  
4 officers.

5 MS. CROSS: I have no objection  
6 to naming the officers.

7 MR. MENDENHALL: It should just  
8 say officers. We only have two, right?

9 MS. CROSS: Three. Secretary,  
10 Fran. Instead of secretary, we got Fran.  
11 Any further comments on this?

12 MS. CROSS: No?

13 MS. DEGNAN: No.

14 MS. CROSS: So, those are our  
15 recommendations.

16 MS. WILKINSON: I'll write this  
17 up as part of the annual report; at the next  
18 meeting, I will bring that up for the  
19 Council members to review the entire report.  
20 Thank you.

21 MS. CROSS: Thank you, Ann.  
22 The agency reports. Office of  
23 subsistence management.  
24 Who is in charge of partnering in  
25 fishery resource monitoring?  
Hello again.

MR. JACK: How are you -- back  
again.

The briefing paper on fishery --  
partnerships in fisheries monitoring is on  
Tab K.

Where we are on this is that  
the -- the call for proposal has gone out on  
August 15th. The proposal -- based on a  
request from a number of regions, and they  
had very good reasons for this, was the  
request that an extension on the due date of  
the application -- so that will be November  
7 or 10. And the last time -- they were  
working toward it -- it's a collaboration  
effort, say, for example, between ABCP,  
Tanana Chiefs, EATG, and there were other

1 requests to give them more time to put an  
2 application together. So, that has been  
3 granted. It is now November 10th --

4 MS. CROSS: Instead of October?

5 MR. JACK: Yes. And evaluation  
6 panel is -- the Board has -- the Federal  
7 Board, by letter, have been requested to  
8 select a member from their agency to be on  
9 the evaluation panel, and we foresee that  
10 the evaluation panel can be after --  
11 sometime shortly after the deadline has  
12 been -- after the deadline.

13 We don't see any substantial  
14 changes at the time when the positions will  
15 be filled.

16 Now, to give you the historical  
17 perspective on how this program came about,  
18 it came about when the Federal -- after the  
19 Federal took over subsistence fisheries  
20 management.

21 When the effort was made by the  
22 office of subsistence management for tribal  
23 consultation with Alaska Native  
24 organizations.

25 At that time, when they looked at  
26 how the programs were developed, they didn't  
27 see any Tribal representatives on those.  
28 For example, the interagency committee,  
29 there were Federal representatives, there  
30 were representatives from the State COM  
31 department, there were representatives from  
32 the State sport division. They were in the  
33 process of designing how the Federal  
34 management would be done. And it was for  
35 that reason there was a big outcry from the  
36 Alaska Native community to have more Tribal  
37 involvement in the design of how the  
38 programs were developed.

39 This message was carried to  
40 Washington, D.C. The outcome of this, the  
41 expression of concern was that there were, I  
42 believe, 40 authorized positions for OSM  
43 to -- the word came down that 10 of the  
44 authorized positions would be Alaska Native  
45 corporations. And so that's how the  
46 programs got started and it also shows, at  
47 least to me, the irresponsiveness of the  
48 Federal managers to the requests of the

1 Alaska Native community to be more involved  
2 in the program development as to how the  
management would be done.

3 The program goes down -- on this  
particular -- is to develop capacity for the  
4 rural organizations to do research  
activities. So that is the primary goal of  
5 this program. Up to ten positions would  
be -- are authorized in five regions. The  
description of that is, again, on Tab K.

6 For this particular region it's  
the group in the Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton  
7 Sound. Previously, as to how this program  
would be implemented, it will be through the  
8 Section 809 agreements. However, this --  
the way the call for proposal was let out,  
9 it's going to be competitive among the  
applicants. And we were advised by the  
10 contracting section that unlike the previous  
809 agreements where the office of  
11 subsistence management personnel were free  
to provide technical assistance to these  
12 organizations, it will not be so under this  
program. That we would be -- it would not  
13 be right for us to provide technical  
assistance because of the competitive nature  
14 of the way the program -- successful  
programs could be selected.

15 So, Madam Chair, that is where we  
are on this. It's considered as a -- as  
16 a -- a major priority among the key staff  
within the office of subsistence management  
17 because of what these people can be able to  
do. And that is to provide and help the  
18 fisheries information office in doing a  
better job in the research activities, stock  
19 status trends, and technical TAT activities.

20 MS. DEGNAN: Question: How long  
is the life of this program?

21 MR. JACK: Right now the -- the  
22 cooperative agreements would be good for  
five years.

23 And these -- for these agreements  
to be redone -- and I don't have a copy of  
24 the call for proposal with me. It went out  
to most of the organizations. They are  
25 published in the major newspapers. So  
that's where we are on this.

1  
2 MS. CROSS: Questions or  
comments?

3 MR. MENDENHALL: I commend the  
4 follow-up on this part for the fisheries  
5 monitoring program because it is needed and  
6 I hope that it is filled on schedule. You  
want people from our people or the region or  
how -- do you have an ID besides having a  
degree?

7 MR. JACK: It's open to Tribal  
8 organizations, to rural organizations.  
9 Also, while there are five  
10 identified geographic areas, some regions  
within that geographic area can also apply.  
For example --

11 MS. CROSS: Whitefish count or  
12 monitoring -- there's a project -- I know  
13 there was one, was it last year, to do a  
14 study -- I think it was in Nome -- to see  
15 where Nome people are going, specifically  
16 maybe to Unalakleet. There was like 35,000  
17 that was allocated.

18 MR. JACK: Steve Fried, my --

19 MR. AHMASUK: It was -- Kawerak  
20 and Fish & Game were given money to do a  
21 Nome fishery planning on that. We were  
22 proposed to -- we were awarded funds this  
23 year. We have had a turnover at Kawerak.  
24 Our fisheries specialist resigned. We are  
25 working closely with Jim here on that  
project, and it would be fully expected to  
be implementing that project and hopefully  
done with that project by mid-November.

26 MS. CROSS: A really good one  
27 down here are the group that --

28 MR. JACK: That's on the rural  
29 determination not on this one.

30 MS. CROSS: I thought the really  
31 good one, they were on a fisheries  
32 monitoring committee. Willie is -- that  
33 presents our concerns.

1

MR. JACK: The point is how the application would be reviewed is pretty explicit on this, and I believe it's indicated that more points will be awarded if it's a region-wide and secondly if you had a broad base of support, for example, Tribal governments from that particular area.

6

MS. CROSS: And this is what we were looking at yesterday.

7

Anything further?

8

MR. JACK: That's my presentation.

9

MS. CROSS: I guess nothing further.

10

MR. JACK: Thanks. Federal/State coordination.

12

MS. CROSS: Hello.

13

MR. JENNINGS: Hi, Madam Chair, Council members. My name is Tim Jennings. I'm with the office of subsistence management.

15

In your council books under Tab K, page 2 is a briefing that covers Federal/State coordination, and the purpose of my briefing is to give us an update for informational purposes, and it does not require any action by the Council. So I want to give you a briefing on the status of the working relationships between the Federal and CHC relative to the Federal Subsistence Management Program. You may recall during the last council meeting in February and March of 2001, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game found it necessary to significantly reduce the involvement in Council deliberations due to a lack of adequate funding for staff support. Moreover, State resource professionals were unable to continue to participate in the Federal/State MOA, memorandum of agreement working on group efforts to develop protocols.

25

1 In May, funding issues were  
2 resolved for the balance of the calendar  
3 year, and additional funding for the liaison  
4 and staff support for overall coordination  
5 and cooperation remains a high priority for  
6 the Federal Subsistence Program.

7 We anticipate additional funding  
8 to be available to the Department of Fish &  
9 Game for continued support in year 2002 and  
10 beyond. So, the current status is that we  
11 are, again, fully engaged in coordination  
12 with the State. In recent discussions both  
13 Federal and Subsistence Board Chair Mitch  
14 Demientieff and Commissioner Rue with the  
15 Alaska Department of Fish & Game reaffirmed  
16 support for cooperation between the State  
17 and Federal programs, Alaska Department of  
18 Fish & Game professional staff as you know  
19 are here in attendance at this meeting and  
20 are also attending other council meetings  
21 and again the memorandum of agreements  
22 working group met at the end of August to  
23 address how to get protocols back on track  
24 and they are also meeting this week in  
25 Anchorage between key professionals of the  
department and Federal staff.

By your next meeting in February  
or March, we hope to provide you with a  
schedule for completing the protocols from  
the MOA, from the memorandum of agreement.

Madam Chair, that concludes my  
briefing and I'm available for questions.

MS. CROSS: Questions?

Thank you. Okay, do we have  
anyone from Kawerak?

MR. AHMASUK: Yeah.

MS. CROSS: Austin?

MR. AHMASUK: Thank you, Madam  
Chair. Once again, my name is Austin  
Ahmasuk and I'm subsistence specialist for  
Kawerak. As you probably are aware Kawerak  
is a tribally authorized regional nonprofit  
organization for which we've been given the  
authority by the Tribes to utilize compact  
funds from the BIA.

My job as a subsistence

1 specialist with Kawerak is to protect  
2 subsistence uses by Native people, Tribes of  
3 this region. And that includes every  
4 resource that you can imagine. Of course,  
5 some resource uses like picking berries and  
6 picking greens are not very -- they're not  
7 contested highly as was -- as is the case  
8 with moose or fisheries or things like that.  
9 So that's my job.

10 Overall, the natural resource  
11 program is divided into the Reindeer Herd  
12 Association, land office managers, and  
13 fisheries; and recently our fisheries  
14 specialist resigned from Kawerak and we  
15 fully intend to have someone on board in a  
16 short time. We are soliciting for that  
17 position as well as a fisheries biologist  
18 position.

19 All of us in the natural resource  
20 program attribute our resources in some way  
21 or some form in some capacity are related to  
22 protect the subsistence resources, and -- in  
23 pretty much every way that is possible  
24 through the State Board of Game, Federal  
25 Subsistence Board, we try to solicit the  
26 opinion of villages and bring that forward,  
27 as well as assist villages in bringing their  
28 own opinions, having people go to the Board  
29 of Game, fisheries meeting -- Board of  
30 fisheries meetings through Kawerak funding.

31 I, as a subsistence specialist at  
32 Kawerak direct a small number of programs.  
33 Program funds that is outside of the  
34 compact, funds from BIA, from the U.S. Fish  
35 & Wildlife Services. Kawerak receives funds  
36 that I direct regarding migratory bird  
37 management. We receive funds from the U.S.  
38 Department of Fish & Game that I manage, big  
39 game harvest surveys which are done in  
40 selected communities each year.

41 Recently I've taken upon some  
42 other responsibilities as a fisheries  
43 specialist and in the meantime I'm managing  
44 the salmon survey that I just mentioned a  
45 few moments ago.

46 I work quite closely on this with  
47 the Walsh Commission and on a limited basis  
48 with the Reindeer Herders Association. And  
49 I'm sorry I didn't -- well before your  
50 meeting, I had asked Dan if I could submit

1 some materials for your packet, and I never  
2 got around to that. I apologize for not  
3 putting that together, but Ann, I just  
4 simply was swamped with things at Kawerak.

5 I think I could devote some time  
6 to the migratory bird funds that Kawerak  
7 receives. I serve on the Alaska migratory  
8 bird co-management as a -- for the Bering  
9 Strait region. I was selected from Kawerak,  
10 which you are probably aware that the  
11 residents of all the IRAs in the Bering  
12 Strait region, and additionally, a group was  
13 formed under these migratory bird funds to  
14 look into migratory bird regulations for the  
15 spring and summer season. And at that time  
16 they confirmed me as the representative for  
17 the Bering Strait region.

18 As you may be aware, the spring  
19 and summer bird season has been closed since  
20 1917. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and  
21 recently the workings of the Alaska Native  
22 Migratory Bird Working Group was comprised  
23 of various Native members throughout the  
24 State of Alaska in regards to the closed  
25 season. It is an illegal -- it's a closed  
season so it's illegal to harvest migratory  
birds during the spring and summer.  
However, ever since 1961 as Perry mentioned  
with the Barrow duck incident, the U.S.  
Wildlife Service, and Fish & Game, now it's  
under Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of  
Interior Services. They have a special  
harvest regarding migratory birds in the  
spring and summer, which is the use of --  
you cannot use lead shot for waterfowl. You  
shall not shoot speckled eiders, stellar  
eiders, cannot harvest the eggs of brant,  
white-fronted geese. I may be incorrect but  
harvest of these eggs, I'm not sure.

But ever since last year, 2000,  
the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management  
Council has performed the function of trying  
to develop spring and summer migratory bird  
regulations. The Alaska Migratory Bird  
Co-Management Council was formed in October  
of 2000. We had our first meeting in  
October 2000. This region held a meeting in  
Nome in December of 2000, and during that  
meeting that group, which is informally  
organized was aware of the Council and the

1 directors that they are trying to pursue  
2 which is trying to develop spring and summer  
3 migratory bird --

4 The workings of the Council have  
5 been quite slow. The Council is of the firm  
6 opinion that for the past 80 years the  
7 spring and summer migratory bird season has  
8 been closed and has been quasi-illegal, and  
9 their opinion is that consequently, we're  
10 moving at a very slow process. We don't  
11 want to rush anything. We don't want to  
12 develop regulations for the spring and  
13 summer season that is going to be  
14 complicated, that are going to be hard to  
15 understand, or that are going to take our  
16 communities by surprise. So consequently,  
17 we're move at a very slow pace, of our own  
18 choosing. We want to make sure that each  
19 region has the opportunity fully to be  
20 involved in developing these regulations.

21 Our -- our region has actually  
22 gone through the process of developing some  
23 regulations. We had two meetings -- I  
24 mentioned the first one we had in December.  
25 We actually had another meeting in April of  
this year, a teleconference meeting. We  
simply don't have enough money from Fish &  
Wildlife Service to have face-to-face  
meetings as we would like, so we had a  
teleconference meeting in April at which our  
region did develop -- rather, developed some  
recommendations for regulations and they are  
very simple, and that is simply open the  
season that is now closed. We want to be  
able to harvest birds on St. Lawrence  
Island, by traditional methods, use of  
decoys, traps, snares, and nets on the  
islands. To be able to shoot birds from a  
moving boat, and we want to be able to  
harvest birds without the use of a plug or  
shotgun. We did however agree to ban some  
other methods that are currently in place.

The prohibition on use of aircraft, shotgun  
larger than 10 gauge, bombs, chemicals,  
methods and means you can commonly attribute  
as overkill, I guess.

Our recommendation for  
regulations are quite simple.

Western Alaska is the largest  
user of spring and summer migratory birds.

1 The Yukon and Kuskokwim/Delta and our region  
2 are the largest harvesters of spring and  
summer migratory birds.

3 Some regions like Gambell,  
4 Savoonga are users of seabird eggs. But in  
5 light of all those things, the subsistence  
6 harvest in relation to the national harvest  
is quite small. The national harvest is  
7 this large, the subsistence harvest is this  
8 large. We've seen graph upon graph that  
9 confirms that (indicating).

10 There are a number of treaties we  
11 need to deal with, Mexican treaty, the  
12 Russian treaty, and Japan treaty. The Japan  
13 treaty calls for a closure to protect the  
14 brooding period of migratory birds. That  
15 was a very, very difficult issue for our  
group to tackle.

16 The Japan treaty, as I mentioned,  
17 calls for the closure during brooding time,  
18 which if you go by the Japan treaty it says  
19 that you shall close the season when birds  
20 are laying eggs. But that's not  
absolutely -- will not fly in our region.

21 We want to be -- our traditional harvest  
22 pattern is to collect eggs. We simply  
23 cannot go along with any treaty that says  
24 you must close the period in order to  
25 protect birds.

So, the way we dealt with that is  
26 we merely moved a small -- the minimum  
27 closure period to the end of our season so  
28 the last 30 days of our spring and summer  
29 migratory open season would be the time in  
30 which we would close our season to fulfill  
31 and manage the Japan treaty, which I  
32 understand might have some difficulties with  
33 Fish & Wildlife Service.

34 But just a brief little overview  
35 of how migratory bird regulations are made.

36 As a result of the Migratory Treaty Act,  
37 well before that time, in fact, migratory  
38 bird regulations are Department of Interior  
39 functions. The Pacific fly-away Councils  
40 which comprise state management bodies meet  
41 once or twice a year and discuss migratory  
42 bird regulations, forward them to the  
43 service committee, which is made up of the  
44 seven regions in the United States. They,  
45 in turn, are the -- kind of a qualified body

1 that adopts regulations, but really they too  
2 recommend to the Secretary of Interior who  
actually signs off on regulations?

3 So, Migratory Bird Council is  
a -- it is a newly formed Council that is  
4 truthfully looking at spring and summer  
regulations which is a very -- very  
5 interesting, very pivotal, first time in 80  
years we've been able to convene and meet  
6 and have a council that is going to legalize  
spring and summer migratory birds, which  
beforehand is illegal, but according to  
7 their policy is part of the policy.

8 MS. DEGNAN: Council members are  
also users of resources?

9 MR. AHMASUK: Yes. The Alaska  
10 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council is made  
up of 14 people, 14 persons, 12 of whom are  
11 Native people, one of whom is a State  
person. The other is a Federal person.

12 MS. DEGNAN: That's good.

13 MR. AHMASUK: The people meet on  
14 equal terms and each of the respective  
Native members, which I am one, gather the  
15 input of the region to try to recommend  
regulations for migratory birds.

16 MS. CROSS: Thank you, Austin.  
17 That was very interesting. And I thank you  
for all of the help that you've given this  
18 RAC in all this moose situation. Pretty  
much out of their own pockets they made a  
19 lot of phone calls. Roy and Austin attended  
some teleconferences when we were talking  
20 about the issues. He did most of the work,  
correspondence, and Kawerak in general has  
21 been very helpful. Loretta allowed me to  
use their -- when I was doing customary and  
22 trade regulations. Thank you, Kawerak.

23 She wants to take a break again.  
Let's take another ten minutes.

24 (Break.)

25 MS. CROSS: Okay. I'll call the  
meeting back to order. It's 20 minutes to

1 3:00. It looks like, I guess, National  
Parks Service.

2  
3 MR. ADKISSON: Madam Chair, we  
have no reports.

4 MS. DEGNAN: It's the shortest.  
Thank you, Ken.

5  
6 MS. CROSS: BLM, Dave Parker. It  
looks like.

7 MR. DANTON: My name is Jeff  
Danton. I'm in the Anchorage offices of  
8 BLM. Our report is pretty brief. It's --  
our responsibility in this region is the  
9 Unalakleet River drainage and the  
St. Michael area down in that country, 22A  
10 is our primary area that we manage. In  
terms of fisheries, the wild scenic river  
11 portion of the Unalakleet is probably our  
own jurisdiction relative to Federal  
12 fisheries.

13 This summer we did have a couple  
of people on the river doing user profiles  
on all the user groups on the wild scenic  
14 portion of the river about 40 miles upstream  
from Unalakleet where the river starts.

15 Those folks were that far upriver.  
Basically, they were field contacts with as  
16 many users up there as they could talk to,  
whether they were flying, sport fishermen,  
17 subsistence users, some people just up the  
river, and there's quite a wide variety of  
18 user groups up there.

19 That day, in fact, those people  
just got in from the field, so the summary  
of that work is not available right now.

20 Other things going on in  
Unalakleet, I think we're building a  
21 building there to house our boats and union  
vehicles and stuff. We have had a bigger  
22 enforcement presence out there in the last  
year. We have a ranger and he's been out  
23 there on several occasions, both winter and  
summer, and the fall as well. So, I, myself  
24 have done some bear work and some hunter  
distribution surveys just recently. And  
25 that's really about all we're doing. We  
still have the stream gauge for in-stream

1 flow data gathering which in Alaska requires  
2 ten years of data before you can actually  
3 apply. You've got to have this tremendous  
4 amount of data to make your application  
5 valid, and that's for the wild and scenic  
6 river and mostly for protection of  
7 fisheries.

8 So, that's kind of in a nutshell  
9 the kinds of things we're doing up here.  
10 We're willing to answer any questions if  
11 folks have them.

12 MS. CROSS: Did you hire the  
13 biologist that you guys were talking about?

14 MR. DANTON: No.

15 MS. CROSS: Not yet?

16 MR. DANTON: Probably not going  
17 to, funding is such that it comes and goes  
18 and for positions we're having a very  
19 difficult time to fill positions. It takes  
20 sometimes a year to fill a position, and  
21 budget changed and they dropped the position  
22 completely off the deal. That one is  
23 falling by the wayside again because budgets  
24 aren't there. We're struggling. We're  
25 spread really thin. I cover from Ketchikan  
clear to Unalakleet and everything in  
between. And we're a very wide, not just  
subsistence but the entire wildlife program.  
That's pretty typical for BLM right now.

We're very understaffed, to say the least.  
We're trying to put more effort  
like enforcementwise and some of those  
things in Unalakleet and some of those  
areas, because of some things going on with  
this Council, just a presence more than  
anything.

One thing, our outfitters,  
especially for bears in that country have  
probably doubled in the last years, and the  
harvest of bears have actually -- so folks  
are seeing, I guess, lots more bears but  
they're killing a lot more bears too.

So, I think Kate's saying that's  
pretty similar all through 22. The bear  
harvest is up considerably.

MS. CROSS: Can you give a blue

1 ribbon to the persons that kill the bears?

2 MR. DANTON: I hope they're  
3 happy, I guess.

4 MR. KOBUK: When you talk about  
5 hunter, you're talking about sports hunters?

6 MR. DANTON: All hunters.

7 MR. KOBUK: We would like to  
8 encourage small bear hunting at home.  
9 You also mentioned enforcement of  
10 other game. So does that mean you're going  
11 to be watching closely the caribou  
12 portion --

13 MR. DANTON: That area by  
14 St. Michael we've had lots of comments, lots  
15 of folks, I think you've called me in the  
16 past too on that. A lot of that is under  
17 State jurisdiction until you get over on  
18 the -- to the east of the Golovin. So it  
19 ends up being State enforcement jurisdiction  
20 in a lot of the stuff closer to St. Michael.  
21 When you go over to the Federal BLM lands  
22 that are unencumbered in State selections  
23 over in South River, that's where our people  
24 come into play. We're trying to work with  
25 the troopers to try to coordinate  
enforcement-type activities and have some  
presence out there more than anything is  
about all we can do right now.

18 MR. KOBUK: I guess really at  
19 St. Michael there are hunters that are going  
20 to take responsibility for making sure that  
21 there's no more waste, and chasing the  
22 caribou for a long distance -- they -- the  
23 lungs stick to the ribs and then they die.

24 MR. DANTON: One question I have  
25 for you relative to the moose harvest in  
St. Michael area: For several years we had  
several complaints about the lower Yukon  
people taking moose when they were coming up  
there to kill caribou and they were out of  
season, of course. Fairly significant  
numbers of moose that were being taken and  
we weren't able to react very well to it.

1  
2 MR. KOBUK: I guess what happened  
3 that one year when the caribou didn't show  
4 up and there was more harvest of the moose  
5 from the villages because they wanted meat,  
6 and that's why we also -- the IRA's of  
7 St. Michael and Stebbins lost most of their  
8 reindeers to the hunters too because they  
9 chased them towards the Yukon. So I guess  
10 when they do that, when it goes into that  
11 Federal boundary there, the Lower Yukon, I  
12 guess -- is this the local enforcement or  
13 can we get ahold of you when we find out --

14 MR. DANTON: Try to get ahold of  
15 us and we can at least go through our  
16 enforcement network and through the State  
17 and so on so people are aware of it, so it's  
18 documented more than anything. A lot of  
19 times we may not be able to react in time,  
20 we're sitting in Anchorage, at least these  
21 kinds of things get documented and we can  
22 get ahold of various troopers.

23 MR. KOBUK: The IRA can also get  
24 the VPSO who is who is bonded by the State  
25 to enforce rules like that which happens to  
be my daughter.

MR. DANTON: We're certainly --  
we want to keep communications open for  
those sorts of things. We've had numerous  
reports in the past and at least we've got  
kind of a documented file for those sorts of  
things that are going on.

MR. KOBUK: I think the Federal  
government should start finding some kind of  
a education because we have these younger  
teenagers and younger men and they tend to  
harass or kill and we're trying to deal with  
that too within our villages. But it was  
brought up in the State Fish & Game, I guess  
the State's going to do that, and that would  
be a lot of help to the villages because we  
value all the Fish & Game animals, and if we  
don't take care of them, nobody else will do  
it for us. There's some kind of educational  
thing that the Federal Government can bring  
to the schools so the kids can be taught

1 that wanton waste is -- wanton waste is not  
2 very good for the animals or fish.

3 MR. DANTON: I'll talk to some of  
4 our folks too to see if we have some things.  
5 There are some things that need to be done,  
6 even brochures, how to behave with snow  
7 machines around these animals, instead of  
8 chasing them, chasing them, chasing them, I  
9 see that frequently. The wolves are snow  
10 machine runovers. A lot of the Elders have  
11 told me, just like you're saying the respect  
12 for the animals is kind of missing in some  
13 of these younger folks.

14 MR. KOBUK: Most of our Elders,  
15 we don't have very many Elders, the older  
16 ones are dying. The president of the  
17 Elders' Council, he's the oldest and that's  
18 been there a long time. That's why we want  
19 to see it done in the school system so that  
20 the kids can learn about these things,  
21 respect.

22 MR. DANTON: Thanks, appreciate  
23 those comments.  
24 Any other questions?

25 MS. CROSS: Thank you.  
I think we have the fisheries  
guy, the man from Fairbanks, he'll be next.  
Thank you.

MR. PARKER: My name is Dave  
Parker. I work out of the Northern field  
office of BLM in Fairbanks. I'm sure a lot  
of you knew Joe. He was working out here,  
kind of a hard guy to forget once you meet  
him. He retired a year and a half ago, and  
I was detailed to a four-month set of duties  
to continue his work out here and that work  
was mainly a property project that's been  
going on at Fish & Game and Norton Sound  
Economic Development Corporation to restore  
and enhance the sockeye populations of  
Glacier Lake and Salmon Lake. That  
five-year project is ending this year, and  
it's been a pretty good success and we want  
to hopefully continue that work, not through  
subsistence funding, but probably through

1 the salmon disaster funds that become  
available out here.

2 What I mainly wanted to talk to  
3 you about was another project, one of the  
4 issues that was identified by this RAC was  
5 the increased pressure on surrounding areas  
6 due to lack of salmon in the streams around  
7 here in Nome. BLM has a bit of land down in  
8 McCarthy March in Fisher's River area. We  
9 had a project back in 1992 in Austin Creek  
10 down in Cohoe. What I wanted to do was to  
11 go back into the Fish River drainage, count  
12 probably chums, coho, king, make it a  
13 summer-long project. Fish & Game was  
14 counting the river for years out there, the  
15 lower portion of the drainage. We'd like to  
16 be able to set up a camp with a counting  
17 tower with a weir in Boston Creek and also  
18 go in and set up the remote cameras to put  
19 in the streams and count the fish, get clear  
20 enough water. I'm not sure how many. We  
21 have a pilot project in 2003 to try to see  
22 if they would be successful doing that. And  
23 I just wanted to give you a heads up we're  
24 looking for a proposal for 2003 funding.  
25 This would be another cooperative. We've  
got interest from Fish & Game, also support  
from Norton Sound Economic Development  
Corporation. We like to do local hire.  
Golovin, get people involved, and we see  
that as an area that BLM has land. We've  
got the issues that need to be addressed and  
just give you a heads up on that, what we're  
trying to do.

We are still trying to hire a  
fish biologist for out here. Joe has been  
gone for a year and a half now. I'm in my  
fifth four-month detail of duties. We tried  
to hire out -- station someone here in Nome,  
we had one qualified applicant and he took  
another job before he was interviewed. Now  
the word is it's going to be readvertised,  
but stationed out of Fairbanks. We are  
readvertising to get another applicant to  
take a full-time position.

So, that pretty much is it. I  
just wanted to give you an informational  
heads up briefing here, what we'd like to  
do. And we want to be very involved in  
cooperative projects and get more bang for

1 the buck that way. That's pretty much it.  
If there's any questions I'd like to  
2 entertain them.

3 MS. DEGNAN: I was at home, one  
of the Elders talked to me about the  
4 declining numbers of salmon coming back into  
the river, since we're so dependent on the  
5 Unalakleet River. It's part of the wild and  
scenic. There should be something to  
6 enhance, rather than doing hatcheries,  
farming, that sort of thing, do some sort of  
7 project to make sure that salmon do continue  
to return, the wild stock. We're wondering  
8 if there was some way a study could be done  
to see if that would be necessary or  
9 appropriate in our river drainage, the  
Unalakleet River itself.

10  
11 MR. PARKER: The way BLM has  
divided up the districts, the area that I'm  
responsible for, is north of Unalakleet.  
12 Mike Scott and Jeff are kind of covering  
south of the midway point between there. To  
13 get more salmon back, we've got to try to  
identify what's the limiting factor. What's  
14 causing these populations to decrease? Is  
it overfishing? Is it habitat loss? Is it  
15 the near-shore conditions in the ocean?  
There's this idea that there's an ocean  
16 regime switch going on a 60-year cycle.  
Fishing is good here in Alaska down in the  
17 Pacific Northwest. The pendulum is swinging  
back. They've gotten record returns of king  
18 salmon down in the Columbia River. If it's  
ocean conditions there's not a lot we can do  
19 about increasing the salmon number. If it's  
a habitat, we try to restore any habitat  
20 that's been disturbed.

I heard some talk about beavers  
21 getting into systems. It's good for cohos  
and kings, good rearing, if they're  
22 destroying spawning -- if we can -- until we  
get a handle on this, it's hard to say how  
23 to increase the salmon numbers.

24 MR. KOBUK: Madam Chair, that was  
another thing I was going to ask you about,  
25 the beavers. It's not only the beavers.  
It's also the amount -- I guess bears play a

1 lot too, eating the fish.

2 MR. PARKER: Yeah.

3 MR. KOBUK: Beavers are damming  
4 up the river where they're making them too  
5 high. The only time the fish can get up is  
6 when the water comes up, and once the water  
7 drops and don't hardly get any rain, the  
8 fish can't go up to where they usually go up  
9 to.

10 MR. PARKER: Right.

11 MR. KOBUK: There's not very much  
12 beaver hunting because the sale prices of  
13 the fur go down, but there are a few Natives  
14 that still hunt beaver to make what we call  
15 the mulahi (ph.) and they make it for the  
16 families or they sell those because they're  
17 very good caps for wintertime.

18 So is there any study going to be  
19 done on the beavers? I know down in Yukon  
20 where my wife is from, we go down every  
21 summer. Those beavers are used to just  
22 being in little creeks. Now they're in the  
23 bigger rivers and before there was a lot of  
24 population of beavers, we used to be able to  
25 drink the water. Now you can't because you  
26 get beaver fever, not unless you boil the  
27 water or treat it with chemicals. So  
28 everybody just brings their own water now.

29 MR. PARKER: Right. Supposedly  
30 the coho and kings can jump dams that are  
31 ten feet, kind of thing; but the chums and  
32 pinks aren't going to be doing that. So,  
33 yeah, it could be a problem for a couple of  
34 species.

35 MR. KOBUK: In Pikmiktalik, kings  
36 chums, silvers, cohos, also trouts and other  
37 fish species go there.

38 So, I'd like to see some kind of  
39 study done on the beavers if that's what's  
40 causing the problem. I know the bears are  
41 causing the problem because we have too many  
42 bears in Unit 22.

43 MR. PARKER: I can talk to Mike

1 Scott about that and see if it's something  
2 that can be addressed.

3 MR. MENDENHALL: I think you'll  
4 find a lot of dams on the Fish River.

5 MR. PARKER: Is that pretty  
6 tannic water in that system, or just some of  
7 the rivers, pretty dark stain? Would  
8 cameras working out there help fish?

9 MR. BUCK: You're talking about  
10 beavers or the --

11 MR. PARKER: The actual color of  
12 the water, is it clear or brown?

13 MR. BUCK: Depends on the time of  
14 the year. Most of the year -- but this  
15 summer the water has been high all summer.  
16 It's -- the water comes up. Most of the  
17 river is clear.

18 And we -- the beaver that we have  
19 there....

20 MR. PARKER: Okay.

21 MS. CROSS: Anymore comments or  
22 questions?

23 MR. MENDENHALL: Have you -- are  
24 there any beaver dams on the Glacier Lake  
25 Tributary?

26 MR. PARKER: No. No, we've seen  
27 beavers in the lake, but there's no dams on  
28 the outlet stream. The inlet -- it's not --  
29 well, there's some small willows there that  
30 they can use, I suppose, but the inlet  
31 stream coming into it is very graded and  
32 shallow, and I haven't seen any beavers up  
33 in that area up there. So they are present,  
34 but it's right at the top of the drainage.

35 MR. MENDENHALL: What about  
36 Pilgrim River to Salmon Lake, any beaver --

37 MR. PARKER: I floated down that  
38 years ago, and there were some beaver dams,  
39 but I don't know recently. I'm not sure.

1

MR. MENDENHALL: I'm just  
2 curious.

3

MS. CROSS: Well, thank you very  
much. And thank you for paying attention to  
4 our concerns. We really appreciate that.

5

MR. PARKER: Oh, yeah.

6

MR. MENDENHALL: You don't need a  
microphone.

7

MR. PARKER: No, I try to speak  
8 up.

9

MS. CROSS: I've contacted Nome  
Eskimo. They're very busy. You will hear  
10 from them during our next meeting. We don't  
have anybody from Nome Eskimo.

11

We're going to Alaska Department  
of Fish & Game Fisheries report. I've asked  
12 Jim Menard to come and speak to us about  
fisheries. He was sending us reports and I  
13 had Ann send copies -- Ann, you've sent  
copies of the fisheries report that were  
14 made to the RAC members, they were very  
informative.

15

MS. WILKINSON: I didn't send out  
16 the last one. It wouldn't have gotten here  
in time.

17

MS. PERSONS: I know he was  
18 planning to come. Maybe I should give him a  
call. Maybe I could give him a call, tell  
19 him to come over and I can go ahead of him.

20

MS. CROSS: Yeah, sure.

21

MR. MENDENHALL: Madam Chair,  
they do on the computer send out reports  
22 about their activity, crabbing, halibut.

23

MS. CROSS: Yeah, I've received  
those. I've asked Ann to send copies to  
24 those individuals that didn't have access to  
the Internet, so the RAC members can read  
25 them. They were very interesting.

These are issues that we've been

1 listening to all day yesterday.

2 MS. PERSONS: I'll be quick. I  
3 just want to remind you about the Board of  
4 Game meeting that's coming up November 2nd  
5 in Kotzebue, and there's this book of  
6 proposals for that Board meeting, and there  
7 are proposals here from Fish & Game, from  
8 the advisory committee, from many members of  
9 the public, and they concern beaver, moose,  
10 bears, caribou, what else? Muskox. And I  
11 really encourage you to pick up a copy of  
12 these proposals. They are on the back of  
13 that table there, and take them back to your  
14 communities and share them with your IRA  
15 Councils and the comment deadline is the  
16 19th of October, and the Board really  
17 listens to public comment. And, you know,  
18 I've heard a lot of strong opinions about  
19 moose, beaver, bears, and there's something  
20 for everybody in this book. So if you  
21 respond and let the Board know how you feel  
22 about these different issues, they certainly  
23 will take it into consideration.

24 But, Peter, the moose proposal in  
25 here we've amended, so 22B moose proposal is  
26 not what you see in this book. It's what is  
27 on that paper.

28 And I want to thank you for --  
29 very much for all of your comments and  
30 sharing your concerns about some of these  
31 issues. And there are some real difficult  
32 problems before us right now, and I'm afraid  
33 that they're going to be with us for a few  
34 years. It's not something that's going to  
35 disappear overnight. It's really important  
36 that we all work together and try and  
37 address these problems and make the  
38 situation better.

39 So, thank you very much.

40 MS. CROSS: We want to thank you  
41 for all the work that you've done with these  
42 moose things. I know you travel to  
43 villages; you made a lot of phone calls and  
44 participated in the meetings that we had  
45 with the Federal staff; and that took a lot  
46 of time, so thank you very much.

47 MS. PERSONS: It's good to do.

1 It's really important to try and hear what  
2 people have to say and try to incorporate  
people's concerns in these regulations.

3 MR. MENDENHALL: It would be  
4 helpful, you know, if you sent out your  
5 proposals to us not the day of the meeting,  
6 like was done, and you could already have  
7 reviewed it a couple of weeks in advance, at  
8 least. Kind of take it as an affront when  
9 they -- the proposal comes before us, and  
10 it's kind of like it was trying to influence  
11 the RAC committee with their proposals on  
12 what they had to do on their --

13 MS. PERSONS: They've been  
14 published in the book and distributed to the  
15 public about a month ago. It's not like  
16 they're new. I understand what you're  
17 saying.

18 MR. MENDENHALL: We could have  
19 had the packet a month ago -- I understand  
20 what you're saying. We'll try to do better.  
21 It looks underhanded when it comes the day  
22 of the meeting, like yesterday. It did have  
23 an appearance of snowballing us.

24 MS. PERSONS: Sorry.

25 MS. CROSS: Well, thank you,  
Kate.  
We're waiting. Do you want to do  
your Arctic caribou?

MR. SEETOT: I have written  
reports there on the table. I'll try to  
make it as simple as possible. I represent  
the communities of Teller, Wales, Shishmaref  
for the western herds working group. I was  
invited to be a representative in January.  
My last report -- last meeting, going with  
the report, our meeting was on April 25, 26  
in Anchorage. At that time, we were trying  
to get a management plan for the Western  
Arctic caribou herd. Ms. Jeanie Cole is  
also on the planning committee. So this is  
just a brief summary that I sent out to the  
communities that I represent. Alaska  
Sporting Fish and Wildlife Conservation do

1 not have funds to provide transportation to  
2 put these out to the communities.

3 April 25, 26 meeting, we were  
4 just trying to see what would be in the  
5 management plan of the Western Arctic  
6 caribou herd. We discussed some topics --  
7 that would be in the management plan. It  
8 took us a while just to figure out what  
9 would be in the management plan after  
10 looking at other plans for caribou in other  
11 parts of the state.

12 Our next meeting was in Kotzebue,  
13 July 10 and 11. We were pretty much more  
14 specific at that time. We tried to get  
15 issues of what should be in the management  
16 plan, and we did come up with seven issues  
17 that would be in the management plan. The  
18 cooperation, habitat, regulations, reindeer,  
19 knowledge, education were some of the topics  
20 that we looked at or we identified for the  
21 management plan.

22 This was a two-day session, and  
23 one of the goals was to write a management  
24 tool for users of caribou to have in place  
25 in case a caribou claim was in fact a  
reality. There was a lot of time and effort  
by members of the planning committee in  
trying to find ways to make the management  
plan work.

I did have a personal tour of the  
Noatak River. I think that is one of the  
places where the caribou cross when they are  
on their southward migration.

The working group had a meeting  
in Point Hope, August 1 and 2; left Brevig  
Mission on the 31st; and we had a night  
meeting just to familiarize the residents of  
Point Hope what the management plan was all  
about. During that time, at Point Hope, I  
was the only representative from the Seward  
Peninsula. We were supposed to have had a  
representative from the Southern Seward  
Peninsula, and also, I think, a Nome  
representative.

We did not have a quorum at that  
meeting, but we did discuss issues  
concerning the management plan.

Some information was not  
presented from the other meetings due to  
lack of quorum, and the Department of

1 Transportation, public facilities senior  
2 planner, Mike McClenon, talked about  
3 northwest transportation plan. And he  
4 talked about concerns from village meetings  
5 held over the years concerning pretty much  
6 points of trails, trail markers, bridges or  
7 anything of that sort that would improve  
8 travel between the villages.

9 The Northwest Arctic  
10 Transportation planning would have impact on  
11 the caribou calving area if they did build a  
12 railroad into that Northwest area.

13 Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
14 resource agent, John Trent, pretty much --  
15 had worked on the working group and on the  
16 planning committee, and he did put a lot of  
17 effort and time into our meetings. We  
18 weren't really too sure of someone being  
19 chairman of the planning committee. We were  
20 not really sure who would represent that.

21 After the meeting, we had a  
22 meeting -- pilot project at the community  
23 center. The remaining members talked among  
24 themselves. We had Native food and stayed.

25 We participated in the Eskimo dance --  
26 Jeanie included -- and we all participated  
27 in what was a good meeting at Point Hope.

28 I usually put in travel times and  
29 whenever I get back, this one was for the  
30 benefit of the communities I represent and  
31 for records to be in the files of the  
32 Western Arctic caribou herd management for  
33 the communities. That will give my  
34 successors an idea of what transpired at  
35 those meetings since ADF&G has not put out  
36 any meeting minutes of their past planning  
37 committee meetings or the working group  
38 meetings.

39 Nome -- I mean the Kotzebue  
40 office of U.S. Fish & Wildlife, sent out  
41 Caribou Trails Newsletters. They requested  
42 comments, suggestions of the seven units of  
43 the management plan. That was pretty much  
44 the goal of what that newsletter was to --  
45 just to get comments from users of the  
46 caribou.

47 And I tried to make my report as  
48 simple to read, you know, to my --  
49 communities that I represent. You try to  
50 get too technical, I guess you try and be,

1 like -- it's pretty hard to put out  
information that you received from meetings  
2 to the communities that you represent. So,  
I hope that this is one form that I can put  
3 out to the communities I represent,  
certainly the Western Arctic caribou herd  
4 and they requested that I so elicit  
comments, suggestions on the issues that  
5 were presented in a newsletter called the  
Caribou Trails Newsletter put out by the  
6 Kotzebue office of U.S. Fish & Wildlife.

7 MS. CROSS: They had some good  
pictures, too.

8 MR. SEETOT: And that's pretty  
9 much my report for the Western Arctic  
caribou herd.

10 MS. CROSS: You did a very good  
11 job, very informative.

12 MR. SEETOT: Some of this  
information, it's from my view. It's not  
13 pretty much a summary of the whole meeting.  
It's what I think would be important to  
14 people that I represent.

15 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'd like to  
commend Elmer for representing us, and I  
16 hope you continue to do so.

17 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

18 MS. CROSS: I certainly hope so  
too. He's doing a very good job. We  
19 appreciate all the time and effort that you  
put into these reports and the time and  
20 effort you take to go to these meetings.

21 MR. SEETOT: I also with these  
reports, I'll make copies and send them to  
22 the traditional councils and to the city  
councils of those four communities, and I  
23 still haven't sent them just a summary of my  
last meeting in Point Hope. I just got that  
24 completed recently.

25 MS. CROSS: Thank you, Elmer.  
Do we now have Jim?

1  
2 MR. MENARD: Yes. This is Jim  
Menard.

3 MS. CROSS: I had asked Jim to  
4 give a fisheries report because he's been  
doing that all summer.

5 MR. MENARD: Madam Chair, members  
6 of the Board, what I passed out was some  
tables there, Table 1 is showing us the  
7 catch we had commercially over the years and  
Table 2 breaks it down by subdistrict in  
8 2001, where we caught in six sub-districts.  
Table 3 will show you the value of these  
9 species, and the back page is the appendix  
which shows you the historical value and --  
10 compared to other years. I guess we'll  
start out commercially maybe and go from  
11 south to north just to review overall and  
maybe switch things up and we'll look at our  
12 catch in 2001 in Norton Sound was a little  
over 30,000 -- 31,000, and that was one of  
13 our poorest years ever, only 1999 would be a  
lower harvest.

14 Problems were the king salmon,  
just a lack of king salmon. We didn't get  
15 fishing until much later like the Yukon,  
which didn't fish at all.

16 We had a weak run of king salmon.  
Then the chum didn't really have  
17 the strength either, and it was kind of  
expected somewhat that we weren't going to  
18 do too well in salmons that we're in the  
cycle of '93, '97, 2001, we seem to be  
19 having the cycles of going down in those  
years and some of the odd years in '99 have  
20 also started to materialize. It's just a  
low chum, and then coho seems to be on this  
21 odd cycle too of we're doing poorer in the  
odd-numbered years, usually.

22 And because of that, the low king  
catch, the value of the king is higher than  
23 any other species. We had such a low king  
catch that then manifested itself in the  
24 overall value of the fishery.

25 If you flip it over, Appendix 4,  
there, right now the preliminary estimate is  
a little under 57,000. That was cash value  
to the fishermen. That is the lowest value

1 since 1967. But if we adjust for inflation,  
2 that was the lowest value of the commercial  
3 fishery ever since they got going there  
4 right after statehood.

5 We fished -- we started down in  
6 Unalakleet, we held off because it was a  
7 late spring and the subsistence there were  
8 mixed reports with subsistence. Some  
9 thought they were doing well. Others said  
10 they weren't. Some said, "Let's go  
11 commercial fishing." Others said, "No,  
12 let's keep it closed." So it was mixed.

13 We had the North River Tower that  
14 started on July 5th. It was about two weeks  
15 after normal time, so we didn't have that as  
16 part of the equation when we figured out  
17 when we were going to go fishing. We used  
18 the test net at the Unalakleet River. That  
19 got in on mid-June, June 15th, and with that  
20 it was showing a below-average run. It  
21 kicked up and we got a push of fish and we  
22 started to count for seven days once we saw  
23 an increase in that net.

24 At that time we still didn't have  
25 the North River Tower counting. We were  
26 watching it. We were uncomfortable. We  
27 were looking at a July 2nd outing. Based on  
28 that, we waited until July 5th. If the late  
29 runs -- late runs never tend to be strong  
30 runs, the first opening showed a so-so catch  
31 and then we started fishing and --

32 Based on the tower counts at the  
33 North River, we did sneak in an escapement  
34 there. We did make an escapement goal. We  
35 would adjust that number up a little bit for  
36 them getting in late.

37 The neck in the Unalakleet River  
38 showed us about 10 percent below where we  
39 would want to be on an average year. We  
40 could not air a survey on where we were in  
41 the Unalakleet survey if we reached it  
42 there.

43 Chum salmon fishing showed below  
44 average on the North River --

45 The North River expanded -- that  
46 was -- it was kind of -- compared to other  
47 years. It was about average, slightly  
48 below. The net showed us slightly below  
49 average in the Unalakleet River. We do not  
50 have an escapement set on the North River,

1 based on -- we rely on the aerial survey.

2 But when coho salmon came, we  
3 started fishing and our catches never really  
4 kept up well for the amount of people we had  
5 fishing. We had a lack of effort. Overall,  
6 if we looked, this was the lowest number of  
7 permits fished in Norton Sound. A lot of  
8 people said it's just not worth their while  
9 to go out fishing. The prices were low.

10 We only had 51 permits fished  
11 this year; 79 were fished last year.

12 We managed Shaktoolik and  
13 Unalakleet based on indicators we have in  
14 the Unalakleet River. We do not have  
15 projections for Shaktoolik.

16 The next is Kwiniuk, and we did  
17 have the tower in there and they were able  
18 to count us from the start and with the  
19 escapement goal we did land within the  
20 range, the midpoint of the range there and  
21 we did allow some chum fishing in the Elim  
22 subdistrict. That's the first time in ten  
23 years.

24 Then the next one was Golovin and  
25 maybe tell people -- it's Table 2, kind of  
breaks it out what the subdistricts did, and  
Golovin was Subdistrict 2, and that's where  
our subdistrict is. We had the tower there,  
that was counting there.

But overall, it was just a -- we  
had poor returns in 2001, and I would jump  
to -- if you look at the values of chinook  
it was 96 percent below the value of the  
ten-year average. So, I mean it was like  
virtually nothing from the chinook salmon we  
caught, valuewise.

Then coho was down about 50  
percent and chum was down about 26 percent  
overall in Norton Sound.

I will jump to subsistence. If  
somebody wants to stop me on commercial or  
ask some questions, I can just jump over to  
subsistence.

The only place we had subsistence  
restrictions was in the Nome subdistrict  
again and everywhere else was able to fish  
their normal schedule that they have for  
subsistence fishing.

The Nome subdistrict we started  
out with a Tier II fishery. 20 permits were

1 issued this year, and basically we based it  
2 on a -- we estimated the surplus would be  
3 1500 chum and we went with 20 permits  
4 because when we issued 20 in 1991, 10 in  
5 2000 seems -- nobody ever catches their  
6 limit of 100. We figured if we issued 20,  
7 at an average of 75 fish for a permit, that  
8 that would be our 1500. We used that.

9 As the fish restarted, it seemed  
10 the weather was poor in June and into July.  
11 And I would call the permit holders and a  
12 number of them were not fishing. And with a  
13 Tier II setup, a lot of them, you know,  
14 scored higher based on their age. They said  
15 they were waiting for one of their family  
16 members to help them out or things like  
17 that.

18 So, based on that, and based on  
19 some improved numbers coming into the  
20 Eldorado and Flambeau, we issued a number of  
21 Tier II permits. We boosted that up to 30  
22 to give that opportunity.

23 To the west, it was showing  
24 poorly.

25 To the east, Eldorado at the  
tower, we got going about a week late, but  
the numbers kicked up pretty fast, and we  
were able to aerial survey right before they  
got counted. You could get a pretty good  
estimate what was above the tower. We felt  
pretty comfortable the second weekend of  
July to bring the Tier II fishers into the  
river of the Eldorado that would reach  
escapement. Only the tower that the Kawerak  
has on the Eldorado site. On the Flambeau  
site we use the tower as an index. We had  
trouble flying with the weather. We could  
not see what was happening in the Flambeau.  
We felt comfortable based on how the number  
was shooting up from the tower there that we  
could fish in the Flambeau too. Second --  
we allowed Tier II to come in the fresh  
water there.

By July 19th, the run was still  
strong on the Eldorado, and we allowed Tier  
I fishing to start fishing there. We  
allowed Tier I to come into the Eldorado,  
Flambeau.

We were able to fly aerial on  
July 20th, that showed us the Flambeau was

1 meeting escapement based on our indexing  
with the tower, so we felt comfortable  
2 there, but I had opened the Bonanza to Tier  
II using the Eldorado as an index too. What  
3 was happening at the tower and the aerial  
survey showed we would not meet escapement  
4 on the Bonanza, so the Bonanza was slowed to  
the Tier II freshwater.

5 Basically, what we had was four  
of the nine rivers in the Nome subdistrict  
6 made escapement: The Scenic, Eldorado,  
Flambeau, and the Snake River at the end.

7 The Snake showed unusual strength  
late in the run that we didn't expect to  
8 happen, but that was where the four that  
made it were.

9  
10 MR. MENDENHALL: Do you  
differentiate between the June chum run  
versus the fall chum run?

11 MR. MENARD: No.  
12 There is an escapement goal set  
for chum.

13 MR. MENDENHALL: It tends to be  
14 like two runs of chums that we sort of  
recognize a fall run and then the summer  
15 run.

16 MR. MENARD: To me, escapement  
would be both chum runs combined. It would  
17 be seen at the tower, tower on the Snake and  
tower on the Eldorado and we have a weir on  
18 the Nome River. That's how we distinguish  
determining escapement. Then we use the  
19 aerial surveys based on what we've seen over  
the years compared to other aerial surveys.

20 MR. MENDENHALL: Even though we  
21 moved Area M over it didn't quite help these  
rivers at all.

22 MR. MENARD: Area M, they didn't  
23 fish in 1974, but their catch in 2001 was  
the second lowest of chum salmon, like  
24 50,000 caught. Because they got going --  
they fished on June 15th, then they went on  
25 strike, and they didn't fish again until  
June 22nd. How the Board set it up was they

1 could only fish three times a week, no more  
2 than two days in a row and only 16 hours at  
3 an opening. So the way it's set up is based  
4 on how they ended up fishing like six  
5 openings. Yeah, it was the lowest except  
6 from, like, 1974 when they didn't fish at  
7 Paul, in June was the lowest catch.

8 MR. MENDENHALL: Was it what the  
9 fish Board did was move their aerial fishing  
10 over some from -- they used the spot fishing  
11 in an area, and it did not help the runs on  
12 their streams until late, according to your  
13 report.

14 MR. MENARD: You're saying  
15 runs --

16 MR. MENDENHALL: The runs in the  
17 Nome River did not reflect the action taken  
18 by the Fish Board to move it over.

19 MR. MENARD: Yeah, I couldn't --  
20 oh, yeah, I couldn't make any comparisons --  
21 just our run was poor. It wasn't as bad as  
22 1999 but -- 1999 but 2001 was one of the  
23 poorest runs ever in the Nome subdistrict of  
24 chums ever.

25 Then as we got into coho we  
released the restrictions then on fishing.  
Then, on August 2nd we went into our regular  
schedule for fishing subsistence for coho  
salmon in the Nome subdistrict. Sport  
fishing started on the 1st, and we just set  
up the schedule as we fished the Tuesday  
through Saturday, the Monday through  
Wednesday openings. That's what we did. We  
went into the regular rotation of fishing  
until, I believe was August -- I'll look at  
my calendar, August 16th through August  
20th. We started to have concerns with the  
coho runs. We were watching that, and then  
put some restrictions on the Nome  
subdistrict.

You may have recalled -- it was  
August 20th, we then started to restrict the  
marine waters in the Nome subdistrict and  
then we reduced freshwater to two, 24-hour  
periods.

We closed the Nome -- the Nome

1 River, we closed that to sport fishing and  
2 then we finally got a push of fish to come  
3 through, and we started to get -- actually,  
4 it was better than '97-'99 during that odd  
5 year rotation of poor runs in the odd years,  
6 but 2001 was better than both those years  
7 based on the Nome weir, but still much  
8 poorer than what we're showing in the even  
9 years. '96 was good; 2000, we didn't have  
10 any subsistence restrictions. So we had to  
11 put some restrictions on subsistence again  
12 this year for coho.

13 It tended to drive people to the  
14 Niukluk River. I believe.  
15 People started to talk about maybe there  
16 should be restrictions on there. We were  
17 possibly looking there, but we did not have  
18 real distributions there.

19  
20 MR. MENDENHALL: What type of  
21 State projects are on these rivers other  
22 than just fish counting? Is there any  
23 enhancement programs?

24 MR. MENARD: No enhancement  
25 programs.

MR. MENDENHALL: Just egg boxes.

MR. MENARD: We did not do egg  
boxes this year. As in 1999, the feeling  
was that our escapement -- that we have to  
meet escapement before we're going to take  
eggs. We were looking at maybe a small test  
of Hobson Creek. Other problems we found  
out was our fish transport permits had  
expired, and I was informed of this when we  
were going to take it, but this was not  
taken care of. So, because of that, we did  
not do our small egg take on the Nome River  
that we were thinking of doing. And the  
steering committee for the Norton Sound  
initiative is meeting tomorrow and they will  
be -- one of the issues they will appoint is  
a scientific technical committee. This is  
one of the issues we're going to look at or  
we want the scientific technical committee  
to inform us, is this the best way to go  
with the money? Should we go with  
enhancement? Should we go with more

1 projects? So we did not do any enhancement  
2 this year.

3 MS. CROSS: Thank you for taking  
4 the time and bringing us a report.

5 MR. MENARD: Okay.

6 MS. CROSS: And on the reports  
7 that you're giving us.

8 MR. MENARD: Thanks. If you see  
9 something let me know.

10 MS. CROSS: They were quite  
11 interesting.

12 Now we're down to election of  
13 officers, 16.

14 MR. MENDENHALL: Bad day, no  
15 fish, no moose, no muskox.

16 MS. CROSS: No kidding.  
17 We are an empty RAC. Not empty fish rack,  
18 empty moose rack.

19 Ann, you need to let us know who  
20 is going out and I lost the tab.

21 MS. WILKINSON: Madam chairman,  
22 our outgoing council members -- just for our  
23 information, outgoing council members are  
24 Frances Degnan, Peter Buck applied --  
25 reapplied, Toby An ungazuk, Isaac Okleasik,  
Daniel Olanna, and Preston Rookok.

I'm not sorry.

MS. CROSS: Frances, Toby, Isaac;  
Toby and Daniel who did not reapply.

MS. WILKINSON: Right.

MR. KOBUK: What's the  
situation --

MR. SEETOT: What's the situation  
on Teller?

MS. WILKINSON: No one applied.  
Someone -- Isaac had someone in  
mind, and that person call -- I called and

1 we talked to him and faxed him the form and  
2 told him that I would help him with  
3 anything. It was a simple form for the  
4 initial part and then people would contact  
5 him, and he never sent it back in. So  
6 there's no one applied from Teller. But the  
7 nominations process has shifted a little  
8 bit. Normally the new members come on in  
9 the fall, but because the secretary of the  
10 Interior's agency's appointments were not  
11 reaching our office until late sometimes, it  
12 caused a lot of confusion in some of the  
13 council meetings in the fall. So, we  
14 decided -- the office decided to have the  
15 new members come on at the winter meeting,  
16 that way we'll have time for them to receive  
17 their appointment and be prepared to come to  
18 the meeting.

19 There is that change.

20 Are you ready to begin the  
21 elections process? The first officer to be  
22 elected is the council chairman, and I'll  
23 just do a review of the chairman's duty.  
24 The Chair is elected from the Regional  
25 Council members, serves a one-year term.  
That may be reelected. The chairman, of  
course, conducts the council meetings  
themselves and attends and represents the  
Regional Council at meetings of the Board  
and that may be several times during the  
year.

The chairman comments on,  
provides insight on proposals statewide,  
signs all reports, correspondence, meeting  
minutes and other documents for external  
distribution. Gives public statements from  
the Regional Council after the Regional  
Council has expressed its consensus or has  
voted on topics involved or designates  
someone to make the statements for him or  
her.

I think basically that refers to  
board meetings and also to the Chair and --  
Chair and board meetings.

And also when issues arise during  
the year, the Council chairman works with  
private and government agencies, Council  
members and the public to address these  
issues and hopefully resolve them as soon as  
possible.

1           And the Council chairman also  
works to set up the agenda.

2           So, Grace, if you turn the Chair  
over either to myself or to --

3

4           MS. CROSS: I'll turn it over to  
Johnson. I turn the Chair over to you.

5           MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay. We'll now  
open the floor for Council Chair.

6           Are there any nominations?

7           MR. MENDENHALL: Sir, I'd like to  
nominate Elmer.

8

9           MR. SEETOT: I decline. I have  
other duties that I have outside the RAC.

10          MR. ENINGOWUK: Elmer declines.  
Any other nominations?

11

12          MR. MENDENHALL: Then I'll  
nominate Peter.

13          MR. BUCK: I decline.  
I'll nominate Grace Cross.

14

15          MS. CROSS: Thanks.

16          MR. ENINGOWUK: Grace Cross is  
nominated.

17          MR. SEETOT: Close the  
nominations.

18

19          MR. BUCK: Seconded.

20          MS. DEGNAN: Question.  
He moved to close the  
nominations.

21

22          MR. ENINGOWUK: Close nominations  
for the Chair.  
Any objections?

23          You're elected our Chair.  
I move it back to you.

24

25          MS. CROSS: Thank you.  
Nomination is now open for Vice  
Chair.

1 MR. BUCK: I nominate Johnson.

2 MR. KOBUK: I second it.  
Close.

3 MS. DEGNAN: He moved to close.

4 MS. CROSS: Leonard has moved to  
5 close.  
All those in favor, signify by  
6 saying "aye."

7 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

8 MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
same sign.  
9 Motion carries.  
Vice chair.  
10 Nominations are now open for  
secretary.

11 MR. KOBUK: I nominate Frances.

12 MS. DEGNAN: I decline. This is  
13 my last meeting; thank you very much.

14 MR. MENDENHALL: I nominate  
Leonard, secretary.

15 MR. KOBUK: I decline.

16 MS. DEGNAN: You would make a  
17 very good one.

18 MR. BUCK: I move to close  
nominations.

19 MS. CROSS: Leonard, you're now  
20 the secretary.  
Secretary Leonard. Leonard?  
21 Thank you.  
Moving on along, we have no other  
22 new business. I think somebody mentioned  
one earlier, but I forgot what it was.  
23 Maybe you decided not to have any  
new business.  
24 Any new business?

25 MR. MENDENHALL: The comments --  
place comments.

1

MS. CROSS: Thank you for putting your trust in me again and congratulations, Johnson and Leonard.

2

3

MR. ENINGOWUK: Madam Chair, I just have a question for Ann. For those members are we going to have a full conference sometime in the future hopefully?

4

5

MS. WILKINSON: Well, we -- under the normal process, when a seat becomes vacant, then you draw on the pool of applicants. The Board will set the pool of applicants that have applied during that year and select. However, we only had -- we didn't have enough people apply this year. So we'll have to wait until next year. So this coming year, you will be two members short, three members short. It won't affect your business, and -- in respect of having to meet a quorum or anything, but it will, of course, affect representation in the region.

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MR. SEETOT: Same question to Ann concerning the Regional Council members. If he moved from St. Lawrence to Nome at the February meeting, would he still be an alternate for the southern portion of the Seward Peninsula?

14

15

16

MS. WILKINSON: Well, he's moved back to St. Lawrence now.

17

18

MR. SEETOT: What about the members that you called and they could not make it because of previous commitments? Are they under the same procedures as in the operations manual?

19

20

21

MS. WILKINSON: Yeah.

22

23

24

MR. SEETOT: You said the council members would be selected from a pool of applicants for members whose terms expired. Seat 8 would be Teller. The one that was filled by Teller, the one that is filled by Wales, in these key areas, were they maybe appointed

25

1 by the secretary regardless of where they  
2 stay?

3 MS. WILKINSON: Madam Chairman,  
4 Elmer, your charter does not designate any  
5 specific areas of representation. There's  
6 no -- nothing that says you will have  
7 someone from Teller, someone from Wales,  
8 someone from Nome, nothing like that. So  
9 the applicants are from all over the region,  
10 and the selection is made from -- we'll  
11 consider, of course, people from different  
12 areas, but if there isn't someone from  
13 Teller, say, and then if next year no one  
14 from Teller applies, there still will not be  
15 anybody from Teller on our Council. There  
16 is nothing to draw from.

17 Did that answer your question?

18 MR. SEETOT: Oh, yeah.

19 MS. CROSS: Questions, anything  
20 of Ann?

21 MR. KOBUK: You said you're  
22 resigning?

23 MS. DEGNAN: My term expires, and  
24 I didn't reapply.

25 MR. KOBUK: Did somebody from  
Unalakleet apply?

MS. DEGNAN: There has been -- I  
was told there were four, but I guess three  
dropped out and one remains. I'll be  
working with that person if they're  
selected.

MS. CROSS: Anything for Ann?  
Do we have anything further for  
Ann?

MR. MENDENHALL: For those that  
are expiring in 2002, we have applications?

MS. WILKINSON: Yes. When the  
nominations time comes open again, then I  
send out a letter and an application form to  
the Council members whose terms are up, and

1 then also notices go out to everybody in the  
2 region about the application period being  
over.

3 Fred Tocktoo did a really good  
4 job last year of advertising, and we also  
5 advertised from the Anchorage office. So to  
6 make sure that everybody is heard from. But  
members whose term -- on the Council whose  
terms are up, I will send you a letter so  
that you'll be notified ahead of time and  
you'll get your application.

7 MS. CROSS: While we're  
8 discussing council members, I want to thank  
9 Frances, Isaac, and Toby for serving on this  
committee. You were valuable to the RAC.

10 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you. It was a  
11 pleasure to serve on this Council. I have a  
12 lot of admiration and respect for everybody  
13 who has participated, because it's a good  
14 level of dedication to the whole region.

15 MS. CROSS: Ann informed me  
16 earlier that there are -- there will -- they  
17 will be sending you something. They were  
18 just made late for all of you, you'll be  
19 receiving a certificate.

20 MS. WILKINSON: It's in a frame  
21 and everything.

22 MS. CROSS: In a frame and  
23 everything, they were not done. They were  
24 going to present them here. They'll be sent  
25 by mail.

MR. SEETOT: I want to mention on  
the Council, are we still having problems  
with the travel agency, Omega? I thought I  
did in a way, but I thought that we switched  
over from Omega to another travel agency.

MS. WILKINSON: No, we're still  
with Omega. They do seem to be doing  
better. We've had -- at our -- there's an  
e-mail Web site that we can go to to  
register our complaints and people have been  
doing that, and they've been improving their  
understanding. I think that's a lot of it.

1 They've been doing better. But we still  
2 have Omega.

3 MS. CROSS: Does Omega mail the  
4 tickets or are they just letting the  
5 airlines know the tickets have been paid for  
6 or how does that --

7 MS. WILKINSON: Omega sends -- I  
8 don't know exactly -- I don't think they use  
9 U.S. mail but they do forward the tickets to  
10 the airline.

11 MS. DEGNAN: Mine were faxed.

12 MS. WILKINSON: They fax  
13 itineraries which are basically e-tickets  
14 that you can use too, and those they send to  
15 our office, and then either Vera or myself  
16 pass them along to you.

17 Still, if you have any problems  
18 with them, please just let me know.

19 MS. CROSS: Anybody wants to say  
20 good- bye to the rest of us, we're still  
21 recording it, you know, Toby.

22 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Thank you for the  
23 time. I didn't reapply because of other  
24 things that I need to do. I'll keep track  
25 of what you guys are doing.

26 MS. CROSS: Thank you again.  
27 Okay. It looks like we have  
28 nothing under new business unless somebody  
29 wants to bring one in.

30 MR. KOBUK: Madam Chair, on my  
31 secretary part, it says that -- I just  
32 recently came back from van driving. It  
33 don't pay very much, but it's a job for me,  
34 and I kind of hate to lose that job. So, I  
35 notice that it said -- where is that?

36 MS. CROSS: What Tab is it, Ann?

37 MS. DEGNAN: You have staff  
38 people to do all that work.

39 MR. KOBUK: Okay. That answers

1 my question.

2 MS. DEGNAN: You'll do just fine,  
Leonard.

3 MS. CROSS: We won't overwork  
4 you, Leonard, not like we did last year.

5 Okay. Establish time and place  
of next meeting. Tab M.

6 Which ones have not been filled?  
Does Iditarod start March 2nd  
this year?

7 Can we guess when the first  
musher comes in?

8 I said, can we guess when the  
first musher comes in?

9 What is the wishes of the  
Council? It looks like the last week of  
10 February, first week of March and third week  
of March and fourth week of March -- well,  
11 not -- Aleutian. The middle portion are  
open.

12 When is Elders' conference?  
Perry?

13 MR. MENDENHALL: I have no idea.  
14 I'm not on the Board.

15 MR. SEETOT: I think it's going  
to be a regional conference. Usually update  
16 the Elders and regional. I think it was  
Elders last year.

17 MR. AHMASUK: It will be an  
18 Elders' conference this year. I can only  
say ballpark, latter part of February.

19 MS. CROSS: Kind of like late  
20 February, we don't want to overland with  
them.

21 Austin said probably the latter  
part of February, which would be 24th to  
22 28th.

23 MR. BUCK: I say 21st, 22nd of  
February.

24 MR. SEETOT: North Slope, Barrow.

25 MS. CROSS: North Slope and

1 Barrow are meeting that week.

2 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh.

3 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madam Chair, this  
4 is the time of the year when Iditarod --  
5 going to be basketball players here. I  
6 don't know who else comes in for some of  
7 these. I think we should try to hold it  
8 maybe the first week because we might run  
9 into problems of hotels and so forth through  
10 March because it's an Iditarod -- this is  
11 Iditarod finish line. So they do have a lot  
12 of activities here that occur.

13 The end of February or the  
14 beginning of March might be a better window  
15 for us just so we have someplace to stay.

16 MS. CROSS: And -- was it last  
17 year we overlapped another regional  
18 conference? Was that a problem to anybody,  
19 when our problem overlapped with a regional  
20 conference? Last year we did. We had a  
21 meeting and a regional conference was going  
22 on.

23 It didn't create a problem to us,  
24 huh?

25 So, taking that into  
26 consideration as to what -- maybe a better  
27 time for us to have the meeting is before  
28 Iditarod starts. You think?

29 MR. ENINGOWUK: Uh-huh.

30 MS. CROSS: The latter part of  
31 February. Last week of February.

32 So, are the meetings normally  
33 held Wednesday and Thursday or --

34 MS. WILKINSON: Or Tuesday and  
35 Wednesday.

36 MS. CROSS: Tuesday or Wednesday  
37 and Thursday?

38 Tuesday and Wednesday in case of  
39 bad weather.

40 MS. WILKINSON: That would be  
41 February 26th and 27th?

42 Is that okay with everybody,

1 February 26th and 27th?

2 And we need a place. Are we  
meeting in Nome again?

3 MR. MENDENHALL: We should be  
4 trying to meet in some villages once in a  
while. You folks like to come to shop.  
5 Subsist.

6 MR. SEETOT: Support staff, they  
say facilities are trouble going in and out  
of certain areas or certain communities.

7 I think that was one of the  
8 arguments that was presented, one of the  
problems that logistics and whatnot into the  
9 communities is kind of poor for those that  
make arrangements because of weather or, you  
know --

10

MR. KOBUK: Places to stay.

11

12 MR. SEETOT: Or other places to  
stay. Just in the communities itself.

13 MS. CROSS: The only other  
14 community that we had been to in the past  
was we'd go to Teller, had a meeting and  
came back -- we had a meeting at Shishmaref,  
15 and maybe a couple of times in Unalakleet.  
Should we have it in Nome?

16

MR. KOBUK: Fine with me.

17

18 MS. CROSS: Nome, we'll have it  
in Nome. And hotel reservations have to be  
made pretty much in advance, we're close to  
19 the Iditarod. And the regional conference  
might be there or Elders conference might be  
20 there.

21 Now we established our time and  
place of meeting. I want to thank everybody  
for attending the meeting. I want to thank  
22 the Council for electing me Chair again, and  
we certainly really did a lot of work. And  
23 I certainly hope that our moose situation  
will get better. But I don't know, looking  
24 at our empty fish racks.

25 Any parting comments from the  
Council?

1 MR. KOBUK: So, are those terms  
2 that expired for the others, are they going  
to be filled?

3 MS. CROSS: Ann?

4 MS. WILKINSON: Excuse me.

5 MR. KOBUK: The guys that their  
6 terms expire, are we going to have somebody  
in their place? Is Toby coming back?  
No.

7 MS. WILKINSON: Not this year.  
8 There were not enough applications, so, the  
vacancies are truly vacant until next year.

9 MS. CROSS: Will some of them be  
10 filled?

11 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, we have two.  
We have two.

12 MS. CROSS: Two will be filled.  
13 Anything else, you guys?

14 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madam Chair, move  
to adjourn.

15 MR. MENDENHALL: I have a comment  
16 regarding subsistence legislation that's  
going to go up for rewrite of the  
17 Constitutional amendment. I think we need  
to write to our Representatives and  
18 Senators --

19 MS. CROSS: Talk a little louder.

20 MR. MENDENHALL: Write the  
legislators; she reads lips too. I think  
21 that this is important. This is a hallmark  
that we need. I think the rural areas need  
22 to put more pressure on who -- on Juneau.  
And that's been encouraged by the Governor  
23 and also encouraged by the participants at  
that summit.

24 So I would kind of like to  
encourage you to send a public opinion  
25 message to Juneau, to our people.  
And other people, not just ours.

1 I think the urban legislators need to be  
2 sent a message too saying that we want this  
3 constitutional amendment to have rural  
4 preference.

5 MS. CROSS: Okay.

6 MR. BUCK: Second Johnson's  
7 motion.

8 MS. CROSS: There's been a motion  
9 to adjourn.

10 Seconded.

11 MR. KOBUK: Question.

12 MS. CROSS: All those in favor of  
13 adjourning, signify by saying "aye."

14 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

15 MS. CROSS: All those opposed,  
16 same sign.

17 We're adjourned.

18 (Seward Peninsula Federal  
19 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
20 meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.)  
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I, Sandra M. Mierop, Certified  
Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that  
the above and foregoing contains a true and  
correct transcription of the Seward  
Peninsula Federal Subsistence Regional  
Advisory Council meeting reported by me on  
the 26th day of September, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandra M. Mierop, CRR, RPR, CSR

