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SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

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Munaqsri Senior Apartments

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Nome, Alaska

11

March 29, 2001

12

9:00 o'clock a.m.

13

14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 Grace Cross, Chairman

18 Toby Anungazuk, Jr.

19 Peter Buck

20 Frances A. Degnan

21 Johnson Eningowuk

22 Leonard Kobuk

23 Perry Mendenhall

24 Isaac Okleasik, Jr.

25 Preston Rookok

26 Elmer Seetot, Jr.

27

28 Coordinator; Ann Wilkinson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN CROSS: The time is 8:55 a.m., this is our spring meeting and I'll call the meeting to order. Anyway, it's kind of a reminder, she wanted to tell everybody that's up here that whenever you're talking you need to turn the mike on and when you're done talking you need to turn the mike off, otherwise it causes some interference so whenever you're going to talk you put the mike on and when you're done you take the mike off. At this time I'll ask Frances Degnan, our secretary, to call roll call.

MS. DEGNAN: Johnson Eningowuk.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Grace Cross.

CHAIRMAN CROSS: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Leonard Kobuk.

MR. KOBUK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Peter Buck.

MR. BUCK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

MR. SEETOT: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Toby Anungazuk, Jr.

MR. ANUNGAZUK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Isaac Okleasik, Jr.

MR. OKLEASIK: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Perry Mendenhall.

MR. MENDENHALL: Here.

MS. DEGNAN: Frances Degnan. Present.
Alternates: Daniel O'lanna. Preston Rookok.

MR. ROOKOK: Here.

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1 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, we have a
2 quorum.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. I want to
5 welcome every one of you that is here to attend the meeting
6 and I'm especially glad that I see some State staff here.
7 Before we go to introductions, I would like all of us to
8 have a moment of silence for all of the folks that we have
9 lost this winter. Some of the folks were traveling between
10 villages on snowmachines and some were out trying to get
11 food for the table and some were just, I guess, being out
12 there when they lost their lives due to our harsh
13 environment up here. So let's take a little moment of
14 silence for all those people we have lost.

15
16 (Moment of Silence)

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Now, we'll go to
19 introductions. I'm Grace Cross, I'm the Chair of the
20 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council and we'll go
21 this direction to Elmer.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot, Jr., Brevig
24 Mission.

25
26 MR. KOBUK: Leonard Kobuk, St. Michael. I
27 represent Stebbins also, we're on the same island.

28
29 MR. OKLEASIK: Isaac Okleasik, Jr., from
30 Teller.

31
32 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Toby Anungazuk, Jr., from
33 Wales.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, Frances.

36
37 MS. DEGNAN: Frances Degnan from Unalakleet.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: Perry Mendenhall from
40 Nome, Alaska.

41
42 MR. ROOKOK: Preston Rookok, originally
43 from Savoonga.

44
45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Johnson Eningowuk from
46 Shishmaref.

47
48 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck from White Mountain.

49
50 MS. WILKINSON: Ann Wilkinson, I'm the

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1 Council's coordinator.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Guy.

4
5 MR. MARTIN: Nome Eskimo Community, I'm Guy
6 Martin.

7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: Sandy Rabinowitch, Staff
9 Committee to the Federal Subsistence Board for the National
10 Park Service.

11
12 MS. DEWHURST: Donna Dewhurst, wildlife
13 biologist, Subsistence Office.

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, Subsistence
16 Program Coordinator.

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff
19 Committee member.

20
21 MR. UBERUAGA: I'm Richard Uberuaga, Fish
22 and Wildlife Service, subsistence fisheries biologist.

23
24 MR. LEAN: I'm Charlie Lean with National
25 Park Service in Nome, Subsistence Office.

26
27 MR. GORN: I'm Tony Gorn. I'm a wildlife
28 biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

29
30 MR. JACK: My name is Carl Jack, Native
31 Liaison, OSM.

32
33 MS. COLE: I'm Jeannie Cole. I'm the
34 biologist with the BLM in Fairbanks.

35
36 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. My name is
37 Tim Jennings. I'm a Division Chief in the Office of
38 Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

39
40 MS. MESSEHER: I'm Norm Messesher with the
41 BLM station here in Nome.

42
43 MR. ALBRECHT: Kirk Albrecht, Nome Nugget.

44
45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I'll welcome
46 everyone of you again. Like I said, I'm thanking every one
47 of you for being here and I especially appreciate the
48 State's presence here. For awhile I had a little bit of
49 worry.

50

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1 sometime this afternoon?

2

3 MR. KOBUK: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Any objections to
6 the changes or are there anymore changes or additions to
7 the agenda?

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion for
10 approval of the agenda as proposed?

11

12 MR. KOBUK: I'll second it.

13

14 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called,
17 all in favor signify by stating aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

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

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. The next
27 thing on the agenda is review and adoption of the minutes
28 which is in Tab B, and I'll ask Frances to just go page by
29 page.

30

31 MR. MENDENHALL: It needs a motion before
32 we could discuss this so I hereby make motion for adoption
33 of the minutes of September 26th, 2000.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second?

36

37 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those in favor of the
40 motion signify by saying aye.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed, same
45 sign.

46

47 (No opposing votes)

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: Then we don't need to read
2 them then, you already took action on it.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm sorry.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, we're supposed to
7 make a motion on it and then they read it and if there's
8 any changes then.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, we'll go into
11 discussion then and take back the other vote.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: But you already made a
14 motion on the motion to accept it so therefore it was
15 bypassed.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, make another motion
18 -- we'll just go into discussion on the minutes. So I'm
19 sorry if I -- I'm not really familiar with these at times
20 so excuse my mistake. So Frances, can you go page by page
21 and see if there's any corrections to the minutes.

22
23 MS. DEGNAN: On the first page we have
24 persons attending the meeting, are there any changes on the
25 page or additions? If not, we'll go to the text, the first
26 page, meeting start, roll call, introductions, agenda,
27 minutes, mail list, elections of officers, Council reports,
28 village concerns and we have St. Michael and Stebbins; are
29 there any additions on that page? It's tab B.

30
31 So we'll go to the second page now, we'll
32 take it page by page. If there are no changes to the
33 second page, we go to the third page, which is,
34 continuation of Council reports, we have White Mountain,
35 Shishmaref; are there any changes or additions?

36
37 Hearing none, we go to the next page where
38 we have Brevig Mission, Teller, Nome and other comments.

39
40 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair. You know that
41 people of the region are sea mammals instead of land
42 mammals, I was trying to say that people of the community
43 are oriented because I'm not too sure what Teller's
44 preference, on Brevig Mission. Pretty much to the last
45 sentence.

46
47 MS. DEGNAN: So that would be Brevig's
48 preference?

49
50 MR. SEETOT: Be noted that people of the

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1 region to people of the community.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

4

5 MR. SEETOT: If it's pertaining to Brevig
6 Mission.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: He noted that people of
9 the community, people of the community?

10

11 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh. We go to the next
12 page where we have the Chair's report, are there any
13 corrections or additions to that? If there are no changes,
14 we go to the next page where we have fisheries proposals,
15 Proposal 5, analysis, recommendation, deliberation and
16 motion.

17

18 MR. KOBUK: On the motion with amendment,
19 there where it says Mr. Kobuk seconded the, it just ended
20 there, I think it was the motion.

21

22 MS. DEGNAN: So noted. Thank you, Leonard.
23 Going to the next page where we have discussion on the
24 motion, are there any changes or additions?

25

26 Hearing none, we'll go to the next page
27 where we have written comment, agency comment, vote on
28 Proposal 5 and discussion about boundary issue.

29

30 Hearing no comments, we'll move on to
31 motion and vote on boundary, Proposal 39 analysis and
32 deliberation.

33

34 Hearing no comments or additions we go to
35 the next page, motion to support Proposal 39 and
36 discussion.

37

38 On to the next page, vote on Proposal 39,
39 call for proposals; wildlife, wildlife proposal motion and
40 discussion.

41

42 Hearing no comments, the next page, vote on
43 motion, further discussion on muskox, motion, deferred
44 wildlife Proposal No. 54, analysis.

45

46 Hearing no comments, brings us to the next
47 page, discussion, withdrawal, agency reports, US Fish and
48 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, I
49 assume.

50

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1 Hearing no comments on that we go to the
2 next page where we continue discussion, and on the bottom
3 of the page, staffing to implement Federal Subsistence
4 Fisheries Management.

5
6 To the next page, consultation and
7 coordination of the State of Alaska, Memorandum of
8 Agreement and discussion.

9
10 Going to the next page, Regional Council
11 fisheries training, Phase III, statewide rural
12 determinations, discussion.

13
14 Bringing us to the next page, migratory
15 birds, discussion, then Kawerak on the Migratory Bird
16 Treaty, discussion and subsistence lifestyles art contest.

17
18 To the next page, Nome Eskimo Community,
19 ADF&G, discussion; the next page carries onto that
20 discussion on caribou update.

21
22 Turning the page, we go to the moose update
23 and discussion.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You're talking about the
26 other page?

27
28 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, moving to the next one.

29
30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, where it starts, Mr.
31 Mendenhall recalled last winter was the first time there
32 was not a Karmun, K-A-R-M-U-N.

33
34 MS. DEGNAN: So the change is?

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: K-A-R-M-U-N.

37
38 MS. DEGNAN: K-A-R-M-U-N, name, instead of
39 C-A-R-M-A-N.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Correction on the spelling
42 of Karmun.

43
44 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: They do have cars up
47 there, but instead of Carman.

48
49 (Laughter)

50

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1 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you, Grace. Then we go
2 to the next page, fisheries update, where we have
3 subsistence harvest, commercial fishing, subsistence
4 harvest and escapement.

5
6 On to the next page, the forecast and
7 discussion. Mr. Seetot.

8
9 MR. SEETOT: Correction, the fourth
10 paragraph, and he suggests Ipewik, it's A-G-I-A-P-U-K, I
11 think that's the spelling of Agiapuk River and Imuruk
12 Basin, and then it shows, I think A-G-I-A-P-U-K, the Forest
13 Service, something that I see on the maps not right.

14
15 MS. DEGNAN: And the correct spelling is?

16
17 MR. SEETOT: A-G-I-A-P-U-K.

18
19 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh, thank you. The
20 continuation of discussion on the next page, Mr. Bue, Mr.
21 Mendenhall.

22
23 MR. SEETOT: First paragraph, Ipewik,
24 spelling.

25
26 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

27
28 MR. SEETOT: Agiapuk/American, it should
29 be, they are two rivers that are joined together.

30
31 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And I believe Bima is
34 spelled BIMA.

35
36 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry?

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: B-I-M-A, Bima.

39
40 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

41
42 MS. DEGNAN: Are there any other
43 corrections on that page?

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, there's a Bema, Beam
46 Road.

47
48 MR. LEAN: Beam Road.

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: Spelled Beam Road.

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, then Beam Road, too.
2 Some people have been monitoring the mining even the dump
3 they have on Beam, B-E-A-M Road?

4
5 MR. LEAN: Yes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Beam Road.

8
9 MS. DEGNAN: Going to the next page, sport
10 fisheries update and Bureau of Land Management. Next page,
11 discussion, BLM continued and discussion.

12
13 Hearing no comments, we get to the last
14 page, annual report, winter meeting and adjournment.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: Back to the -- next to the
17 last page, should be spending between two to \$4,000, per
18 week.

19
20 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: I just wanted to state
23 catches those guys that come up stateside and then throw a
24 fish in without getting their fishing permit.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think I'm having trouble
27 with my mike more than anybody else. Okay, to correct the
28 first mistake I made, I will now entertain a motion to
29 accept the minutes as amended.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: As corrected. I make the
32 motion to accept the amended -- the minutes as corrected.

33
34 MR. ROOKOK: Second.

35
36 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called.
39 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed, same
44 sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Okay, we
49 will now open the floor for public testimony. And the
50 public testimony will be open throughout the day for the

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1 next two days. So I'm not sure, Ann, did you get a piece
2 of paper where people can sign up for public testimony?

3
4 MS. WILKINSON: The blue cards are on the
5 table.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. The cards are on
8 the table, so whoever sees public coming in, if they want
9 to testify make sure that they fill it out and you can
10 bring the paper to Ann and she'll bring it up to us. So
11 that's gong to be ongoing all day long and on throughout
12 through tomorrow. And like I said, we're going to move
13 onto Proposals 1 and 2 at this point because we have two
14 Council member that are going to be leaving so I would like
15 whatever Staff that was supposed to address these, please
16 come up and begin with Proposal 1 and 2.

17
18 Go ahead, Donna.

19
20 MS. DEWHURST: Okay, these proposals start
21 on Tab C, believe it is, yeah. It's a statewide proposal,
22 Proposal 1 and 2 combination. It's to clarify, make and
23 clarify definitions of the terms airborne, bait, drainage
24 and salvage and also to clarify the definition of aircraft.
25 The proposal, basically, the Staff recommendation is to
26 adopt the State's definitions that are already in State
27 regulations so that the Federal regulations and the State
28 regulations match so there would be less confusion among
29 users. This proposal has gone to all the Regional Councils
30 with the exception of yours and Southeast.

31
32 MS. HILDEBRAND: It went to Southeast.

33
34 MS. DEWHURST: Do we know what they voted?

35
36 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes.

37
38 MS. DEWHURST: Because I'm that I'm not
39 familiar with.

40
41 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Madame
42 Chairman, the Southeast Council opposes regulations stating
43 that there's no reason to align Federal regulations with
44 State regulations. They didn't feel that the State was
45 paying attention to the subsistence users.

46
47 MS. DEWHURST: That was Southeast
48 recommendation. They are in the minority, in that, I -- I
49 guess I should go through the ones that had exceptions.
50 Most of the Councils that have met so far have supported

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1 this proposal. I don't have the list of the numbers but I
2 think it's approximately five Councils who have supported
3 this proposal as recommended. The Councils that haven't,
4 Northwest Arctic had a recommendation to change on salvage,
5 I believe it was, there was the term edible and they wanted
6 that removed. That was the only change they wanted. North
7 Slope wanted to adopt dictionary definitions of the
8 regulations. They basically and went and used a dictionary
9 for those terms and said that we should try to adopt
10 definitions that are more in line with dictionary
11 definitions versus just adopting the State definitions and
12 they had come up with a whole series of language there. So
13 that was the recommendation of North Slope. Southcentral
14 took no action on it. They decided -- so basically
15 Southcentral, by taking no action, that's the same effect
16 of Southeast as opposing, because by taking no action that
17 means they'd like the regulation to stand as is. So that
18 would leave Kodiak/Aleutians, Bristol Bay, YK, who am I
19 missing, and Eastern and Western Interior, so it is five,
20 five Council's supported.

21
22 MS. HILDEBRAND: I have to make a
23 correction.

24
25 MS. DEWHURST: Okay, go ahead.

26
27 MS. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Madame
28 Chairman, I need to make a correction. While Southeast did
29 oppose aligning with the State, on further discussion, they
30 preferred to have -- if there were going to be regulations
31 that they use dictionary regulations, but in the final
32 vote, they did vote in support of whatever Councils were
33 voting in favor of this, but still voiced concern over
34 aligning regulations with the State just for the sake of
35 aligning.

36
37 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, I have a
38 question. When the Council adopts whatever thing that they
39 agree to or have advice to the Federal Subsistence Board as
40 to how to go about, what's the effect of the action if the
41 Federal Subsistence Board adopts certain rules and
42 regulations in reference to enforcement and where does the
43 Federal and the State groups stand on enforcement out in
44 the field?

45
46 MS. DEWHURST: The enforcement officers,
47 both the State and Federal would go to their respective
48 regulations. So a State enforcement officer would use
49 State regulations to enforce. A Federal officer, which I
50 am one, would go to Federal regulations to enforce. So

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1 what gets tricky is often the officers are working together
2 in teams and so you're -- but as far as making a
3 difference, the differences, when I read the definitions
4 aren't real great. The differences between the existing
5 definition. There are some problems because a couple of
6 these we don't even have definitions for in Federal
7 regulations. Some of them we do, but the wording is a
8 little different than the State regulation but it's kind of
9 fine-tooth changes, they aren't real big course changes,
10 they're small changes.

11
12 Whether or not they'd make a difference,
13 it's hard to say as far as enforcement. The changes are so
14 small, I really -- I have my doubts, personally, and this
15 would just be my personal opinion as having done
16 enforcement for 10 years, that it would make that much
17 difference as far as somebody getting a fine versus
18 somebody not.

19
20 The one that we do get into tricky things
21 with is salvage. Because that's where we get into the
22 wanton waste laws. And when we look at the definitions of
23 salvage, that's where we do have concerns as to saying, how
24 much meat does the person have to take out to be legal
25 versus if they leave meat, can they be cited for wanton
26 waste. And that's where Northwest Arctic keyed in on, and
27 that they were looking at that salvage and they were
28 concerned about the term edible meat being in that
29 definition. We could go to that definition.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: What page Donna?

32
33 MS. DEWHURST: Yeah, Page 8 it looks like
34 -- or well, I'll try to find the best -- it might be better
35 to.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question, Donna?

38
39 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Under bait, those parts of
42 legally taken animals that are not required to be salvaged
43 but are left at the kill site are not considered bait.
44 Don't some people use the parts that are left for bait at
45 times, so what is the rationale between this, left that
46 they are not considered bait?

47
48 MS. DEWHURST: I looked at that one, too.
49 In all honestly I was a little confused at that when I was
50 thinking in terms of trapping. And I looked at the

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1 original State regulation which is supposedly what this is
2 mimicking and that's what it says but I was scratching my
3 head, too, on that, Grace. In all honesty, I wasn't real
4 clear what the purpose of saying that was. It didn't -- I
5 couldn't see how that would help clarify things. Because
6 often, like you say, trappers will use what's left as bait
7 for traps. Of course, that's gotten to us into a lot of
8 trouble in certain parts of the state because we've caught
9 bald eagles when you use -- you kill a caribou and you
10 leave the gut pile and then set a trap, like a leg-hold
11 trap right next to the gut pile and then a bald eagle comes
12 in on the gut pile and gets caught in the leg-hold trap,
13 that's happened a bunch. So whether or not it's legal to
14 do that, right now, it's saying it's still legal but it's
15 just saying it's not technically bait. So I'm not sure how
16 that works. It's a fine-tooth there.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Perry.

19
20 MR. MENDENHALL: I believe when we went
21 into alignment to State and Federal regs, the purpose was
22 not to have our hunters be legally killing something at one
23 side and then get arrested across the line. And I think
24 just to be kosher between the Federal regs, just to line
25 them up so they'd be arrested for one cause only and not
26 two, Federal or State, and I think that was the argument of
27 alignment of regulations. Not to try to do entrapment or
28 anything like that, but to make things smoother for the
29 hunter and the user, not to confuse the issue. We're
30 trying to make it so the user can benefit and not be
31 arrested just because they killed on Federal season and
32 they're off season on the State season or either way.

33
34 And I think this definition part would be
35 helpful because we have to live with State, and then if it
36 happens to go over on Federal, there should be similar
37 causes over there, too, rather than having to have a hunt
38 with two split minds, you know. And I think that's the
39 purpose of the alignment part of what we wanted to do, to
40 protect the user and not to give -- and then probably help
41 the enforce -- what we deem unnecessary waste. Because
42 while the outside hunters do leave edible stuff, some
43 people like to eat the stomach and I know a lot of people
44 don't like to eat the stomach, you know, but some people
45 do. That's an example of waste.

46
47 So I feel that all we're doing here is just
48 aligning them up to protect the user. We're not opposing
49 an argument per region, our region may be more use of all
50 the animal than leaving a lot of the animal back, versus a

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1 game hunter. And I think it's right trying to be kosher to
2 the villages in our region to protect the user, to bring
3 things in line.

4
5 MS. DEWHURST: Perry, that was the
6 justification given when these proposals were originally
7 made. It wasn't an entrapment thing, it was to try to make
8 -- because when you look at it, we have a State hunting
9 book, we have a State trapping book, now, we have a Federal
10 subsistence book that has hunting and trapping, we have
11 separate fisheries book, you know, there's so many
12 different regulation books that a user, if they wanted to
13 be totally legal, they'd have to have about five books in
14 front them and be cross referencing them. So if we can
15 make the language similar between the books, it makes it
16 easier for somebody that has two different books in front
17 of them to compare them.

18
19 I agree, as long as the language doesn't
20 hurt the subsistence user, the changes, it is to the
21 benefit to try to make the language similar just because
22 it's easier to read between the books.

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: But you made a statement
25 that the Federal Board, somewhat didn't want to address
26 this until after they hear from the Councils?

27
28 MS. DEWHURST: Well, it's a statewide
29 recommendation so it's going to all the Councils. And the
30 Federal Board will take this up when they meet in May, it
31 will go to the Staff Committee first and then the Federal
32 Board. So they did want input from all the Councils as to
33 how they felt.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It almost seems like on
36 the last portion of it where it says, required to be
37 salvaged and which are left at the kill site are not
38 considered bait. It almost seems like it leaves kind of
39 like an unless, unless the site is used to -- used as a
40 scent lure that is placed to attract an animal by its sense
41 of smell or taste. Because a lot of times, I know in the
42 past that people have used whatever's left of the kill
43 which is not edible for future use for trapping, it still
44 doesn't make any sense to me.

45
46 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madame Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ida. Maybe I just need
49 more clarification.

50

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1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. For your
3 information the Southeast Council made the same
4 observations that you're making, that there is a problem in
5 the language and they recommended that sometime before this
6 gets to the Federal Board, Staff work on it to make the
7 language consistent -- internally consistent to define bait
8 as bait, and to either strike this language or work on it
9 to make it more compatible with the rest of the statement.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ida. Perry.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, I consider bait as
14 being salt-lick and some other type of -- other kind of
15 bait like that and I don't think entails and all that are
16 bait, because who would like to pack that out, you know,
17 when they have no -- because it's going to spoil
18 immediately. So I don't think its, entails, you can't eat
19 and used, are considered bait, you know, you just can't
20 pack it out. It's unreasonable. We do that with some
21 parts of our marine mammals, and the other mammals, land
22 mammals. So to me, bait is something like salt-lick or
23 construed to be man-made type.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's why you leave them
26 entails where they are and then you set your trap by it.

27
28 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair, in terms of
29 what's culturally relevant in terms of our region, the
30 traditional is that you use everything that you harvest and
31 nothing goes to waste. And so coming from the indigenous
32 way of life and way of thinking, that if you go out, you
33 don't kill unless you're going to use it and that's the
34 traditional wisdom that's passed down through the ages and
35 whatever is -- it just depends on your state of need and
36 state of what's available, and you do not go -- it's not
37 considered sports hunting. And that's the way of thinking
38 of most of the people in this region because they rely on
39 subsistence, it's the highest priority use of wild and
40 renewable resources in our region and there is no such
41 thing as wanton waste encouraged. And that's the reason
42 for the sharing of your catch and that needs to be taken
43 into consideration when any rules and regulations are
44 adopted pertaining to subsistence for this region because
45 it needs to be culturally sensitive and we know that there
46 are sports and game hunters coming in. There are guides,
47 registered guides in the region. And other people moving
48 in from the other regions because we have more abundance of
49 game. And there's concern -- very real concern in the
50 region to make sure that we do not lose our resources.

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1 We have too many predators. We have great
2 increase in bears and we have great increase of wolves and
3 predators that are coming in and even a coyote was reported
4 to be seen in the region. So we have a lot of competition
5 in terms of the use of our wildlife in our region. And if
6 these rules and regulations are to be adopted, it must be
7 done in a manner where you have local input and best place
8 to get your local input is from each of the regional --
9 each of the communities.

10
11 I would stress that whatever
12 recommendations we submit to the Federal Subsistence Board,
13 that it needs to be culturally sensitive, especially in
14 this region. Because from the indigenous viewpoint, we
15 have different words, they're not the same as the English
16 word, and when you speak in English, our definitions are
17 different so when you talk about bait, it's anything.
18 Anything that's used to lure. It's not just a scent of
19 this and a scent of that. It's whatever brings in. And
20 then enforcement is another critical thing, is that, when
21 many of our people have been cited and have been cited on
22 hearsay. There's no clear cut evidence and that needs to
23 be taken into consideration, too, what is the affect of
24 these regulations on the user?

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Donna, do you want to
29 continue?

30
31 MS. DEWHURST: I've pretty much concluded.
32 You know, the bottom line was, as Perry mentioned, it was
33 -- this was designed to try to simplify things but it
34 sounds like there are still some little glitches out there.
35 So it'd be up to you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: I don't want to be
40 arrested for leaving a moose hide out there because that's
41 the heaviest part of the animal when you're packing across
42 country. And I don't want to be arrested for leaving that
43 hide out. Because we traditionally never used moose hide.
44 I know in the Interior they do and I know that they eat the
45 intestines and everything else in the Interior, but out in
46 this part of where we are, moose has just recently come in
47 in the '60s to this region and we're still learning a lot
48 about what part of the moose to use. So there's got to be
49 some parts where we can protect the user for leaving that
50 out and not being arrested for it, you know, and then

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1 traditionally, I don't like to have that over anybody's
2 head, especially when there's incimate weather and bad
3 weather and some things are spoiling, you got to get the
4 edible part out that you really use for the winter.

5
6 Traditionally, we don't even see walrus
7 hides or seal hides anymore and we hardly see any moose
8 hides hanging out in anybody's village or camp when I
9 travel out. And I think that people should not be arrested
10 for leaving the hide out for that instance.

11
12 That's an example. So we got to be able to
13 use what's reasonable out there because your four-wheeler
14 or your boat can only carry so much, your sled can carry
15 only so much back from a hunt. So I feel that you got to
16 use some discretion here as to the type of animal being
17 hunted and salvaged. In one book and then the other book
18 should not be used -- one against the other, but understand
19 the user has the limitations to it in a hunt and salvaging.
20 And also we don't use bait up here anyway. I don't see
21 where we do.

22
23 So that's the conclusion there on bait
24 part. Maybe they do in other parts of the state.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Donna, I have a question,
27 salvage, or maybe a suggestion. The very last part where
28 it starts, process for human consumption in manner which
29 saves or prevents the edible meat from waste and preserves
30 the skulls or hides for human use and maybe -- and/or
31 preserves the skull or hide for human use, like Perry was
32 mentioning, there are parts of Alaska that don't preserve
33 certain types of hide and perhaps they don't preserve types
34 of skulls either. With just preserves it makes it sounds
35 like you have to always do this, maybe adding and/or.

36
37 MS. DEWHURST: I think I can clarify that.
38 In the first line of that, it says, to transport edible
39 meat, skull or hide as required by regulation. So then you
40 have to go to the individual regulations for the animals
41 and areas and there are area and animal specific
42 regulations that say how much you have to take out for
43 specific types of animals. Some animals, you're required
44 to take out the head, some you're not. Like with bears, in
45 some areas, you're required to take out the head and other
46 areas you're not. So it's -- that's where they're catching
47 that, is in the very beginning it says, as required by
48 regulation, which means you have to then go to the other
49 part. It's not uniform for every species over every
50 region.

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1 So this is basically the general or the
2 generic definition that's then saying, to know exactly what
3 you have to salvage, you then have to go to the individual
4 animal and the area and find out what's required.

5
6 MR. MENDENHALL: That would be defined then
7 if you do make adoptions?

8
9 MS. DEWHURST: Well, that's what.....

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, okay.

12
13 MS. DEWHURST:it's saying right
14 there.

15
16 MR. MENDENHALL: All right.

17
18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's already defined in
19 other words, you just have to go look at the proper
20 regulation. Are there any more comments from the other
21 Council members or questions?

22
23 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question just on
24 utilization of wildlife. You may not use wildlife as food
25 for a dog or a food bearer or as bait except for the
26 following.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What page are you on?

29
30 MS. DEGNAN: I'm on Page 15. Now, to what
31 end, in terms of enforcement, would this be carried out?

32
33 MS. DEWHURST: That has been the source of
34 a prior proposal that came through last year. It's not
35 actually part of this proposal.

36
37 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

38
39 MS. DEWHURST: The page you're reading on
40 was kind of background information. This proposal is not
41 addressing that aspect of the definition.

42
43 MS. DEGNAN: Okay.

44
45 MS. DEWHURST: But there was a proposal
46 that came through last year, I think, that talked about
47 that.

48
49 MS. DEGNAN: So this wouldn't have any
50 bearing on what we're doing?

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1 MS. DEWHURST: No.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: Okay, thanks.

4

5 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anybody else have anything
6 to say? Personally, I don't have any problems with
7 airborne, it just simply says that the Federal Board shall
8 establish a working regulatory definition. I don't have
9 any problem with drainage. My salvage question has been
10 answered. I just have a problem with bait. And that's
11 simply because which are left at the kill site are not
12 considered bait, I think it should -- but Ida Hildebrand
13 stated, what was it Southeast either strike that or define
14 it; so that's my comments on that.

15

16 Perry.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: I wonder if there's any
19 comments from users in the audience from our region
20 regarding bait or anything like that, especially --
21 specifically bait, because I know that we don't use bait.
22 I just do that for purpose of Nome Eskimo and Kawerak
23 people and anyone else who's here from the Nome area?
24 None, okay.

25

26 MR. MARTIN: I could give a little history
27 but I don't want to drag this thing out, Madame Chair.

28

29 MS. WILKINSON: I was just going to mention
30 for us to ask for ADF&G comments.

31

32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sure. Thank you for
33 keeping me in line, Ann. ADF&G comments. Are you done
34 now?

35

36 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

37

38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thanks.

39

40 MR. GORN: Can I do it from here or do I
41 have to go up there?

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No, either there or over
44 here.

45

46 MR. GORN: My comments on the.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Please state your name,
49 it's Tony Gorn, right?

50

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1 MR. GORN: Yeah. My name is Tony Gorn.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is that G-O-R-N.

4
5 MR. GORN: G-O-R-N, yeah.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

8
9 MR. GORN: I would agree with Donna as far
10 as trying to define bait on a State and Federal level so
11 they coincide. There are many regulation books, as
12 everybody knows in here. Everyone that's a user. So if it
13 doesn't affect the subsistence user, just for the fact that
14 the phrases and definitions are similar in all the books, I
15 would support that definition or that proposal.

16
17 And Perry asked, I lost my page here, I
18 need to find it again. Actually, I think that would really
19 -- that would be as many comments as I would have, is that,
20 I would support the Federal and State definitions coincide
21 just to eliminate any confusion, unless there's any other
22 questions.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I do, I have a question
25 for you.

26
27 MR. GORN: Okay.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The one that I was
30 concerned about, regarding bait, do you think there's any
31 problems with that, in the lines of the way that I was
32 describing before, in terms that it's kind of confusing
33 when you say, left at the site are not considered bait?
34 Either strike that portion out or make a definite -- or put
35 an unless to it so that it defines it a little bit better.
36 So you want to have Charlie answer?

37
38 MR. GORN: Well, I don't see any problem
39 with it. To me, that's clear. Required to be salvaged and
40 which are left at the kill site -- I'm sorry, that are not
41 required to be salvaged and which are left at the kill site
42 are not considered bait. So if we're talking about a
43 caribou, that, in the regulations, it's not -- you don't
44 have to bring in the skull to Fish and Game. You don't
45 have to bring the hide in if you don't want to. To me that
46 makes sense. Then that if you would leave those there you
47 wouldn't be cited for breaking any laws and those wouldn't
48 be considered bait.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So in other words it would

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1 be all right for me to leave that site and later on bring
2 some traps to it and catch my foxes or whatever?

3

4 MR. GORN: The issue that was brought up a
5 few minutes ago that raised a question in my mind, I have
6 to admit I am not known as the regulatory expert down at
7 the office, but to the best of my knowledge, for
8 furbearers, you can't use big game for baiting your traps,
9 you can only use parts of furbearers so you couldn't kill a
10 moose and then set your lynx trap or your wolverine trap
11 with your hindquarters for your moose. However, if you
12 caught a beaver and you skinned the beaver and you had the
13 leftover parts of your beaver, you could set a trap with
14 that.

15

16 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charlie.

19

20 MR. LEAN: You may use inedible for bait
21 but you may not use edible meat. So you could use guts,
22 head, hide, legally but you may not use portions considered
23 to be normal food items.

24

25 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Leonard.

28

29 MR. KOBUK: Does that include moose also?

30

31 MR. LEAN: It includes the non-edible
32 portions of moose, but not the human portions [sic]. The
33 one solution I would suggest is to say purposely placed
34 things would constitute bait but, you know, if you drop an
35 animal and you leave inedible portions on site, that's not
36 active baiting but if you, you know, the residue of blood
37 and the gut contents and so forth might be left on site,
38 that would be an attraction but it wouldn't be purposefully
39 placed as opposed to someone dragging some of that stuff
40 and putting that some place, that would be baiting. So
41 there's a choice there. This is important, in that, here
42 in Nome one of the best ways to find a bear is to follow a
43 reindeer herd in the springtime, and that's not baiting,
44 you didn't place those reindeer there but that is an
45 attractant.

46

47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I guess my question is if
48 I killed a moose, say near my camp and I took all the meat
49 from it that's edible and I left the guts and parts that
50 are not for humans, I know where the site is, later on when

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1 the foxes are turning prime, then I go over to the place
2 where I had my moose kill and I put traps there knowing
3 that foxes are eating on it. Is that considered bait or
4 would that get me into trouble?

5
6 MR. LEAN: No, that would not get you in
7 trouble. That is a kill site, it could have been killed by
8 anything and you happen to know where that site is, that's
9 not baiting. Baiting is the purposeful placement of
10 something. And in the case of bear, baiting is not allowed
11 but in the case of fox, baiting is. Furbearers you -- it's
12 very common to bait furbearers into a trap.

13
14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, so in other words
15 this is -- the thing that I'm worried about is really mute.

16
17 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, the guts and stuff
18 are usually gone in three days anyway by birds and
19 everything else. So it's mute on moose, so -- or those
20 kind of animals, they're usually gone by then.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, moose can be killed
23 anytime in the year. Donna.

24
25 MS. DEWHURST: I just looked it up in the
26 regulations and it's what I suspected. I think this issue
27 is more an Interior issue where they're hunting -- they're
28 allowed to hunt black bear over bait only during certain
29 periods and under State regulations to have tree stands and
30 be hunting a tree stand over bait, they're all a series of
31 set of regulations. So I think that's where this comes
32 into play more than trapping. I think it's the whole idea
33 of hunting black bears over bait in the Interior, what
34 constitutes bait for black bear. So I think that's more
35 the issue than the trapping, where you set your traps
36 issue.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm comfortable with that
39 -- the situation with Charlie explaining and you
40 explaining, thank you. I guess if we're going to move
41 around, we might as well take a 10 minute break here. One
42 of the parties needs to go anyway, so let's take a 10
43 minute break.

44
45 (Off record)
46 (On record)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'll call the meeting back
49 to order, it is now 10:10. It's now time for other agency
50 comments, if there are any on the proposal we were talking

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1 about earlier. Fish and Game Advisory Committee comments.
2 I don't see anybody on the Advisory Committee. Summary of
3 written public comments, Ann -- she's on the telephone so
4 -- so we'll just move onto public testimony and then we'll
5 go back to Ann afterwards.

6
7 MS. DEWHURST: I don't think there were any
8 public comments.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. According to Donna
11 there were not any written public comments. Okay, it's now
12 Regional Council deliberation, recommendation and
13 justification.

14
15 MR. MENDENHALL: This is Perry, I would
16 like to recommend that we don't do baiting up in this part,
17 just to make a note on that in the regulations, unless they
18 do it in the Unalakleet area.

19
20 MS. DEGNAN: We have forests in the
21 Unalakleet River drainage and we do have trappers that
22 actively go out and trap, so I don't trap myself so -- but
23 I know we have people that make their living through
24 trapping and we do have forests so we do have trees so I
25 would not want anything to deter their ability to feed
26 their families and I think that they do use bait. So we
27 don't want to make baiting to prohibitive for those who
28 indeed, in trapping, and I'm sure that they do in the Koyuk
29 area and the Elim area where there are trees. So baiting
30 would be appropriate in the southern and eastern part of
31 this region where we do have forest and river drainages.
32 And there is and always has been active trapping and it
33 just depends on the fur prices, but trapping is for home
34 use, too. So it's not like we don't trap at all.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any other Council member
37 comments. Leonard.

38
39 MR. KOBUK: Yeah, in my -- where I come
40 from they do use bait to trap wolves, lynx or wolverine or
41 whatever. But usually they all -- if they want to make
42 money that's the only way they can do it is just by setting
43 bait. But it's not something they do just to waste meat or
44 anything, it's usually -- sometimes they'll bring fish or
45 whatever they got and can use. Because they, living in a
46 village, there's not very many jobs available and they have
47 to make money to pay bills so that's my comment.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charlie.

50

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1 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, Charlie Lean from
2 the National Park Service. The bait regulations mostly
3 apply to bears. The trapping allows baiting and so there
4 is no -- you know, I don't think these regulations were
5 intended to disallow bait for trapping, it was more to
6 address the bear and bait issue.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Charlie.
9 Anyone else have any comments?

10
11 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion for
12 adoption of the proposed changes for the regulations as
13 discussed and that we encourage.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second?

16
17 MR. KOBUK: I'll second that.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Seconded and moved.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those in favor of the
24 motion signify by saying aye.

25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All opposed, same sign.

29
30 (No opposing votes)

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion passes. Donna.

33
34 MS. DEWHURST: Okay, the next proposal is
35 from your region submitted by the Muskox Cooperator's
36 Group, and many of you were at the meeting so I'm not going
37 to go into a tremendous amount of detail on this one.
38 Probably the best summary is to go to Page 34. There's a
39 little table on the bottom. In the table on the middle
40 column it shows what the existing hunt is in regular print
41 and what the proposed new regulations would provide in
42 bold. So you can see basically it's going to provide a new
43 harvest, a new hunt in 22(B) where there isn't any existing
44 and that's for bulls only. So eight bulls will be able to
45 be taken out of 22(B). 22(D), there's no overall change
46 but there was a subunit, it was subdivided. If you look
47 back on the map, well, it's basically Page 30, even though
48 it's not numbered. There was basically a Teller
49 subdivision made which had slightly different regulations
50 than the rest of 22(D). But the overall harvest limit for

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1 22(D) remains the same. That didn't affect the overall how
2 many muskox that will be able to be taken, it was just
3 there was a request to do something different in that
4 immediate Teller area versus the rest of 22(D), so that
5 subdivision was made. 22(E), you can see basically there's
6 no change in the overall number of muskox that are going to
7 be allowed to be taken. And in 23 SW, there's a change of
8 one, one more will be taken. Now, if you go to the last
9 column, though, there is a change, in that, in the past our
10 hunts have been bulls only and we are now putting in a cow
11 provision. So you can see in 22(D), it's two percent cows
12 and then in (E) and 23 SW it's three percent cows, so
13 that's also a change. So basically the hunt has gotten
14 more liberalized. We've added a new hunt in 22(B) and
15 we're allowing cow seasons or a certain number of cows to
16 be taken in several of the units, basically everything but
17 the new areas.

18
19 And these were all greatly discussed at the
20 Cooperator's meeting. This proposal came from the Muskox
21 Cooperator's, so we're in line with that because they made
22 the proposal and basically we're supporting it without
23 change.

24
25 Now, the State has -- well, I can let the
26 State address it, but they've had some concerns with the
27 percent of cows but we decided not to change, we're still
28 going with the original Cooperator's recommendation.

29
30 Any questions?

31
32 MR. MENDENHALL: I make a motion to adopt
33 for purposes of discussion.

34
35 MS. DEGNAN: Second.

36
37 MR. KOBUK: Question.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion.

40
41 MR. KOBUK: Discussion.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All in favor of the motion
44 signify by saying.....

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: No, discussion.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Discussion. Okay, sorry,
49 discussion. Are there any questions for Donna or comments?

50

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1 MR. SEETOT: Subunit 22(E).....

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. SEETOT:did you say 22(D) west
6 would that be from the total allocation of 22(D) and then
7 Teller residents would hunt 22(D) SW if they do so prefer;
8 is that my understanding?

9

10 MS. DEWHURST: Correct. But the Teller
11 residents could also hunt the other portion. They aren't
12 restricted to that zone. It's just that that particular
13 area has its own harvest limits. In that particular area,
14 they're saying that up to seven animals may be take just
15 from that little area. So they wanted to concentrate the
16 harvest a little bit more right around the village was the
17 bottom line.

18

19 MR. SEETOT: My understanding was that the
20 State disagreed on the percentage of the cow harvest, I
21 think that what some of the reindeer managers, that they
22 tried to keep the herd at a size so that they do not run
23 out of feed and the more calves they produce, you know,
24 that they have a possibility that they're going to
25 overgraze certain areas and I think that that's what the
26 State needs to -- is look at the carrying capacity for the
27 muskox feeding habits, because they just kind of stay in
28 one area, not until they're disturbed by humans will they
29 move off to another area. Because they do have a tendency
30 to, you know, pretty much eat certain plants that are also
31 gathered by the humans. Certain areas traditionally
32 harvesting sourdock, what we call (In Native) in Eskimo is
33 that, you know, they kind have wiped out, you know, certain
34 areas where they traditionally have grown. But I think
35 that from my understanding, from listening to many elders,
36 the more you use the resource the more it's supposed to
37 grow. And that's what I was keeping in mind.

38

39 Even though we, as food gathers, you know,
40 talk about certain species, depleting their food source, I
41 think in a way that, you know, that they help the eco-
42 system on which the other animals, you know, use that same
43 place. I would think that we, as humans, would say they're
44 destroying our sourdock but in the same -- at the same time
45 they also, they make sure that the plant survives, I think,
46 you know, not in that certain area but maybe in different
47 areas. And that's one of the observations I think that the
48 State needs to look at, is even though they differ on the
49 percentage of the cow harvest, I think that a certain
50 percentage should be taken so that they're grazing on the

00029

1 plants, you know, don't be wiped out in certain areas.

2

3 MS. DEWHURST: That was basically why on
4 the Federal proposal we just decided to go with the
5 original Cooperator's proposal, that is, we didn't make any
6 changes even though the Board of Game was saying they'd
7 prefer a two percent cow harvest across the board, we took
8 that into consideration but we decided to go with the
9 original Cooperator's recommendation, which was three
10 percent in certain areas. So that's why we did that.

11

12 This will probably -- I was just talking to
13 Ken Adkisson, it sounds like there will be the high
14 potential of another Cooperator's meeting this coming
15 summer so I'm sure if we have one a lot of this will get
16 rehashed again with new information.

17

18 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Johnson.

21

22 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think Shishmaref is quite
23 happy with the proposal mainly because we see a lot of
24 muskox during the summertime when they come up, I guess
25 when they come up the coastline, and they're much more of a
26 nuisance during that time while we're gathering berries and
27 greens and so forth. We see a lot of them in the
28 wintertime, they're further back and they have a lot more
29 movement, I think in the wintertime. And I think we're
30 happy with the proposal to open a cow season, but we still
31 don't think it will curb the growth of the herd, even
32 though we have a three percent cow harvest in 22(E). But
33 we're happy with the proposal that finally, at least, we
34 could, you know, be able to get a cow.

35

36 And I guess we'll just have to see if it's
37 going to keep the herd to its size or if it's still going
38 to grow and I think that we're saying that it will continue
39 to grow and be healthy, even though we have a cow harvest.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 MR. MENDENHALL: Meaning that this harvest
44 will be from August 1 to March 15th; is that the proposed
45 hunting for those muskox, 22(B) and 22(C) also, because I
46 see -- okay, I understand it now, January 1 to March 15th
47 is when cows can be -- okay. I clarified it myself.

48

49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any other questions for
50 Donna? Who is the next speaker? Did you have a comment,

00030

1 Tony?

2

3 MR. GORN: No, just after Donna's
4 presentation.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Toby.

7

8 MR. ANUNGAZUK: In our village, they
9 support the cow harvest. And the people that get muskox
10 this winter is that they -- we all say the same thing, is
11 that they are leaner than previously when the harvest first
12 started so that they might be near the carrying capacity in
13 the Wales area.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Further
16 comments from the Council or questions, for Donna? Thank
17 you, Donna. Tony.

18

19 MR. GORN: Thank you, Madame Chair. My
20 name is Tony Gorn, I'm with Fish and Game. A couple
21 comments. I heard a few of the Board members say that the
22 State had a problem and I want to -- I don't mean to sound
23 like our ex-President, Bill Clinton, but the way that you
24 use State, the State biologists supported the three percent
25 hunt but for reasons that the State Board of Game felt
26 necessary, they knocked the three percent -- they set it
27 back to two percent. We still feel that it's biologically
28 sufficient to have a three percent harvest. But like I
29 said, the Board disagreed and reduced it to two percent.
30 So, you know, what does that mean, just have to keep a
31 closer look at the harvest, it's going to be two percent on
32 State lands and three percent on the Federal lands.

33

34 If you would like me to, I have numbers
35 that would explain the difference between three percent and
36 two percent and if you want me to give them to you, I can.
37 You would like them?

38

39 MR. MENDENHALL: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a quick question
42 first. Why did the Board object to the three percent?

43

44 MR. GORN: I don't personally know, to be
45 honest with you. I wasn't there at the meeting, that was
46 proposed by Kate. But I would assume that it would have
47 something to do with promoting -- continuing to try to
48 promote population growth with muskox. That's my personal
49 opinion.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken. Ken, why don't you
2 move a chair over here by Toby so we can hear both.

3
4 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
5 Service. I was at the Board meeting in November when the
6 State Board of Game took action on it. And Tony is
7 correct, the basic concern that the Board had was taking
8 any action that would slow down or retard the growth of the
9 muskoxen population and essentially delay the day when we
10 could move from a Tier II subsistence hunt to a Tier I
11 hunt. They actually had some reservations about the bulls
12 only hunt in 22(B) and had some questions for Kate and I
13 regarding whether that would retard the expansion of the
14 pop -- further expansion of the population into 22(B), but
15 they agreed to the new hunt. They had some concerns about
16 the two percent cow harvest in 22(D) but agreed to that.
17 And were unable to reach agreement on the three percent in
18 22(E).

19
20 So the basic reason was the concern with
21 delaying the -- retarding the growth of the population and
22 delaying the transition to Tier I. And that will be the
23 subject of -- the primary subject of next summer's
24 Cooperator's meeting, will be, how to develop a plan to
25 essentially move from Tier II to Tier I.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: One question, Ken.

28
29 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a magic number in
32 between moving from Tier II to Tier I?

33
34 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, there is. Right now
35 the Board of Game has a subsistence need determination of
36 100 animals, and so when the allowable harvest, which next
37 year, I think is -- I'll have to get some notes here a
38 second -- next year's allowable harvest will basically be
39 87 animals. So there's two ways that that could be raised.
40 One is the Cooperator's could raise the percentage of
41 harvest. Right now we're harvesting for all essential
42 purposes at roughly five percent of the population in the
43 subunits at the time of the last count. At the
44 Cooperator's meeting Shishmaref and Wales, especially, were
45 interested in having a higher harvest level but did agree
46 to the five percent for now. So if we raised the harvest
47 level, that would put us over that magic number. The other
48 way that we could do that is that the population of animals
49 continues to grow and that raises the number of the
50 allowable harvest and that could put us over the magic

00032

1 number.

2

3 So we're all but there right now. If the
4 population grows much more or we expand the hunt area or
5 raise the harvest quota, we'll be out of Tier II and into
6 Tier I whether we like it or not.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

9

10 MR. GORN: If you could refer to Page 34,
11 there's some good graphics there. We have seen -- Ken was
12 right on, we have seen just tremendous growth in the muskox
13 population and they are out migrating and moving into new
14 areas of habitat and just continue to flourish. But the
15 numbers, just so you have them, you'll see on Page 34, on
16 that lower graph, where it says proposed percent cows,
17 22(E) and 23 SW, three percent. Three percent numbers come
18 out to be in 22(E), that would mean 14 cows. And in 23 SW,
19 three percent would be eight cows. Going back to 22(E),
20 two percent, which is what the Board of Game adopted in
21 November is nine. So we've gone from 14 cows to nine cows.
22 And in 23 SW, two percent is five. So we've gone from
23 eight cows to five cows.

24

25 That's really all I had on the State's
26 comments for Proposal 35.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: So the number for the cow
29 percentage is by the population in that subunit?

30

31 MR. GORN: Well, the five per -- right,
32 correct, and then that was derived at last year's
33 Cooperator's meeting, the five percent.

34

35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken, there is another
36 chair over there if you want it.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, Council
39 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I wouldn't
40 -- you know, the numbers are kind of interesting but I
41 wouldn't really worry too much about them because it's
42 probably more important to understand the structure of the
43 hunt and how that affects local people. And keep in mind,
44 for example, I'll just use 22(E) right now but if Elmer has
45 a question on 22(D) we can come back and deal with that.

46

47 Basically the overall harvest quota is set
48 at five percent, so that tells you how many animals we can
49 take out of 22(E). What the Cooperator's asked for and
50 what is being recommended in this proposal, at least, for

00033

1 Federal public lands is three percent of the population
2 harvest could be cows, two percent, whatever is left, which
3 could be two percent bulls. But in reality the bull hunt
4 starts at August 1st and runs through March 15th, with a
5 cow harvest between January 1 and March 15th. So
6 theoretically, anybody with a -- and the permit will be
7 just for one muskox, it doesn't specify sex. So a hunter
8 could go out in the opening days of the season and take a
9 bull, in fact, all five percent of the harvest could be
10 bulls and there wouldn't be any cow harvest that year. If
11 people still have permits in their pocket, unfilled permits
12 when January 1 rolls around, they can use those to take a
13 cow. And the only requirements, when we get into the cow
14 harvest, as Tom [sic] said, we need to work closely in
15 monitoring the harvest so that the State can close their
16 cow season when it reaches two percent and, of course, the
17 Feds will have to close their cow season when it reaches
18 three percent on the Federal lands.

19
20 So you know, who knows what the actual hunt
21 is going to look like. It's going to depend on weather,
22 access to the animals, how hungry people are and when they
23 want to fill their permits. So what we're talking about is
24 a range in reality. But the important thing is it does
25 provide more flexibility to the hunters, it gives them a
26 permit for a muskoxen, which, depending on the season,
27 could be either a bull or a cow.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken.

32
33 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

36
37 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Adkisson said that there
38 was a subsistence need determination of 100 animals, was
39 that for the whole Seward Peninsula region or was that for
40 the subunits that hunted muskox?

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
43 Service. Elmer, I believe that that's -- it's too bad Jim
44 Magdanz isn't here, but I believe that that interpretation
45 is for the whole Seward Peninsula. It was sort of derived
46 by making some combinations, adding up the different
47 villages and things, but I believe when the Board of Game
48 made that determination, they didn't break it out by
49 subunits, but that could be one of the things that we look
50 at in the Cooperator's meeting, is reevaluating the

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1 subsistence need level and perhaps recommending that the
2 Board consider it on the basis of subunits, which would be
3 in keeping with the overall direction that the Cooperator's
4 have recommended of managing by subunits for better
5 flexibility.

6
7 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Frances.

10
11 MS. DEGNAN: Going further on that is the
12 number 100, is that for the State subsistence determination
13 and Feds have adopted the State determination number?

14
15 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, again.
16 Frankly there has never been, to my knowledge, a formal
17 Federal determination of need. Basically when the hunt
18 first started in '95 and the Board first considered it,
19 their determination was that the subsistence need was
20 unidentified because this was a new thing. No one had
21 hunted muskoxen out here for such a long time and that
22 since the need level was unidentified, they felt that it
23 was appropriate to basically appropriate the entire
24 allowable harvest in '95 which at the time was about 15
25 animals.

26
27 So we've never really revisited that as far
28 as the need level goes. The State is required to set a
29 need level, where we've never had to.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: I remember going to the
34 State meeting after doing the Federal thing here on muskox,
35 that we were more interested in keeping the subsistence
36 needs and the based -- and outside of regular hunting.

37
38 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, again. I don't
39 want to cloud up the issue with that. But one of the
40 problems that we frankly had is even hitting the hundred.
41 We've had, over the years, for varying reasons, relatively
42 low success rates on the Federal, and to some extent on the
43 State side, and that's one of the things that we're looking
44 at are ways to increase harvest opportunity and one of the
45 provisions that we're going to work with this year, even
46 though it's not actually spelled out in your proposal and
47 regulatory language, we've got the language such that we
48 can actually go into subunits and issue permits in numbers
49 of up to 33 percent in excess of the allowable harvest.

50

00035

1 MR. GORN: Right.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: We're going to reevaluate
4 that each year based on the success rate. Like this year,
5 we're running probably pretty close to a 50 percent success
6 rate, I think, in 22(E). I've got some figures if you want
7 and we could go into it. 22(D), I think is closer to 80
8 percent and so what we'll probably do is talk about issuing
9 permits in the neighborhood of 10 to 15 percent in excess
10 of the allowable harvest for 22(D) and somewhere probably
11 20 to 30 percent in excess for 22(E). And of course, that
12 means we'll have more permits out there than we have
13 animals to harvest and we'll just have to monitor the
14 harvest more closely.

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, but my thing was,
17 from our standpoint of view, when we first admitted it was
18 that it was for subsistence purposes, only for the sake of
19 substituting for a hardship of not getting a moose or bad
20 fishing seasons; that's why we kind of looked at using
21 muskox for that substitute part because they're available.
22 And I think that's what our intent was on a Federal level
23 was because it helps with subsistence, feeding the family.
24 And I don't know -- now, we're going into -- outside
25 subsistence?

26

27 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I think what that
28 means is, Perry, is that when the Cooperator's meet again
29 in July it's going to be very important to have
30 participation and a willing to work together and address
31 these concerns because frankly the real issue in the next
32 meeting will be how to allow outside hunters in to
33 participate while protecting that subsistence need that
34 you've just described. And that really will be the
35 challenge of the next Cooperator's meeting.

36

37 MR. MENDENHALL: I think that needs to be
38 addressed, that the intent for muskox was for subsistence
39 in our area.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: That's one of the things
42 that we'll be working on, I guess, when we work on
43 revisions to the management plan and stuff, how we can, you
44 know, phrase things like that and still comply with both
45 Federal and State laws. Because I mean, you know, whatever
46 we sometimes want to do, I mean we're still faced with the
47 law is the law and the State has its set of laws, which,
48 unfortunately, will not allow them to grant a rural -- a
49 preference based on residence, so we have to factor that
50 into consideration.

00036

1 MR. MENDENHALL: The other thing is I heard
2 that some people went after muskox with bow and arrow, you
3 know, that's not much of a sport, they don't hardly run and
4 I don't know whether they're doing that for the National
5 trophy books or what. I don't know if it was for
6 subsistence.

7
8 MR. GORN: Yeah, that has happened but the
9 way that the current hunt is set up, when you apply for it
10 and you're scored and if you're awarded the permit,
11 basically you can hunt the animal however you see fit. We
12 want to prohibit and this is going to be a discussion at
13 the next meeting, too, we're really going to need a lot of
14 participation, we want to prohibit "trophy" hunters from
15 coming to our area and hunting muskox when it's set up
16 primarily as a subsistence hunt. The problem is is that
17 when people want to do something bad enough, they'll find
18 ways to do it and that's just the reality of it. Once
19 they're awarded that permit, if they want to harvest a
20 muskox with a bow and arrow, rifle and the limitations on
21 the trophy value of it is if it leaves the unit we remove
22 three inches of the horn from the skull. Well, there's
23 ways of getting around that obviously but just leaving the
24 skull here and flying up your scores from Anchorage or
25 Seattle or wherever and now you can be in the record books.

26
27 Like I said, if people want to do something
28 bad enough, they'll figure out a way to do it. There's
29 always a gray area in these policies. So that was a
30 comment to that.

31
32 Ken commented before that they had about a
33 50 percent success rate and that is something that we're
34 going to discuss again at the next meeting to actually give
35 out more permits because of the lower success rate, up to
36 33 percent more. From this year's 2000/2001 hunt, we've
37 got numbers back and the success rate was slightly higher.
38 In 22(D), although we've had low numbers from Teller, we're
39 having problems getting people to tell us what's going on
40 up there. 22(D) had a 61 percent success rate, so those
41 numbers are up. In 22(E), there was an increase in the
42 success rate as well, almost 70 percent and Shishmaref took
43 eight of 10, harvested eight out of 10 permits so they had
44 80 percent success rate. And in 23 SW, we had some
45 difficulties in the last few days getting numbers from
46 Buckland and Deering. Noorvik harvested one out of one, so
47 they were 100 percent. 23 SW came out to be 13 percent.
48 The other community I wanted to point out in 22(D) was
49 White Mountain who harvested 100 percent of their permits,
50 eight out of eight.

00037

1 Looking at all those numbers together, it
2 still coincides pretty close with what Ken was saying, the
3 Federal success rate is 55 percent. But keeping in mind
4 that we still need to get numbers from Buckland and Deering
5 and Teller.

6
7 MR. SEETOT: Madame Chairman, I think for
8 22(D), I guess that Teller ran out of gasoline, I think in
9 late February and then that was pretty much two weeks
10 before the deadline of harvest. And then while that was
11 going on, residents of Teller went to Brevig to buy gas and
12 it kind of accelerated the depletion of gasoline for both
13 communities and now they have to drive into Nome to get
14 gasoline. So there's other factors other than weather that
15 you need to also consider.....

16
17 MR. GORN: Oh, sure.

18
19 MR. SEETOT:on the success rate of
20 each subunit.

21
22 MR. GORN: Most certainly. There's always
23 factors that come into play. But this is still just a good
24 overall although its vague and there's always
25 considerations you have to look at, it's a good generalized
26 idea of -- or gives you an idea of how many excess permits
27 we should consider giving out to try to reach the 100
28 muskox goal that we were referring to a few minutes ago.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that just to fill the
35 100 for subsistence or 100 for subsistence and others;
36 that's what my question is, is this for the whole region?
37

38 MR. GORN: Right. Correct. And do you
39 understand when I say give out excess?
40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean outside of the
42 subsistence use?
43

44 MR. GORN: Well, just to fill the allowable
45 permits that we're giving out to try to increase the
46 success rate to as close to 100 percent as we can.
47

48 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair. So that would
49 allow people that are not from the region to gain permits
50 so you could get them anywhere in the state from this

00038

1 program?

2

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: When we talk about the 100,
5 keep in mind that right now the allowable harvest is like
6 around 80, 87 animals, and we're not even hitting that. So
7 when we talk about 50 percent, 60 percent, 30 percent
8 success rates, depending upon areas and stuff, we're
9 talking about taking up to 80 some -- 80 plus animals,
10 we're not even talking about taking 100 animals. The 100
11 is just a magic number that the State has set in
12 identifying the subsistence need. Now, there is no non-
13 subsistence use quote under either the State or the Federal
14 programs until we have an allowable harvest in excess of
15 100 animals.

15

16

17 Where the catch is is the Federal program
18 has a very narrowly defined C&T determination that governs
19 who is eligible for Federal permits. Unfortunately, the
20 State's hands are tied in that because of the McDowell
21 decision, they can no longer use residency as a factor in
22 determining eligibility so for their Tier II subsistence
23 program, anyone in the State can apply for a Tier II
24 permit, however, because of the scoring system and the high
25 cost of living out here, which helps award points in the
26 scoring process, in the history of the State Tier II hunt,
27 none of the Tier II permits have gone outside of the
28 region. So in that sense, though, it's theoretically
29 possible for outsiders to come in under the State
30 subsistence program, that has not happened to date and
31 because of the scoring process we doubt if it ever will be
32 really a serious factor for awhile. Now, if we move into
33 Tier I, we're talking about a general registration process
34 open to anyone and that may be a whole different issue.

34

35 MS. DEGNAN: Anyone in the state?

36

37 MR. GORN: Right.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Under Tier II?

40

41 MS. DEGNAN: Tier I, State.

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: And what we'll be looking at
44 is discussing ways under Tier I, for example, what options
45 does the State have open to it or what tools to try to
46 ensure, let's say that a good proportion or most of those
47 registration permits wind up in the local villages. That
48 will be one of the questions that I think we're going to
49 look at, and the State always has a number of options open
50 to it but we'll be exploring even new things like community

00039

1 bag limits. Which, as an informational point to the
2 Council, I think really seriously, this group, needs to be
3 talking about and talking with us on options for even
4 restructuring some of the Federal hunt if we want to begin
5 to think about moving towards something like community bag
6 limits as opposed to individual permits because for us,
7 even on the Federal side, to move to community bag limits,
8 requires a Federal subsistence Board action. When October
9 rolls around will be the time -- next October will be the
10 opening for new regulatory proposals. Unfortunately, we
11 may not be in time enough for whatever the State Board of
12 Game is going to do, so what we hope to do is if we can
13 come up with a plan in the summer at the Cooperator's
14 meeting, we can present that plan to the State Board of
15 Game when it meets in October and if we get favorable
16 response we can then work on adjusting the Federal regs as
17 we have been, working with the State hand and glove in the
18 past in terms of trying to coordinate what the State Board
19 of Game does with the Federal Subsistence Board. And the
20 key has been, so far, the Cooperator's group and the
21 consensus that's developed there. So that's what we'll be
22 trying to do this summer is work on a plan to transition,
23 as I say, out of Tier II into Tier I, and how we can, at
24 the same time that we open up increased opportunity for all
25 Alaskans, protect the subsistence priority, the need that
26 Perry has been discussing.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So kind of my
31 understanding is that eventually it sounds like the State
32 would like to increase the number of muskox so that Tier I
33 permits could be opened up?

34

35 MR. GORN: Well, it's not like -- it's not
36 that we would like to, it's that in the current system we
37 would have to. As the population continues to grow and
38 communities are harvesting more muskox, we're going to be
39 forced into moving from a Tier II situation to a Tier I
40 registration hunt, which would allow people from outside of
41 the Bering Straits region an opportunity to hunt muskox.

42

43 MS. DEGNAN: And subsistence or sport?

44

45 MR. GORN: It.....

46

47 MS. DEGNAN: Tier I would be sport hunting?

48

49 MR. GORN: Well, actually, Ken you might
50 want to help me out here..

00040

1 MR. ADKISSON: Tier I is basically just a
2 general registration hunt for Alaska residents, call it
3 whatever you want. The State still figures it's a meat
4 hunt for local residents but there's nothing that, in some
5 cases, would prevent you from keeping the -- or maintaining
6 the trophy value of the harvested animal. What it is is
7 it's a registration hunt for Alaska residents only. So I
8 mean you can't come from Arizona or Ohio and get a permit,
9 unlike if the State moves to a hunt scenario that would
10 allow a non-resident sport harvest.....

11
12 MR. GORN: Like a drawing.

13
14 MR. ADKISSON:like a drawing permit
15 system which is what they originally proposed back in 1995
16 when the State Board of Game first dealt with it. We had
17 harvest then -- allowable harvest of roughly 15 animals.
18 The State proposal was 15 registered -- or half of that
19 would be registration permits, mostly issued through the
20 villages or several locations and then 15 drawing permits,
21 which would be open to anyone in the world really to apply
22 for those with a \$500 tag fee.

23
24 So who knows. But the Tier I is basically
25 a registration hunt for Alaska residents only.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Toby.

28
29 MR. ANUNGAZUK: That allowable harvest in
30 22(E) is based on the spring census and in the summertime
31 is there's a lot more muskox than the 461 that was counted
32 in 22(E) last spring, and that muskox really compete with
33 people, especially for like the (In Native) and other
34 edible greens and they area a nuisance in the falltime.

35
36 MR. ADKISSON: That's right. The counts
37 are done in the spring. Basically we try to get to it
38 right before calving if we can, so essentially it's a post-
39 hunt, precalving count. That's when the animals are still
40 basically parked on their winter habitat so they're not
41 very mobile. There's still snow cover out there, they're
42 really easy to see. For us that's the most economical and
43 efficient way to count. And we can be pretty darn sure
44 that we've gotten most of the animals. Now, what happens
45 to them in the summer, that's a whole different story,
46 because as spring comes on, they move off of these
47 wintering sites where they've parked themselves, basically,
48 and they generally move down drainage systems and disburse
49 to their summer habitat areas. So you know, when you say,
50 well, there's a lot more animals out there in the summer

00041

1 than what you counted in the spring, maybe, I mean who
2 knows. I mean we're pretty sure how many animals -- or
3 pretty close to it, how many animals are out there on the
4 Peninsula, how they readjust themselves between winter and
5 summer habitats is another whole issue. I have no doubt
6 that you're seeing more animals closer to the villages in
7 the summer than what you're going to see in the winter.
8 Whether that means that there is really more animals in
9 that subunit or not, I don't know, but those are things we
10 can talk about or ways to improve the census techniques and
11 things.

12
13 Just keep in mind as we talk about this
14 stuff and work these issues through, you know, to do two
15 counts every year really raises the cost, which means maybe
16 then we count moose because we had to take the limited
17 dollars and -- and then also when you go out and count in
18 the summer that's when they're out in the willow thickets
19 and stuff and if you don't get them just right, they're
20 really hard to count. But there are other advantages to
21 going out and counting in the summer, in that, you can get
22 better ideas maybe of productivity, you know, calf
23 production, things like that. So there are trade offs.
24 But for us, right now, the most economical and efficient
25 way to count them is the spring count, and that's what
26 we're doing.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

29
30 MR. SEETOT: Even though Teller and Brevig
31 are pretty much the two communities within 22(D), most of
32 the harvest during this past season has been by White
33 Mountain and Nome residents. I don't see no problem with
34 that. It's just that when you allocate so many animals, I
35 guess it would be up to the community residents to harvest
36 the animal. We can allocate or select hunters from within
37 the community to fill the whole quota of animals for that
38 season, but I don't think that -- it would be up to the
39 councils to say, we will take all the animals that is
40 allocated for this subunit. Because we have had first
41 priority when they first opened the hunt. For the record,
42 I was the first person on the Seward Peninsula to harvest a
43 muskox, that was one animal. I harvested that animal when
44 it first opened and I tried to continue to do so because
45 that is an animal that can be harvested by the residents.
46 Even though it would be my prerogative to say that all the
47 animals will be for only the residents of 22(D), no, it's
48 not for me to judge or to say -- or to restrict the use of
49 animals from other people or from other regions.

50

00042

1 I still keep going to that traditional --
2 the knowledge of the ancestors, saying that if you do fight
3 over the animals or over the resources that the animal or
4 the resources won't be there for you in the future. They
5 might be there five years after we really fight about it
6 but, you know, in the future they might not be there for
7 you.

8
9 But subunit 22(D) is a heavy use area by
10 pretty much all the residents of the Seward Peninsula. I
11 am a representative from 22(D), you know, I don't restrict
12 the use of the resources on 22(D), it's just that they do
13 it in a manner that they don't, you know, wipe out the
14 resources, you know, that they get from that area, that
15 they keep the environment clean, that they use the
16 resources as they see fit without waste. And then that's
17 some of the things that we're taught -- or are said by the
18 elders that are living or that have passed on.

19
20 And I think that that is one of the things
21 that is known, not only in one region but pretty much in
22 other places of the state, they use animals in other ways.
23 We use certain species during certain seasons, we use it a
24 certain way, people from another region use it another
25 certain way. The muskox we kind of harvest right now, I
26 think we're going to find uses for it. The majority has
27 been frozen or eaten cooked and what not. I have preserved
28 or, you know, tried to make muskox jerky, you know, because
29 that's a new game meat and it's not like any other game
30 meat. I brought some muskox that has been preserved and
31 marinated, you know, just like any other -- like when you
32 try to make jerky with other game animals, this is a new
33 process, that I guess once you know how to do it then you
34 can pretty much do it, you know, for the whole animal. And
35 that's 'just a pretty new process. You know, they always
36 say that Eskimo's you know, have ingenuity and the majority
37 of the meat that they preserve during the spring season is
38 by drying, that they can use it during the summer with
39 other resources that they collect because with the growing
40 of plants and new resources harvested, you know, that
41 certain products go -- or you know, they taste pretty good
42 with one another and that's pretty much the preservation of
43 animals that we can get -- pretty much drying them, you
44 know, for use with other resources, you know, during the
45 summer and spring. And that would just be to supplement
46 our diet with other resources.

47
48 You know, that's something new to me. You
49 got to learn by trial and error, I guess.

50

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1 That's all I had. And then if you want a
2 taste of muskox that has been marinated in soy sauce, Lea &
3 Perrins, you know, the spices that they use to marinate
4 turkey or something for jerky, that's it. That is all I
5 had.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: I think that is the
8 rebirth of Eskimos learning to use as they did before, you
9 know, because it was there in abundance before it got
10 killed out. And I feel that it's like moose coming in, we
11 learned how to live with that and any other meat, anything
12 subsistence-wise. And I think any meat we have we use. I
13 don't think it's a new thing, I think it was done before
14 they were wiped out, frozen or dried or stewed.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are there anymore
17 questions or comments for Tony? Do you have anything
18 further?

19
20 MR. GORN: Well, I would just like to, I
21 guess, thank Ken for coming up here and being my crutch.
22 I've been with Fish and Game now for a whopping six months
23 and admittedly this co-management and Tier I and Tier II
24 hunts, I'm still trying to get a grasp on. And the more I
25 learn about it, I find out the more I don't know. So it's
26 nice of Ken to come up here and help me out a little bit.
27 And that's all I had unless there's any other questions.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think you did a good
30 job, thank you.

31
32 MR. ADKISSON: I really didn't prepare a
33 report, Madame Chair, Council members, but I might just try
34 to give you an idea where this process is taking us.
35 Because I think it is sort of instructive, and I think
36 hopefully the State Board of Game found it instructive,
37 too.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken, there's another chair
40 over there. You have a question, Toby?

41
42 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Yeah. Our village is
43 wondering if they could harvest a muskox for Dance Festival
44 that's coming up in June, and I don't know who to ask.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken or Tony, did you hear
47 his question?

48
49 MR. GORN: Yeah, you wanted to harvest a
50 muskox for your Dance Festival in June.

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1 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So you're talking about
4 harvesting after muskox season is closed, closer to June?

5

6 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Yeah. Well, they talked
7 about it at our Native village meeting and they wanted to
8 harvest it now while it was easier to get around and select
9 a young bull for that Dance Festival.

10

11 MR. GORN: Toby, actually we have looked
12 into that and we actually had Kate Person and myself, and
13 last week, John Cody, who is our supervisor was in town,
14 and that's something that hasn't come up before in the
15 past. And we got out the codified and looked and there
16 appears to be either one of two ways we can issue that
17 permit. But Kate's gone now and so is Peter Benti and when
18 they get back we're going to sit down again and look at
19 that. There were a couple different ways we can issue that
20 so you should be able to go out and harvest a muskox.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So you'll keep in touch
23 with Toby?

24

25 MR. GORN: Yeah.

26

27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Ida.

28

29 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Madame
30 Chairman. Under the Federal program, if you're hunting on
31 Federal lands, to answer Toby concern, you'd file a special
32 action requesting a muskox out of season.

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Frances.

37

38 MS. DEGNAN: I want to thank Elmer for
39 bringing and sharing with us part of his catch because this
40 is what, at the Cooperator's meeting in August, we had
41 wanted to sample some of the muskox, so this is our chance
42 thanks to Elmer. Thank you.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: You're welcome.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Very good, Elmer.

47

48 MR. MENDENHALL: I'd like to back Toby's
49 area there because during that time there's hardly any fish
50 or it might be bad ice conditions where there's hardly any

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1 fresh meat, that some villages may be in need of fresh meat
2 at that time, in June, when they're available, and that's
3 when they're around your village. I see the need there, I
4 lived there myself and it's hard to get out sometime due to
5 the inclimate weather. That's a pretty bad place to go
6 into and get landlocked and there's no fish. So I feel
7 that they need special consideration in times of hunting
8 like his requesting for June.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ken.

11
12 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Madame Chairman. Like
13 I said, I just wanted to briefly give you an idea where
14 we've come because I think it helps, you know, keep up
15 people's spirits and I think shows what can be accomplished
16 through cooperative efforts. As you all know, muskoxen
17 were reintroduced onto the Seward Peninsula about 25 years
18 ago with about 71 animals. Those were brought from Nunivak
19 Island.

20
21 When we first had a hunt on them in 1995,
22 there were roughly 925 muskoxen out there. The allowable
23 harvest was 15 bulls and the hunt was restricted to three
24 GMU areas. And as you all know there were a lot of probl
25 -- and it was a Federal only hunt and there were a lot of
26 problems in terms of locals having to travel long distances
27 to access animals on Federal public lands and so forth.
28 Since then and roughly the last six year as we prepare now
29 to go into our seventh year of hunting, there's close to
30 1,800 animals out there so a really substantial increase.
31 The allowable harvest has gone up to 87 animals and
32 depending on the subunit that you're in, almost up to half
33 of those or roughly half of those could be cow which is a
34 brand new feature. We've also opened up new hunting
35 opportunities in at least two more subunits. So you know,
36 the opportunity has continued to increase and a lot of that
37 has only been able, you know, to be accomplished through
38 the work of the Cooperator's group and support of the local
39 Fish and Game Advisory Committees and the Federal
40 Subsistence Regional Councils.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

47
48 MR. MENDENHALL: It's just a note, now that
49 everybody has tasted muskox you legally can hunt.

50

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1 (Laughter)

2

3

4 MR. MENDENHALL: You traditionally are
5 accepted. I sort of feel that it's a step in the right
6 direction and as long as the State is Tier II subsistence
7 issue right now and I think it's only the fifth year and I
8 think it needs a bit more time before it goes outside of
9 Tier II. I strongly support the subsistence need in our
10 region. Because of other areas we don't have success in
11 due to the low numbers of other game and animals -- fish
12 and animals I mean.

12

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I have a question, is
15 there a point or does anybody have an answer where growth
16 would be detrimental to the muskox, if they grow up to a
17 certain point, is there a reason for us to be concerned at
18 some point in time that they'll overpopulate? Do we have
19 any idea what that number could be?

19

20

20 MR. GORN: As far as a carrying capacity?

21

22

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes.

23

24

24 REPORTER: Can you go back up, thanks.

25

26

26 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn, Fish and Game. That
27 hasn't been something that, I know the Nome office has
28 looked at as far as continuing range expansion and what a
29 carrying capacity number could be. What we do know and
30 everybody in the room knows is that muskoxen continue just
31 to flourish really on the Peninsula and they have great
32 defense mechanisms against predators and there's a lot of
33 good habitat. And in the recent years they've continued to
34 out migrate and expand their range to almost 2,000 animals.
35 I wouldn't be surprised at all, I believe the next census
36 is spring of 2002, that we're going to see 2,000 animals,
37 if not more, from 1,800.

38

39

39 But to answer your question, the short
40 answer is, no, Fish and Game hasn't determined a number of
41 carrying capacity for muskox.

42

43

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Elmer.

44

45

45 MR. SEETOT: Toby from Wales and Johnson
46 from Shishmaref said that they're considered a nuisance,
47 you know, for food gathering activities. Will you take
48 that comment when you consider for growth -- it can
49 consider to grow in 22(D), limited growth in 22 SW, limited
50 growth in 22(E), would you take those comments into

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1 consideration from village residents when they consider
2 those animals a nuisance?

3

4 MR. GORN: Most definitely, Elmer, we'd
5 take that into consideration. Last year's muskox
6 Cooperator's meeting, although I haven't been to a lot of
7 meetings like that, I thought was very beneficial and
8 extremely productive. We had a lot of feedback and
9 comments from a lot of different users, subsistence hunters
10 and even the city of Nome was there for wildlife viewing.
11 It's a real interesting population of animals because
12 they're pretty basically uncommon and significant to this
13 part of the state in these numbers. There's a lot of
14 different users that are interested in muskox for different
15 reasons. But most definitely we would take those
16 considerations, and that's just another reason why we need
17 another productive muskox meeting, you know, with a lot of
18 contributions from different users this summer.

19

20 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The only area where the
21 State reduced from three percent to two percent cow harvest
22 is 22 and 22 SW [sic]?

23

24 MR. GORN: Correct.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is that because they're on
27 the road system? I mean like Teller's on the road system,
28 I was just wondering -- because there's a road from Nome to
29 Teller and that's in 22(D).

30

31 MR. GORN: I don't believe that the road
32 system was -- well, there was -- the road system was taken
33 into consideration in some of the new hunts for wildlife
34 viewing and there were dates put on hunts to protect that.
35 But I believe the reason -- the main reason that the Board
36 of Game went from the three percent to a two percent,
37 either sex harvest -- or cow harvest, I'm sorry, for those
38 hunts was because they want to continue to promote the
39 growth of the overall muskox population.

40

41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Because I seem to
42 remember, I think 22(D) is where the muskox population grew
43 faster than (E) and the rest of the area. And that it also
44 has the largest population, doesn't it, of muskoxen, 22(D)?

45

46 MR. GORN: Yeah, 22(D) has the -- and I
47 don't know the exact numbers, I don't have them in front of
48 me, but 22(D) does have the largest population of animals
49 for muskox.

50

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1 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a reason why
4 22(E) should be more protected even though the population
5 is larger and the growth is faster?
6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, a lot of these
8 factors are interrelated. 22(D) has exhibited a pattern
9 lately of good production but apparently not much growth,
10 in total numbers, so that's been interpreted that some of
11 those animals -- and they're all in good health, so that's
12 been kind of interpreted is maybe those animals are being
13 pumped out of 22(D) and going to some of the surrounding
14 subunits which would, if that's the case, explain some of
15 the growth in 22(E).
16

17 With respect to the numbers and the growth
18 in 22(D), I think you heard Tom say that ADF&G biologists
19 here didn't have any real problem with the three percent.
20 That was basically simply a concern that the State Board of
21 Game had and they felt that going to the three percent had
22 a better chance of retarding the growth and delaying the
23 transition from Tier II to Tier I. And they felt that
24 commitments they had made to the sport hunters and the
25 other Alaskans several years ago when the State hunt was
26 set up, they just felt uncomfortable with being able to go
27 the three percent. And you know, that was a call that they
28 felt they had to make and they did. Biologically, who
29 knows.
30

31 And like I said, as I explained to you
32 earlier, we don't even know if we'll even hit the three
33 percent cow level. I mean it could turn out all bulls and
34 no cows though, I doubt that that's really going to happen.
35 So, you know, we're just in this together and we'll go
36 through and we've made a commitment to work with the
37 hunters and with the State to monitor the hunt and report
38 to the State so that they can close their cow harvest when
39 it hits two percent, and if you have a Federal permit
40 you'll still be able to harvest a cow on Federal public
41 lands until we hit the three percent level.
42

43 But you know, the thing about the muskoxen,
44 and I think we really need to come back to the carrying
45 capacity question is we know enough about muskoxen to
46 indicate there are certain things in their environment that
47 are pretty significant in their world. Snow depth is a big
48 one. Having adequate winter range, winter habitat is
49 another one. Having access to good spring range when they
50 come off their winter range is another thing that's

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1 important to them. With respect to carrying capacity, I
2 mean there's a general biological notion, you know, that
3 with ungulate populations they can grow until where they
4 can exceed the ability of their range, let's say, to
5 support them, to what some people call carrying capacity.
6 There's some indications that muskoxen can hit that. You
7 know, it possibly happened at least once in Alaska that we
8 may know about at Nunivak Island, they may have exceeded
9 their carrying capacity at one time. That's somewhat
10 complicated the fact that it's confined and there were also
11 reindeer on Nunivak Island at the same time. Most muskoxen
12 populations in high latitudes where most of them have been
13 found in recent times, weather can be a major factor and
14 there's no way someone can predict that. And most likely
15 muskoxen populations are knocked way down before they even
16 reach carrying capacity so they tend to go like -- you
17 know, fluctuate like that over time.

18
19 We're blessed with good conditions as Tom
20 said. You know, we've got good range, we've got a lot of
21 it. We've got low predation and people, especially have
22 been very cooperative and supportive and have not hunted
23 when there was no open season. And so we've had really
24 growth. One of the reasons that we didn't talk about (C)
25 was because the growth has been lower right around Nome and
26 it may be that they're reaching a carrying capacity around
27 Nome and so those are things that we need research on, we
28 need to watch. But the overall prognosis or the overall
29 projection, I guess, is, yeah, there's a lot we should be
30 watching but I don't think there's anything we really need
31 to be overly concerned about at this point in time. I
32 think we can expect to see continued growth and especially
33 expansion to the population to the east because apparently
34 there is still plenty of habitat out there where the
35 muskoxen haven't reached yet.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I see people moving around
38 so I'm going to call for, at least, a five minute break.
39 And I want to go on to 12:30 because the restaurants are
40 really busy at noon so we can take an hour lunch then.
41 Otherwise if we leave at 12:00, I think I would be inclined
42 to call an hour and a half, because if you go to the
43 restaurants right now at noon you'll have a large wait, at
44 least 20 minutes of waiting time. So I prefer to go to
45 lunch at 12:30. Okay, 12:30 lunch period and come back at
46 1:30, but in the meantime let's take a break because people
47 are moving around, five to 10 minute break.

48
49 (Off record)

50

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1 (On record)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: It's now 11:35, we're back
4 on the record and we're still on Proposal 35. Are there
5 any further comments? I guess we could ask for -- Ken do
6 you have any further comments or does any of the other
7 agencies have any other comments for this proposal?

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: No more comments unless you
10 have any questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I think I've just got one
13 last question. Is the motive of the State or the Feds to
14 open 22(D) for a sport hunt eventually; is that why there's
15 a move for growth in that region -- I mean that game unit?

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, Council
18 members. Ken Adkisson. I guess, what the heck, I might as
19 well go on record. I don't want to impute motive to
20 anybody frankly. I know that among ADF&G and Park Service
21 we've had some discussions about how to move out of Tier II
22 and into Tier I gracefully without seeing the local hunters
23 overrun by outsiders and there has been some discussion
24 about if we can tailor or structure the hunt it might be
25 nice to try it in 22(E) first because of access problems --
26 the difficulties of access and stuff may make it more
27 difficult for hunters. But those are really just, sort of,
28 you know, talk and there's nothing really going to happen
29 until after a Cooperator's meeting, and especially until
30 after the villages have had a chance to weigh in. But
31 we've just been sort of brainstorming some ideas initially
32 to have an idea of what we could lay out or present to the
33 villages as some possibilities that they could think about.

34

35 But, no, again it's a legal matter. The
36 State did make commitments, you know, and, in fact, we made
37 commitments that expressed the interest that some day the
38 animals would grow to the point that they could sustain a
39 harvest that it could include even some sport hunting.

40

41 As you, perhaps know, ANILCA, the same
42 Title VIII that guarantees a subsistence priority and
43 protection, that same Federal law, you know, basically
44 provides for sport hunting. And in fact there's a section
45 in Title VIII that says you can't really restrict sport
46 hunting unless certain things happen in relation to, for
47 example, subsistence activities and interference or that
48 you've threatened the viability of a wildlife population.
49 So you know, we're forced to consider to look at sport
50 hunting. But the question is -- our bottom line is, you

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1 know, are the interests of the Federally eligible
2 subsistence users being met and addressed and their needs
3 and that's what we're looking towards. And, you know,
4 we're open to anything. But we'll see what comes out of
5 the Cooperator's meeting.

6
7 All the Board of Game really expects, I
8 think, is that the Cooperator's come back to them in
9 October with some sort of plan mapped out of how we could
10 -- what the possibilities even are for regs and no one has
11 said or given us a time table as to when we would implement
12 the plan. I think the Board of Game would be really happy,
13 politically, if, you know, we could open up the thing to
14 sport hunting in a year or two.

15
16 I don't know, let's just see what comes out
17 of the Cooperator's. I'd be happy if we just got a plan
18 mapped out and said, here's where we are today, here's
19 where we want to be in a year or two or three down the road
20 and let's take it slow and easy and get there. I mean this
21 whole thing has been successfully accomplished by not
22 overreacting on either end of the spectrum and sort of
23 taking a slow middle ground approach to thing and fine
24 tuning it as we go down the path together and hopefully
25 that's the way we'll continue to operate.

26
27 But I would say that everybody in ADF&G is
28 very well off perhaps if 22(D) were opened up under Tier I
29 because of the road system and the ease of access, that it
30 could draw in a lot more hunters from outside than, say, if
31 22(E) was open to Tier I. That's been pretty much the
32 basis of the discussions, nothing beyond that point.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ken. Perry.

37
38 MR. MENDENHALL: You got a question?

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No, I was just thanking
41 him.

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: It's not lunch time yet
44 and we got to 12:30, so I feel that the fact that we've
45 gone through a lot of changes over the five years, that --
46 for subsistence purposes and we're still changing numbers
47 every year, we haven't gone clear across the subdistricts
48 to where it's compatible to a point to where, okay, we
49 could get so much muskox from each of the subdistricts,
50 we're always juggling numbers. In fact, we're juggling

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1 numbers now to even include the cows. I don't think it
2 could go out of Tier II until three or four more years,
3 until studies of the impact when you do open it to cows for
4 subsistence harvest, at that level and then see what it is.
5 See, I don't think that we, in our area, would be ready to
6 go outside of Tier II subsistence for that simple fact
7 because we're always changing the numbers, we're always
8 negotiating between Federal and State land issues, and I
9 don't think we're at that stage where -- I think it needs
10 to be a little bit more steady on that as to the impact of
11 the muskox herd.

12
13 And the fact that we never reached 100 or
14 87 -- or 50 percent of the permits, only 50 percent of the
15 permits given out. But I don't know how the other villages
16 feel about that, but the fact that -- because we're always
17 juggling numbers, I still think we need to be in that Tier
18 II subsistence mode because of the fact of the needs of the
19 villages, we don't know what game is going to be out next,
20 maybe -- and we're going to need that muskox for a safety
21 net for meat for the families.

22
23 That's my position on it. That we
24 negotiate with the State from our level, that it would be
25 for subsistence purposes and that was a high level and they
26 negotiated to that three percent, reluctantly at that time,
27 male only. And that's my feeling about it, I don't think
28 we need to go wishy-washy on this. Now, we're finally
29 going into cows for the first time. It took five years for
30 the male and now we're looking at cows. And I think there
31 needs to be some time -- a set time to see what impact we
32 have rather than say, oh, let's open it up beyond
33 subsistence now for sports. I think we need a little bit
34 more controlled study, like you said, a set time limit.
35 You want us to. And I think we should give the same amount
36 of time to the cow impact as we did on the regular male
37 impact.

38
39 I don't think -- I think it would be fair
40 on that level. That's my personal opinion and observation.
41 Right now we're going year to year in a wishy-washy type of
42 management, and I don't think it's fair when you're going
43 to finally hit the cows that are the producers of the
44 muskox. Again, the Cooperator's meeting in June might be
45 something different, I don't know. But personally, that's
46 where I'm coming from.

47
48 And the fact that 22(C) has not been open,
49 that's the other thing. I mean the State is willing to pen
50 it up elsewhere but not 22(C) where we have a need for some

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1 muskox in this area, too.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Perry. I think
4 that's something that during the Cooperator's meeting, that
5 you need to reiterate.

6

7 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I don't know where
8 I'll be in June, though.

9

10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well.....

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: But I mention it to the
13 fact that I think the managers on the State and Federal
14 level need to look at this, not on a year to year and come
15 to us, I think we need to set a time limit -- that there
16 needs to be a time limit set when you're doing a cow impact
17 rather than go year by year. I think there needs to be
18 more of a research in that area. Because next year you're
19 going to come back and probably cut out the cow because it
20 might have a big impact, we don't know that. I think we
21 need a set time limit, what would be good? We did five
22 years for the regular hunt just on the muskox male only.
23 Now, we're hitting the cows and we don't know what impact
24 that's going to be on subsistence, you know.

25

26 Maybe there's confusion of hunters knowing
27 which is male and female in the first place when they see
28 them, other than the six of the horns and the mane. So
29 that's my concern and I think the Federal managers need to
30 look at it, not on a year to year basis -- because you just
31 started in the cows, you need to go further than one year
32 before we open it up beyond subsistence or Tier II.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Perry. Are
35 there any more comments or questions?

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: Really, you know, you're
38 right, Madame Chair. I think -- Ken Adkisson, Park
39 Service. I think you're right, you know, a lot of this
40 really should be discussed at the Cooperator's and we
41 probably don't need to belabor the point here. But just
42 two things -- and I couldn't agree more with Perry. I mean
43 I fully agree with what he's talking about and the
44 desirability of establishing time frames and moving slower.
45 Sometimes, however, circumstances are such that we just
46 simply cannot do that as much as we would all like to.

47

48 Two quick points, one is, the State did
49 open up a limited bulls only hunt in 22(C) to take place
50 next -- begin next summer, so they have addressed that

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1 question. The reason that there hasn't been a hunt in
2 22(C) for so long is that basically earlier meetings and in
3 the development of the Cooperative Management Plan, placed
4 a higher value on non-consumptive uses, i.e., wildlife
5 viewing for 22(C). And when you read the management plan,
6 you see that that's what it says. But there has been
7 interest in hunting and the State did address that and it
8 was through the Cooperator's that we tried to balance the
9 non-consumptive uses with hunting. And we also did that,
10 by the way, in parts of (B) and 22(D). But the reason your
11 proposal doesn't address (C) is because there's no Federal
12 public lands and the hunt will be conducted only under
13 State Tier II permits and the State did adopt the
14 Cooperator's proposal last November when it met. So that's
15 the situation on 22(C).

16
17 With respect to the timing and doing this,
18 the Federal system, frankly, has so much more flexibility
19 than the State and I'll just say this one last time, right
20 now the State has a determination need of 100 animals, when
21 the allowable harvest reaches above that level they can't
22 wait any longer, they're basically into Tier I, whether
23 they like it or not. And that was one of the reasons we've
24 also pursued a fairly conservative harvest level this year.
25 because had we upped the harvest level to six or seven
26 percent, next year's hunt would have been Tier I, whether
27 we liked it or not and we all felt we had to move more
28 slowly into that realm.

29
30 Frankly, there's been a lot of political
31 pressure out there and there's been a lot of criticism of
32 even the Board's need determination and there's been a lot
33 of people questioning whether even a 100 animals is set too
34 high because they look at those low harvests from the
35 villages and they say, you guys out there don't need those
36 animals and why shouldn't we be able to hunt them. So it's
37 really a complicated issue and the sheer fact of it is
38 unless the State reevaluates its need determination and
39 that will be on the table come summer when we have the
40 Cooperator's meeting we can bring those issues to bear but
41 it's.....

42
43 MR. MENDENHALL: I still feel that there
44 needs to be a time table, though, rather than year by year.
45 I think we need to tell our side of the story and say, we
46 need two years to the cow season rather than go year by
47 year on this. But -- which probably the fact that you open
48 it up now, it might be more of success of harvesting to
49 reach that 100. But I'm saying we need to have, for
50 subsistence purpose, Tier II, maybe we should set a two or

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1 three year time table on this.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, Perry, during the
4 Cooperator's meeting, if you're not there, we'll be sure
5 and note your comments. Thank you.

6

7 MR. GORN: Madame Chair. Tony Gorn from
8 Fish and Game. I just wanted to come up and reinforce
9 Ken's comments about this planning stage that I think
10 everybody wants to set a plan, get it in place and have a
11 smooth transition if, indeed, and it seems that it's going
12 to be inevitable if we -- the population continues to grow
13 and we continue to harvest animals and success rates
14 increase, there's going to be a move from Tier II to Tier
15 I. And that's why, and Ken stated this before, that this
16 year we kept it at five percent. There is a lot of
17 pressure and that's why before I took a couple of minutes
18 and was talking about success rates from sport users and
19 other affiliations that look at that 100 animal limit and
20 question it and question the regions need for that many
21 animals because currently we're not harvesting them.

22

23 So everybody's going to put in their two
24 cents and that's -- I think it's just really important and
25 I hope there's a big turn out at the Cooperator's meeting
26 this summer so everybody has a chance -- an opportunity to
27 speak their mind and we can continue a smooth transition
28 into Tier I if, indeed, that's what takes place.

29

30 The second point I wanted to make, just if
31 you're interested, I have all the details on that 22(C)
32 hunt, if you'd like them as far as where and when they're
33 taking place so maybe you and I can just talk later unless
34 the rest of the Board.....

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: I think it should be open
37 to the Board, they need to know. I think you should answer
38 to the whole Board here so nothing's left uncovered.

39

40 MR. GORN: Sure. Well, I'll just briefly
41 go through the 22(C) hunt. The first part of it takes
42 place within the Eldorado and Bonanza River drainages and
43 then that excludes the Flambo drainage. So it's the
44 Eldorado and the Bonanza drainages upstream of Safety
45 Sound, if you can get that picture in your head. There, of
46 course, is no open season for non-residents. It goes along
47 with a continued system. And the bag limit is one bull and
48 then in that area two bulls can be taken. So in the
49 Eldorado and Flambo -- or I'm sorry, Eldorado and Bonanza,
50 a possibility of harvesting two bulls from August 1st to

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1 September 30th.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: That's the limit?

4

5 MR. GORN: That's the season is August 1st.

6

7 MR. MENDENHALL: Two bulls?

8

9 MR. GORN: Two bulls.

10

11 MR. MENDENHALL: After the second bull is
12 caught it's closed.

13

14 MR. GORN: Correct. And the second unit is
15 22(C) west of the Sinuk River, that drainage. So that
16 would go up to 22(D). And it's the same bag limit, two
17 bulls and that season is February 1st through March 15th.
18 And then the remainder of 22(C) there isn't any season.

19

20 So it was a little bit of a slow time
21 coming, the last Cooperator's meeting or the previous --
22 there was previous concerns from non-consumptive users and
23 wildlife viewers on the road system, it's pretty excessible
24 for people to come up in the summer time and look and just
25 watch muskox, but now we've taken -- still taken in those
26 considerations but have been able to set up a couple hunts,
27 subsistence hunts in 22(C).

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any more questions of
32 comments to either Mr. Gorn or Mr. Adkisson? Elmer.

33

34 MR. SEETOT: The Board needs to be
35 convinced that the subsistence need determination of muskox
36 for the 6,000 people that reside in the Seward Peninsula,
37 100 muskox for about 6,000? Because like big game like
38 moose and caribou, pretty much every household hunts for
39 moose. Maybe the success rate is -- or the ratio would
40 probably be one in 20 to 30 hunters, for muskox it's one in
41 probably 75 to 100 hunters.

42

43 MR. GORN: Right.

44

45 MR. SEETOT: So we would need to compare
46 the subsistence needs determination of, like, you know,
47 muskox, moose, caribou, you know, with muskox because, you
48 know, I think that's going to become a game animal that
49 could be used by more and more people. I think that one of
50 the reasons that it's not being hunted lots is that it's a

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1 new game animal and that once they know how to use that
2 game animal, I think that they will continue to show more
3 interest in harvesting.

4
5 MR. GORN: We're going to benefit in our
6 planning effort. We're still a ways away from Tier I. And
7 the talk so far is that possibly try it in 22(E). You're
8 right that the Board of Game needs to be convinced but I
9 know that one of the factors that they look at, just as
10 we're meeting here today and just as the Bering Straits
11 regional residents meet at the Cooperator's meeting,
12 everybody has their own opinions and thoughts and beliefs
13 of how we should carry out these hunts. There's people out
14 there in other parts of Alaska with their own opinions and
15 I know that one of the things they're doing is going to the
16 Board and testifying and saying, you know, how can they
17 justify -- how can you justify a 100 animals that they need
18 for subsistence when you're giving them 100 animals and
19 they're only taking 50. To us, you know, the sport hunters
20 are saying, you know, they're not utilizing all the animals
21 so give us an opportunity to get up there and hunt.

22
23 Whether or not, you know, they're right or
24 wrong is besides the point, that's just the reality of
25 what's going on.

26
27 CHAIRMAN CROSS: For the record I would
28 like to say that for those people that are from outside of
29 our region that are expressing interest in hunting muskoxen
30 in our region, I would like to see those individuals
31 approach the Muskox Cooperator's Group and also to the RAC.
32 If they are expressing interest to the Board directly, I
33 would like to see these people approach the Muskox
34 Cooperator's Group and the RAC regarding their interest.
35 It really bothers me when people go outside of our region
36 and try -- and end up gaining influence in access to our
37 subsistence animals.

38
39 MR. GORN: Uh-huh.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And I would encourage both
42 the Feds and the State, when those individuals approach
43 you, people outside the region, I would encourage you to
44 encourage them to approach the entities that are already in
45 existence here. We're the ones that are either going to be
46 opposing or saying yes. So it would make sense to me for
47 those individuals to approach us directly and say, these
48 are the reasons why we're expressing interest in hunting in
49 your region, the animals that are within your region
50 because those people are going to impact our region one way

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1 or another. The other animals are going to be impacted,
2 meaning if they come in here to hunt muskox there's other
3 opportunities for moose, that's going to be impacted.
4 Caribou's going to be impacted. So it would make sense for
5 those individuals to come to us and to other entities
6 within the region and express their concerns and tell us
7 why they're interested in this.

8
9 I don't know how the other RAC members feel
10 about it but that's the way I feel.

11
12 MR. GORN: And they are given that
13 opportunity and that's why -- at these kinds of meetings to
14 come and voice their opinion. But that's why it just helps
15 -- it helps Kate so much when she has to go in front of the
16 Board and propose these regulation changes and she can say,
17 I have the full support of the Muskox Cooperator's and of
18 the public of the Seward Peninsula and the surrounding
19 villages. So that's why it's just so important that we get
20 really a lot of participation in those meetings and that
21 she can take that to the Board, you know, as her support
22 behind, you know, what she's trying to convince the Board
23 to do.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: I wonder if any of the
28 Federal managers for muskox will be attending the Board
29 meeting when they address this muskox issue? Do they
30 attend?

31
32 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
33 Service. Yes, I've gone to every State Board of Game
34 meeting that's dealt with Seward Peninsula muskoxen, both
35 as a Federal agency and Cooperator's Muskoxen Management
36 Working Group member. So yeah, we do try to put a presence
37 in. And the next meeting will be in -- the Board of Game
38 will probably meet, hopefully in October in Kotzebue. I'm
39 sure I'll be there and somebody from BLM, if necessary, or
40 whatever, you know, it takes to try to work through these
41 issues.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I realize that the Board
44 can -- either of the Boards, the Federal Board and the
45 State Board can go beyond the wishes of the community,
46 however, I think that the community has a lot to say as to
47 what happens to our game management. And I'm going to say
48 it one last time, that I would encourage both the Federal
49 government and the State Staff to encourage those outsiders
50 that are putting pressure on both of the Boards, to come to

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1 the Muskox Cooperator's meeting, be heard and also come in
2 front of the RAC and express their interests, because we
3 are the people that live within this land, and we are the
4 ones that are currently utilizing the muskox for food. So
5 if they would like to see some changes, it would make sense
6 for them to approach us also along with the Federal and the
7 State Boards.

8

9 MR. MENDENHALL: I think we got out of our
10 bounds on the agenda item and I think the proposal was to
11 -- we're discussing future issues or concerns, but our
12 motion was to accept the changes for instituting the cow
13 season and the dates proposed.

14

15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, then call for the
16 question.

17

18 MR. MENDENHALL: I think we fulfilled that
19 so far and I think we're in total agreement with the cow
20 season hunt and I would like to call the question to the
21 motion.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Just a minute, we're not
24 done. I don't see any Fish and Game Advisory Committee
25 members here, but I do know that during the Cooperator's
26 meeting, they did make some comments and one of the reasons
27 why 22(C) has a muskoxen hunt was a result of the Fish and
28 Game Advisory Committee, if I'm not mistaken, right Ken?
29 That action came from their chair, the proposal to have a
30 hunt.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National Park
33 Service. Actually what happened was we took the
34 recommendations of the Cooperator's and those were sort of
35 translated into a Federal proposal which you have before
36 you and also a parallel State proposal which went to the
37 Board of Game. And to the best of my knowledge and
38 recollection and from what happened at the Fish and Game
39 Advisory Committee, they supported their proposal which was
40 essentially identical to ours and ours would be identical
41 to the State except we didn't bring in the State lands
42 where there was only a State hunt and maybe that was an
43 error on our part, not to show you how the whole picture
44 looked but we thought it would simplify your considerations
45 if we dealt with only the Federal issues before us. So the
46 Fish and Game Advisory Committee did support that proposal,
47 unfortunately, I don't recall if they were able to send
48 anyone to Juneau because that's where the Board met in
49 November, it took the muskoxen proposal up out of cycle.
50 And so if I recall it was Kate Persons, myself and folks

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1 like from the Outdoor Council that were there.

2

3 But the Fish and Game Advisory Committee
4 did support the proposal, and I take that to mean that they
5 would support ours now.

6

7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Ann, I notice
8 that there are no written public comments, has anything
9 developed since?

10

11 MS. WILKINSON: No, ma'am, we have not
12 received any written public comments.

13

14 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there any public
15 testimony on this proposal? I don't see anybody waving
16 their hand so we will now go into Regional Council
17 deliberation, recommendation and justification.

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: My recommendation is
20 accept the proposal as written but to give it a limit of
21 two years more study for subsistence Tier II -- limitations
22 on this for purposes of impact on the hunt in that area.
23 That's my concern. I don't know how the rest of the Board
24 feels about this.

25

26 Also I think we would revisit this in the
27 fall time, because the June MuskoX Cooperator's will be
28 meeting then, too, and then there'll be the May Board
29 meeting of both the Fish and Game and the Game Board and
30 the Federal Subsistence Board will address this, but I
31 propose to accept the changes as recommended with those
32 considerations to be given thought for the regs.

33

34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: My recommendation is to
35 accept the proposal as is and then bring up the two year
36 issue or other further studies to the Cooperator's group
37 when they meet in June but to accept the proposal as is
38 right now.

39

40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Johnson.

43

44 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think I would rather have
45 it accepted as proposed without the -- because we can
46 always go back to the Cooperator's and they could come back
47 to us with the other provisions. So I would just say, do
48 the proposal as is with nothing else on it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

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1 MR. ENINGOWUK: The Cooperator's have been
2 doing a good job with what the muskox is doing.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I agree with you. Any
5 other comments from any other Council members? Elmer.

6
7 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question to
8 the vote.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called.
11 All in favor of the proposal signify by saying aye.

12
13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All opposed, same sign.

16
17 (No opposing votes)

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. And I
20 guess I'll.....

21
22 MR. MENDENHALL: Go back to the original
23 agenda.

24
25 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah.

26
27 MR. MENDENHALL: Old business.

28
29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: The only old business I
30 believe we had was proposals or do we have any other old
31 business; I don't see anything under there. Ann.

32
33 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry, I put that there
34 in case someone had something they wanted to bring forward.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I kind of do from
37 the minutes but it's going to take a few minutes. I think
38 I have some questions regarding from the minutes and if the
39 rest of the Council will bear with me, I have some
40 questions for different individuals.

41
42 Charlie -- Charlie Lean, regarding the St.
43 Michael and Stebbins concern about moving the boundary,
44 from Canal Point to align with the State's Romanof point;
45 what is that situation now? I kind of had a feeling that
46 that's been resolved.

47
48 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair. Charlie Lean with
49 the Park Service. As I understand it, the boundaries have
50 been redrawn to conform with the State's boundary at the

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1 time of Federal fisheries management. There's still now
2 the issue of customary and traditional use of that river.
3 As you remember before, Stebbins was granted customary and
4 traditional use of Yukon stocks but St. Michael was not and
5 now the situation is reversed. Norton Sound communities
6 have customary and traditional use of Pitmiktalik,
7 Nunakogak Rivers and it's under consideration of which
8 Yukon communities would have customary and traditional use
9 of those Pitmiktalik, Nunakogak area.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are you aware of any
12 reaction from Yukon people on this move?

13
14 MR. LEAN: I think there's a strong feeling
15 that the Yukon Delta communities from St. Mary's down
16 stream feel that they should have C&T as well on
17 Pitmiktalik, Nunakogak.

18
19 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Are there any proposals
20 that are coming up or do you know?

21
22 MR. LEAN: (Nods negatively)

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ann.

25
26 MR. JACK: Yeah, Carl Jack, Native Liaison.
27 I was at the Kotlik meeting, Yukon Delta Regional Advisory
28 Council and they are drafting or have drafted a customary
29 and traditional use determination for those areas where up
30 to the line, I believe.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: To the new boundary?

33
34 MR. JACK: Yes, up to the new boundary.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Leonard.

37
38 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair. Stebbins, I
39 talked to them before I came, I talked to the president of
40 the IRA Council and they said they want a C&T with the one
41 that was submitted to the Federal Board in Anchorage. They
42 say they don't want to be lumped with the Yukon region
43 because they're on the same island, they hunt and fish in
44 the same places as St. Michael does. They really want to
45 protect those little rivers that we have. Because by
46 others coming in it's going to impact our rivers, those
47 rivers aren't very big. They feel strongly, they just want
48 to have a customary trade between the two villages, because
49 our villages are both growing and we're thinking of our
50 children's children that will be coming up.

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1 We know for a fact that Yukon people do
2 come and fish in Pitmiktalik, even during commercial
3 season, some will come and set net and they'll go right
4 back to the Yukon so whatever fish they catch there like
5 kings, because they say, near Romanof Point and Pitmiktalik
6 they get the biggest kings. And we'd like to see the State
7 and the Federal supervise this more because I've been told
8 by the people in both villages that this is happening every
9 year.

10
11 And that's my comment on that.

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. It sounds like the
14 boundary has been moved, there will be proposals that will
15 be coming from the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta area and at the
16 time that they come, I guess we will deal with them -- when
17 the proposals come in. Unless you have something further,
18 Leonard, can we move on?

19
20 MR. KOBUK: Madame Chair. There's also a
21 correction, too, on this new Federal subsistence book.
22 It's right on the very last.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: What page?

25
26 MR. KOBUK: It's XIV, I guess. And it says
27 that Federal realigned the boundary to match with the
28 State's, I didn't know about this until I called up Ann and
29 she told me about this. So it's made both villages very
30 happy to see that in there, but at the same time with this
31 2001 subsistence management regulation, it kind of made St.
32 Michael angry that they're still not included in the
33 booklet. And Stebbins wants to have the -- when they saw
34 their C&T with the Yukon, they weren't too happy with that
35 either.

36
37 That's all I have to say.

38
39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Charlie.

40
41 MR. LEAN: Mr. Chair or Madame Chair, I'm
42 sorry.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. LEAN: This is Charlie Lean. Mr.
47 Kobuk, by incorporating that area north of Point Romanof
48 into Norton Sound and St. Michael and in fact all
49 communities of Norton Sound would have customary and
50 traditional use rights to those streams from Point Romanof

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1 north. So St. Michael now is included in that and they
2 shouldn't be upset that they aren't because they are.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. Moving along with
5 my questions. I think my next concern was last year
6 Johnson Eningowuk was telling us that they had a pretty
7 poor subsistence fish and -- and he was concerned that
8 Shishmaref didn't get any relief like the Bering Straits
9 villages with the fisheries disasters money. So the
10 situation now, I imagine, has improved itself? Johnson.

11
12 MR. ENINGOWUK: We survived the year, so
13 we're okay.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, I was just curious
16 about that. On Brevig Mission, Elmer, did you select your
17 muskox hunters yourselves or was it kind of like everybody
18 applied for it and somebody else did the selection. You
19 were kind of talking about the communities selecting who
20 was going to do the muskox hunting so that there was more
21 success, or the people that would most likely go out would
22 be selected.

23
24 MR. SEETOT: The people that were most
25 likely were selected by the traditional council that showed
26 an interest in hunting under Federal regulations.

27
28 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So that worked better,
29 other than the gasoline problem?

30
31 MR. SEETOT: I would think that they would
32 put more pressure on the hunters to get their muskox, you
33 know, pretty much for the community.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So it that work better?

36
37 MR. SEETOT: It would work -- it would work
38 in the sense that they selected the hunters but I guess it
39 would be up to the hunters themself, you know, to take the
40 initiative to say, I was selected and then I need to
41 fulfill my responsibility. I think there's still some
42 holes, even though the intent of the selection by the
43 traditional council was to harvest the animal -- you know,
44 I guess there's other factors that come into play in
45 determining whether you are successful or not.

46
47 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. And I guess for
48 informational purposes, there is going to be a study that's
49 going to be done on Nome fishermen this morning, by both
50 Kawerak and by US Fish and Wildlife to see where misplaced

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1 Nome fishermen are going. So that's going to be done this
2 summer, and it's a two year study and it was funded for
3 70,000.

4
5 I was going to ask a question of Jeff
6 Denton, but he disappeared somewhere.

7
8 MR. MENDENHALL: He went to lunch.

9
10 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, he went to lunch.

11
12 MR. JENNINGS: I don't believe he's here
13 today.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's all the questions I
16 have. Does anybody else have any questions before we break
17 for lunch? Toby.

18
19 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Yeah, I had a comment on
20 the fisheries. I think that Fish and Game and Kawerak
21 should pass more information along because they closed our
22 fishing in 1999 because the Nome escapement or little fish
23 returns in Nome area rivers -- and they didn't close our
24 fishing last summer but we had -- the last two years was
25 very poor fishing. But I thought that they shouldn't have
26 left Wales out of the fisheries disaster assistance because
27 they had actually closed our fishing due to poor fish
28 returns. And that they have very low salmon catch or fish
29 catch last summer and that's -- a lot of the families, they
30 stored a bunch of fish and this winter they had to buy more
31 food than they usually did because almost nobody had salmon
32 in their freezers.

33
34 I guess just a comment that I wanted to
35 point out.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: I went to the Fish and
38 Game meeting last fall and the reason why it wasn't
39 addressed for that fish disaster study, and that money that
40 other people were worried about, it was never on the
41 agenda. Nobody put it on the agenda. It could have been
42 put on the agenda if your representative on that Fish and
43 Game would have been there to put it on. And some people
44 were not able to make the meeting but he -- Brevig did.

45
46 MR. SEETOT: I wasn't able to because of
47 other commitments.

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, but the fact is that
50 that wasn't addressed and it should have been on it. And I

00066

1 think it should be an open agenda item for the fish --
2 Alaska Advisory -- I mean Northern Norton Sound Advisory
3 Committee should have that on the agenda at every meeting
4 until we're out of disaster relief issues. And I think
5 you're right, it needs to be addressed and I think you need
6 to write to the State Fish and Game, Northern Norton Sound,
7 that it be on the agenda.

8
9 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Charlie, I have a question
12 for you. In the Feds that Wales is considered to be in
13 Chukchi region, was it in the State, too?

14
15 MR. LEAN: As far as fisheries go, both are
16 the same. The boundary runs right through town, so south
17 of Wales is Norton Sound, north of Wales is Kotzebue
18 district.

19
20 (Laughter)

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I guess I shouldn't
23 laugh about it but how did that happen?

24
25 MR. LEAN: Originally those districts were
26 established on trying to focus fishing on local stocks.
27 And the fish that pass Cape Prince of Wales, 99 percent are
28 bound north and probably 95 percent of those are bound for
29 the major rivers of Kotzebue Sound, so those fish running
30 along the coast there, Shishmaref coast, if you will, are
31 generally bound for the inner Kotzebue Sound streams and,
32 therefore would be managed as those fish stocks perform.
33 And Kotzebue runs have declined somewhat, but not as much
34 as a comparison to the north coast of Norton Sound.

35
36 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anyone else have anything
37 to say, if not let's break for lunch.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: I move for lunch.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Let's shoot for 1:30 and
42 if we're a little bit late, fine, but let's shoot for 1:30.

43
44 (Off record)

45
46 (On record)

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We're ready to start
49 again. It is now 1:45 p.m. We're down to Council reports.
50 Village concerns from all members, and we'll start with

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1 Toby over there and see if he has any issues.

2

3 MR. ANUNGAZUK: I think that we brought up
4 everything from Wales.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Isaac.

7

8 MR. OKLEASIK: We got no report right now,
9 not right now anyway.

10

11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, Elmer. Elmer has a
12 report to hand out.

13

14 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Madame Chair. It
15 pretty much explains the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
16 Working Group planning committee. And pretty much the
17 first page, I received a telephone call from Mr. Roy
18 Ashenfelter, Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
19 Chairman about a representative position being open on the
20 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. He said that in
21 December that Mr. Richard Kuzuguk of Shishmaref did
22 indicate an interest in the working group. I told him to
23 call the traditional councils of Brevig Mission, Teller,
24 Wales and Shishmaref about that position opening and he
25 said that he did.

26

27 And in January I received a call from Mr.
28 John Trent of ADF&G in Anchorage stating to see if I would
29 be interested in being a member of the working group,
30 voting chair. At that time Richard Kuzuguk was involved in
31 a search and rescue effort in Golovin and Mr. Trent told me
32 that he did not make it to Kotzebue therefore I was -- I
33 told him that I would be a representative for the northern
34 Seward Peninsula communities and that the meeting would be
35 in February. Alaska Airlines had a mechanical problem
36 February 26th, the day that we were supposed to have gone
37 to Anchorage for the meeting, delayed February 27th. Not
38 too many personnel were there so Mr. Trent did say that the
39 meeting was cancelled for today.

40

41 These are just pretty much unofficial
42 minutes of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group.
43 It's pretty much my observations during that meeting.
44 There were more people involved than the ones that I stated
45 on the second page. I think the draft mission of the
46 working group, planning committee was to the long-term
47 conservation of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the
48 ecosystem on which it depends for the benefit of the people
49 now and in the future.

50

00068

1 I would have to get contacts, addresses for
2 the communities of Brevig Mission, Teller, Wales and
3 Shishmaref and he also told me that I should request from
4 this Regional Advisory Commission to be a liaison for the
5 RAC on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
6 Planning Committee. Since I told him I was on the RAC, he
7 said that I need to request from the body, you know, to be
8 a liaison for at least the Seward Peninsula Regional
9 Advisory Committee.

10
11 With this report, what I would like to do
12 is start communicating with the communities, issues and
13 concerns about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
14 Group and this is just my personal observations of the
15 meeting that I went to at that time. The working group
16 minutes are still in draft stage so the minutes have not
17 been sent to the organizations or to the communities
18 concerning that last working group meeting.

19
20 But with this, I would like to request from
21 the Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council, you know,
22 to be a liaison for.....

23
24 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that a motion?

25
26 MR. SEETOT: I would think so.

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, is it a motion?

29
30 MR. SEETOT: I move from the Seward
31 Peninsula Regional Advisory Committee that I request to be
32 a liaison for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
33 Planning Committee or something to that effect.

34
35 MS. DEGNAN: Second.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: I'll second the motion.
38 Under discussion, I don't think there's any conflict for
39 him to do that, is there, to the management staff?

40
41 MS. WILKINSON: No.

42
43 MR. SEETOT: ADF&G said that that would be
44 the right approach instead of saying that just because I
45 was on the working group that I should be a liaison, but
46 that I request it from this body to be a liaison. And with
47 this report, I did send them to the communities -- to the
48 six mayors and also to the traditional councils of those
49 four communities, and this way just to start the
50 communication lines open -- you know, to try to get issues

00069

1 and concerns about the caribou herd.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Call for the question on
4 the motion.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion on the
7 floor to -- I guess okay, Elmer Seetot to be a liaison
8 person for the RAC for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

9

10 MR. BUCK: Second.

11

12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's already a motion.
13 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed, same
18 sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, you are now our
27 liaison person.

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Thank you. And that's all I
30 had to report.

31

32 MR. MENDENHALL: We expect some dry caribou
33 next time.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: For your information,
38 Elmer is also on the game protocol committee with our RAC
39 with the US Fish and Wildlife. That's the committee that
40 will be looking at the game regulations. In our last
41 meeting that I went to I got him on that committee. So it
42 sounds like an appropriate place for him to be with the
43 Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

44

45 Fran.

46

47 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you, Madame Chair. The
48 concerns from Unalakleet in relation to subsistence would
49 be basically in the fishing arena. We have three different
50 user groups utilizing the Unalakleet River and the Norton

00070

1 Sound area. We have commercial, we have sports fishing,
2 guiding and then we have the subsistence users. And as far
3 as this Council is concerned, the residents are basically
4 subsistence users, although they may hold permits for
5 commercial fishing interests. But the bottom line is they
6 want to make sure that subsistence is always the highest
7 priority use of resources and to have the management and
8 decision level be brought down to the local level in terms
9 of harvest and means of harvest and to take into
10 consideration the lifestyle of the local community rather
11 than to have regulations that are based on other regions,
12 to bring it down as close as you can to the resource
13 because as we go through the cycle of life, there are low
14 times and then there are abundant times and so your local
15 observers are generally the users who are the ones that go
16 after the resource.

17
18 Bottom line request is that subsistence
19 remain a high priority for use of the natural resources
20 when it comes down to what's available, and that if there
21 is going to be any movement away from subsistence, that the
22 people need to have an economy where in every household is
23 gainfully employed. But as long as you have that situation
24 where there is very little work available, even if we --
25 most of the jobs are funded by the State and Federal
26 agencies, that those aren't eternal and that if you're
27 going to maintain a healthy region where people and animals
28 continue to live like they have since the time of our
29 ancestors, subsistence remains a very personnel and
30 critical issues to each of the residents here in this
31 region.

32
33 And that's basically what my constituents
34 at home keep saying to me, that we don't understand the
35 rules and regulations that come out for subsistence because
36 from our way of looking at it, regulations just generally
37 go to the sportsmen. And people who are going out there
38 for recreation and personal use, and so it's really hard to
39 look in terms of subsistence being regulated. Because we
40 have been trained to take resource as you need them when
41 they're available and mother nature is the one who
42 determines how much you're going to take. And then the
43 dependence of the community on you, as a good provider,
44 doesn't go just to your family, it goes to your extended
45 family and to those who cannot -- who aren't successful in
46 their harvest. So the bottom line is that their
47 subsistence is very important.

48
49 Thank you.

50

00071

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Fran. Perry.

2

3 MR. MENDENHALL: Yes, we had a research
4 initiative meeting here in Nome under disaster relief
5 program for rivers that have crashed and there's been some
6 request for dollars from that, five million dollar limit
7 only over the next five years, one of the request was for
8 Unalakleet Rivers and Koyuk River, and they kind of -- I
9 didn't point it out at that time during the meeting but
10 only -- except that Charlie Lean here -- that perhaps some
11 of those needs for research needs to come from the Federal
12 levels.

13

14 So like they wanted a biologist for the
15 Unalakleet River, and out of that disaster relief funds and
16 I feel that there is some Federal monies for that river for
17 using that there also -- for that river. And then there's
18 the Koyuk River that has chums, and I don't think they have
19 very much of a chum crash there or those others, like Nome
20 has. And I just want to point it out maybe to management
21 that some fishery research dollars should go to those two
22 rivers in that area. And I don't know if it goes along
23 with the Yukon, either, with them Stebbins and St. Mike
24 rivers, I don't know what part that would be. I don't see
25 any further down there, Yukon Delta type. So I am just
26 pointing that out, because I think we have very slim
27 dollars for the Nome areas that are non-Federal, you know,
28 that five million dollars for non-Federal land and rivers.

29

30 I would encourage maybe our group to point
31 out that we do need some research rivers for those Federal
32 rivers [sic]. If that's agreeable to Fran -- and who's
33 from Koyuk, I think there was somebody from Koyuk here
34 once? Maybe Charlie Lean could point that out, too,
35 because he's been at these research initiative meetings as
36 well. Because I don't think that five million dollars over
37 the next five years will cover all the issues or plans that
38 they want to have. I think it needs to be opened more to
39 that because eventually the domino effect has gone from the
40 Nome to the Yukon on chum crashes. And it's probably
41 bigger than our creeks, it's probably on the high seas, we
42 don't know. I mean there needs to be some work in that
43 area and request for that. I noticed that there was some
44 proposals at our February meeting in Anchorage for such
45 proposals to be done, that it be carried out, for high sea
46 research Area M and intercept fisheries and.....

47

48 MS. HILDEBRAND: They were rejected.

49

50 MR. MENDENHALL: What?

00072

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: They were rejected. Well,
2 so much for high hopes, I guess. Because a lot of those
3 fish of the high seas does affect Federal waters, rivers
4 and creeks and I'm kind of sad to hear that they've been
5 rejected.

6
7 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madame Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ida.

10
11 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Madame Chair.
12 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. For your
13 information in regards to Perry's statement. They were
14 rejected because they were beyond the Federal jurisdiction
15 of the fisheries subsistence program, although they are
16 Federal waters or high seas water and ANILCA applies to
17 Alaska or to the lands and waters immediately in and
18 surrounding Alaska. And as for the disaster relief funds,
19 whatever the people of this region decide or choose to vote
20 on is their decision but as you express concern that you
21 only have five million dollars for this area, when we get
22 into the Federal program, FIS project discussion you have
23 far less than that for Federal fisheries projects, so
24 everybody has a crunch. and if you can find projects that
25 help support each other, either doing Phase I under one set
26 of funding or Phase II or other sources of funding, I would
27 suggest that this Council and all Councils seek other
28 fundings and not just seek all the fisheries projects
29 through the Fisheries Information Service Program which has
30 a very limited budget and even more limited when you're
31 looking at 2002.

32
33 Thank you, Madame Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay, that's part of my
38 report. But anyway, it's a concern, I think, in the region
39 that we need to look at the domino effect of our rivers and
40 creeks and how we could coordinate together to make the
41 dollars go further for our needs in the region, especially
42 where there's Federal waters, creeks and rivers that are
43 being in question, like Unalakleet.

44
45 Yeah, that's my basic concern, I think from
46 the Nome area. We're trying to do diligence with our
47 research initiative on our seven rivers.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Perry.
50 Preston.

00073

1 MR. ROOKOK: Madame Chair, I don't have any
2 report now.

3
4 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thanks. Johnson.

5
6 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think for Shishmaref,
7 we'd like to thank Kate Persons and her staff for opening
8 up our caribou and hope she will open it up when our
9 caribou come back this spring because we know for sure that
10 they'll come back. It's good for people to have some meat
11 that's close to home instead of having to go to Unit 23 to
12 hunt caribou.

13
14 And we're also kind of happy for some of
15 those people that took some of those brown bear from our
16 area during the summer. I know some of those people at
17 home would like to invite them back and go hunt some more
18 bear.

19
20 The muskox is always on our mind. I'd like
21 to thank the Cooperator's for at least putting a cow season
22 to the hunt and I think even though they have a cow season
23 we still believe that the muskox herd will still be healthy
24 and they'll still grow. Because they really don't have any
25 predators and when you get close to them they just kind of
26 protect themselves and the big bulls will take care of the
27 young ones pretty much, so we know they're going to be
28 healthy.

29
30 So we hope that our spring hunt will be
31 better, last year wasn't too good. And I think that there
32 was a lot of families this winter that didn't have their
33 seal oil, but I think through sharing with each family and
34 family members, that we survived through the winter with
35 the little bit of seal oil that we had and whatever few
36 walrus that the village got. In fact, I think there were a
37 few families that salvaged washed up walrus and saved some
38 of that. So again, even though we don't hunt walrus, we
39 always welcome one to wash ashore.

40
41 Many years ago we used to comb the beach
42 for bowhead whales. I think the bowhead hunters are doing
43 a lot better job in getting their catch because they don't
44 wash ashore anymore. But that was the first kind of whale
45 muk-tuk that we got used to. But bowhead today was -- it
46 was a little bit too fresh and we like that little aged
47 whale that we used to find on the beach.

48
49 Hopefully our fishing will be better this
50 summer and you know, you always have to look at each year,

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1 each season if it's going to be good to you or not. One of
2 our big problems and I think the village has been going
3 through and kind of leaving everything aside is that our
4 little village is eroding and I think the village is
5 concentrating a lot of their time in trying to plan ahead
6 and see if we should try to continue to save the island or
7 in the future, somehow find a way to relocate.

8
9 Other than that, I think that we're still a
10 subsistence village. The village, you know, needs -- the
11 subsistence needs of the village, is always addressed in
12 the village and it should be recognized by the outsiders
13 that we're still a subsistence way of life people. I think
14 because there's no real work in the village we still do a
15 lot of cultural stenciling and cultural carving and that's
16 what keeps our -- and this all comes from doing subsistence
17 -- living a subsistence lifestyle.

18
19 Other than that, we're doing okay. Thank
20 you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Johnson.
23 Peter.

24
25 MR. BUCK: I think that we're going to have
26 to readdress our -- redefine the extraterritorial
27 jurisdiction that we have been talking about for so long.
28 Like Ida said, we were rejected for the out at sea
29 research, but I think that that jurisdiction should be
30 looked at again. and as for the RAC committee, this
31 committee is -- we get our policies from the villages,
32 there should be a user policy committee and if this RAC
33 committee makes proposals, makes recommendations and then
34 they -- the last -- and those proposals are rejected, we
35 should have some reason -- they should give us reasons why
36 they're making policies away from the user policy people --
37 from the villages.

38
39 I think that we've got a caribou in White
40 Mountain now, so they're doing a lot of subsistence with
41 the caribou. We have disaster relief monies for the
42 village.

43
44 One of the problems that we're having in
45 White Mountain is the bears. They shot three bears last
46 summer right in the village. And they're getting to be a
47 nuisance. Another comment, I get a lot of complaints about
48 beaver damming up all our creeks and stopping the salmon
49 from going further.

50

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1 And we're getting our muskox again, which
2 is good. We've been getting the past couple of weeks. And
3 other than that, season -- our spring season subsistence is
4 starting. So I'm looking forward to that. That's all I
5 have.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Peter.
8 Leonard.

9
10 MR. KOBUK: The village of St. Michael and
11 Stebbins have concerns, first of all, caribou. Just
12 recently at least 20 caribou were killed from hunters from
13 down in the Yukon region from Emmonak. They had caught
14 some caribou for themselves but they also wasted 20
15 caribou, all they did was take the tongues, but I guess
16 that there is being taken care of by the State now. It
17 happened in Dulsovia area.

18
19 Any other concerns both villages have,
20 because we're located on the same island, is they want a
21 study done on Pitmiktalik River, Nunakogak and those other
22 rivers. And just like he said, the beavers are starting to
23 be a concern because hardly anybody anymore does anymore
24 beaver hunting, just a few of them for their own personal
25 to make hats and sell hats. But the beavers are starting
26 to dam up those rivers and I think something needs to be
27 done about the beavers. Because I know, I travel every
28 summer by boat to where my wife's from, the south mouth of
29 the Yukon River, and that takes about eight hours or more,
30 depending on the weather, if the Bering Sea is rough then
31 it takes a little longer. But I noticed down in the
32 Sullivan's Point, which they renamed (In Native), that's
33 where my wife's from and I lived there for awhile, and my
34 dad became a storekeeper, I noticed that beaver started off
35 in the small rivers and now they're moving into the big
36 rivers. And when we go berry picking, we have to break the
37 dam to go to where we usually berry pick and every time we
38 break the dam open, fish would come out of the streams.
39 And that's -- the beavers, I guess are what's hurting most
40 of the fish from going to the place where they usually
41 spawn or feed. When the beavers dam up them rivers, they
42 get trapped in there and there's no way for them to get
43 out.

44
45 And also we're still having problems with
46 our reindeer being killed. This winter we were -- the
47 reindeer herders were lucky to catch a couple of guys from
48 the Yukon that killed the reindeer just only four miles out
49 of the village on St. Michael island. That's a little ways
50 from our airport, our airport's about four miles from the

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1 village, the new one, so that's being taken care of by
2 tribal courts. We're looking into getting into tribal
3 courts so we can handle stuff that's happening. Because,
4 you know, every year I keep bringing up the caribou problem
5 of wanton waste and it seems like it's only done --
6 something is only done when it is in State lands, but when
7 it's in corporation lands or the IRA lands, nothing seems
8 to be done even though it's always being brought up.

9
10 And that's the concerns of the villages, to
11 protect what little rivers we have. Because we're the only
12 village on the Norton Sound that's south that does
13 subsistence fishing. We try to open up pink season but the
14 Yukon people and the Kuskokwim River people were against
15 it. So we've just decided that hopefully the fish start to
16 go up that we'll be able to do some commercial fishing in
17 the near future, but we're not really pursuing that because
18 we'd rather keep what fish we have and make them grow.

19
20 That's all I have.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard. Okay.
23 I'll just go into the Chair's report. Does anyone else
24 have anything further before I go into the Chair's report?
25 No, okay. I'm going to combine all three of them together
26 and my report is going to be short.

27
28 I think the most important part that
29 happened during the Regional Council Chairs meeting and
30 with the Federal Subsistence Board is that the message that
31 the Chairs were trying to present to the Federal
32 Subsistence Board is that the RACs, the representation of
33 the RACs need to be part of the decision-making process
34 whenever something is going through the Federal program.
35 We wanted to make sure that whatever changes are going to
36 be done, that there be at least a representative from the
37 RAC, some portion of it, so that no decisions are made
38 without any input from the RACs. And that was one of the
39 messages that we wanted to push across very strongly, and I
40 believe we did. Because we ended up with representatives,
41 like the protocols, the representatives -- there was five
42 of them, they were all in relationship to fisheries and
43 game management, like I said, Elmer ended up with the game
44 regulation protocol. And I'm not sure when they're going
45 to be meeting, but eventually they'll contact him. I had
46 called each and every one of you and asked you if I could
47 be on the C&T committee, I am on the C&T committee. I had
48 planned on submitting a report on what went on in the
49 meetings, but no meeting has happened yet. The meeting
50 that was supposed to have happened before this RAC meeting

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1 was cancelled. So the first meeting that I'm going to be
2 attending is after this RAC meeting, but I'll some how or
3 another, I'll convey to you all, probably in letter form,
4 as to what went on. It's kind of an earlier meeting where
5 I don't think nothing much is going to come up except
6 probably more planning as to what is going to happen next
7 and the gathering of ideas.

8
9 Another issue that keeps coming up is I
10 don't think that we're going to drop for a long time, is
11 compensation for Regional Advisory Committee members.
12 We've always had concern about that. We feel that one of
13 the reasons why we lose RAC members is because they're not
14 adequately compensated, meaning in terms that when we go to
15 RAC meetings and/or other meetings elsewhere that's related
16 to our function as a committee, many of us end up losing
17 money from our jobs or we lose a good hunting season. So
18 it's kind of like a dedication up and beyond, I think, that
19 other similar committees that we have -- like us, not in
20 Alaska, we're kind of a unique situation here because most
21 of us -- a majority of us are subsistence hunters and we
22 rely upon subsistence to maintain our livelihood. It's not
23 that all of us have steady jobs and the money keeps coming,
24 you know, we have steady payroll. Our lives are kind of
25 dictated by what's happening out in the country. If it's a
26 good fishing season and if there's a meeting you need to go
27 to you end up missing it. You have to make a choice, I
28 either stay home or do I go to the meeting? A lot of
29 times, we're dedicated and we end up having to lose a
30 subsistence because we're dedicated enough to go. But I
31 think it discourages a lot of people and that's why a lot
32 of people don't reapply for this position. And that's the
33 message we're trying to get through but it doesn't seem to
34 be going anywhere. But the Chairs are committed to
35 continue to pursue that.

36
37 And I guess there wasn't much beyond that.
38 We didn't have any proposals to present from here so
39 basically what I did is I sat in and listened to proposals
40 that were coming from other parts of the state and believe
41 me, there was plenty. Once again, it was very informative,
42 educational, and I found each of our regions are so vastly
43 different that a lot of proposals wouldn't have applied to
44 us or a lot of issues that they had didn't apply to us. So
45 it really enforces the idea that the Chairs have is that
46 each of us have to be handled region by region instead of
47 collectively as one big group because we are so different
48 from one another in terms of where we are demographically
49 and where we are -- what animals are around us and seasons.
50 So that was one of the things that we were trying to have

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1 heard.

2

3 That's all I have unless somebody has
4 questions.

5

6 MR. KOBUK: Recently when we went to our
7 meeting in Anchorage, one of the concerns, I've been kind
8 of thinking of whether I want to continue to be on the
9 Board because when we had to leave Anchorage we had to
10 return back to Anchorage, and I guess I was the only one
11 that didn't really have a job at the time and when I come
12 to these meetings, I don't come with very much of my own
13 money, and it was really a bummer that when we went back to
14 Anchorage, when we needed money to buy food or to eat, they
15 weren't giving it to us and we're just lucky that we have
16 someone that's in the Federal government who was kind
17 enough to give us some money to help us through that time
18 we were there.

19

20 Something needs to be done, just like Grace
21 says, if it comes down to it, if I do get a better paying
22 job, I don't know if I would want to sacrifice that because
23 my wife's the only one that has a job and our bills are
24 getting higher and it's really -- I feel bad about it, but
25 I think something needs to be done about the way that we
26 are being paid. They say we're volunteers and yet we do
27 most of the work for the Federal government because they
28 get -- they practically get their ideas from us for
29 practically free.

30

31 So that's all I have to say.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Leonard.
34 Perry, did you have something to say?

35

36 MR. MENDENHALL: I somewhat feel for those
37 that are in that need of compensation for attending
38 meetings. And it's good for us that we do have some money
39 saved up versus some that don't. I think that it shows the
40 need of what can be done and should be done and I think it
41 should be on the conscious of the government to look at
42 certain situations like this. And then when you folks do
43 go home and leave us alone in Anchorage, we don't know who
44 in the world to get ahold of at times. The hotel almost
45 never accepted us back when we came back on that flight.
46 So I mean it was an argument of who looked more
47 authoritative, the clerk or us. So it's -- we almost had to
48 spend out time on the Fourth Avenue with the other guys
49 with our hands out. We would have been paintballed, too,
50 at that time. That was the time when they were

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1 paintballing people in Anchorage. So that's something that
2 needs to be looked at, and I'm from Nome. So that's a big
3 thing for an economic depressed area such as Seward
4 Peninsula, and I would like the government to recognize a
5 contingency fund in case it's needed during such meetings
6 away from their home village or Anchorage. That there be
7 something there without having to have to go through any
8 hardship. And you know we're not going anywhere, we're
9 coming back. We're not going to go to Russia or some far
10 away trip, and we do make you look good, as a Council.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ann, do you want to say
13 something?

14
15 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
16 wanted to make one comment. We won't be using that hotel
17 anymore. There were several problems similar to the one
18 you faced. The Coordinators talked to the people -- and we
19 won't be using them again.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I don't think it's
22 the hotel's fault, you know, as much.....

23
24 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah, it was.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ida.

27
28 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Madame
29 Chairman. Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. I
30 would hope that there would be a number given to you from
31 OSM of someone to contact after hours if you're having
32 these kinds of problems and they are serious. But for your
33 information, Madame Chairman, the North Slope Council
34 passed a resolution and wrote the letter to Chairman Bill
35 Thomas to, again, resurface the request for compensation
36 and requested that Bill Thomas contact all other Chairs of
37 the Councils in support of bringing this issue to the new
38 Secretary of the Interior and to, again, request
39 compensation for all Council members.

40
41 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Any other
42 comments or concerns? Well, I'm we're not going to use
43 that hotel again. I hope you can get us one with a
44 shuttle.

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Could you prepare a
47 written report next time, Madame Chair, like a Chair
48 report, just brief, it doesn't have to be extensive?

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sure.

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay. Before the meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sure. Okay, it looks like
4 now we're in D, open floor for proposals to change Federal
5 subsistence regulations for fisheries which is in Tab D.
6 Is that just for information or are you calling for
7 proposals? Ann.

8

9 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chairman, this is
10 calling for fisheries proposals. So the tab only has the
11 form for people to use.

12

13 MS. DEGNAN: Madame Chairman. Now, on the
14 information in the tab, is that sent to each community in
15 our region? The call for, because if it's a call to change
16 regulations it would seem appropriate that every inhabited
17 community within the state of Alaska that falls within the
18 jurisdiction of the regulations would get a copy and know
19 that they have access to change regulations through this
20 process.

21

22 MR. MENDENHALL: I noticed that I received
23 it in the mail box and I think I saw a few of them in the
24 Nome mail boxes, you know, in the region. I don't know if
25 Unalakleet gets the same notice but Nome area, we have it
26 posted downtown and about and mailed to mail box holders.

27

28 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Madame Chairman.
29 Frances, I'm not sure exactly how widely disbursed it is
30 but I do know that we have a media person in our office who
31 makes sure that these things are put in the newspapers and
32 on the radio and she does send a lot of things to post
33 offices and I would expect that this is one of those things
34 but I can check and make sure just exactly what the
35 procedure is for these.

36

37 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you. I think the
38 Council members need to know how the public and our
39 affected constituency gets notice, other than just is it up
40 to us to let our constituents know of this process. And
41 that's all I wanted, is just how the system works.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And, Ann, we have not
44 received any proposals, right?

45

46 MS. WILKINSON: Not that I'm aware of.
47 Those go to Bill Knauer in our office, the regulations
48 person and then he has a process whereby he logs them in
49 and then gives them to the team members and I would be one
50 of those and he hasn't given me any yet so I'm assuming we

00081

1 don't have any yet.

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ann.

4
5 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chairman, the
6 deadline is tomorrow.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yeah, the deadline is
9 tomorrow, so I know nobody has expressed anything to me.
10 Has anybody expressed anything to any of the Council
11 members? Okay, so I guess we don't have any proposals
12 before this committee.

13
14 MR. KOBUK: I have one.

15
16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Leonard.

17
18 MR. KOBUK: I think I brought it up
19 earlier. Like before I came, I called up Stebbins and
20 talked with the IRA president there. I asked him since --
21 like I said, they're lumped with the Yukon C&T, I asked
22 them if they would like to just stay with that or if they
23 would prefer to go to the C&T that St. Michael had
24 submitted and they strongly said that they would like to
25 stay with St. Michael since we hunt and fish in the same
26 areas.

27
28 And would they have to submit a proposal to
29 change their original proposal or how would that be?

30
31 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chairman, Leonard.
32 I believe that since the boundary was changed, they now C&T
33 for all of Norton Sound just like St. Michael does -- St.
34 Michael village has. So they have the same C&T finding.

35
36 MR. KOBUK: Okay, thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And there was another
39 issue that was brought up that Ann and I and Toby were
40 discussing earlier, is to change the boundary but he wasn't
41 sure which boundary, they wanted to change their fishing
42 boundary so all of the village moves over to Norton Sound,
43 but we weren't sure where the boundary was going to be,
44 right?

45
46 MR. ANUNGAZUK: Yeah.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And I guess if we don't
49 propose that this year, presented in the next year or the
50 following year or is there another way to handle it?

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1 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, Charlie Lean with
2 the Park Service. The best representation I can give you
3 is the map that's in the fisheries reg book that's on Page
4 16 or 17, depending on how you might look at that. And
5 this basically shows that the boundary between Kotzebue and
6 Norton Sound, Port Clarence district is based on drainage
7 lines and they align perpendicular to the western most
8 point at Cape Prince of Wales, which actually I'm thinking
9 about -- that's ever so slightly north of the community of
10 Wales, but within eyesight of it. And so if this -- this
11 also happens to be the State boundaries, whether or not
12 that figures in your thought pattern, doesn't really
13 matter, but the wildlife boundary unit, Unit 23, 22 line is
14 roughly -- it's on this -- it's on this map and you can see
15 that that goes right through Goodhope Bay, so there's --
16 that might be another option you'd want to consider if
17 you'd propose the regulation change. I don't know what
18 Shishmaref's wishes would be regarding the Kotzebue Norton
19 Sound Port Clarence thing, rather they'd be in the Kotzebue
20 district or the Norton Sound Port Clarence district.

21
22 MS. DEGNAN: I would prefer to have those
23 communities be consulted in terms of where the boundaries
24 should be. Because at the request of St. Michael and
25 Stebbins, that boundary movement was initiated. So I think
26 the same thing would be appropriate for the northern
27 section of the region, too. I would hate to -- because
28 people don't like changes unless they initiate them, you
29 know, liked forced on them even if it's from the region
30 itself.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I wanted to bring this
33 issue up, not to make any decisions now, but to find out
34 what procedure do we need to go through in order to address
35 the concerns that Wales is having. And I'm not sure what
36 Shishmaref's position is because I wasn't really thinking
37 that far. So in order for Toby and the community of Wales
38 to ask for a change of boundary, what procedures do they
39 need to go through, who do they contact and does it need to
40 come as a form of a proposal or can it just be done in some
41 form or another?

42
43 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean with the Park
44 Service. Madame Chair, this boundary would have to go in
45 the form of a proposal.

46
47 (Pause)

48
49 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, Charlie Lean
50 again. Yes, it would require an amendment both to the

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1 State and Federal regulations, I would think, just as a
2 matter of consistency. The State cycle is not every year
3 as is the Federal Subsistence Board, but every third year
4 and so it would be two years away before the State would
5 take this up on their normal cycle. So we would miss the
6 window in a sense as far as the State's concern for the
7 past cycle that occurred last winter -- or just a few
8 months ago. But you know, it's never too soon to start
9 working on something if you believe its' the right thing to
10 do.

11
12 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Elmer.

13
14 MR. SEETOT: I notice on the fisheries
15 management areas that's there a boundary between -- or a
16 split right at the Cape, yet, in game management, you know,
17 that -- they're divided into subunits, why is there a
18 difference in the management areas, the line dividing the
19 areas are not similar to the ones, you know, like for game
20 management? You know, like the subunits? It shows
21 subunits on the Region 7 map, yet on the fisheries
22 regulations it shows a line, even though Wales and
23 Shishmaref are on the Seward Peninsula, they're considered
24 part of the Kotzebue region.

25
26 Why two different division lines, one being
27 subunit, the other is a whole area that kinds of divides
28 Wales, north and south?

29
30 MR. LEAN: Madame Chair, Charlie Lean with
31 the Park Service again. The history of the two boundaries
32 are a little bit different. The wildlife units are based,
33 to some extent on drainages, but they're also based on
34 political boundaries that the judicial districts of Alaska,
35 circa 1960. And the fisheries units were also drawn about
36 that same time but they were drawn more strictly on
37 drainages and with very little consideration to the
38 political boundaries. So in the case of the Kotzebue Port
39 Clarence boundary, the line is -- the lines are different.
40 And it's certainly a matter of opinion which one's the
41 better of the two. I think I tried to explain earlier that
42 the thought pattern that occurred back then that fish
43 moving along the northwestern coast of the Seward Peninsula
44 where salmon were bound for the Kotzebue streams and
45 therefore in the view of the manager then, that it made
46 sense to make that part of Kotzebue. And you know, things
47 may have changed and certainly everyone here has a valid
48 opinion about how things should be, too.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Charlie.

00084

1 Johnson.

2

3 MR. ENINGOWUK: I think Shishmaref has
4 toyed with the issue of which side we want to be. However,
5 in the past, you know, we've tried to put together some
6 kind of a study to see if we could have our own fisheries,
7 if they were commercial fishing, but we were confronted by,
8 I guess, Kotzebue, that if we did start a commercial
9 fisheries in Shishmaref, we would be intercepting Kotzebue
10 bound fish. So we got shut down in that. I guess if we
11 get away from and change the boundary then we wouldn't be
12 intercepting those fish anymore, uh?

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. ENINGOWUK: They're all bound for
17 Shishmaref up Bering Straits.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. ENINGOWUK: So maybe if -- I'll go back
22 to Shishmaref and, you know, it's the people's decision, I
23 guess, are they -- you know, they're not very comfortable
24 with being in the Bering Strait village and not getting the
25 same kind of treatment as the other villages there, like in
26 the Bering Seas fisheries and the Bering Straits villages
27 and we're -- you know, I think it's all political, too,
28 because whenever the State changes something like a voting
29 district, we also again end up in Kotzebue so there's -- I
30 think it has to be Shishmaref's decision on which side of
31 the sea we should be on.

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, we kind of got what,
34 a year to three years, anyway? Charlie.

35

36 MR. LEAN: Charlie Lean again. Certainly
37 this is a place that no one seems to know where to draw the
38 line and the National Marine Fisheries Service has a
39 different line from all of this, so it runs just north of
40 Shishmaref to the west over to the Chukchi Peninsula. You
41 know, in theory this is the strait -- the Bering Strait is
42 the dividing line between the Pacific and Arctic oceans.
43 And there's a great deal of debate about exactly whether
44 you would come off Cape Prince of Wales or off the opposite
45 point on the Russian side or would it be a nice even number
46 like 60 degrees north of -- all of those have been used as
47 boundaries between the Pacific and the Arctic Ocean.
48 There's very little consistency. And I guess it makes the
49 best sense for those people that live there to make that
50 decision where the boundary should be.

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1 MS. DEGNAN: I agree with Charlie on that.

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I just wanted to
4 bring this up so I believe then in the future we're going
5 to be hearing from one or both of the villages. Thank you,
6 Charlie for your help.

7

8 Okay, Ann, do you want to take on E, topics
9 and issues for year 2000 annual report?

10

11 MS. WILKINSON: Yes. Thank you, Madame
12 Chair. If the Council wishes to have an annual report for
13 the year 2000, then I would need you to tell me now what it
14 is you would like to have included in that report and then
15 I will write up a draft of what I know from what you said,
16 send it out to the Council members for them to make edits
17 and comments and then I'll make a final draft and send that
18 out for your approval. But I do need to know now what you
19 want to do, and if so, what comments you want made.

20

21 MS. DEGNAN: I would recommend that the
22 Council comments, the reports from this meeting be a part
23 of that and the ones that didn't give a comment, that you
24 check with them and find out what their issues are from
25 their particular section that they're representing.
26 Because I think that those are issues that are current and
27 valid.

28

29 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

32

33 MR. MENDENHALL: I would recommend to
34 attach the minutes. I think it shows quite clearly what
35 action has been taken in the year 2000, to the -- the
36 minutes as an addendum. Or highlight a lot of the action
37 that has been taken by the Council for the annual report.
38 That'd be actual actions done and completed and passed.

39

40 MS. DEGNAN: Uh-huh.

41

42 MS. WILKINSON: That would be the minutes
43 from this meeting, the fall meeting and the spring meeting?

44

45 MR. MENDENHALL: Yes.

46

47 MS. WILKINSON: Well, no, it wouldn't be
48 from this meeting, it would be from the year 2000, so it
49 would be from the fall and -- in terms of -- okay.

50

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1 MR. MENDENHALL: I don't think it would be
2 very hard to glean from the minutes the action taken during
3 2000, because we've already approved the minutes for 2000
4 already.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I would recommend, because
7 the minutes are so long that we take out the important ones
8 and put them in as a report because, you know, the Federal
9 Subsistence Board is pretty busy, and to read through our
10 minutes would be kind of cumbersome.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: It would cover muskox,
13 fisheries, caribou and beaver, I mean those kind of things
14 highlighted, concerns as well.

15
16 MS. DEGNAN: And bears.

17
18 MR. MENDENHALL: And that would be how I
19 would look at it, to highlight, but you know to add the
20 minutes as an addendum.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: So what you'll do is
23 summarize what you feel were important things that we've
24 talked about from the minutes and write a letter pertaining
25 to those and.....

26
27 MS. DEGNAN: Issues that were raised at
28 this meeting.

29
30 MR. MENDENHALL: And then use the minutes
31 as back up.

32
33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'm not sure if we need
34 any back up to that.

35
36 MS. WILKINSON: No.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Because it's really going
39 to -- we're asking a lot when we're asking for minutes to
40 be sent because they're very long when Ann could summarize
41 the things that are important. She'll send a draft of the
42 letter to all of us and then we can either add on to it or
43 we can put in our additions to it. I don't think we need
44 any back up to what we have in our letter because.....

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, I think it's just
47 appropriate because I don't think -- the agencies would
48 have to look at it and then see, of course, Ida may prove
49 us wrong.

50

00087

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Ida.

2

3 MS. HILDEBRAND: Madame Chairman, I agree
4 with your discussion that you don't have to attach the
5 minutes. The minutes are for the benefit of your
6 coordinator as she's preparing the summary of those minutes
7 in your letter to state these are the issues that come to
8 the surface to be considered for your annual report. I'd
9 also suggest that the discussion from this meeting,
10 especially the concerns I think Johnson or Preston raised
11 that we should look again to extraterritorial jurisdiction
12 if the people of this region recommended studies and --
13 excuse me, Peter made that recommendation. Requested
14 studies for intercept -- high sea interception and they
15 were rejected that they want a written statement as to what
16 grounds they were rejected upon, and that the Board should
17 look more seriously at the recommendations of this Council
18 regarding those projects.

19

20 Also your concerns for compensation could
21 be added to your annual report.

22

23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ida.

24

25 MR. MENDENHALL: I recommend that Ida write
26 the report.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN CROSS: When you got time.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anything further in the
35 annual report? Ann will send us copies of the draft annual
36 report. We can go through them and if we want to add -- if
37 you want to add something else just add it on, call Ann at
38 her 800 number and let her know. Ann.

39

40 MS. WILKINSON: I think that's plenty, it
41 will keep me busy for awhile, thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We don't want to add
44 anymore, uh? We're down to agency reports, Tab E. The
45 first person on our agenda is Rose Fosdick from Kawerak. I
46 invited Rose to be part of the -- to submit a report
47 because Kawerak has been very helpful to us. There were
48 some issues that came up that could have been users
49 conflicts but were handled by Kawerak basically by the
50 Reindeer's Herders Association. And they've been doing

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1 that -- not only one time but more than once, at their own
2 expense which I thought was pretty neat. I call her up and
3 she takes it upon herself and things get resolved, even
4 before they go beyond any other level. And I've done that
5 also with Austin's department and they've been resolving
6 things for us by just phone calls, by calling up Kawerak
7 and they just sort of take it upon themselves, with their
8 resource committee or whomever they go to, they quiet
9 things down and things resolve themselves which I really
10 appreciate.

11
12 MR. MENDENHALL: Before we go into reports,
13 recommend a break.

14
15 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay. He suggests a
16 break, a very short break and then we'll have the pleasure
17 of Rose Fosdick afterwards.

18
19 (Off record)

20
21 (On record)

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Calling the meeting back
24 to order, it is now almost 3:20. And the next person on
25 the agenda is Rose Fosdick, she's going to do a report on
26 the stuff she's been doing. She's a reindeer coordinator
27 with Kawerak.

28
29 MS. FOSDICK: Thank you, Madame Chair. I'm
30 Rose Atuk Fosdick. My position is Program Director for
31 Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association. I'm also vice
32 president for Natural Resource Division. I wanted to make
33 sure that you knew that we have two other natural resource
34 division staff here, Austin Amasuk is the subsistence
35 specialist, he just handed paperwork to you, and Roy
36 Ashenfelter is Land Management Service program director and
37 he's also the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee
38 Chair, he's back there.

39
40 I wrote a report for you. I wanted to make
41 sure you were aware of several things. The majority of the
42 land on the Seward Peninsula is considered reindeer range
43 and each herder obtains permission from the land owner to
44 use the land for grazing reindeer. And the last page of
45 your handout is a map of the Seward Peninsula reindeer
46 ranges and these are all -- they are all members of the
47 Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association. The total number of
48 acreage on the Seward Peninsula is about 15 million acres.

49
50 I understood that at your last meeting the

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1 topic of poaching came up so I wrote a few paragraphs about
2 poaching. Reindeer herders consider their reindeer to be
3 private property even when the reindeer travel far from
4 their home range. Every deer that goes through a corral is
5 either earmarked with a specific mark or tagged with a
6 uniquely numbered and color-coded ear tag and on the third
7 page you'll see an ear notch chart. It also has the ear
8 tagged collars on there. So most of the reindeer have both
9 an ear mark and an ear tag.

10
11 The Reindeer Act of 1937 includes a
12 definition of reindeer which states, reindeer as used in
13 this subchapter shall be understood to include reindeer and
14 such caribou as have been introduced into animal husbandry
15 or have actually joined reindeer herds, and the increase
16 thereof.

17
18 Herders are well aware that people hunting
19 do kill reindeer, however, herders do not approve of
20 reindeer hunting because they, themselves, have expended
21 time, energy and money to manage the herd. Each year they
22 purchase snowmachines, boats, motors, ATVs, cars, gas, food
23 and pay labor specifically so that their reindeer continue
24 to be semi-domesticated. In the 1990s, reindeer herding
25 brought in one million to 1.5 million annually to the
26 region. The villages of Stebbins and St. Michael jointly
27 own and manage a growing herd. The herd also includes a
28 small number of reindeer owned by a private herder.

29
30 At your last meeting you heard a statement
31 about neighboring village residents hunting and harvesting
32 a number of reindeer from the Stebbins, St. Michael herd.
33 I researched this and learned that this incident will be
34 the first case to be heard by a tribal court. It will be
35 composed of a joint council of tribal judges from the two
36 communities of Stebbins and St. Michael. This case is
37 pending and I'm sure you'll hear the results when they're
38 available.

39
40 In regards to caribou, the Western Arctic
41 Caribou Herd continues to cause problems for the herders.
42 It is the greatest threat to their ability to make a living
43 with the reindeer. The following herders have lost most or
44 all of their reindeer. Nathan Hadley of Buckland. Marilyn
45 Henry of Koyuk. Palmer Sagoonick of Shaktoolik, Sheldons
46 of Kotzebue/Candle, Herb Karmun of Deering and Roger
47 Menadelook of Teller, Jimmy Noyakuk of Teller, Tom Gray of
48 White Mountain.

49
50 RHA recently held their annual meeting in

00090

1 Nome and some of the key agenda items you'll see listed are
2 caribou migrations, satellite and radio tracking of
3 reindeer and caribou. Economic impact from loss of herds,
4 Teller plant, election of officers, election of a rep to
5 the Wold Congress of reindeer herders in Finland, Inuit
6 history of reindeer herding, reports on research and we
7 heard of several new positions of USDA that will be
8 stationed here in Nome.

9
10 And that's my report. If you had any
11 questions, I'll try to answer them, if not, thank you.

12
13 MR. SEETOT: The majority of the caribou
14 that we get are around the Bendeleben Mountains, is that
15 considered Maniilaqs or Grays range, would that constitute
16 the reindeer within the range to be reindeer or are they
17 considered caribou when the majority of the animals are
18 caribou. Because once when the -- after the reindeer join
19 the caribou herd, you know, they're pretty hard to separate
20 and not unless you can run them down, you know, tire out
21 the reindeer that they're the ones that usually run the
22 back of the pack and Maniilaq, Karmun, I think over the
23 past five years, you know, the caribou has been pretty much
24 expanding westward and they pretty much took away, pretty
25 much all the reindeer that were within these ranges. If
26 these reindeer herders lost all their reindeer, is that
27 considered their range and if a hunter accidentally kills a
28 reindeer within that range would that be considered caribou
29 or considered reindeer because I guess once you take care
30 of the reindeer -- or once you manage the reindeer they're
31 supposed to be under your control in some sort of way
32 instead of them running with the caribou. Because the
33 reindeer herders will try to cull out the caribou because
34 they're the ones that I notice will always want to take off
35 either to high ground or northeast direction from the
36 Kuzitrin River. Every time we try to turn them -- turn the
37 caribou towards -- that's all -- instinctively that's what
38 they do, they go to the high hills or run towards the lava
39 beds or constant -- you know, one direction. You think,
40 oh, boy, I'm going to separate the reindeer and they'll
41 just leave you in the dust. You don't have no chance.

42
43 But right now, I am thinking that the
44 reindeer that are there, they're no longer under their
45 control, would they be considered reindeer because they're
46 still on the same range they graze or would they be
47 considered caribou because you cannot have some sort of
48 control on them. So that was my question, reindeer that --
49 or animal that you shot wouldn't be considered reindeer on
50 caribou range or reindeer on the range that they're used to

00091

1 grazing.

2

3 MS. FOSDICK: You're done?

4

5 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

6

7 MS. FOSDICK: Okay, you asked two questions
8 and I'll try to, at least the two that I heard were real
9 specific. One of them was in regards to the ranges on the
10 Seward Peninsula and whether they are still valid and, yes,
11 the reindeer herders, whether they have reindeer or not,
12 they are still applying for and receiving permits to use
13 the land within all of these range areas. This whole map
14 includes all of the ranges that are still valid whether
15 they have reindeer or not. And that question has been
16 raised about whether reindeer are caribou or caribou are
17 reindeer, depending on how they behave or where they are
18 located. And I've asked that question of herders and their
19 response is that if a reindeer is located anywhere on the
20 ranges, they do -- the reindeer do mix up quite a bit and
21 especially the reindeer between Wales and Shishmaref herds,
22 those two herds mix up quite a bit. But say, for instance,
23 if Tom Gray's range ended up at Sheldon's range or Hadley's
24 range, it is still his reindeer and he still considers part
25 of his private property, even if it's mixed up with a large
26 group of caribou. And he still considers that to be his
27 private property that he would like to retain or gain or
28 hear about. So if a person is out caribou hunting and
29 happens to get a reindeer, the only thing that herders
30 would like to hear back from them is please provide the
31 information to me on, you know, if you got the reindeer can
32 you give me any information about it. Because they're
33 curious about where their reindeer are going. We know that
34 there is reindeer from all of these interior herds, they're
35 all mixing up together and ending up around Bendeledens and
36 Jimmy Noukuk's reindeer that has a satellite collar, his
37 deer is all the way down by the Koyuk area.

38

39 So did I answer your question?

40

41 MR. SEETOT: Yes.

42

43 MS. FOSDICK: Okay.

44

45 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

46

47 MR. ENINGOWUK: I've got a comment for
48 Rose. You know, when the caribou came fairly close to
49 Shishmaref we had the opportunity to work with the reindeer
50 herders of some of those ranges and we kind of had to work

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1 with them because we're saying that there is caribou on the
2 range and we had to kind of work with them to say, can we
3 hunt caribou on your range, and if we asked Fish and
4 Wildlife to open it for us, they were pretty helpful and
5 all they wanted was that we will run into reindeer among
6 those herds and they wanted us to refrain from getting
7 those reindeers. So most of the village agreed to it. And
8 then working with the Reindeer Herders Association, came to
9 agreement, they said, okay, you can hunt caribou in our
10 range as long as you leave our reindeer alone. So it was
11 kind of good to work with the reindeer herders and they
12 were helpful when Shishmaref wanted to hunt caribou close
13 to home. And I'd like to thank the reindeer herders for
14 that from the village.

15
16 I think hopefully the villages will
17 continue to respect the reindeer that are among the
18 caribou. I, myself, I don't know what each one -- they
19 look the same to me but those guys that hunt caribou said
20 that you could notice them real easy. And I said, yeah,
21 they all look the same to me, but they said they're real
22 easy to differentiate between the caribou and the reindeer.

23
24 And Shishmaref is mainly a reindeer
25 consuming community. You know, we've had the Weyiouanna,
26 the Goodhope herd and then the Wales herd, and you know, we
27 get reindeer from Brevig area and those people, too, so we
28 grew up with reindeer for a long time and it's still -- you
29 know, I can tell the difference between reindeer meat and
30 caribou meat, it's -- and most of my kids are young and
31 they'd rather eat reindeer than caribou. So again, I'd
32 like to thank the reindeer herders for allowing us to hunt
33 on their ranges. You know, we had to work with them and I
34 think if other villages do the same then they should do the
35 same, too, to respect the reindeer herders and their range.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Johnson.
38 Perry.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: I do camp up near Deering
41 and I know what reindeer and caribou differences are.
42 One's larger and one's smaller than the other. Also the
43 red meat is reindeer meat and the dark meat is caribou
44 meat. And they do interbreed. But the whole thing there
45 is, also around Sitnasauk and Larry Davis' herd, since they
46 are around private Native corporation land we do charge the
47 reindeer herder for grazing rights on our land. And also
48 that they are able -- they're supposed to donate so much
49 deer to the community for XYZ, potlatches for Nome Eskimo
50 Community and things of that nature. That's part of the

00093

1 agreement we have because we want the community of Nome to
2 know what reindeer tastes like. And this is in conjunction
3 with the BLM agreement for grazing permits on private
4 lands.

5
6 But that caribou coming back almost cost
7 some lives here recently down Takot area, a bunch of
8 hunters were caught there and had to stay at the Takot camp
9 there, in that area, about 20 people were caught in one
10 camp and the person had two caribou and all 20 of them ate
11 the caribou and the person had no caribou left. So Nomem
12 people are going into the mountains -- about White Mountain
13 to hunt caribou since they're that close. And there also
14 was an emergency act a few years ago for Nome people to go
15 up to Samot Lake and hunt caribou, like last fall. So it
16 does save on a lot of meat. But again, we sympathize with
17 the reindeer herders. In fact, when I was up near Deering,
18 Karmun Herder accused me of killing his reindeer and I
19 never even shot one because even though they go right by my
20 camp, but I think that's the advent of the caribou herd
21 coming over taking his herd away.

22
23 But they can tell differences between
24 reindeer and caribou.

25
26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Leonard.

27
28 MR. KOBUK: Stebbins and St. Michael are
29 starting to have the same problem. Just recently before I
30 came there was maybe a couple or three caribou that was
31 mixed with reindeer. Every time they tried to -- when they
32 drive the reindeer and they try to get at those caribou,
33 those caribou would go right into the middle of the
34 reindeer and they couldn't shoot the caribou. So before I
35 came, I asked Washington, him and another guy from
36 Stebbins, they said they were just going to run the
37 reindeer until they get tired and then that way they'll be
38 able to get those caribou out of there. Because they said
39 they were having a hard time trying to drive them because
40 you can get pretty close to them and go really slow and
41 they'll just -- you can turn them whenever you want to turn
42 them but with those caribou mixed in there, the caribou
43 would make the reindeer go in a different direction than
44 they want them to go. So I guess we're going to start
45 having the same problems that they're having up north with
46 the caribou.

47
48 And the reindeer herders at home, they're
49 always -- as soon as they see caribou close to the
50 reindeer, they'll let the people of both villages know to

00094

1 go out and get some caribou because that's the only way to
2 keep them away from the reindeer. But like I said earlier,
3 we have problems that come from the Yukon region, they
4 don't know the difference between caribou and reindeer. We
5 tell them, the reindeer you can get really close to them,
6 but the caribou, they see you a mile away and if they're in
7 the flat they'll start running or even as soon as they see
8 your headlights, but for some reason or another they just
9 don't want to -- they ignore our advice and we still have
10 that problem. Hopefully that will be settled with the two
11 people, I guess, that got caught and I guess the example
12 that's going to come out of it will -- that those people in
13 the Yukon will start paying more attention to what they're
14 shooting because all the reindeers.

15
16 Like it says on there, have different ear
17 marks. St. Michael had their color and Stebbins has theirs
18 and when the villages -- when one village or the other
19 village goes out and get reindeer, they -- if they shoot
20 any reindeer but they left the -- if they kill a St.
21 Michael reindeer they let St. Michael know how many they
22 killed or if St. Michael kills Stebbins reindeer, they let
23 them know how many because the herders come out of both
24 villages.

25
26 So that's -- I want to thank the Reindeer
27 Herders Association for their help with the problems that
28 we're having with our reindeer being killed.

29
30 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Johnson.

33
34 MR. ENINGOWUK: Rose, in the past few --
35 like past five years we've been noticing a lot of caribou
36 along the northern coast of, you know, up there, we're
37 starting to wonder if some of them are starting to be born
38 there? Like they're fawning and they're coming back to
39 where they're born and staying the whole summer. Because
40 you know, is there going to be some kind of a study or
41 research either by the Reindeer Herders or the Fish and
42 Game people to see if that is happening, to see if they're
43 actually fawning -- or reindeer fawning areas are? And you
44 know we're thinking they're being born there and they're
45 coming back to where they're born. So I'm just kind of
46 wondering if that kind of study is going to be done
47 sometime in the near future.

48
49 MS. FOSDICK: Yes, Johnson. The meeting
50 that we just had last week, that was one of the

00095

1 recommendations that came from the reindeer herders
2 themselves, to both University of Alaska-Fairbanks staff
3 and ADF&G staff, please consider doing research on whether
4 caribou are summering here on the Seward Peninsula and
5 whether they're dropping their fawns here on the Seward
6 Peninsula, too. So there seems to be a belief that their
7 calves are staying here and they're having fawns here, too,
8 but we can't really verify it.

9
10 Before I -- I wanted to mention one more
11 thing, the Natural Resource Committee meets April 3. The
12 Natural Resource Committee is part of the Kawerak Board, so
13 next week we'll be meeting in Nome here, too. Thanks for
14 your comments, too, I appreciate hearing from all of you.

15
16 MR. SEETOT: One more comment. I think
17 there's four or five herders on the Seward Peninsula on the
18 western side and then you have pretty much the communities
19 of Shishmaref and Brevig, Brevig being new to caribou
20 hunting, maybe Shishmaref has been hunting for a lot longer
21 -- a number of years going either to Buckland or Deering
22 and you know, they have two herders in that community.
23 While the rest of the community is primarily caribou
24 hunters, you know, I think sometimes there's animosity
25 between the herders and the community members as a whole,
26 because the reindeer herders are getting money for the
27 antlers and the meat and stuff like that and sometimes it's
28 just that I think the herders end up -- don't communicate
29 too well in the way that, yes, we do have extra reindeer
30 hides, we got heart, liver, tongue, heads, and I think
31 that's what they did when Loman had reindeer herds that --
32 the people that did the butchering, you know, got the
33 organs or got the heads, or helped themselves to the furs,
34 it was pretty much that some of the reindeer herders have
35 been butchering their animals, you know, but without
36 distributing the stuff that they don't use that the
37 community can use, reindeer hides, heads, organs and stuff
38 like that. And I think there still seems to be some sort
39 of differences between members of the community and the
40 reindeer herders.

41
42 One is that they think that the reindeer
43 herder is financially sound during the summer season, you
44 know, and that they're not contributing enough to the
45 community in the way of reindeer and by-products, you know,
46 something that they can donate to the elders or to the
47 needy. I kind of see that in some of the communities, you
48 know, that people from other communities will tell me or
49 comment to me that they just don't like a certain reindeer
50 herder because, you know, of his past actions or his

00096

1 actions to the community and, you know, it's just something
2 that just needs to be worked out.

3

4 That's all the comments I had.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Tony.

7

8 MR. GORN: I was going to just briefly
9 comment on Rose's comments about the possibility of having
10 a centralized Seward Peninsula residential caribou herd but
11 then I remembered or just thought that I could bring that
12 up when I go over the moose composition surveys. So if you
13 want me to wait until then or I can do it now, it doesn't
14 matter.

15

16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: However you feel
17 comfortable.

18

19 MR. GORN: Well, maybe I'll just real
20 briefly go over it now since we're talking about reindeer
21 and caribou. But we had the RHA meeting last week and
22 there was a request made for Fish and Game to take a closer
23 look at the Western Arctic Caribou Herd as it continues its
24 push westward, really started to develop in the mid-1990s.
25 1996 we saw a dramatic push westward from its normal
26 migration south.

27

28 And there is -- we have two thoughts, as
29 far as looking at the Seward Peninsula closer and the
30 impact of that westward push, and the first one is to try
31 to deploy a collar to a caribou in the area of northern
32 Seward Peninsula along near Shishmaref. The problems that
33 we've run into though is how are we going to deploy that.
34 In the past Fish and Game deploys all their collars in
35 Onion Portage because of a number of factors, particularly
36 we can do it there without using drugs and we can do it at
37 Onion Portage in the water without using helicopters or net
38 guns. So it's a pretty convenient way to handle animals
39 safely and have successful collar deployments and keep the
40 animals relaxed. Avoid capture myopathy and it's just a
41 very convenient way to do it. So we run into that problem,
42 is how to deploy the collar near Shishmaref, so we're
43 working on that.

44

45 And we're also addressing the same kind of
46 issue down near Stebbins. We had a collar that was
47 refurbished. It was a satellite collar that hopefully
48 going to be deployed in February on a Stebbins caribou, but
49 as we all know from living and working up here, sometimes
50 weather and logistics for field projects are a nightmare

00097

1 and they weren't able to have a handling in Stebbins to
2 deploy that collar but we still have it and we're going to
3 refurbish it. I think we're going to refurbish it so it
4 cycles every three days, consistently, throughout the whole
5 year so we won't run into a data problem as far as when
6 that collar is transmitting its data.

7
8 I'm looking at my notes here real quickly.
9 I think that's all I had unless there was any other
10 questions on the possibility of having a residential
11 caribou herd in northern Seward Peninsula.

12
13 MR. MENDENHALL: Growing up in Nome I have
14 a lot of relatives in the Shishmaref and Deering area. My
15 recollection from my grandmother, she said that there used
16 to be a lot of reindeer herd here in Nome, at Cape Nome.
17 1930s they lost -- during a storm they lost that herd,
18 either due to -- because they were in the coral, due to the
19 Cattleman Association -- or wild caribou, one of the two
20 where they cut the wires and the reindeer got out and
21 sucked into the caribou herd. So the caribou used to come
22 this close to Nome years ago in the '30s.

23
24 And also in traditional stories was that
25 the lava beds up there were traditional calving areas for
26 caribou and you could still see residue of bones up there,
27 you know, that probably have moss over it now. But caribou
28 traditionally used to come onto the Seward Peninsula years
29 ago and that's why they had a traditional hunt group.
30 When Bill Barr was alive, he used to make notice of when
31 the caribou come further west on the Seward Peninsula, and
32 they had snowmachines would go over around Deering for
33 hunting caribou, and they start complaining that they're
34 going further and further back, they had to go as far as
35 Buckland to go get caribou. And that's ancestral -- this
36 grey hair give me that license, I guess, to say that this
37 is what it used to be and I think it's just a cycle --
38 natural cycle of the Western Caribou coming back and
39 reclaiming what was theirs before.

40
41 In fact, they said -- grandma and them used
42 to say that they used to run the caribou through the lava
43 beds so they could get -- their legs could get caught in
44 the cracks of the lava bed and break, it'd be easy to get
45 the caribou that broke their legs and killed them later for
46 use. Not just one village but a lot of the villages were
47 involved in that caribou hunt. So those traditional things
48 that are probably coming back.

49
50 And the reason why -- you got to -- my wife

00098

1 also did some research on the Brevig Mission, Brevig,
2 what's that guy's name?

3

4 MS. FOSDICK: Sheldon Jackson.

5

6 MR. MENDENHALL: Sheldon Jackson, he
7 imported reindeer due to the fact that they were losing
8 caribou from the Seward Peninsula. That needs to be noted
9 of why the caribou came in, because of the starvation.
10 Starvation was so bad that they had to move reindeer all
11 the way up to Northwest Territory area and that's why some
12 of our Wales relatives and Shishmaref relatives are over at
13 Northwest Territories. If you go over there we have
14 surnames over from our tribes there, from Brevig. And my
15 mother gave me the names of those people that went with
16 that herd when they transferred the reindeer that way to
17 help save those people up Northwest Territories.

18

19 So traditionally, I think the caribou is
20 coming back, we're having to weigh the two differences
21 today. And I would like to bring that up for the record
22 just to show that it's natural and I think it's coming back
23 and it's not a State or Federal thing. Our people knew as
24 legends that they would come back, just as much as they
25 said we would fly in oomiaks (ph) from here to Greenland to
26 visit our relatives. Those are legends that we have that
27 we need to pay attention to in relation to that. As well
28 as people say that if we fight over -- like Elmer was
29 saying, if we fight over them, we'll lose them. We're not
30 wanting to fight over the game and fish.

31

32 So that's the attitude that we have and I'd
33 like to bring it back. And I do appreciate the Reindeers
34 Herders thing and what work they're doing as well as your
35 concern. I'm not trying to downplay what you're doing or
36 anything like that, but just to show our people are quite
37 much aware of where we are. I mean I think so. I hope
38 this brings to light a lot of things to the Federal
39 government, what we know -- traditional knowledge is very
40 important.

41

42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Anymore questions or
43 comments to Rose. Thank you, Rose.

44

45 MS. FOSDICK: Thank you. Thanks for your
46 comments.

47

48 CHAIRMAN CROSS: And once again, thank you,
49 Kawerak Resource Department for all your help. All right,
50 the next item on the agenda is Fish and Wildlife Service,

00099

1 Office of Subsistence Management reports. I'm not sure
2 who's doing that, you are, Mr. Jennings.

3
4 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Madame Chair. Tim
5 Jennings, Office of Subsistence Management. I will begin
6 and give an overview of the briefings. Under our briefings
7 we have seven short items to bring the Council up to date
8 on. Richard Uberuaga will cover Item A, Council Review of
9 2001 Annual Studies Plan. He'll also give you a preview of
10 2002 Fisheries Studies that have been submitted. Richard
11 will also cover Item B, the Subsistence Fisheries Issues
12 Information Needs for the region. Carl Jack, our Native
13 liaison will address the Rural Capacity Building Program,
14 Item C. I will cover Items D and E, In-season Delegation
15 to Field Managers and Statewide Rural Determinations
16 Process. And your coordinator, Ann Wilkinson will cover
17 the last two items, the travel voucher processing and the
18 subsistence lifestyles art contest results.

19
20 And before I ask Richard to come up, I
21 wanted to clarify the recent issue of the hotel
22 accommodations in Anchorage that was discussed a few
23 minutes and the needs for an after hours phone number to
24 call. Several Council members did have Ann's phone number
25 and when things turned bad and the plane turned around and
26 went back to Anchorage, Ann was called at 11:00 o'clock at
27 night and I wanted to give her recognition in assisting to
28 help the Council members to clear up the issue of checking
29 back into the hotel. And just to indicate that we are very
30 committed to addressing your travel concerns and, Ann, in
31 particular I think has been working very hard to try to
32 smooth these rough edges when we run into weather problems
33 and things like that.

34
35 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I'd like to make a short
36 comment on that, too. Part of the problem was that the
37 hotel person was probably new, and by the time we had
38 called Ann the person that had been working there longer
39 had already had the solution. The person that was there
40 was very young and didn't know, so that was part of our
41 problem. It really was not US Fish and Game's fault [sic],
42 it was the hotel individual. But we were kind of running
43 around not knowing what was going on until she called for a
44 person that was there.....

45
46 MR. MENDENHALL: Supervisor.

47
48 CHAIRMAN CROSS:her supervisor and it
49 got solved just like that.

50

00100

1 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, good. But Ann is very
2 willing to have you call her at home when you're in these
3 situations if you need some assistance. And with that, I'd
4 like to ask Richard to come forward and address the first
5 couple of briefing topics.

6
7 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 I've got some handouts and I'm going to start out with the
9 2001 projects handout to each of you.

10
11 (Pause)

12
13 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I guess for all you
14 people, your information, we're just going to finish today.
15 So if you need to make reservations at some point or change
16 reservations or something, we're going to be done today.
17 We're going to adjourn today. We're going to go until we
18 finish.

19
20 MR. UBERUAGA: Okay, this is a briefing and
21 I'll try to be brief for a change. So these are the 2001
22 projects that have been funded this year. As you can see
23 on the top there, there's the stock status and trends
24 projects, under there, that 136 is the Northwest dolly
25 varden, char genetics and that work was going on previously
26 in 2000 and it's going on again this year in 2001. It's a
27 genetic study that's going on on the char populations.
28 Underneath there in the harvest monitoring and TEK, you'll
29 notice a project on the Nome subdistrict subsistence
30 survey, that's a cooperative project doing interviews on
31 subsistence uses on Nome residents and in areas outside the
32 Nome area like King Islanders and stuff, it's a cooperative
33 project with Kawerak that's been funding. And I was
34 working on a funding package for that last week. So that's
35 the project for TEK this summer, that's subsistence survey.
36 Those other two projects are from the Northwest Arctic.

37
38 Do you have any questions on 2001? I've
39 got some more on 2002 that I'm going to hand out to you,
40 but let's stop and see if you have any questions on what's
41 going on in 2001, this summer.

42
43 (Pause)

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, I got a question on
46 that one, 01-237E.

47
48 MR. UBERUAGA: Yes.

49
50 MR. MENDENHALL: It says one fish, two

00101

1 fish; could you explain that?

2

3 (Laughter)

4

5 MR. UBERUAGA: That's a TEK project looking
6 at uses of fish by different resource groups, like
7 competition with subsistence uses I believe on in the Kobuk
8 River.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: Oh, okay.

11

12 MR. UBERUAGA: So it's a project, it's
13 trying to start to examine, you know, the competition for
14 subsistence uses and start to address some of the potential
15 or actual conflicts that are going on between subsistence
16 users and let's say sport fishermen, catch and release
17 fishermen and stuff like that. So I think that -- okay, so
18 what Tim is handing out now is a schedule on the resource
19 monitoring projects and I'm going to go after that after I
20 talk about these 2002 projects, if you're ready to look at
21 those 2002 projects that have been submitted. There's some
22 interesting stuff on there. So under the stock status and
23 trends for 2002, these are projects that are going to
24 begin, not this summer, but the summer after this one. You
25 can see that the Stebbins IRA Council submitted a couple of
26 projects for two of the rivers that they use a lot there.
27 And also below that, Kawerak has submitted a project for
28 the North River. There is some Federal lands in the
29 upstream part of the river. It's part of the Unalakleet,
30 but I think there's a little piece of the North River, too,
31 that's on Federal lands, isn't there?

32

33 MS. DEGNAN: (Nods affirmatively)

34

35 MR. MENDENHALL: (Nods affirmatively)

36

37 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah. So there's a project
38 there that's been submitted. And I'm going to give you
39 later a copy of those project preproposals after we go over
40 the calendar.

41

42 Under the harvest monitoring and TEK
43 projects, you can look down at that project 02-083, it says
44 developing a partnership between Western Science and
45 Traditional Ecological Knowledge to Conduct the Unalakleet
46 Watershed Evaluation. And that's submitted by the Unalaska
47 Watershed Council. Now, that's yet to even be created,
48 this Council. But the point is there's a project being
49 submitted for 2002.

50

00102

1 Now, the third thing he handed out was this
2 calendar and I want you to look at that March 15th date.
3 Okay. What these here -- what you got here, these 2002
4 things are preproposals, okay. They were all submitted by
5 March 15th of this year. The next date there is May 30th,
6 so by May 30th of this year, another month and a half, two
7 months, what has to happen is the people that submitted
8 these projects for 2002, they've got to go from a
9 preproposal to an investigation plan. Basically what
10 they're doing is they're making that preproposal into a
11 real study. They're filling in all the holes, they're
12 filling in all the details. So by May 30th, they're going
13 to have an investigation plan that's going to be reviewed
14 by our subsistence people, the FIS group in Anchorage.

15
16 Yes.

17
18 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question on the last
19 one, 02-083, the agency you have is Unalaska Watershed
20 Council?

21
22 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah, actually I'm pretty
23 sure it's a typographic error. They're a group -- I'll
24 hand this out here right now, and Tim can.....

25
26 MR. JENNINGS: It should be Unalakleet.

27
28 MR. UBERUAGA: It should be Unalakleet but
29 they mistyped it. And they are, I'll give you the person's
30 name. I'm pretty sure I know who it is but I'll make
31 double sure, it is Weaver Ivanof, general manager and then
32 Art Ivanof, director. Yeah, Unalakleet.

33
34 Okay, but back to the calendar. You see
35 between March and May they have to come up with an
36 investigation plan. Now, those investigation plans are
37 going to be looked at and they're basically going to be
38 weeded out, which are the best ones, which ones make sense,
39 which ones do we want to continue to work with. Which ones
40 do we want to present to you, the Council. So your next
41 meeting in the fall, the fall Council in September, this
42 year, you're going to have a package of projects to look at
43 and say, yes, we agree with this project, we want it to go
44 forward, we want to modify it, or we don't want to support
45 this anymore. And then once you guys make that decision,
46 those decisions that you make will go forward to the Board,
47 the Federal Subsistence Board and in December, at their
48 December meeting, they're going to approve or reject these
49 project investigation plans. So that's the calendar and
50 that's how that calendar works, that schedule works.

00103

1 And you know, to give you all of these 2002
2 projects that you got on there, they've only done a
3 preproposal, we haven't got a real complete investigation
4 plan but I'm going to give you those preproposals right
5 now.

6
7 (Pause)

8
9 MR. UBERUAGA: So this will give you a
10 little more detailed information. Still, not a lot of the
11 details are there. I believe there's four projects all
12 stapled together but each one of them's about two pages.
13 But the main thing for you to understand is once you get an
14 investigation plan by May, the end of May, we'll put all
15 those investigation plans together and bring them in front
16 of the Council. And then the Councils can decide, you
17 know, we want to modify it, reject it or what not, and then
18 the Board will get the chance to look at it, too.

19
20 But these projects reflect a lot of the
21 issues that you have raised in the past. And it's
22 important, you know, for the Federal process, for the
23 Fisheries Information Services to address your issues.

24
25 And I'm going to go right into the last
26 topic is to talk about your issues. You folks have looked
27 at issues a lot because you've got Norton Sound research
28 initiative to deal with, you're addressing issues there all
29 the time. You have a lot of tough issues to deal with, in
30 terms of extraterritoriality and stuff like that. But we,
31 the Federal government, subsistence management, wants to
32 keep up with your issues and that's why we ask you,
33 continually, to identify, you know, what your issues are.
34 By 2002, we've already got these projects for 2002 kind of
35 identified. But by 2003, you might have some new issues.
36 We need to start focusing on those issues now. And that's
37 why I'll give you this last little handout, if my trusty
38 assistant can come up here.....

39
40 MR. JENNINGS: The first page under Tab E.

41
42 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah, the first page under
43 Tab E actually has the fisheries issues and information
44 needs.

45
46 (Pause)

47
48 MR. UBERUAGA: This handout, basically is
49 just asking you again for your issues for the resource
50 monitoring program, for these programs that we fund. You

00104

1 know, if your focus changes, we want you to get out a piece
2 of paper, write down how your issues have changed, your
3 areas of issues are changing and where you want to see that
4 research going. So that's really the bottom line, where do
5 you want to see the money that we're putting into this
6 monitoring program, how do you want to see it go? Do you
7 want to see it go to conflicts between subsistence and
8 sport users? Do you want to see it why we're not getting
9 fish back to streams and stuff like that.

10
11 So what this is asking you again is just to
12 send us, you know, your ideas of what your issues are and
13 your priorities, what you think. And I know that you've
14 been asked this a lot and it's redundant in a way because
15 you deal with it all the time in different -- yes.

16
17 MS. DEGNAN: I would request something of
18 you to assist us in this, is for you to give by year, like
19 2000 -- or 1999, 2000, 2001, just a short recap of what the
20 issues, along those lines.

21
22 MR. UBERUAGA: Okay.

23
24 MS. DEGNAN: And so then you ask the 2002.

25
26 MR. UBERUAGA: Okay, right.

27
28 MS. DEGNAN: That would assist us to jog
29 our memory.

30
31 MR. JENNINGS: That summary is in the book
32 under Tab E.

33
34 MS. DEGNAN: Yeah, okay, but I mean not in
35 such a.....

36
37 MR. UBERUAGA: Under Tab E you say?

38
39 MR. JENNINGS: It's under Tab E.

40
41 MR. UBERUAGA: Tab E, Pages 4 and 5.

42
43 MR. JENNINGS: These are the issues that
44 have already been identified. So what we're asking is if
45 you want to update those, this is an opportunity to do
46 that.

47
48 MS. DEGNAN: Page 4 and 5, where -- oh. So
49 if you're asking us, then you should cite that reference
50 where we could find what our issues were in the past.

00105

1 MR. UBERUAGA: I'm sorry.

2

3 MS. DEGNAN: That's just to help us as a
4 Council, so that we know we're not creating mountains of
5 paper and then get lost in tracking it down.

6

7 MR. UBERUAGA: Uh-huh.

8

9 MS. DEGNAN: Because the bottom line issue
10 is food on the table for the subsistence user, and we can
11 spend millions of dollars studying everything and
12 everything declines and we're not going to be any smarter
13 than the day we started studying them.

14

15 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Perry.

18

19 MR. MENDENHALL: I noticed in the first two
20 from Stebbins IRA, the bottom project, description says
21 August '95 but up above it says 2002 and it does the same
22 again for that project and then the second one, 19 and 20,
23 it also has past 1995 type and was is and was conducted; is
24 this a repeat of that same project that they want?

25

26 MR. UBERUAGA: You know, I.....

27

28 MR. MENDENHALL: I mean I -- that's
29 something that, you know, if it's been conducted before and
30 I don't know.....

31

32 MR. UBERUAGA: I don't know either, Perry,
33 but that's a good question.

34

35 MR. KOBUK: I probably can answer that. In
36 1995 they were trying to do studies both in, I think it was
37 Pitmiktalik and Nunakogak, but at the time they were doing
38 the studies the water was muddy and it wasn't done right
39 and so -- and then it was stormy from the west because once
40 the sea starts to churn up in the shallow waters before it
41 reaches the rivers, it kind of muddies the rivers, too,
42 also, especially when the tide's going in. So a very good
43 study was never done and that's why they're asking for
44 better studies.

45

46 That's to my knowledge.

47

48 MR. UBERUAGA: Uh-huh. Okay, that's all I
49 have on the information on the FIS projects for 2001 and
50 2002.

00106

1 MR. MENDENHALL: It seems like I see
2 Charlie Leans name involved with Stebbins: is that correct?
3 You might shed more light on this.

4
5 MR. LEAN: As I remember it was a study but
6 one of the closets for the financing for that study was it
7 utilized high school aged students with one adult
8 supervisor per tower, one on the Nunakogak and one on the
9 Pitmiktalik. As I remember the Nunakogak project did not
10 operate very well and the Pitmiktalik had a lot of missed
11 time in late July, a critical time period for salmon
12 escapement. So I was the one that wrote the -- worked up
13 the data once it was submitted to Fish and Game's office
14 and we did produce a report regarding the Pitmiktalik's
15 escapement that year but I believe we were unable to make
16 any productive sense of the Nunakogak project, partially
17 due to weather and partially due to inconsistent staffing.
18 It had to do with the young age of the participants to some
19 extent.

20
21 MS. DEGNAN: I have a question. You have
22 listed a whole bunch of projects but you've only shown us
23 the ones that are in our region, so we don't have any --
24 those are the only ones we're looking at, is what's in our
25 region.

26
27 MR. UBERUAGA: Yes.

28
29 MS. DEGNAN: Thank you.

30
31 MR. MENDENHALL: So those two projects from
32 Stebbins are invalid or what?

33
34 MR. UBERUAGA: The two projects for 2002
35 for Stebbins are preproposals. So between now and May
36 30th, Stebbins, I believe IRA, who's submitted these
37 projects needs to prepare an investigation plan.

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: Fill in the blanks, you
40 mean?

41
42 MR. UBERUAGA: Fill in the blanks, yeah,
43 the details.

44
45 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay.

46
47 MR. UBERUAGA: So once they prepare that
48 investigation plan, they'll be reexamined for, are we going
49 to pick this project for funding in 2002 or are we going to
50 reject it. Depending on how well of an investigation plan

00107

1 they prepare. So it could very well be funded or it could
2 be rejected.

3

4 MR. MENDENHALL: Then you have the 2002 for
5 the North River Unalakleet.

6

7 MR. UBERUAGA: Same thing there. They need
8 to finalize an investigation plan.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: So these are just
11 preproposals?

12

13 MR. UBERUAGA: Proposals, and the gist of
14 it is on that one sheet.

15

16 MR. MENDENHALL: Right.

17

18 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah. So it gives you an
19 idea of what they want to do.

20

21 MR. MENDENHALL: Okay, so I'll let them
22 fill in the blanks then.

23

24 MR. UBERUAGA: Yeah.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: We're going to have to.

27

28 MR. UBERUAGA: Right. I think it's
29 important, though, that there are four projects, North
30 River project, Unalakleet Watershed Council and the two
31 Stebbins projects. So that's quite a few projects that are
32 at least being proposed.

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: I just wanted to clarify
35 that you'll see all of these projects again in the fall
36 when, as you've indicated, that the blanks will be filled
37 in and the details are there, it will come back to you.

38

39 MR. UBERUAGA: With proper tenths.

40

41 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm glad to see some
42 proposals up for our region.

43

44 MR. UBERUAGA: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

47

48 MR. JENNINGS: One point that -- I'm not
49 sure what your name is, Roy Ashenfelter, mentioned to me
50 just now which is a good point is the funding, availability

00108

1 of funding. We should point out that we know going into
2 2002 that there won't be enough Federal dollars to fund all
3 the projects that are being proposed. So when we come back
4 in the fall there will be some very critical
5 recommendations to be made because there's a limited pot of
6 money.

7
8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Carl.

9
10 MR. JACK: Another point that I would like
11 to point out on these proposals is the role of the TRC, or
12 Technical Review Committee, that will review these
13 proposals before they go to the Board, that's one very
14 important element. Now, going to my topic, my topic is
15 listed as the Rural Capacity Building Program, you will
16 find in your -- it's in Tab E on about Page 11 and it's
17 called the Proposed Partnerships in Fishery Monitoring. On
18 about Page 11 you will find a transmittal letter that's
19 signed by the Chair of the Federal Board, Mitch Demientiff,
20 in full support of the proposed project. Following that,
21 you will find the program description.

22
23 I'm going to make my presentation by
24 framing it of what the program is, who is involved, the
25 process, the time frames, how it will be implemented and
26 why. First the why question, the reason why this program
27 was started was at the beginning of last year when the
28 Federal government assumed fisheries -- when they started
29 developing the investigation plans, they met with AFN,
30 AITC, and at that meeting, there were requests from these
31 statewide Native organizations for more tribal involvement
32 in the fisheries investigation plans.

33
34 Those meetings were followed up by the OSM
35 Staff in designing the program, meetings also happened in
36 Washington, D.C., and the result of those was out of the 40
37 positions that were authorized from the Central office,
38 nine of those positions were authorized to be part of the
39 program. And the program is basically a -- like a capacity
40 building program for the Alaska Native Tribes, tribal
41 organizations and other rural organizations in fisheries
42 monitoring. It's basically designed to compliment the
43 fisheries monitoring program, whereby the tribes would be
44 able to, under agreement with OSM, would be able to hire
45 biologists and social scientists to help them develop -- do
46 project development, identify subsistence fisheries
47 projects, to do community outreach and education.

48
49 So this program is basically designed to
50 build capacities of the tribes, tribal organizations by

00109

1 allowing them to hire biologists to help them in these
2 areas.

3
4 The process has started already. There
5 were preconsultation meetings as to how best to conduct
6 tribal consultations. These meetings were held with AITC,
7 AFN and RuralCap on about December and January.

8
9 And we looked at three options. One is
10 full tribal consultation with 227 tribes, and that would
11 take a long time. It would involve a lot of resources to
12 be put into that and if we follow that route it would
13 probably take about a year to do tribal consultation.
14 That's one end of the spectrum. The other spectrum that we
15 looked at was not to do any tribal consultation but to do
16 sole-source contracts with Alaska Native organizations.
17 And, of course, that would involve high political risks to
18 OSM where the OSM would be subject to a lot of criticism.
19 So based on these pre-consultation meetings a middle ground
20 was selected whereby a proposed RFP would be drafted and
21 that is what you see as a description of the program in
22 your booklet following the transmittal letter. This would
23 be sent out to the tribes for the review and comment and
24 that, in itself, would constitute tribal consultation.

25
26 So in terms of the time frame. Following
27 the tribal consultation, 60 days would be allowed where the
28 RFP would be released, whereby the tribes or tribal
29 organization would develop the proposals. Following the
30 close for the deadline for proposals, another 60 days would
31 be allotted whereby review and selection of the proposals
32 would be made by the Federal Subsistence Board. Following
33 that, 45 days would be allotted whereby 809 agreements
34 would be worked out between OSM and the tribal
35 organizations.

36
37 As you note in the program description, the
38 way -- there are constraints on this -- number of positions
39 initially were nine, but because of funding constraints to
40 one of the Federal agencies, the number of positions has
41 now been reduced to seven. And initially we talked about
42 six geographic areas, we're probably talking about five
43 right now. It's important to understand that earlier you
44 talked about fisheries monitoring programs, these are the
45 investigation plans, preproposals, investigation plans, et
46 cetera. The amount to fund this program will be deducted
47 from those fisheries monitoring projects. So that is one
48 very important item to understand.

49
50 There are, for this region, this region is

00110

1 grouped with Kotzebue area and North Slope. So it will be
2 important to try to reconcile at this level how best to
3 prepare the proposal that would encompass this region,
4 Kotzebue and North Slope. If there is an agreement between
5 the three regions, I don't have any doubts that that
6 process will probably take care of most of the -- as to who
7 will be funded.

8

9 So in summary, that is what the program is
10 about. Questions.

11

12 MR. MENDENHALL: So we'll probably be
13 coming back next fall with what you got, uh?

14

15 MR. JACK: We're probably looking at having
16 the 809 agreements in place by the end of the fiscal year,
17 since the 2001 fisheries monitoring projects have
18 essentially been committed. So we're talking about the
19 year 2002 funding. Oh, by the way the end of the fiscal
20 year is September 30th, it's a Federal fiscal year.

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: September 30, 2002?

23

24 MR. JACK: Uh-huh -- 2001.

25

26 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Oh, 2001, okay.

27

28 MR. JACK: Yes. 2002 starts October 1. If
29 there's no questions I will go on record in taking you up
30 on researching the compensation issue you talked about
31 earlier. I'm still trying to figure out how to be a
32 Federal employee, I think I can be able to do the research
33 within OSM, but probably find ways to deal with the
34 political issue on this. And this offer reminds me of the
35 time when Will Mayo was called before AITC when he was
36 hired by Governor Knowles to be his policy advisory on
37 rural affairs, when he made the statement and I think that
38 statement applies here, too, and that is; I'm your man on
39 this issue.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. JACK: So I will probably be sending
44 out some questionnaires on this to establish some kind of a
45 record to be used.

46

47 MR. MENDENHALL: I didn't see where the
48 Council can say anything because it's a mandate from the
49 Chair for your actions, but I think we'll be right behind
50 you.

00111

1 MR. JACK: Thank you. (In Native)

2
3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: (In Native)

4
5 MR. JACK: Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

8
9 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, Madame Chair, the next
10 several briefings are quite short. I'll be doing the next
11 two, Richard is providing information on those. Before we
12 get started on that, Ida wanted me to clarify just one
13 point on the briefing that Carl just gave on the rural
14 capacity program, Carl mentioned an emphasis on tribal
15 consultation and the possibility of tribal contracting, we
16 just wanted to note that the Board has indicated that it's
17 not only tribes that could submit RFPs but also rural and
18 local organizations. So just make that note of
19 clarification.

20
21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you.

22
23 MR. JENNINGS: I will cover in-season
24 delegation to field managers as well as statewide rural
25 determination process. On your one sheet of paper summary,
26 statewide rural comes first so I'll handle it in that
27 order. You may recall at the last meeting I gave you a
28 briefing on the status of this topic and how the Board had
29 directed Staff to begin a contracting process, a third-
30 party contracting process to develop methodology for making
31 the statewide rural determinations using the 2000 census
32 data. This is a continuation of that initiative. This is
33 an informational briefing at this time, there's no action
34 required by the Council.

35
36 Basically we want to make you aware that
37 we're very close to having an RFP, a request for proposals
38 go out, we expect that to happen in the next several
39 months. So by sometime this summer a contract should be
40 awarded and methodology could -- draft methodology could be
41 commenced. As the second paragraph notes, Council are
42 participating in the process and will have the opportunity
43 to comment and make recommendations on both, first, the
44 methodology and then later the proposed non-rural and rural
45 determinations, according to the following schedule.

46
47 Under Item 1, it indicates that three
48 Council Chairs, as nominated by the Chairs of the 10
49 Regional Councils, will sit with the Federal Subsistence
50 Board whenever the Board is briefed on the statewide rural

00112

1 determination process. Those three Chairs are Dan O'Hara,
2 Bristol Bay; Willie Goodwin, Northwest Arctic; and Gerald
3 Nicholia, Eastern Interior.

4
5 At each meeting we'll keep you informed of
6 the status and progress on this. What we're expecting at
7 this time is that during the next winter/spring meetings of
8 2002, which would be a year from now, we would hope to have
9 the opportunities for the Councils to review and make
10 recommendations on the methodology. And then during the
11 fall meeting of 2002, about a year and a half from now, we
12 would anticipate Councils being able to make
13 recommendations on the rural/non-rural determinations for
14 the communities in your region.

15
16 And so I'll stop there, Madame Chair, and
17 see if there's any questions about this statewide rural
18 determination process.

19
20 MS. DEGNAN: Now, what will be the final
21 outcome? What do you mean by statewide rural
22 determinations?

23
24 MR. JENNINGS: In our regulations it states
25 that every 10 years, the Federal Board will review and
26 update the rural/non-rural status of communities on a
27 statewide basis. So that is -- that's what we're aiming
28 toward, that's what the Board is looking toward in this
29 process. Leading up to that, the Board wanted to review
30 the methodology that's currently in regulation and see if
31 there could be ways to improve that methodology, that is
32 the third-party contracting part of it. So that's done
33 first. And then after the methodology is reviewed and the
34 Board approves either the existing methodology or says we
35 want to modify it and update it, once that methodology is
36 in place, then the Board, with the public and Council input
37 will make rural/non-rural determinations on a statewide
38 basis, per the 10 year requirement in the regulations.

39
40 MS. DEGNAN: Another question. The party
41 that's going to do the contract to do this, what would be
42 their make up, what type -- are they a disinterested third-
43 party, are they a scientific-type of party, or is it going
44 to come from out of the state? Just to kind of give me an
45 idea.

46
47 MR. JENNINGS: There's a committee made up
48 of several key folks, Federal agencies that are looking at
49 requirements, qualifications for the contractor and in one
50 -- some of the qualifications, I know, we're looking for,

00113

1 are good scientific technical basis that deals with rural
2 characteristics and rural descriptions. There's some
3 questions that the Board has raised before about what is
4 rural and what's non-rural, if you recall the discussion
5 last fall. I briefly mentioned the Kenai rural decision
6 and how that had raised several issues about what is rural
7 in Alaska versus what's urban. And so there needs to be a
8 technical scientific basis to it. There also needs to be
9 familiarity of the contractor with ANILCA, Title VIII and
10 Alaska and rural Alaska issues and characteristics.

11
12 So we're hoping that the -- I don't sit on
13 this committee, but I'm hoping that that committee has
14 drawn up the qualifications for the contractor tight enough
15 so that we will have a qualified contractor that will match
16 what I've just described, knowledge of Title VIII,
17 knowledge of Alaska, knowledge of the rural/non-rural issue
18 as well as being scientific and technical in nature and
19 being objective about the process.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: So this is just going back
22 to what the Board wants to do and you're just briefing us
23 on what they're proposing to do and accomplish. I don't
24 see any problem with that.

25
26 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, that's correct. This
27 is at the direction of the Board.

28
29 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah. I don't think we
30 have as a Council -- I don't think we could question what
31 the Board is doing right now and I think it's in the
32 interest of the rural areas.

33
34 MR. JENNINGS: Okay, if there aren't any
35 other questions I'll move on to the next item which is the
36 in-season delegation.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay.

39
40 MR. JENNINGS: This, again, is an
41 information item, there's no action required by the Council
42 on this. We just wanted to make you aware of a recent
43 Federal Board decision on February 26th, which expanded the
44 delegation to delegated Federal in-season fisheries
45 managers. Last year the Board delegated time and area
46 decision-making, this year they've delegated a broader
47 expansion of authority to include gear, permits and harvest
48 and possession limits.

49
50 It's to -- there's a typo in this on the

00114

1 first sentence, it says for 2002, it's actually for this
2 coming summer for 2001 fisheries year. And what the Board
3 recognized was that the Board knew that based upon last
4 year's experience that in-season management of fisheries is
5 a very time sensitive issue. As the fish are returning,
6 managers need to make decisions very timely and there were
7 several actions that had to come before the Board, through
8 the special action process last year that took some time,
9 and they wanted to go ahead and delegate to the field
10 managers the ability to make those decisions.

11
12 In your area, the Federal in-season
13 management fisheries person is the Park Superintendent Dave
14 Spirtes and the delegation -- the jurisdiction, again, is
15 Federal waters within the conservation units. That's where
16 the Federal manager has jurisdiction to act.

17
18 The second paragraph indicates the need for
19 Federal managers to maintain a close communication with the
20 Board as well as I would mention, the local subsistence
21 users and the council members, where possible, whenever an
22 in-season management decision is being considered and to
23 ensure that the mandates of Title VIII of ANILCA are being
24 followed. The Board is also concerned that this
25 relationship in no way diminishes the relationship between
26 the subsistence users and the Council, and that if there's
27 any sort of concern about an in-season management decision,
28 that there's still an avenue to appeal that decision, if
29 you will, to the Federal Subsistence Board through a
30 special action process.

31
32 Last year, in summary, to my knowledge
33 there weren't any in-season management decisions taken by a
34 Federal manager within your region. And so Madame Chair,
35 I'll stop there and see if there's any questions on this
36 item.

37
38 Okay. And then Ann Wilkinson will cover
39 the last two items, travel voucher processing and
40 subsistence lifestyle art contest.

41
42 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Madame Chair.
43 We've had a change in the way the Office of Subsistence
44 Management is handling travel. We now have two people who
45 will be working with the Regional Councils, and they've
46 divided up, you know, one woman will take this number of
47 Councils and the other one will take these, and our travel
48 person's name is Verna Miller. Even though she's just
49 learning, I think she's a very competent person and I
50 expect that soon things will work much better. I did want

00115

1 to bring to your attention, however, in this book, under
2 Tab E, on one of the last pages, and also I handed out as a
3 pink paper just in case you wanted to wad it up and keep it
4 up with you rather than the whole book -- maybe not wade,
5 fold, fold it up and keep it with you. It has numbers that
6 you can call in in case of an emergency. But it also has
7 some important information.

8
9 It does require three weeks processing for
10 travel and per diem to be done because it's all issued out
11 of Denver. So before meetings, I call you early -- or if
12 you know you're going to be coming, please let me know so
13 that we can get it done as soon as possible. If you have
14 any needs like for a rental car or something, I need to
15 know about that, too, when we make arrangements for travel.

16
17 When you get your travel forms, the
18 itineraries that you take home and -- the travel vouchers,
19 rather, and fill those out, again, I urge you to return
20 those as soon as possible, within a week would be good if
21 you can do that. Please don't fill them out ahead of time
22 and then hand them to me because if there are changes in
23 your travel you could end up losing money. So just fill it
24 out when you get home and then send it back. Now, I don't
25 see those so I can't track it for you. You need to know
26 that I don't track those and just send them back. And if
27 you don't sent it back within 30 days then Verna just makes
28 her best guess, according to the information that she had
29 before about your travel. So to get it completely
30 accurate, you need to send those back and you will
31 probably, every time, get money back because what you
32 receive here is 80 percent of what you're allotted. And
33 especially if you're making -- you know, take cab fare or
34 anything, you can be reimbursed for that, too.

35
36 I have one other request. If you find out
37 for some reason that you cannot attend a meeting, you've
38 made all the plans to come in, we've talked about it,
39 you're coming, and then suddenly you find out you can't
40 come, please let me know, even if it's the day before
41 because a lot of the hotels now, if we canc -- if the
42 person just doesn't show up, they won't -- we have to pay
43 for it anyway, pay for the room anyway. So if we give them
44 24 hours notice, we won't have to go through that. So if
45 you can give us 24 hours notice, we can tell the hotel and
46 we don't have to pay.

47
48 And that's basically all I have about that.
49 Do you have any questions?

50

00116

1 MR. BUCK: I have one. I don't know whose
2 fault it was but when I was -- I was supposed to leave
3 White Mountain and come here and on my travel itinerary it
4 says 5:15.

5
6 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

7
8 MR. BUCK: And then I'm glad I caught it --
9 because my brother's the travel agent for Cape Smythe and
10 he caught it and he said, we're not leaving at 5:15, we're
11 leaving at 1:30 so if I had followed my itinerary I would
12 have missed that flight. I wouldn't be here. So it's
13 either Cape Smythe or whoever -- and my brother said that
14 somebody -- it's -- that people have been doing that to
15 him, they've been making reservations and saying that the
16 flight was going to leave at 5:00 and actually the flight
17 -- the plane is going to leave at 1:00. So there needs to
18 be something done there, because if I didn't catch it I
19 would have missed my flight.

20
21 I don't know whose fault it was, but maybe
22 you could check it out.

23
24 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you for bringing that
25 up, that does remind me. There is some difficulty with
26 Omega Travel, the new travel agency we use. And something
27 like this, if you find a discrepancy, please fax me a copy
28 of the itinerary that you have that was incorrect because
29 as it turned out, he had one itinerary and I had another
30 one. I just found another thing with Ike's but we got it
31 straightened out. So from this meeting there have been two
32 errors already. If you find that, let me know and then I
33 can make a note of it and all the different agencies that
34 work with Omega Travel are building a -- I don't know what
35 you'd call it, a background, for how we can deal with this
36 situation and get better results from them in the future.

37
38 Thank you.

39
40 MR. MENDENHALL: Appreciate what you done
41 on the last meeting, I think some people owe their lives to
42 you. And I think, like you said, two people there should
43 be better. We'll wait and see.

44
45 MS. WILKINSON: Then I just have one other
46 brief thing, the Federal Subsistence Board subsistence
47 lifestyle art contest. Last fall there was a statewide art
48 contest, they had over 1,300 students send in drawings. I
49 got to help -- yes, you see one of them is now on the cover
50 of the fisheries regulation book. And this program was

00117

1 really a big success. We had a lot of reports back from
2 teachers that they were very happy with it, it was a good
3 program for their kids who enjoyed it a lot. There is a
4 list in the book of all the winners.

5
6 What happened was we narrowed down -- there
7 were 1,300 of them so we narrowed that number down, some of
8 us Staff people went through, and then at the Board
9 meeting, Council Chairs reviewed the ones that we had
10 narrowed down, and then they selected. So these winners
11 are going to have their pictures put on regulations books
12 and perhaps on our notebooks and other different places
13 where we can use them in our subsistence program.

14
15 But as a personal comment, from somebody
16 who went through hundreds of them, anyway, I got the
17 kindergarten through second grade group, something that I
18 noticed in each and every picture, that was really
19 striking, everybody in these pictures was happy. This
20 really impressed me. The ducks were happy. The bears were
21 happy. The people were happy. Everybody was happy. The
22 fish with the hooks in their mouths were happy, you know,
23 everything, even the animals that had been killed in
24 hunting that were laying there with a very good description
25 of their wounds, they were smiling.

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MS. WILKINSON: That made me to understand
30 that these young people have a good understanding of their
31 life and they really like the way they're living. And I
32 wanted to just point that out, it was really an
33 encouragement to me to see that.

34
35 That's my comment.

36
37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any questions for Ann?

38
39 MR. MENDENHALL: When are we going to see
40 the art winners?

41
42 MR. JENNINGS: Here's one right here.

43
44 MR. MENDENHALL: That's one.

45
46 MR. JENNINGS: It's right on the cover of
47 the fisheries.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Ann. It was a
50 difficult decision, even for the Chairs, we had quite a

00118

1 task. Okay, National Park Service, is somebody doing a
2 report or you've already done it? You're sure?

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, we have a
5 number of research projects going but they're involved in
6 the NANA region and I can brief you on those next time.

7

8 CHAIRMAN CROSS: BLM.

9

10 MS. COLE: Jeannie Cole, Bureau of Land
11 Management. There is a written report, it's in your book
12 under Tab E right before the art contest and right after
13 the travel voucher. So you guys can read it at your
14 leisure. Basically it has a summary of some vegetation
15 monitoring that BLM did last year in McCarthy's marsh area
16 where found that use on the lichen is increasing, which is
17 not unusual given the fact that more Western Arctic caribou
18 are moving in there every winter.

19

20 As far as fisheries projects, where we'll
21 continue this summer with the Glacial Lake salmon project,
22 which is a challenge grant project with Alaska Department
23 of Fish and Game and Norton Sound Economic Development.
24 This is the fifth year out of a five year plan project and
25 we'll be setting up a fish trap and weir on the outlet
26 stream from Glacial Lake and we will also be installing a
27 stream gage on the outlet of Glacial Lake.

28

29 Another thing on the fisheries is we're
30 hoping to be hiring a fisheries biologist pretty soon. The
31 position is currently in our personnel office being
32 classified and should be out soon on the street and we're
33 hoping that that person is going to be stationed here in
34 Nome.

35

36 And Jeff Denton, from our Anchorage office
37 wasn't able to be here today but he gave me a few things
38 that he wanted me to mention. The Anchorage office has
39 completed their land cover and vegetation mapping project.
40 The Innoko project and that encompasses the Nulato Hills,
41 Golsovia and Unalakleet watersheds as well as the Innoko,
42 Yukon bottoms and Anvik Bonasa watersheds. And also the
43 Anchorage field office is planning on constructing a
44 building in Unalakleet to house some of their equipment.
45 There will be BLM personnel monitoring uses of Unalakleet
46 Wildriver this summer and fall to gather statistics on the
47 types of use and the distribution of use along the Wild and
48 Scenic River. And they're also planning late spring bear
49 surveys and harlequin duck breeding population surveys for
50 the Unalakleet watershed streams and those streams flowing

00119

1 into Yukon Delta and Togiak Refuges.

2

3 And that's all I have to present unless
4 anybody has any questions.

5

6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you, Jeannie.
7 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

8

9 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn, Fish and Game. I'll
10 quickly go over some moose survey numbers with you. I know
11 everybody's kind of worn out, it's been a long day. It
12 will be real short and sweet, this past month, we've been
13 doing aerial surveys on the moose population in Unit 22.
14 Unit 22(C), the past five years, the moose population has
15 continued to grow at a rate of 16 percent. This fall we
16 had a cow registration hunt and we will continue that hunt
17 this fall as well.

18

19 The spring of 2001, which is just this past
20 month, our numbers were 34 calves to 100 adults and our
21 point estimate was 557 moose.

22

23 MR. MENDENHALL: What?

24

25 MR. GORN: 557 moose, which is pretty high
26 for 22(C) and that's why we'll continue to have that cow
27 hunt.

28

29 MR. MENDENHALL: Is that why they're
30 waiting to get on Alaska Airlines, the moose?

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. GORN: Yeah, actually it wouldn't be
35 bad if they disbursed to some other units because after
36 that -- after 22(C) we run into some pretty ugly problems.
37 With 22(B), the recruitment continues to be low, that's not
38 any breaking news for anybody in this room. There's 27
39 bulls to 100 cows, which is good. Those numbers are good.
40 Our management goal is 30 bulls to 100 cows, so we're right
41 on track. however, the recruitment is low, it's eight
42 calves per 100 cows. So that's a little bit grim. Current
43 hunting is probably not depressing the population.
44 Predation on the offspring is definitely a factor.

45

46 Quickly, to 22(D), our numbers there are 11
47 cows per 100 cows. In certain drainages, it doesn't look
48 -- the numbers aren't as high as we'd like to see them.
49 The last five years, if we look at those numbers in 1996,
50 approximately, we saw 30 bulls per 100 cows and then last

00120

1 year we were down to 16 bulls per 100 cows. This next
2 advisory committee meeting is going to be very important.
3 We're going to be looking for a lot of ideas from the
4 public, a lot of -- try to come up with some solutions to
5 promote the 22(D) population, specifically along the road
6 and the Pilgrim and Kuzitrin River drainages is where we're
7 seeing the lowest numbers.

8
9 MR. MENDENHALL: When do you count them,
10 during the -- right now?

11
12 MR. GORN: During the spring.

13
14 MR. MENDENHALL: While the snow is still on
15 the ground?

16
17 MR. GORN: Right. Yeah, they're a little
18 bit easier -- an easier surveying technique to do this time
19 of year.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Because when I went to the
22 Alaska Fish and Game local meeting here, there was comments
23 regarding moose along the Pilgrim drainage but that was
24 when it was hot and they don't take into the fact that it
25 was too warm for them to come down. People realize that,
26 they stay up high in the mountains when it's warm and
27 that's why you don't see them along the river. And I think
28 that's with a problem with moose, and they don't see them
29 -- like they used to in years past.

30
31 MR. GORN: Uh-huh.

32
33 MR. MENDENHALL: And that's one thing I
34 think about 22(D), and they also made subsistence hunt cut
35 back on the -- because Brevig wasn't there at that October
36 meeting, they cut back on moose hunting on 22(D) because
37 they haven't seen the moose along the Pilgrim River. I
38 didn't think that was fair to do that when there was hardly
39 any representation from either Teller or Brevig, for their
40 moose hunt.

41
42 The other factor is that there was a
43 comment made by somebody from Nome that has an air boat --
44 I mean a jet boat unit to go up and down, complaining about
45 it, not seeing any moose like they used to.

46
47 MR. GORN: Uh-huh.

48
49 MR. MENDENHALL: But they don't take into
50 consideration the weather. That's why I was asking, when

00121

1 do you do these moose counts?

2

3 MR. GORN: Well, we try to stay consistent
4 as far as our surveys for moose census, they're always done
5 in the spring just because that's when we can have the best
6 confidence level with our numbers. You've raised some good
7 points and, you know, we're going to need those and a lot
8 more at the next meeting because we're going to have to
9 address the declining numbers. You know, specifically in
10 the last five years what we've seen with bulls to cows.

11

12 In other parts of 22(D), the picture isn't
13 so grim, the numbers are a little bit better. But
14 specifically right along the road system in those Kuzitrin
15 and Pilgrim drainages, we're seeing some lower numbers.

16

17 And to finish up, 22(E) is planned in the
18 next two weeks. So hopefully our weather cooperates and
19 the winds die down and we can get up there and get our
20 survey done.

21

22 And unless there's any questions.

23

24 MR. KOBUK: I have a question, I didn't get
25 for 22(A), did you guys do a moose count there, yet?

26

27 MR. GORN: No, 22(A) is the short list, as
28 well, to try to get down there and get that project done.
29 So first -- Kate kind of prioritized them and she put 22(E)
30 first and then after (E), I think she's going to take a
31 look at (A).

32

33 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you very much.

34

35 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair, could I?

36

37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Sure.

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: Madame Chair. Ken Adkisson,
40 National Park Service. I just have a quick question for
41 Tony. Tony, are you hoping to have your Fish and Game
42 Advisory Committee meetings prior to and so you can have
43 proposals developed for the fall Board of Game meeting?

44

45 MR. GORN: Correct. Yeah, we'll have them
46 before November, probably in late September or early
47 October.

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: Okay.

50

00122

1 MR. GORN: Yeah, that's when.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Since the Board of Game is
4 hoping to meet in Kotzebue in October.

5

6 MR. GORN: Correct. Right.

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

9

10 MR. MENDENHALL: Just one thing, that
11 example of Advisory Fish and Game Board -- State Fish and
12 Game Board, they tend to, at times, do a kneejerk reaction
13 to something that they hear from somebody else that hardly
14 knows anything about Native traditional subsistence hunt
15 and I don't think that they should cut back on a
16 subsistence hunt when they hardly know anything about that
17 area. Like it would be poor judgment, like if somebody
18 would make a judgment on Nome area that don't know how we
19 hunt, you know. And I feel sorry for the villages that got
20 impacted by somebody testifying from Nome that they should
21 cut back on Teller and Brevig subsistence moose hunt.

22

23 MR. GORN: I'm sorry, Perry, who's making
24 the poor judgment?

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: I'm sorry that somebody
27 from Nome made a comment about subsistence moose hunt for
28 Brevig and Teller, the cut back, and I don't think that's
29 right. A statement made by a non-Native saying that and
30 then having the Advisory Board do a kneejerk reaction and
31 cutting back on subsistence hunts. And I think the Council
32 needs to be aware of that, that we should not do kneejerk
33 reactions to one report, one individual that impacts a
34 village. And I think the State needs to be a little bit
35 more sensitive to try to encourage more the subsistence
36 hunts for villages in a drainage or area, or system on the
37 road system.

38

39 CHAIRMAN CROSS: You also rely on the
40 statistics that you gather in the spring time, don't you?

41

42 MR. GORN: Correct. When I was
43 specifically citing the road system, I did that just
44 because in our numbers -- our statistics, those are
45 critical areas for hunting because there are a lot of users
46 from the Nome area and it just makes those specific
47 drainages easily accessible.

48

49 MR. MENDENHALL: I realize -- they weren't
50 doing it for the road system, they were doing it for that

00123

1 Teller, Brevig drainage system there, and a Nome person was
2 making comments about cutting back on subsistence moose
3 hunting. The Advisory Committee needs to be aware that
4 they need more data at a meeting in order to make a
5 recommendation to cut back to management, rather than doing
6 a kneejerk reaction in cutting back on subsistence activity
7 only by one testimony. That's where I'm coming from and I
8 think that needs to be taken more carefully but the State
9 Advisory.

10
11 That's my concern and I think Elmer and
12 them said that they hardly had anybody there during the
13 meeting when they had that meeting in October or November,
14 whenever they had the last Advisory meeting. So that is
15 what I seen practiced at the last meeting that I went to.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, I'm sure the State
18 will note that. Will you continue.

19
20 MR. GORN: Yes.

21
22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Fisheries. ADF&G
23 fisheries. Nobody here? Okay. New business to attend to?
24 Anybody got any new business? Ann.

25
26 MS. WILKINSON: Madame Chairman, I just
27 wanted to point out the letter that's in the last tab of
28 the book. You and I had talked about it before, to bring
29 it before the Council about non-resident moose hunting,
30 unsupervised or unguided, however you want to say it.

31
32 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I had that included in for
33 your information because it's something that I hear all the
34 time from different regions so this is pretty much
35 basically for your information.

36
37 MR. MENDENHALL: Madame Chair, unsupervised
38 -- I think they, at the last Fish and Game Board meeting,
39 they had voiced the same concern about unsupervised moose
40 hunters -- or illegal moose hunts to.

41
42 CHAIRMAN CROSS: That's why I just put it
43 in for informational purposes. It seems to be a consistent
44 concern throughout the state.

45
46 Anything else new, Ann?

47
48 MS. WILKINSON: No.

49
50 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, establishing time

00124

1 and place of the next meeting is at Tab G. But Ann just
2 provided us this yellow piece of paper and it looks like
3 we're pretty limited as to when our next meeting is going
4 to be. On the first week, beginning September 11th is the
5 North Slope and it looks like a one day meeting for the
6 North Slope. And then September 28th is Northwest, it
7 looks like a one day meeting -- well, actually 25th to the
8 27th is Yukon Delta, and then the Northwest is on the 28th
9 of September. October 2nd to October 4 is Western
10 Interior. October 1 to October 3, Southcentral. October 5
11 through the 6th is Kodiak Aleutian. Bristol Bay is October
12 11th through 12th. From the 9th to the 11th is Eastern
13 Interior. And lastly Southeast meets from the 15th of
14 October to the 17th. That kind of leaves us somewhere from
15 September 12th on to the September 27th, there's kind of a
16 large open window in there. So we have to decide when do
17 we want our next meeting.

18
19 Peter.

20
21 MR. BUCK: I make a motion to have it on
22 September 13th and 14th.

23
24 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Is there a second to the
25 motion? September 13th is a Thursday, September 14th is a
26 Friday.

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, let's ask management
29 and Staff if they have any problem with that because it's
30 kind of like back to back with Barrow.

31
32 MR. JENNINGS: There's no problem.

33
34 MR. MENDENHALL: No problem.

35
36 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second the motion.

37
38 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, the motion has been
39 seconded for September 13th and 14th for the meeting dates.

40
41 MR. MENDENHALL: Question.

42
43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called.
44 All those in favor of September 13th and 14th for our next
45 scheduled -- our fall meeting signify by saying aye.

46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48
49 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All those opposed, same
50 sign.

00125

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Motion carries. Now, we
4 decide where we're going to have the meeting. Where do we
5 want our fall meeting, flip a coin or what?

6

7 MS. DEGNAN: Put it out to bid.

8

9 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Frances said we should put
10 it out to bid. September 13th and 14th, we just need to
11 establish a place.

12

13 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry, by place, do you
14 mean the town or.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN CROSS: We're talking about what
17 village, what town or what city.

18

19 MS. DEGNAN: What's available?

20

21 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Well, at least let's make
22 first choice and second choice so that Ann can check to see
23 what's available.

24

25 MR. MENDENHALL: Go to Brevig. We were
26 always wanting to do one village and one Nome. At one time
27 we were always wanting to do one village and one Nome.

28

29 MS. DEGNAN: So we've done Nome.

30

31 MR. MENDENHALL: Yeah, we done Nome
32 already.

33

34 MS. DEGNAN: It's time to go out. What
35 about St. Michael?

36

37 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Leonard.

38

39 MR. KOBUK: I wouldn't mind St. Michael,
40 but I guess people need to stay -- they can find a place to
41 stay in the village or they can stay in the new IRA
42 community building that we just built, it has two rooms
43 only on top, so I guess that would have to be reserved, and
44 each room has a bunk in it. There was supposed to be two
45 more bunks in each room. It also has a kitchen in that
46 building. But I would have to ask IRA because they have
47 rates for special meetings in that new building.

48

49 MR. ENINGOWUK: Madame Chair.

50

00126

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Yes, Johnson.

2

3 MR. ENINGOWUK: We've been doing it in
4 Nome, and Kawerak and most of Fish and Game is here and
5 there's lots of places to stay. When we get to the small
6 villages, sometimes it's real hard to find everybody a
7 place to stay. Like Shishmaref has no running water yet
8 and we're still a honey bucket system and some of these
9 people are not comfortable in that kind of situation. So I
10 don't know, sometimes it becomes real hard to find a place
11 for so many to stay in the village.

12

13 MR. KOBUK: That's the same thing for St.
14 Michael, we're still on the honey bucket and hauling water
15 system, too, for four more years.

16

17 MR. ENINGOWUK: Shishmaref will sink by
18 then.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Actually there's always
23 been just two places that can accommodate us very well and
24 that's been Nome and Unalakleet.

25

26 MR. MENDENHALL: Well, White Mountain has a
27 lodge.

28

29 CHAIRMAN CROSS: White Mountain Lodge is
30 closed isn't it?

31

32 MR. BUCK: White Mountain Lodge is closed,
33 it's now operated by the Bering Strait School District and
34 it's occupied. And the accommodations in White Mountain,
35 it's got two beds, that's all in the rest of the village.

36

37 MS. DEGNAN: Two beds?

38

39 MR. BUCK: Two beds.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Unless it's going to be
44 one of those meetings that we can go in the village in the
45 morning and come out of the village, I think we're pretty
46 much tied to two communities, either Unalakleet or Nome.
47 What is your first preference out of those two communities?

48

49 MR. BUCK: Madame Chair, I make a motion to
50 have the next meeting in Nome.

00127

1 CHAIRMAN CROSS: There's a motion to have
2 the next meeting in Nome; is there a second?

3
4 MR. OKLEASIK: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Thank you. Isaac
7 Okleasik, Jr., seconds the motion.

8
9 MR. KOBUK: Question.

10
11 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Question has been called.
12 All those in favor of having the meeting in Nome signify by
13 stating aye.

14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16
17 CHAIRMAN CROSS: All opposed, same sign.

18
19 MS. DEGNAN: Aye.

20
21 MR. MENDENHALL: Aye.

22
23 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Okay, it looks like two
24 people said no but the rest of the Council says Nome so
25 we'll have it in Nome. September 13th and 14th in Nome.
26 Okay.

27
28 MR. MENDENHALL: You need to close public
29 testimony.

30
31 CHAIRMAN CROSS: I don't believe we have
32 anymore public testimony so that will now be closed. And
33 it is now 5:18 and we shall adjourn the meeting. Thank you
34 for coming everybody. Oh, wait a minute, Ann.

35
36 MS. WILKINSON: I just wanted to know
37 before you guys leave, if the room accommodations were
38 satisfactory or if I should try something else then?

39
40 CHAIRMAN CROSS: Any complainers? It looks
41 like none.

42
43 MR. KOBUK: Mine was okay, I was in it
44 alone.

45
46 CHAIRMAN CROSS: No complainers. Thank you
47 very much everybody, see you next fall.

48
49 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

50 * * * * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

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6

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

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter of Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10
11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 127 contain a
12 full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD-PENINSULA
13 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken
14 electronically by Salena Hile on the 29th day of March 2001,
15 beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Munagsri
16 Senior Apartments, Nome, Alaska;

17
18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript
19 requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under
20 my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge
21 and ability;

22
23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested
24 in any way in this action.

25
26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 11th day of April 2001.

27
28
29
30
31 _____
32 Joseph P. Kolasinski
33 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/04