

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 Nullagvik Hotel Conference Room
8 Kotzebue, Alaska
9 March 8, 2012
10 9:00 a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Enoch Shiedt, Chairman
16 Percy Ballot
17 Leslie Burns
18 Verne Cleveland
19 Victor Karmun
20 Michael Kramer
21 Hannah Loon
22 Walter Sampson
23 Raymond Stoney
24 Austin Swan
25
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27 Regional Council Coordinator, Tom Jennings
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 3/8/2012)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Good morning. I'll call the meeting to order, Northwest Regional Advisory Council. We'll start from Percy Ballot, introduce yourself and your respective village, please.

MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot from Buckland.

MR. BURNS: Leslie Burns from Noatak.

MS. LOON: (In Inupiaq)

REPORTER: Austin, your turn.

MR. SWAN: Good morning. My name is Austin Swan, Sr., I'm from Kivalina.

MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk from Kotzebue, Enoch Shiedt, Maniilaq natural resources coordinator.

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Good morning, Victor Karmun. Kotzebue. I'd like to take this time and welcome two new members, Verne Cleveland, stand up please; Hannah Loon.

Thank you.

MR. STONEY: I'm Raymond Stoney, Kiana.

MR. SAMPSON: (In Inupiaq)

MR. CLEVELAND: Verne Cleveland, Noorvik.

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Can we have a roll call and establish a quorum, please.

MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Stoney, would you like to do the roll call or would you like me to do that. My name is Tom Jennings, I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management and I'm taking Donald Mike's place today, he's your Council coordinator.

I can do the roll call if you'd like.

1 MR. STONEY: (Nods affirmatively)
2
3 MR. JENNINGS: All right. Raymond
4 Stoney.
5
6 MR. STONEY: Here.
7
8 MR. JENNINGS: Victor Karmun.
9
10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes.
11
12 MR. JENNINGS: Hannah Loon.
13
14 MS. LOON: (In Inupiaq)
15
16 MR. JENNINGS: Michael Kramer.
17
18 (No comments)
19
20 MR. JENNINGS: I did call Michael
21 Kramer yesterday and reminded him of the meeting and so
22 he's aware of it and he may be here yet.
23
24 Percy Ballot.
25
26 MR. BALLOT: Here.
27
28 MR. JENNINGS: Verne Cleveland.
29
30 MR. CLEVELAND: Here.
31
32 MR. JENNINGS: Walter Sampson.
33
34 MR. SAMPSON: Here.
35
36 MR. JENNINGS: Enoch Shiedt.
37
38 MR. SHIEDT: Here.
39
40 MR. JENNINGS: Austin Swan.
41
42 MR. SWAN: Here.
43
44 MR. JENNINGS: Leslie Burns.
45
46 MR. BURNS: Here.
47
48 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Review

1 and adoption of the agenda.

2

3 Maybe we better back up one here.
4 Guests, stand up and identify yourselves, please.
5 Names.

6

7 MS. ORLANDO: I'm Ann Orlando from the
8 Selawik Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
9 Service.

10

11 MR. CEBRIAN: Merban Cebrian, BLM.

12

13 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon,
14 Department of Fish and Game.

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
17 Park Service.

18

19 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department
20 of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team.

21

22 DR. CHEN: Good morning. My name is
23 Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
24 subsistence program.

25

26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'm Helen Armstrong.
27 I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management.

28

29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Did I miss anybody.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, thank you.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Go ahead, Tom.

36

37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead.

38

39 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. We had
40 publicized that we would provide a teleconference
41 ability for the public or other remote Staff to call in
42 if they'd like. That hasn't been connected yet, so I'm
43 going to ask Helen if she could try to connect it at
44 some point.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Just let us know when
47 they're up and running and we'll see who we have on the
48 line, Tom. Thank you.

49

50 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 My concern was I did try dialing a couple times and it
2 was getting a busy signal on there but maybe Helen
3 could troubleshoot that and then we'll get going.

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I'll be happy to do
6 that. Mr. Chair. I also wanted to apologize to the
7 Council, we brought some food to share but the hotel
8 won't allow us to bring our food in because of health
9 concerns so I'm going to see about getting some stuff
10 from the hotel for you.

11

12 Okay, thank you.

13

14 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other
17 announcements. At this time on the reports 7D and E,
18 delete them off your agenda, please.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Seven D and what?

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: 7D and E, delete them
23 off your agenda.

24

25 Review and adopt the agenda.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Percy.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: I move for approval of the
32 March 8th Northwest Regional Advisory Council agenda.

33

34 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We have a second.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: Call the question.

39

40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: You're calling
41 question.

42

43 MR. SHIEDT: Question.

44

45 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All in favor, aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Agenda is passed,
50 thank you. Next on the agenda elections of officers.

1 The floor is now open for Chair.
2
3 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman. I nominate
4 Enoch Shiedt.
5
6 MR. BURNS: Second.
7
8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I hear Enoch Shiedt
9 nomination, and I hear a second. Anybody else.
10
11 MR. SHIEDT: I'd like to nominate
12 Walter Sampson.
13
14 MR. SWAN: Second. Mr. Chairman, I
15 make a motion nominations be closed.
16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: There's a motion on
18 the floor that nominations be closed.
19
20 MR. STONEY: Second.
21
22 KARMUN: I hear a second. How does
23 anybody want to proceed with this, show of hands or
24 closed ballot -- closed -- we'll go closed ballot, I
25 guess.
26
27 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman.
28
29 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Raymond.
30
31 MR. STONEY: Would you mention the
32 nominated persons so we know.
33
34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Your nominees are
35 Enoch Shied and Walter Sampson.
36
37 MR. STONEY: Thank you.
38
39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Tom.
40
41 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I'll collect
42 those and then tally them for you or provide them to
43 Mr. Stoney.
44
45 (Pause)
46
47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Tom.
48
49 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 Mike Kramer has arrived, and you might restate the

1 nominees for Chairman for him.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Identify yourself,
4 please, and we have two nominees for the Chair, Enoch
5 Shiedt and Walter Sampson.

6

7 MR. KRAMER: My name's Mike Kramer. I
8 hold a seat on this Board.

9

10 (Pause)

11

12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Tom Jennings, we
13 don't have anybody on the teleconference yet?

14

15 MR. JENNINGS: No, sir. We'll get that
16 taken care of shortly after we proceed with this
17 election.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Yes, sir,
22 Tom.

23

24 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. We have four
25 votes for Walter Sampson and six for Enoch Shiedt, and
26 I'll provide these to Raymond Stoney for confirmation.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.
31 Congratulations.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you. I
34 would like to see them be read out one by one to verify
35 the votes besides just your counting. That's how we
36 usually do it.

37

38 MR. STONEY: Okay. On the ballots that
39 was presented to me Walter Sampson, Walter, Walter, I
40 believe there's just three, right.

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: Four.

43

44 MR. STONEY: Four.

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: There's one under there
47 right there.

48

49 MR. STONEY: Okay. Sampson. Now, for
50 the other one Enoch, Enoch Shiedt, Enoch Shiedt, Enoch

1 Shiedt, Enoch Shiedt, Enoch Shiedt.
2
3 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Raymond. The
4 floor is now open for vice-Chair. Nominations.
5
6 MR. SAMPSON: I nominate Victor Karmun,
7 and ask for a unanimous consent.
8
9 MR. SWAN: I second that.
10
11 MR. KARMUN: I'm nominated, there's a
12 second, go ahead, Tom.
13
14 MR. JENNINGS: Excuse me, sir. Should
15 the newly elected Chair assume the position.
16
17 MR. KARMUN: Yeah, a good suggestion,
18 thank you.
19
20 (Laughter)
21
22 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Congratulations Enoch.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. I
26 would -- since I take the seat I will depend on Walter
27 and Victor heavily to get started on what's going on
28 and what I need to do. And we will proceed on to the
29 vice-Chair, the nominations are now open.
30
31 MR. SWAN: I seconded that.
32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Ask for a unanimous
34 consent on the nomination for Victor Karmun.
35
36 MR. SWAN: I will also second that.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Since it's
39 unanimous it look like we don't have to vote unless you
40 guys want to go ahead and make it legal and vote for
41 it.
42
43 Walter.
44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, all we have to do,
46 Enoch, is ask for if there's any objection to
47 nomination and ask for confirmation of the unanimous
48 consent.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.

1 Is there any objections for Victor being co-Chair
2 [sic].

3

4 (No objections)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. We
7 will proceed on to the secretary. Let me ask, who was
8 our secretary.

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: Raymond.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Raymond.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Nominate Raymond Stoney.

15

16 MR. SWAN: I'll second that.

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: And ask for unanimous
19 consent.

20

21 MR. SWAN: Unanimous consent also.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. It was asked
24 for unanimous consent, and anyone object to Raymond
25 being secretary.

26

27 (No objections)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay, thank
30 you, all. I'll serve the best as I could.

31

32 Okay, review of the previous minutes,
33 number 4.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Enoch, before we get to
36 -- to that point, can I ask, Helen, what was the issue
37 with food, you indicated that you had some food coming
38 in.

39

40 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We brought some food
41 but they won't allow outside food being brought in
42 anymore because she says the health department won't
43 allow it so I've ordered a dozen each for some scones
44 and some danishes and they'll be here in about a half
45 an hour. So we'll have you fed, so.....

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, very much.

48

49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thanks. And one of
50 our issues with the Federal government is the Federal

1 government won't allow food to be paid for at meetings,
2 it's complicated, so this is my gift to you all today.

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, very much.
5 I'm just getting at a point where you feel how some of
6 our people feel now when the Federal government goes
7 into their freezers and take their food. I'm talking
8 about the Fish and Wildlife taking sea mammal from an
9 individual in Kobuk because Kobuk is not a coastal
10 community. Fish and Wildlife Service agents went up
11 and confiscated what the individual had bartered to --
12 to put walrus meat into his freezer, and that's exactly
13 what they did. You see how people feel now.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,
16 Walter. Is there a way, coming from this group here,
17 that we could change it in the future, where we could
18 -- if it fall here, that you can bring in food from
19 Anchorage in any other meeting or any other town like
20 Nome, we might not be able to, like we stay in a hotel,
21 you know, bring it in, there a way we could change the
22 policy. I know it's going to be hard but that's one of
23 the tasks I think you guys will have to look into.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: Well, we'll just
26 going.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: We could eat outside
29 food besides local.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, the Federal
32 government also need to recognize this is local
33 economy, you ought to put the money in and pay for the
34 service.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I understand
37 that part, Walter, but Helen is the one that's got to
38 pay for it out of her pocket now, that's what I really
39 -- I should have said that, she got to pay for it out
40 of her pocket. I don't mind if they were paying it from
41 the grants or funding here for this meeting, you
42 know.....

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT:so I would say
47 thanks, and maybe -- I will put a couple dollars into
48 that. But being paid from Maniilaq, I could just do
49 that.

50

1 Okay, thank you.
2
3 Okay. We will go on to number 6,
4 review previous minutes from the last meeting.
5
6 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I move for
7 adoption of the previous meeting minutes.
8
9 MR. KARMUN: I'll second that.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. The minutes
12 have been approved and have been seconded.
13
14 Okay, number 7, Council members
15 reports. We will start.....
16
17 MR. SAMPSON: We have to vote on the --
18 on the motion, Mr. Chairman.
19
20 MR. BALLOT: Call for the question.
21
22 MR. SAMPSON: All those in favor of the
23 motion signify by saying aye.
24
25 IN UNISON: Aye.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Walter. I
28 think we need a little protocol.
29
30 MR. KARMUN: That's all right, hang in
31 there.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's my first one,
36 okay.
37
38 MR. SAMPSON: You're learning.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. So I think we
41 could do member's reports. We will start maybe from
42 Verne and work all the way over.
43
44 MR. CLEVELAND: What do we give the
45 report on?
46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: About what they do,
48 and how the people are doing about your resources in
49 your area, see how they're doing, mainly around
50 caribou, anything that have to do with land.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Well, I went hunting
2 this fall and Fish and Game busted some guys on the
3 river for no -- their boat didn't have their boat
4 numbers or nothing, and we realized that his boat was
5 out of -- it wasn't up to date either, his boat, it was
6 an '09 registration and the boat didn't have a
7 registration and he busted them guys, there was four
8 guys got busted for no registration on their boat, no
9 numbers. And -- and the Fish and Game, himself, his
10 boat was not registered and that was kind of odd. And
11 we told him, we took pictures of it, took a picture of
12 his boat because his boat registration was out of date,
13 it was registered '09 and here it was 2011, and we told
14 him about it and said you have no right busting these
15 guys if your boat is not registered properly. But
16 that's kind of out of the ordinary to have some guys
17 like that. They got to have their boat registrations
18 up to date and stuff like that if you're going to start
19 running around in the river.

20
21 Other than that there was an abundance
22 of caribou.

23
24 This is my first meeting, thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.
27 Michael.

28
29 MR. KRAMER: I'd have to say this fall
30 was pretty slow up the river by the hatchery area and
31 the Aggie area, not very many caribou moving through.
32 I saw a lot of people up there.....

33
34 (Teleconference interruption - trying
35 to connect)

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

38
39 MR. KRAMER: But other than that it
40 was, you know, pretty slow up there. I decided that
41 from now on I'm going to start going up below Ambler
42 and not even messing around on the lower Noatak, too
43 many aircraft and boats, I'll just start going up the
44 Kobuk.

45
46 Other than that I saw some people come
47 home pretty successful from the upper Noatak.

48
49 I had an RM880 moose ticket, didn't
50 even harvest it so I guess that's one more out there

1 running around.

2

3 Trapping for me went pretty good this
4 year, caught some animals, had one stolen, but other
5 than that, you know, everything went good.

6

7 The question I had also was I know at
8 the last meeting, joint meeting with North Slope, I had
9 a couple of motions on -- David Mike [sic], I haven't
10 heard nothing back as to whether those got passed.
11 Because I think that, you know, our people out there in
12 the NANA region, on KOTZ radio have the right to listen
13 to our meetings because we are making decisions on
14 their behalf, and I think that they should be able to
15 listen to our meetings and be able to comment on our
16 meetings at any time. And then I'm not too sure -- I
17 haven't really read the minutes on the last meeting of
18 the Federal Subsistence Board as to whether they, you
19 know, even acknowledged the motions.

20

21 But that's it.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Michael.

24 Walter.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much for
27 that Mike and Verne. And one of the issues that -- I'm
28 glad that Willie Goodwin and the National Park Service
29 superintendent has been working on this issue in
30 regards to the user conflict on the Noatak, and I'm
31 hoping that BLM will also get into a role of working
32 with the Park Service and addressing that very -- very
33 issue.

34

35 The caribou seem to be migrating at
36 least two to three weeks later than usual.

37

38 And the issues in regards to Verne,
39 what you were talking about is an issue that we all
40 need to -- need to address. First of all, the State of
41 Alaska is out of compliance with ANILCA.

42

43 (Teleconference interruption - trying
44 to connect)

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: But, yet, the State of
47 Alaska is allowed to sit on the Federal Board as part
48 of -- as part of the Board, something wrong with the
49 picture, something wrong with the picture.

50

1 Secondly, the State of Alaska don't
2 recognize the tribe. That's why they do that to the
3 Natives in this region. I know people that are non-
4 Natives that are boating on the Kobuk that don't have
5 updated, what do you call it, the tags on their boats,
6 but they don't get tagged for that. State certainly
7 has an issue. I think the Park Service and Fish and
8 Wildlife need to get aggressive in regards to managing
9 their own resource. Why should we depend on the State
10 of Alaska when it's, first, out of compliance; and
11 secondly don't recognize the tribe in this region.
12 Something wrong with the picture. And it's something
13 that, we, as people in this very body need to address
14 it, take it to the Board and address it at the Board
15 level. If it's such that we can't seem to get nowhere,
16 maybe get some of our villages to take a class action
17 lawsuit, if that's what it takes. That's what non-
18 Natives do to us, too. They take class action lawsuits
19 to get what they want. Are we any different from those
20 people; no. If that's the only means to -- to address
21 some of the issues because some of the issues been
22 going on for a long time, and it's time that -- because
23 of several things that are happening.

24
25 One, cost of living in this region is
26 very prohibitive now. In order for someone from
27 Kotzebue to go up the Kobuk, they have to go further up
28 the Kobuk to hunt caribou, same thing on the Noatak.
29 And it's something that we need to work on to get
30 addressed. And I think it would be appropriate, in
31 order to get some support from our organization, if
32 this very body can write a letter to AFN to address
33 those issues that are before us.

34
35 This very body, the Regional Advisory
36 Council, who is the Advisory Council to the Federal
37 Board, was not even consulted when the State of Alaska
38 signed an MOU to sit on the Federal Board. If that's
39 the way that the system is set up then we got a
40 problem, which means that what we say, what we do might
41 not even get to people that should be listening to us.
42 I know in the early '70s, early '80s they sure didn't,
43 and it's time that we start looking at addressing the
44 very issues because of the problem with cost of living,
45 cost of transportation and products that are costing us
46 to -- to go further out to areas that we need to go to
47 to catch what we need. And I think that's what we
48 ought to do.

49
50 And, secondly, we ought to take a look

1 at an option, talking to some of the villages, what
2 would they like to do to look at, maybe doing a class
3 action lawsuit against the State of Alaska, if that's
4 what it is. If they can file a class action lawsuit
5 against the Constitution which have the -- the rural
6 preference to take that out, then there's no reason why
7 we can't, as people, do that as well, and it's
8 something that we all need to -- need to think about,
9 maybe have some discussion at the village level.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you,
12 Walter. Go ahead, Helen.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I just
15 wanted to clarify one thing so that the Council didn't
16 have some misunderstandings of something that Walter
17 had said.

18

19 I wanted to make sure you know that the
20 State of Alaska does not sit on the Board, and one of
21 the -- they -- I know they were sitting at the table,
22 they weren't voting members, they no longer sit at the
23 table. They have been moved to the side and that was a
24 result of the Review that the AFN requested from the
25 Secretary of the Interior.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Good.

28

29 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: And I'll be telling
30 you later, but I can just tell you now because I think
31 this kind of fits in, we also have just -- the
32 Secretary has appointed two new members to the Board
33 who are rural members and there's a briefing, we'll get
34 to that later. Charlie Brower from the North Slope and
35 Tony Christianson from Hydaburg. Charlie, I'm sure
36 you're all well acquainted with Charlie from Barrow.
37 So I'll talk about that later.

38

39 But the Board has also changed
40 significantly and the MOU is being redone and it did
41 come to the Councils for review and there's a working
42 group for working on it now.

43

44 So there are a lot of changes in the
45 air.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks. I wasn't aware
50 of that, Helen. Thank you for -- for that information.

1 And regards to that working group, that
2 working group's reviewing the MOU?

3
4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, they are. And
5 what they are doing, too, is taking all the comments
6 that came from the Council and looking at those, too,
7 to figure out where to go from there.

8
9 MR. SAMPSON: Okay, thank you.

10
11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Victor.

14
15 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Helen. That's
16 good news. I'd just like to add one more, being
17 there's an individual from the North Slope, one from
18 Southeast, and Tim Towarak, the Chair, they consider
19 for Bering Straits and Northwest Arctic.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you,
22 Victor. And I would -- we have a couple other people
23 that walked in. Could you introduce yourself, please.

24
25 MR. ERLICH: John Erlich, BLM, Kotzebue
26 Field Office.

27
28 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, Park
29 Service.

30
31 REPORTER: Shelly, go ahead.

32
33 MS. JACOBSON: I'm Shelly Jacobson,
34 Bureau of Land Management.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you.
37 Let's go on to Raymond. Thank you, Walter, for your
38 concerns.

39
40 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
41 I think that a little more follow up on Mr. Sampson's
42 explanation about the regulation that's been presented
43 to the RAC and not just for Northwest Alaska. I
44 remember, when I first began in '93, that the
45 regulations that was very difficult to understand but
46 we finally come to the point where we finally got
47 working with them so evidently with being the RAC
48 committees in '93, even though we make some
49 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board, there
50 always has nothing been done, we holler and holler and

1 holler, and still not taken care of. So like Mr.
2 Sampson's explanation, that is true, because we still
3 have to sit down with the Board and make the
4 explanations about the regulations and what steps to
5 take next. Like I said I'm not against the Staff or
6 anybody else here, you know, just something has to be
7 done, because our recommendation, the RAC, doesn't
8 leave the Anchorage office; so we have to look into
9 that closely.

10
11 Secondly, the law enforcement. I'm not
12 against you, Mr. Erlich, but I'll say this, like the
13 Squirrel River is a very popular place to hunt and
14 there's well over 100 people that go over there year
15 and hunt it and if we're lucky enough to see a law
16 enforcement from BLM, maybe once a week, well, maybe
17 once a month or maybe once the entire season, so I
18 think that Mr. Erlich should make recommendations that
19 the BLM should be at the Squirrel River, have their own
20 aircraft and patrol that whole area. That's something
21 we should look into because the last seven to 10 years
22 time they're lucky enough to Kiana, you know, just one
23 trip, when there's a lot of hunters up there. Of
24 course the BLM regulations is strict on the campsite,
25 they should be established before they leave these
26 camps at the Squirrel.

27
28 Finally, though, I've got to say that,
29 you know, this caribou season was, oh, pretty much
30 healthy last fall and we seen a lot of caribou. Right
31 now Kiana is kind of obvious, I know you will think
32 about it, but we -- kids won't even go to school
33 anymore because there's caribou right on their
34 doorsteps. There's about 20 of them, every morning we
35 have to go chase them away and the law says you can't
36 harass the animal, a caribou, so we have to chase them
37 away from the school. I get the reason why they hang
38 around, there's about like 40 wolves around the Kiana
39 area and they're killing a lot of moose. I'm just
40 guessing, I think that is why the caribou are just
41 staying in the populated area.

42
43 I told, Mr. Chairman, to go up to
44 Kiana, go look at it, see what they could do, but those
45 -- these are bulls, too. And then when you see a
46 caribou, they drive up to them 10 feet, they won't even
47 move. They're going to really have to force them to
48 chase them away. So I don't know what we should do
49 about it, it's just put the kids to school so the
50 caribou won't harass them.

1 So, finally, Mr. Erlich, I say that
2 very strongly that we sure need some law enforcement at
3 the Squirrel River area seasonally.

4
5 Thank you. That's all I got, Mr.
6 Chairman.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you,
9 Raymond. Thank you.

10
11 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Walter.

14
15 MR. SAMPSON: I think we've got a BLM
16 representative here that will address that -- what's
17 her name will probably address that with John, too.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: On Raymond's concern
20 for law enforcement at the Squirrel River?

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thanks.

25
26 MR. KARMUN: Good morning. First I'd
27 like to congratulate Verne Cleveland about the good
28 observation on the Kobuk River, pretty good.

29
30 But, myself, I had a real good caribou
31 hunt last fall, although I did have to go a little
32 farther than what I usually do but I did end up with
33 some good animals.

34
35 Marine mammals was good except for the
36 diseased ice seals, and I see on Alaska Dispatch
37 newspaper this morning on the Internet, they are now
38 turning up in Southeast Alaska. That means Siberia,
39 Alaska, Canada, they really don't know what's causing
40 this disease and they can't corner it and it's nothing
41 to do with radio activity from Japan, Siberia or
42 anywhere else that they could find. I just got a call
43 from the North Slope, day before yesterday, and it's
44 still got the so-called scientists, biologists, doctors
45 baffled. Oh, I forgot, Greenland, Denmark is pretty
46 knowledgeable about their penipeds, so is Siberia, and
47 it's got them completely baffled so far.

48
49 This winter, just like Raymond said,
50 our wolves, there are quite a bit around here. I was

1 right across here, Sisalik, here not too long ago, some
2 young guy had a pack of nine cornered in a pretty heavy
3 patch of red rose. Everytime one would stick his head
4 out of the willows, he'd drop it, he got six out of
5 that pack. And I think the three over there are still
6 around, I saw one the other day back there.

7

8 Thank you, Chairman.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Victor.
11 Go ahead, Austin.

12

13 MR. SWAN: We've had a fairly normal 50
14 below winter. It seems like it's back to normal.

15

16 Really nothing out of the ordinary to
17 report in our area except I was up river last Saturday
18 and the ice is getting back up to five, six feet thick
19 where there's no overflow so that's -- I would say
20 that's normal for our rivers.

21

22 The fish, hard to find as usual.

23

24 Caribou migrated by pretty fast. I
25 think it took them two or three weeks last fall to come
26 through our area, and they were gone. We have an
27 occasional straggler still but, you know, very limited
28 caribou hunting right now again.

29

30 I don't have anything else to day.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Austin.
33 Hannah.

34

35 MS. LOON: This is my first meeting so
36 bear with me. Right now in Selawik the people are
37 hunting for caribou. There's a conference going on
38 starting yesterday and it will go through until Sunday
39 and then there is NANA day on Monday, annual meeting so
40 everybody's been preparing, working at the community
41 hall giving hospitality and food to the visitors.

42

43 And caribou hunting is pretty good
44 right now in Selawik from (In Inupiaq) and toward
45 Buckland way. However, maybe in the last three
46 seasons, myself, or in the last three seasons the two
47 last seasons I didn't -- we didn't get any caribou at
48 all. There was one instance where people were -- the
49 aggressive hunters were taking their snowmachines
50 because they were too far up, you know, in the

1 hills, too many, so they were out hunting with their
2 snowmachines in falltime. And the other summer, I
3 believe I bought \$400 worth of stuff to go hunting way
4 up and didn't get any, so I kind of gave up on that and
5 so it was really good that we were able to get some
6 from Buckland area.

7

8 And also I'm a subsistence whitefish
9 person and I noticed that we used to get a large number
10 of (In Inupiaq) or the fish from the Fish River in
11 large amounts, now, I get maybe -- I'm lucky if I get
12 20 each fall. So that was one strange thing that I
13 noticed about the whitefish.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Helen
18 [sic]. I just got a quick question on your (In
19 Inupiaq). I know they're mainly around Kiana and
20 Noorvik area, you said the numbers were down, how long
21 the numbers were down on your fish that you noticed?

22

23 MS. LOON: We used to -- when Emma and
24 I fished together in the '70s, we used to have like
25 about three or four racks of (In Inupiaq) dried
26 ones.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: uh-huh.

29

30 MS. LOON:now I have half of a
31 fish rack. I am lucky if I put away 20.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you.

34 Leslie.

35

36 MR. BURNS: I don't know about this
37 year, I never hunt, I work for NANA Purcell. When I
38 see people get their caribou, what they need, up river,
39 myself, I never hunt because I work for NANA Purcell
40 security on the river. Labor Day when they were up
41 river there was caribou crossing and I wanted to shoot
42 but, you know, my partner said we can't shoot because
43 we're security, just protecting NANA land.

44

45 I see people get their fish, we had a
46 good season this spring and they're still catching
47 trouts up there, ice fishing.

48

49 Also work for NANA down in Louisiana.
50 I went down there in December for NANA for small engine

1 repair. It's a good place but, you know, some people's
2 got to think if they want to leave home to work for
3 NANA for 90 days, you got to make a choice, like how I
4 did, you know, just opportunity, that's opportunity for
5 jobs with NANA. I wish our younger people would see
6 the opportunity to go to work. To me, I was one of
7 the, what they call elder people, in Louisiana with
8 five other groups that were down there.

9

10 Hunting was good for them, some people.

11

12 That's all I got, thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Leslie.

15 Percy.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

18 Hannah's testimony, Mr. Burns, you know, in the
19 falltime it's pretty hard -- or getting harder and
20 harder every year for Buckland people to get caribou
21 because by the time the few bunches that get up there,
22 they're rutting already, and so because of the water,
23 you know, they're way up the river where we can't get
24 to them, too, so we're lucky we have a lot of hunters
25 that always share what they get with people. And so in
26 times, later on, during the fall toward the early
27 winter, you know, we have people that are without meat
28 and stuff and have to spend a lot more at the stores
29 and things like that.

30

31 But that has to do, I don't know, with
32 where the guides or the transporters are dropping off
33 people. I don't know if they ever are going to look at
34 that, but we know that has something to do with what's
35 been happening. In the past we used to see thousands
36 and thousands of caribou passing by, and toward the
37 winter we'll see thousands of thousands of caribou,
38 well, we see hundreds and hundreds now and that's still
39 good. There's a good herd by Elephant Point, we see
40 people coming all the way from Shaktoolik and
41 Unalakleet and Selawik and Point Hope and Kotzebue and
42 all over coming over there to go hunt. There's a real
43 good herd right out of Selawik by the Selawik Hill
44 there on the Selawik Lake side, a little ways from
45 Noorvik, that's a good herd there. There's been wolves
46 running around down there, too.

47

48 So we try to relay that to hunters that
49 pass by and let them know that, you know, they could go
50 there and they're a little closer, in this wide open

1 country.

2

3 But the other part of falltime hunting
4 is that, you know, besides them coming late, there's a
5 lot of bears hanging around and making it hard for the
6 hunters that do have jet units to go up there and go
7 hunt so we spend a little more time up there.

8

9 And earlier this year we went to Nome
10 and participated, a couple of us went to participate
11 with the Muskox Cooperatives on the muskox hunting and
12 stuff and we worked out some stuff and shared some
13 stuff with them, worked out some sort of a plan for our
14 winter hunt that was -- went along fine but I don't
15 think we got really very much local, not much local
16 people -- as soon as the people know that it's open,
17 it's open to anybody, they're gone if we're not paying
18 attention. So we had a few guys that got muskox, which
19 is fine.

20

21 So that was it for me, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
24 Percy.

25

26 Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Raymond.

29

30 MR. STONEY: Just one more item that I
31 was going to bring up, I kind of forgot it.

32

33 There was a number of reports from the
34 hunters again this year, this collared caribou. Of
35 course there was a number of collared caribou has been
36 sighted by local hunters because the caribou, you know,
37 in very bad condition because they got collars in them,
38 you know, that when you see a very ill caribou, like I
39 seen one, I think that something should be done about
40 it. And the question is, do we need to collar these
41 caribou? A question we should think about very
42 seriously, however, I'm saying this because from other
43 people that knows the collar caribou is being tracked
44 by satellite from elsewhere, that's around the world,
45 of course, they're restricted but they are being
46 monitored halfway around the world. My question would
47 be, you know, that even though they are restricted,
48 they're leaking out -- this information is leaking out
49 to the people halfway around the world. The question
50 I'm asking, do we need these collars for the caribou

1 because I know the State of Alaska uses them to monitor
2 the herd and find their locations where the caribou is,
3 of course, they keep track and good job on it, but,
4 however, the question is, again, I'll ask, again, do we
5 need these collars on the caribou? There's a lot of
6 concerned people about this. Of course every year they
7 collar caribou up at Onion Portage, yearly, that's
8 something, Mr. Chairman, we should think about very
9 seriously.

10

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you. Go
14 ahead Walter.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 We do have a representative from the State of Alaska,
18 Fish and Game here. That question ought to be posed to
19 him and see what the issue is in regards to -- to
20 caribou collaring, the intent of that, the program, how
21 long that is going to continue and ask that very
22 question that you're asking now.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.
25 Okay, now I'll give my report for Maniilaq, and what I
26 hear and what I get calls from people.

27

28 This fall they had a lot of good
29 harvest in caribou in every village so far. When they
30 see me here in town, or I -- I did receive a few calls.
31 But last summer I never seen so many wolves right
32 around Aggie, and they're in numbers, and I could
33 understand Raymond's concern. I think they need to --
34 we need to -- our hunters need to -- they're trying and
35 they do get some but -- on the wolves, from my area.
36 And I was getting happy nobody mentioned bears except
37 for the last person, Percy, that bears are not
38 bothering us like before, and I was happy, because we
39 do have issues of bears bothering us.

40

41 I get -- earlier, I get calls from
42 Kivalina and Noatak that the trout was late but they
43 came in high numbers later. And these are -- when I
44 mentioning is what I'm getting calls from people and
45 when I -- when I do and -- and for the law enforcement
46 at Squirrel River, I understand we need someone because
47 I could feel it, I'm at Aggie. And when sporthunters
48 -- I mean hunters that are being dropped off by
49 transporters and outfitters, when they're migrating
50 they migrate over to Aggie and there's how many

1 drainages they could -- they could go over in. And I
2 feel it, last summer there was hardly any caribou that
3 coming through Aggie for one reason or the other, I
4 don't know why, because I hardly spend time in my camp
5 due to there was no caribou around Aggie, I had to go
6 towards Onion Portage.

7
8 And I understand what Raymond is saying
9 about satellite and I've been trying to work with them
10 to see if we could stop the use of satellite accessing
11 by individuals and mainly the reindeer herders, that
12 was the idea of us -- Nome people, the reindeer herders
13 to access the satellite to save their reindeer, now
14 they don't have any reindeer anymore, maybe we could
15 ask the State to stop it because when I was talking
16 about maybe we should stop the access of satellite,
17 Nome people said they would fight it, big time, because
18 they don't hunt like we do, they don't look for the
19 caribou, they just access the satellite and see where
20 the caribou are at and they go directly there, that's
21 wrong. I feel exactly how Raymond is feeling and
22 Walter is feeling, everybody here. That we should find
23 a way to stop them accessing the satellite because --
24 I'll give you an example, I got a call from Nome last
25 year when we didn't have any caribou, there was one
26 that's being (Indiscernible) Point, they give me the
27 coordinates on the GPS and I went there and I found it.
28 I mean that's how easy it is. I'll give you that as an
29 example. Also I get a call, another hunter here from
30 Kotzebue saying I got a call from my relatives in Nome,
31 they call me where the caribou are at, they gave them
32 the GPS, and he said he found them.

33
34 See, this is the issue and the issue is
35 this, we thought this was going to be only for the
36 reindeer herders to use and we need to put a stop to
37 it. And if Nome want to get in a battle about --
38 actually -- and fighting and stopping this, I will give
39 them a battle because this is wrong. It's wrong intent
40 to begin with. And Raymond and I probably were the
41 only ones that objected towards the end that we didn't
42 want satellite accessing. Why, as a Maniilaq employee I
43 get calls from Germany, Russia and Italy and I got
44 three calls from Germany saying, where's the caribou,
45 they say they know, they were delayed -- the hits were
46 delayed. I actually get called, where's the caribou,
47 where'd it go, and I tell them, the best thing you
48 could do is get a guide to take you out to take you
49 hunting. No, they -- I know, they say it's cheaper
50 when they go through transporters and outfitters. And

1 I do get calls like that in my office and I tell you
2 what, sometimes it gets so hard I can't understand
3 because I have to ask and I -- I email the
4 (indiscernible) and I don't get an input and return,
5 all they do is say, give it your best shot.

6
7 And so that's all I could give on my
8 report so I think if everyone's done we need to take a
9 break, okay.

10
11 Yeah, thank you.

12
13 Eskimo 10 minutes.

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 (Off record)

18
19 (On record)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, if everybody
22 will take their seats we will start this meeting.

23
24 (Pause)

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, if everybody
27 will take their seats, if you're going to go ahead and
28 gossip do it out in the hallway and we will proceed
29 with this meeting.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, your
34 name.

35
36 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you. George Pappas,
37 Department of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team.
38 I'm the fisheries biologist for the team. But I did
39 write down your questions about the reasons they're
40 doing the collaring; how long will it go; is it
41 necessary; and how come there's data leakage.

42
43 Both Jim Dau and Charolette Westing are
44 out flying right now doing surveys because we have nice
45 weather and I tried to contact their supervisor in
46 Nome, Peter Bente, and I'm waiting for a return call so
47 I'll try to get you some answers during this meeting.
48 But our two local folks are out counting animals right
49 now so I'll do my best to get some information to you
50 by the conclusion of business today, sir.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you. I
4 think on behalf of the people for Northwest Alaska and
5 from here a letter need to come from here to the
6 caribou working group to see if there's a way we could
7 stop it because we, Northwest Alaska, have interest of
8 stopping the use of satellite in the whole state.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, sir.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
15 Willie.

16

17 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman. I going to
18 speak as a resident. If the State is willing to open
19 it for us it might be okay.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 MR. GOODWIN: Right now they don't do
24 that. I asked that in a caribou meeting group one time
25 but they wouldn't -- the information we get is delayed
26 but the reindeer herders get it within the hour, or the
27 same day. And I asked in a meeting why can't we have
28 it for all the residents in Northwest Alaska and they
29 had some issues with it. But, you know, no harm in
30 asking.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you,
33 Willie. Yes, I did call and ask the State if I could
34 access it, too, and like you, they told me no and then
35 I told them, why could Nome get it, not us and I felt
36 like we were being left out as individuals, you know,
37 because we pay more price for gas here, and I was
38 surprised how much cheaper it was at Noatak compared to
39 years before due to projects I'm going to do in
40 Northwest Alaska.

41

42 Yeah, go ahead.

43

44 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you. George Pappas
45 again. I was just informed that Charlotte Westing will
46 be here after lunch so she can answer some questions
47 directly to you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you. Go
50 ahead, John.

1 MR. ERLICH: Mr. Chairman. John Erlich
2 with the BLM, Kotzebue Field Office. I've talked to
3 some other folks about the issue of satellite's use, on
4 collars, the access through the internet where anybody
5 could get a hold of the data and stuff like that, and
6 one of the comments that came up as to why people
7 around here were concerned about giving access, putting
8 that information out for our area, is that some people
9 think that we -- they know -- you know, we know where
10 we hunt, we go to places to hunt and stuff but
11 sometimes when the caribou are way out away from towns
12 and stuff like that, if they're too far away and it
13 doesn't make sense, we'll leave them alone, we'll wait
14 until their closer, or if we need to, we'll go out
15 there and go to them if we need to. But what some of
16 the folks wondered is it good for the caribou to have
17 spaces in the wintertime far away, when they're far
18 away from towns instead of hanging out at villages, is
19 it good to have a place where they're not chased all
20 the time. And I think the way we hunt, we worry about
21 that stuff and we're respectful about how we take our
22 animals and we don't mess with them, we don't play with
23 them, we take what we need.

24
25 But because of changes and stuff like
26 that and how people go out and access of outsiders to
27 that data, they -- an outsider could come and see that
28 data and say I know where to go and just go way out in
29 the boondocks, and so there was some concern about
30 whether that data also makes it harder for the caribou
31 to find places to be okay, you know, when we're not
32 hunting them and stuff like that.

33
34 So that's just something I bring up.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you,
37 John. Go ahead, Walter.

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, thank you, John. I
40 think the discussion will continue as we go through --
41 get agency reports, and we got a representative from
42 the State of Alaska that we can ask some of the
43 questions and you might transmit those to the upper
44 folks from his agency.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you.
47 Thank you. Okay. Back to the agenda. I think it's
48 tribal consultation. Who's going to speak on it.

49
50 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chair. Helen Armstrong, OSM.

2

3 We are in the process of instituting
4 tribal consultation -- tribal and ANCSA Corporation
5 consultation and in a couple items down you're going to
6 have a review of that protocol. But this is an
7 opportunity, if there's anybody from the tribes to then
8 comment on anything about this meeting.

9

10 I don't know that we have anybody here
11 who would be doing that and I think it's probably going
12 to become really important when we have proposals we're
13 reviewing. Today we're not reviewing proposals, we're
14 not at that point in our cycle. So the next meeting,
15 you know, we'll hopefully have some people from the
16 tribes who would be commenting on proposals.

17

18 So this is just a place in the agenda,
19 if there's anybody from the tribes who wants to comment
20 on anything then they can. If there's not then we move
21 on.

22

23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Helen.
26 Okay, maybe I'll just ask because I don't see anyone
27 here from the tribes to speak from the Kotzebue IRA.

28

29 Go ahead, Walter.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 If that's the intent for some input from the tribal
33 entities then the Federal agency needs to make an
34 opportunity for some of the representatives from the
35 villages to come to participate in this very meeting
36 because we seat as members, yes, but we also have some
37 tribal members that are active on -- on some of these
38 things. If we expect them to -- to give their
39 viewpoints then you need to make a way for those folks
40 to come in to give their perspective in regards to what
41 we're trying to do.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Helen.

44

45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: If I can respond to
46 that. We agree with that. We -- I can tell you right
47 now, we do not have the funding to bring people in, but
48 we are having teleconferencing, it's not working today
49 with us yet, we're still trying to figure it out. But
50 as an example, I'll give a, I think, a great example,

1 at the last Eastern Interior Council, not this one this
2 past week but the one in the fall, we had a very hot
3 issue on Red Sheep Creek, and we had, I think, 10 or
4 more people call in from the community to testify and
5 we will be making sure that when there is an issue that
6 deals with a particular community or communities, that
7 they're aware of that issue and that they know that
8 they need to -- if they want to call in, and so we're
9 making sure we have teleconferencing now. We're also
10 doing teleconferencing at all of the Board meetings,
11 which wasn't done earlier, as an opportunity then to
12 call in because we know people can't always come to the
13 Board meeting.

14

15 So we're doing some things differently
16 to try to get more public input, more input from the
17 tribes. But just -- I mean those of you who have been
18 around for awhile, you usually see quite a few people
19 from OSM, it's Tom and me, because we're having -- our
20 budgets are being so severely cut, you know, the
21 Federal government, the financial crises that we're in
22 so we're not going to be funding -- I'm just telling
23 you that right now, there won't be more funding for
24 people to be brought in but we will teleconference
25 people in. We'll do what we can.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Just a minute.
28 Yeah, Helen, I know you're trying to get on the
29 teleconference, if you're having a problem maybe you
30 should get someone from the hotel to help you, maybe
31 you'll connect better and maybe you'll be more
32 successful.

33

34 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We -- well.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because I'm pretty
37 sure someone will call in.

38

39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We did and we think
40 our passcode's wrong and we didn't want to interrupt
41 trying again but maybe we should just go ahead and do
42 that with a different passcode.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Walter.

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
47 the other option that we ought to look at, is if we're
48 having some problems in regards to trying to get
49 representatives into this meeting, then we ought to go
50 out to the villages and hold our meetings at the

1 village level, that's where the participation is.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you. I'd
4 like to see that. That way they could see what we're
5 doing somewhere. Especially if there's an issue and
6 concern on proposals affecting the villages. I feel
7 like that, strongly, heavily, not only with the group
8 here, other groups I'm in also.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Michael.

15

16 MS. LOON: Oh, go ahead.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll get you.

19

20 MR. KRAMER: That's why I wanted to --
21 the last time we were at the meeting in Anchorage I
22 made a motion that, you know, our meeting should be
23 aired on KOTZ, that way the people within our region,
24 and our youth of the future, you know, can hear what
25 kind of decisions we're making and then have a 1-800
26 number where we can receive several call-ins on matters
27 that we take care of here.

28

29 Because with us keeping it here within
30 this room, you know, we're keeping them out in the
31 dark. I think they have the right to be able to hear
32 our meetings and comment on them because they're there
33 and they're not here.

34

35 (Teleconference interruption - trying
36 to connect)

37

38 MR. KRAMER: Thank you.

39

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I hear
42 what you're saying. And I would be happy, our
43 representatives from the villages should -- you know,
44 when they have their tribe meeting, they should also
45 give a report -- just a minute Walter -- okay, go
46 ahead.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, very much. I
49 think that's good. But the other thing that we
50 also.....

1 (Teleconference interruption - trying
2 to connect)

3
4 MR. SAMPSON: The other thing that we
5 also need to consider making sure that we have in
6 place, we've got people that don't understand English
7 language that don't quite understand what we're doing.

8
9 The Federal system ought to finally
10 consult and to do instantaneous interpretation for some
11 of the people so that they can understand exactly what
12 we're doing. I mean if the State of Alaska or Federal
13 government are always paying for consultants, that
14 shouldn't be no different than what they hire.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter. I
17 understand what you're saying. So it sounds like we'll
18 have to call Barbara back, if we could, to give
19 translation. I understand and I did get a concern
20 about someone -- he said he could then understand some,
21 but some words he can't understand, it's limited,
22 education.

23
24 Go ahead, Hannah.

25
26 MS. LOON: In my village or in any
27 village, we're breathing subsistence. We're butchering
28 every day and cooking and cutting and sharing and we
29 bring food to Red Dog where we eat together and it
30 travels all over. And our elders in our villages need
31 -- because we are residents in this -- in this area,
32 for instance, 900 people in Selawik, what do they know
33 about subsistence committee here, what do they know
34 about what we're doing. At least give a courtesy to
35 the native village presidents and executive directors
36 to let them know way in advance that this is happening,
37 this meeting is happening here and these issues will be
38 discussed. And we speak Inupiaq, traditional
39 ecological knowledge, deep knowledge that we possess
40 and we need to transmit that to our elders from the
41 elders to us and to you.

42
43 For instance, I just saw a regulation
44 on fishnets, so when it comes to my comments I will
45 comment on that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. Go
48 ahead, Percy.

49
50 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I was just

1 wondering, I like the tribal consultation part but what
2 kind of information out to the tribes about they have
3 this opportunity, do they know, how do we reach out to
4 them to let them know that they have this opportunity
5 to discuss some of these issues.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Are you talking about
8 No. 8 tribal consultation?

9

10 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I don't know
13 much about it but I know it's in our packet from 12
14 through 27 and it's under draft yet and so if everyone
15 look at it and they would like to make recommendations
16 on it for changes it's in there, it's in our packet on
17 Page 12 through 27.

18

19 Go ahead, Verne.

20

21 MR. CLEVELAND: I think we get these
22 fliers out to village and give them to the IRA offices
23 and pass them out to people and maybe they'd get a
24 chance to read it and get aware of what we're trying to
25 do.

26

27 I know they're going to have a
28 subsistence mapping meeting in Noorvik the next couple
29 weeks and I think we should try to gather some kind of
30 information and give it to the IRA offices and maybe
31 they'll pass them out to the people.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Verne. Also
36 for your information, Maniilaq has a short newsletter
37 and if you guys think something should get in there,
38 and Maya's the one you have to get a hold of and just
39 call her and say you would like to see this on the next
40 newsletter, most likely she'll put it in there because
41 she's starving to put something in there.

42

43 Go ahead, Walter.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, very much,
46 Verne. The issue in regards to subsistence mapping, if
47 you remember 10 years ago, 12 years ago, the State of
48 Alaska did that very thing, mapped out where your
49 hunting areas are, where your trapping areas are. And
50 then the question came, what is the State of Alaska

1 going to use these for, are these things going to be
2 used against the community, and the answer was no.

3

4 But those very issues that they
5 gathered, that they collect, when it gets down to the
6 point of discussing regulations, they use those things
7 against the Native community. So you need to watch how
8 those things are used. If you're going to be mapping
9 your hunting areas, your trapping areas, ask that very
10 question; are these things going to be used against us.
11 Because public funds are being used and then they're
12 going to be open for anybody to use those things
13 against people.

14

15 Just a caution.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you,
18 Walter. I'll just follow up on Walter. Yes, I have
19 concern about this because any funding that comes from
20 the Federal is public information in the end and they
21 told me they're going to have -- they were going to own
22 it, but, yet, when they get Federal money, they don't
23 own it in the long run. That was a misinformation that
24 was given to the Natives and there was a
25 misunderstanding.

26

27 Go ahead, John.

28

29 MR. ERLICH: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman.
30 You know, I come before you often times as a Federal
31 employee and when I do that I'm constrained in the
32 things I can say and the things that I can interact as
33 a Federal employee. So what I was doing was consulting
34 with Shelly to see if she'll approve me for leave to
35 attend this meeting as a personal citizen.

36

37 But what I wanted to point out with the
38 subsistence mapping survey is I agree with Walter as
39 far as the things we really have to watch out for. And
40 I brought this up before at an earlier meeting, but we
41 mean to do well by doing these mapping projects to
42 protect our own interests. And the Mayor has all the
43 right intentions, I think, in supporting this type of
44 project but the thing is, it's like building a road, we
45 might decide now, you know, if we agree to a road that
46 we're going to control it in the future, all these
47 different ways, but once that road is built, that's the
48 hard part, they can always change the rules on what
49 people do with that road. You know, we know about that
50 sort of thing. Well, the same thing is true with

1 information today. We might collect this information
2 thinking we're going to protect our offsprings and our
3 future generations, but information is itself not
4 neutral, it becomes the weapon of whoever wants to use
5 it. And what I'm concerned about is not just outsiders
6 using this information in a way that we didn't intend.
7 I'm worried about us because we're asking villages to
8 point out their harvest areas and they're all being
9 truthful, that's all correct, that is their harvest
10 areas, but what that does is it kind of implies that
11 this is possessive to that community, and my concern
12 is, is that this mapping project is going to point out
13 is if we're all possessive by village only and it'll
14 leave out other aspects of reality. That real
15 subsistence people up here, when Kotzebue people can't
16 get caribou nearby they'll go up to Onion Portage,
17 they'll go up to Noatak River. When Noatak people
18 can't catch caribou in those years next to Noatak,
19 they'll go down to Buckland and Deering and other
20 people that need caribou right now know to go between
21 Selawik and Buckland. And I'm worried that this type
22 of mapping project doesn't capture that.

23

24 When I'm out oogruck hunting in the
25 springtime, I always see people from up river, as far
26 up -- way up river and I've always seen that, you know,
27 but I don't know if the Kobuk people know that when
28 they're mapping, that if they don't include using
29 Kotzebue Sound, that in the future, when there's
30 pressure to start saying what people can do and what
31 people can't do, when Feds come under that pressure and
32 they start drawing lines about who's eligible and who's
33 not eligible, if they didn't map out that they rely on
34 sea animals, too, then in the future somebody could say
35 you're not coastal. But we know that we're coastal
36 because under our coastal zone management plan, our
37 original one, all 11 of our communities were in the
38 coastal zone. And what concerns me about this mapping
39 project is it only takes in seven communities. And so
40 already I'm worried about the standpoint of regional
41 solidarity, which personally I value. And so there are
42 ways that this information can be used by outsiders, in
43 ways that we don't intend, but there's ways that, we,
44 ourselves, could end up using this information in a way
45 that we didn't understand can coil back on us later.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John.

50 Yeah, I did have concern on it. And for your

1 information I quit attending the meetings because after
2 I understand what was going on, I felt kind of sorry,
3 where it came in because it could be used wrong.

4

5 I'll give you an example, on one of my
6 surveys, I didn't report what I did in the villages,
7 yet, when they went to my office they saw numbers and
8 they said, hey, this is -- how come this family, it was
9 my fault for not turning the paper upside down, but I
10 was busy doing my thing, and they saw these and they
11 said they have concern and I said you better forget
12 what you saw because I will challenge it. Because on
13 the caribou surveys, I used to do, me and Susan, the
14 one family was getting lost -- I understand your point,
15 as well, I take your concern.

16

17 Go ahead, Walter.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: I want to thank Shelly
20 for giving John that opportunity to speak his mind.
21 And that's one of the other issues that sort of put a
22 restriction in place. For some of our people that are
23 employed by the State or the Federal system, where
24 they're told, no, you cannot speak in that way when
25 they should have that opportunity to speak in a way
26 that that would -- would bring their viewpoints into a
27 meeting. Because from that, somebody here will capture
28 exactly what John is saying and I'm thankful that you
29 gave him the opportunity to do that. Not too often you
30 get people from the systems, both State and Federal to
31 allow for that to happen and thank you for making that
32 to -- for John to speak his mind.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.

35 Go ahead, Mike.

36

37 MR. KRAMER: I don't understand why
38 those people in Kobuk got in trouble for having sea
39 mammal, you know, food in their freezer. I think we,
40 as Alaska Natives have that God given right in the Sea
41 Mammal Act, to be able to provide any type of sea
42 mammal type food for our families. That case there,
43 that's discrimination. I think those people have the
44 right to sue and take to court them people who took,
45 you know, that Native foods from them. You know, we
46 have the God given right to be able to go out there and
47 provide for our families just as long as it's a
48 bountiful harvest and there's no waste, you know, and
49 it is shared, we share around here.

50

1 I don't understand why -- if that was
2 me -- I don't want to comment on that. If someone was
3 to take something away from me that I have the God
4 given right to be able to harvest.

5
6 (Teleconference interruption - trying
7 to connect)

8
9 MR. KRAMER: That's why I think this
10 mapping thing is all wrong, we shouldn't be able to
11 judge different villages. We don't have the right to
12 be able to judge different villages, nor do no
13 organization have the right to be able to judge a
14 village as to where their location is, no matter their
15 location, if they're within that region they have the
16 right to any bountiful harvest within that region or
17 within the state of Alaska.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you, all.
22 Okay, is there anyone else on number 7 for tribal
23 consul -- go ahead.

24
25 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
26 think on the agenda, one of the intents coming from our
27 office was that if there are tribal representatives,
28 that they wouldn't be limited to just this point in
29 your agenda, that they would be encouraged to comment
30 at any point in the agenda on any particular items they
31 were interested in speaking about.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you. So,
36 okay, we'll go back to the agenda and we'll go to
37 number 9, regulatory proposals for 2012, deadline of
38 March 30.

39
40 Anyone is going to -- go ahead, Walter.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: Can -- before we go into
43 the -- the -- to the call for proposal, can someone
44 give us a timeframe on the cycle in regards to when the
45 proposals are reviewed for 23?

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I can do that, thank
48 you, Mr. Sampson.

49
50 We're doing the call right now. The

1 call is closed March 30th. The proposal book will be
2 out to the public somewhere about four weeks after
3 that. And then we analyze the proposals, they'll come
4 back to you in the fall cycle for you to then give your
5 recommendations to the Federal Board, and then the
6 Board will meet in January of 2013 to take up those
7 proposals.

8
9 And what I'd suggest is if you wanted
10 to look in your books, the green books that you have in
11 front of you, on Page 21, that's where the regs are and
12 usually in this region as well as the North Slope we
13 don't get many fish proposals because you have harvest
14 limits are no limits and you have year-round seasons,
15 so there aren't usually things that you want changed
16 because you pretty much got everything you could
17 possibly want.

18
19 So.....

20
21 MR. SAMPSON: So this cycle then is
22 what -- what you're asking for is basically referencing
23 fish and shellfish, not other resources?

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's correct, and
26 only within Federal waters as well, it's not offshore.

27
28 MR. SAMPSON: Can you define for us,
29 when you say Federal waters?

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Tom probably can
32 pretty well.

33
34 Anything -- if you look at the map on
35 Page 20, and you look at the colored areas, so we've
36 got the pink and the purple colors, you'll see a black
37 line that goes around those conservation units, around
38 the Refuge, around the Park and the Preserve, waters
39 that are within those black lines are Federal waters.
40 You also have BLM land and you'll notice there's not a
41 black line that goes around the BLM lands, so those are
42 not Federal waters, under the Federal Subsistence
43 Management Program, except for -- I'm trying to -- I
44 don't know if you have Wild and Scenic Rivers.....

45
46 MR. JENNINGS: Down in Unalakleet only.

47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, in Unalakleet
49 but that's not in this region. I don't think so.

50

1 There are places in the state where BLM
2 does have Federal waters that are under our
3 jurisdiction but not, I don't believe in this region,
4 that's my memory.

5
6 So, questions.

7
8 MR. SAMPSON: Yes, thank you. I note
9 that the Kobuk River runs from its confluence of Kobuk
10 Lake going up through the Kobuk River has Federal
11 waters, then how can the State of Alaska manage these
12 things; who gave them authority to do -- to manage --
13 or do enforcement within Federal waters?

14
15 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Are you talking
16 about areas that are not within Park Service or Selawik
17 or where are you.....

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: No, I'm talking -- when
20 you're talking about the black line, that black line
21 goes up the Kobuk River.

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I might need to know
24 more specifically what you're referring to so
25 exactly.....

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: I'm referring to the
28 State of Alaska enforcing resources within Federal
29 waters.

30
31 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Fish resources.

32
33 MR. SAMPSON: Right. Fisheries or
34 other resources. When the State of Alaska is out of
35 compliance to begin with under Title VIII, who gave
36 them that authority to enforce?

37
38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Maybe I can have
39 George come up here. I don't want to say something
40 incorrectly, if you can hold on.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: I'm just trying to get
43 some clarity here.

44
45 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I understand.

46
47 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

48
49 (Pause)

50

1 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
2 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 The State of Alaska has authority to
5 manage all fish and wildlife on all lands in Alaska and
6 all waters in Alaska. ANILCA allows a prioritization of
7 the Federal management of the subsistence hunts and
8 subsistence fisheries. So the State does enforce
9 regulations on all waters in Alaska, and all lands in
10 Alaska except within the Federal public lands, the
11 Federal Subsistence Board, through ANILCA, has the
12 authority to eliminate non-rural qualified folks when,
13 in times of need, there's a certain criteria when they
14 shut down non-Federally-qualified users to the area.
15 The tool that they use from the Department's
16 perspective is time and area.

17
18 So if there's not enough fish in the
19 Kobuk, within the Kobuk Valley National Park and
20 outside users that don't have C&T for that area, the
21 Federal government can, if they meet a certain
22 criteria, close that fishery to outside users.

23
24 But it is navigable waters, the State
25 of Alaska, does have authority to enforce State
26 regulations throughout the State on navigable waters,
27 too, sir.

28
29 MR. SAMPSON: Where does Katie John
30 case fit into this?

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Well, Katie John is
33 what led us to having -- as you know, obviously, led to
34 the management of fish under the Federal Subsistence
35 Management Program. I'm not a law enforcement expert
36 in this, but I think what he's saying is that the ADF&G
37 has the authority to do law enforcement and to enforce
38 the laws but I guess without knowing specifically what
39 happened and maybe if you could, maybe during a break
40 you could tell me, or you can tell me now, what the
41 specific incident was and I can find out what the deal
42 was. I don't know. I'm sort of working in a vacuum
43 here.

44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Katie John sued.....

46
47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Oh, I know, but I'm
48 talking about what your concern was. Where you said on
49 the Kobuk, the ADF&G, you feel like they were not.....
50

1 MR. SAMPSON: What I'm trying to get
2 clarity in mind is, the difference between the case
3 that was settled under Katie John, who then enforces
4 that law within Kobuk Valley, that's Federal waters.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I -- go ahead.

7
8 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. Mr.
9 Sampson. It is waters for the management of Federal
10 subsistence hunts and Federal subsistence fisheries,
11 that is one aspect of it. The Federal government does
12 not manage commercial fisheries, does not manage
13 sporthunting, or recreational hunting, they manage the
14 Federal subsistence fisheries and the Federal
15 subsistence hunts, sir.

16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Was it a subsistence
18 user who you -- who was -- I mean that's why I needed
19 to know more information about what you were talking
20 about.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: I know, I think I'm
23 confusing myself more with what I'm asking. Maybe at
24 some point we ought to have a clear discussion with a
25 legal counsel that can give us a clear directive in
26 regards to those very issues.

27
28 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Why don't you.....

29
30 MR. SAMPSON: And.....

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:give us the
33 details later and I'll then talk to our solicitor's
34 office and get an.....

35
36 MR. SAMPSON: I don't want to give you
37 details.

38
39 MS. H. ARMSTRONG:answer to that.

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: I want a legal counsel in
42 place that can tell us.

43
44 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: So we can hear it from
47 the horse's mouth.

48
49 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We can have a
50 solicitor be on teleconference maybe at the next

1 meeting to respond to your question.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

4

5 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.

6

7 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
10 Hannah.

11

12 MS. LOON: Yeah, I think it's very
13 critical we fully understand and it's clearly
14 understood by us. I'm getting confused already from
15 them two. And if we just narrow it down and get real
16 answers and let us understand, from the villages.

17

18 Okay, thanks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
21 you. So are we done with this tribal -- go ahead,
22 Michael.

23

24 MR. KRAMER: You know, I kind of got a
25 little confused there, you know, there's Federal waters
26 and as far as I know and the -- you know, the materials
27 that I have read, that -- you know that any navigable
28 waterway falls under the State of Alaska and, you know,
29 I'm always kind of confused because I -- you know, ask
30 some questions and got some answers that, you know, I'm
31 allowed to use an ATV in any navigable waterway, even
32 if it's within Park boundaries but, you know, I don't
33 like to push the issue but, you know, I think -- I was
34 told that any navigable waterway is State managed and
35 law enforcement.

36

37 That's all I have.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
40 Michael.

41

42 So I think for time constraints, we
43 need to go on -- anyone on the proposals for number 9,
44 kind of speak on that -- Helen just left the building.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, she's back.

49

50 We're on number 9 on the proposals for

1 2012.

2

3 And if you're going to do that again,
4 can you turn the speaker down because we could hear it
5 and it's bothering us.

6

7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

8

9 (Pause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
12 Helen.

13

14 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: So you had -- can
15 you repeat what your question was, please, Mr. Chair.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question is,
18 we're on number 9.

19

20 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Nine, okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Call for proposals
23 for 2012, deadline of March 30.

24

25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Right. So as I
26 said, those proposals are open, the period of time is
27 open for proposals to change regulations. If you had
28 some regulation you wanted to propose right now, this
29 would be the time to do it. As I said a little
30 earlier, that I think it's all year-round season, no
31 limits, so -- but if there was something you wanted to
32 change this would be the time to do it. And anyone, at
33 any time, any entity, any single person, individual
34 person, anybody from the public, any organization can
35 make a proposal, you can do it after the meeting as
36 well.

37

38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
41 Helen. Do I hear anything from this group here on
42 this.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not we'll go on to
47 old business, under the Chair, I'm new so I guess I got
48 to depend on the old Chair to come up with an answer on
49 this. Review and final draft 2011 report.

50

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The report, I think
2 was handed out to you. There's a letter, the draft
3 annual report and this is just a draft of a letter that
4 would be submitted. Tom's holding it up so you see
5 what it looks like.

6
7 These were things that had been brought
8 up previously by the Council and this letter, for those
9 of you who are new, the annual report is a letter that
10 the Council sends to the Secretary of Interior's office
11 with comments about any issue you want a response on.
12 So you might just look at that report and the letter,
13 thus far -- I mean to the Board, not to the Secretary.

14
15 Right now what's in here is an issue on
16 brown bear management. The Council continues to be
17 concerned increasing brown bear population in the
18 region. There's a suggestion from the Council they
19 should submit -- the Council suggests that the Council
20 should submit to the Alaska Board of Game some language
21 defining harassment by brown bears to individuals in
22 rural communities. And then there was a request that
23 came from the last meeting we had to have a statewide
24 meeting with the Federal Subsistence Board with all
25 Councils.

26
27 So those were the two concerns so far,
28 and if there's anything else you want to add to this
29 letter then we'll take those comments now, then it will
30 be finalized and then responded to in the summer.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,
33 Helen. Go ahead.

34
35 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
36 believe Donald Mike pulled these items from the minutes
37 as two examples of what some of the Councils concerns
38 were, and so as Helen said you can consider any other
39 issues that you want to report and it is to Mr. Towarak
40 of the Federal Subsistence Board.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
47 Percy.

48
49 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, this is where
50 Michael's comment came in about trying to have the

1 statewide meeting with all the regional boards and also
2 to have our meetings on the air.

3
4 We also had trying to include the youth
5 in some of our meetings, in some fashion to have youth
6 involved to learn about the issues and stuff like that
7 at that meeting. That was the only thing that wasn't
8 put in here.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you're right,
11 Percy. That was what I was trying to look for.
12 Because at the last meeting we had in December with
13 North Slope, that was part of it.

14
15 And the understanding I got was due to
16 funding issues that they say it might not happen yet.
17 Personally, I feel that we all get funding to go
18 Anchorage every different -- different Councils from
19 different regions go to Anchorage, only thing we do is
20 just have a small AFN together, you know, everybody
21 from the villages go to Anchorage and we all get
22 funding to go to Anchorage and I don't know why they
23 got concern, if we just have one big meeting together,
24 we could see -- because the migration on some of ours
25 outlies other regions -- I'm talking about maybe
26 Northwest Alaska, some of our animals go to Barrow and
27 some of them go Nome, and vice versa, Nome south, on
28 and on, so it's one of those things. I think you're
29 right, Percy, we should be understanding.

30
31 And -- okay, anything else on the draft
32 -- what is -- from the last meeting we had, this one
33 here.

34
35 Go ahead, Helen.

36
37 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The letter's a draft
38 and it's drawn from issues that were discussed at the
39 last meeting, but you can add anything you want to go
40 into this letter, it's only draft and then we'll
41 finalize it.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, and maybe so on
44 Percy's, the one he brought up, maybe we could add this
45 on -- you could add this on to the letter and give it
46 to Mike [sic].

47
48 Thank you.

49
50 Anyone else on this issue?

1 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, go ahead.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: I wanted to follow up.

6 After we send this to the Board, what happens, I mean
7 where do we -- where do our suggestions or comments, do
8 we get a response for whether we're going to be able to
9 have that long statewide meeting or whether we're going
10 to have -- a rationale way to have our meetings aired
11 to involve the public more, stuff like that.

12

13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yes, Mr. Ballot, you
14 will get a response. You'll get a letter that will be
15 in the next Council book with a response. I'm just --
16 I guess I could ask this later, but I was curious, if
17 we were going to have it aired -- I'll take that up
18 later because I don't know why that couldn't happen,
19 we've done it in Barrow before, where we've aired our
20 meetings over the radio so -- and I think it's actually
21 a good suggestion.

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I just --
28 an invitation to OTZ is probably just all it takes, I
29 don't know. Somebody needs to find out whether we need
30 to put in some money into it or whatever, see what we
31 can do.

32

33 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We can research it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, they could
36 check on it Percy. If there's no ball game, I know we
37 can get on, let's put it that way, very simple.
38 Understanding, they could hear -- and the villages
39 could hear about our meetings here.

40

41 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It would also be a
42 great way just to advertise what we're doing more so
43 that we can get applicants for being on the Council
44 because sometimes it's hard to get applicants.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. And, Helen,
47 for your information, when this very issue came and
48 that time we had a lot of campers and hunters, they
49 were concerned about the bears but we had not much
50 caribou and there was -- and that's why there was

1 hardly any mention about caribou -- I mean about the
2 bears bothering us, I think. And this issue need to be
3 followed up, they might come back, if the caribou
4 migrate early, back to normal, you know, the bear
5 concern, because I know there's a lot of bears out
6 there.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 Yes, go ahead, Michael.

11

12 MR. KRAMER: You know that was a motion
13 on the floor at our last meeting, that, you know, it'd
14 be broadcasted over KOTZ radio because I feel that, you
15 know, every person within our village communities have
16 the right to be able to hear what we're making
17 decisions on and to involve our youth. I mean if you
18 look around the table here, I'm the youngest guy here
19 and in 20 years I might be like one of you guys and
20 there might be some other people here.

21

22 (Laughter)

23

24 MR. KRAMER: You know, I hope I'm
25 still, you know, involved in the Federal subsistence
26 but, you know, I think our youth have the right to
27 participate in this and be able to see and understand
28 to where one day when it is their turn they know what
29 we're talking about and they know what kind of
30 decisions, the right decisions to protect our way of
31 life. And that's why I feel that, you know, that was
32 left out of this -- and there was a motion on the floor
33 and it was accepted and it was passed. That's the only
34 thing I don't see on here, and it being broadcasted
35 over the radio.

36

37 That's all I got.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Mike.

40

41 Anyone else from this group here.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Now, we're down to B,
46 back to that tribal consultation policy, number 10B.

47

48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
49 Chair. Helen Armstrong, again, I also would like to
50 encourage Glenn Chen from the BIA to come up if he

1 wants to add anything to this because he's been on the
2 committee. There's a draft policy on Page 12 of your
3 books. And what we'd like is to have you look at this
4 at the -- well, the briefing is on Page 12, the actual
5 policy is on Page 15, and make any comments to us if
6 there's anything you wanted to make us be aware of.

7
8 So those of you who are new who aren't
9 aware of what's been happening with this, the Federal
10 Board directed a work group to consider tribal
11 consultation and they've been meeting since last May
12 and considering, you know, what to do on this issue.
13 The list of the work group members is on Page 12 and it
14 includes people from the Councils, so the rural
15 subsistence users and it includes people from the
16 agencies and then Glenn Chen was one of those from BIA.

17
18 So what's been happening is in May
19 there was the Federal Subsistence Board working session
20 where they assigned the task of writing a protocol to
21 the work group and in June they met for a couple of
22 days. In July the Board adopted two interim protocols,
23 one for the tribes and one for ANCSA Corporations to be
24 used during the fall cycle of the Regional Advisory
25 Council. Then there were separate letters written to
26 tribes and to ANCSA Corporations where they -- on the
27 development of a long-term consultation protocol. Then
28 in August through October there were consultation
29 teleconferences that were held to consult on the
30 wildlife proposals so we were getting consultation on
31 those issues. That was a first time process and we
32 didn't get a lot of attendance, but we think that as we
33 -- as the word gets out there we'll get more and more
34 involvement in the future. And then in September a
35 letter was sent to all tribes inviting them to an in-
36 person consultation in December and there was a new
37 draft version of the protocol in October, there was
38 consultation with ANCSA Corporations and tribes at AFN,
39 and that was well attended. We got more insight into
40 the issues. And then in December there was a
41 consultation with tribes held during the BIA Tribal
42 Service Provider's Conference in Anchorage and there
43 were about 300 people who attended. Then later after
44 that, that meeting then in December, later the work
45 group met to consider all of the comments that had been
46 given so far from tribes and ANCSA Corporations. I
47 think they've done a really good job of reaching out.

48
49 So the general concepts in this draft
50 policy that you'll see are that the policy should be

1 simple and general and broad. It reflects a Department
2 of Interior policy that has -- I think it's just come
3 out, actually, hasn't it -- and it doesn't prescribe
4 the process of how to consult so they changed the name
5 from protocol to policy. They're not trying to
6 regurgitate to say it again what the Department is
7 saying in policies because we have to follow those
8 anyway. What they're attempting to do is to use the
9 Department of Interior and the U.S. Department of
10 Agriculture policies as the base and then focus this
11 policy on the Federal Subsistence Management's unique
12 nature.

13

14 Then in keeping it simple and general
15 and broad, it allows the Board and the tribes to remain
16 flexible to adapt to what makes sense for meaningful
17 consultation on the scope and issues that they're
18 consulting about.

19

20 The DOI, the Department of Interior, is
21 also drafting a supplemental consultation policy for
22 ANCSA Corporations. This work group is mirroring that
23 format and knowing that the Department also has
24 Department level solicitors in agreement on that
25 approach.

26

27 So the themes of this policy are that
28 there will be training on tribal consultation for the
29 Board, for the Staff, for tribes and ANCSA
30 Corporations. And it's meant to be a living document,
31 in that, it can change based on regular reviews and it
32 allows us to adapt to varying situations. And as I
33 said there's not a how-to consult, that'll be written
34 after the policy is adopted.

35

36 So where we're going from here, is
37 that, the Board met in January, those comments that
38 they made have been incorporated into this tribal
39 consultation policy. The Regional Advisory Council are
40 reviewing this. And then a letter, and it's actually
41 going out, it says it was going out mid-February, there
42 were some delays but I talked to Crystal Leonetti in
43 our office, who's leading this work group and our Staff
44 at our office are putting together the 450 letters that
45 are going out to tribes today, actually today and
46 tomorrow, they're stuffing envelopes asking for
47 feedback on this new policy. And then the tribal
48 consultation work group and the Inter-Agency Staff
49 Committee are going to meet in April and they'll
50 incorporate any changes that come out of the Council

1 meetings, and then they'll meet with the Board members
2 and a new draft will be given to the Federal
3 Subsistence Board in May for their discussion and
4 implementation guidelines, and the new policy will be
5 adopted at the May Board meeting, and then we'll
6 finalize those.

7

8 So the questions for the Council are:

9

10 Do you feel this policy is going in the
11 right direction, if not, why not?

12

13 Is there anything else that the work
14 group needs to consider?

15

16 Do you feel that tribes concerns from
17 the consultations have been or will be
18 meaningful to the Regional Advisory
19 Council consideration on each topic?

20

21 So we have the tribal consultation
22 policy that starts on Page 12, and then following that
23 on Page 22 is the ANCSA Corporation consultation
24 policy.

25

26 Questions. Comments.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
29 Walter.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Looking at the working
32 group list, out of the 14, you've got seven agency
33 people that are on the working group. The rest of it
34 is Southeast, one from North, and one from the
35 Interior. Was there any reason why there was no one
36 from Northwest area to be part of that process?

37

38 DR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. Mr. Sampson. My
39 name is Glenn Chen, I'm with the subsistence program in
40 the BIA. And as Ms. Armstrong mentioned I'm one of the
41 Federal persons on this work group.

42

43 So a little bit of background about how
44 the tribal leaders were selected for participation in
45 this consultation protocol work group.

46

47 Crystal Leonetti was charged with
48 leading this effort. She is the tribal liaison for the
49 Fish and Wildlife Service. She held a series of
50 teleconferences with some of the Federal Staff,

1 including myself, about potential candidates for who
2 could participate from the tribal end on this work
3 group. And so we did consider a number of people from
4 the Northwest Arctic area. Some of the difficulties
5 were the short timeframe involved in trying to assemble
6 the work group and trying to find people who were
7 available. And so I think what it came down to, Mr.
8 Sampson, was finding people who actually could
9 participate, given the short timeframe for an
10 invitation, so some of the areas probably did get left
11 out, like this area, and that was probably a function
12 of just trying to -- not being able to find someone who
13 could participate and be available.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.
16 Yeah, and, Helen, you said something about input from
17 the Natives from Northwest Alaska. I would like to see
18 how the other villages, you know, put their concerns or
19 their input on this draft because we haven't met as a
20 group to talk about this consultation and we haven't --
21 I haven't talked to Kotzebue or anyone because I won't
22 decide, I'll tell you that, one thing, I won't even as
23 the Chair, on this tribal consultation without talking
24 to the villages in Northwest Alaska.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 Otherwise you will put me in a bind if
29 I try to speak for the whole -- without talking to the
30 villages.

31

32 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, go ahead,
35 Hannah.

36

37 MS. LOON: I serve on the IRA Board in
38 Selawik. I would not want to speak for them either.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead
41 -- go ahead, you have the floor.

42

43 DR. CHEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I think
44 -- so this meeting is not the only venue by which
45 tribal folks can respond back on this tribal
46 consultation policy. Also if the RAC would like to
47 think about what we have before you and submit comments
48 later to the work group, we'd certainly appreciate
49 that. So both the tribes and the RAC members could, at
50 a later date, submit comments.

1 There is -- the timeframe that we're
2 working with is, as Ms. Armstrong mentioned, there's
3 another meeting in April with the work group, and,
4 again this is the work group of Federal Staff folks and
5 tribal leaders. Mid-April is the scheduled date for
6 that meeting. And the objective is to try to have
7 something in place for the Board to sign in May, at
8 least, a first round of a draft or a policy, a working
9 policy for the Board to work with in May. And as Ms.
10 Armstrong mentioned, it's always subject to future
11 revision and modification as people see fit.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Glenn. Go
16 ahead, Helen.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I would just say,
19 look for those letters that are coming but what they'll
20 be asking is review of what you have in the book, so
21 you can even, you know, start having people look at it
22 ahead of time. But I know sometimes letters get kind
23 of lost in the mail -- or not literally lost or maybe
24 sometimes with the mail system, literally lost, but if
25 you don't see a letter come through, let us know and we
26 could send it to you electronically as well. But you
27 should be -- I don't know, I've been hearing reports
28 that the mail is getting really inefficient out to the
29 Bush lately so I don't know how long it will be. But
30 if you don't see a letter and those of you who are
31 involved in the tribal offices, please contact me and
32 let me know.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you're right.
35 The mail is slow. The price of postage went up, and
36 they're just charging us for storage now, I think.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And I would like to
41 get an electronic copy because I would get it and I
42 would gladly look at it and I will forward -- you could
43 give it to the tribes here in Northwest Alaska, also I
44 will forward it to the tribes. For your information,
45 please, flag it, that way we know when we open it.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Because that's the
50 way I understand that I could get things done because

1 it gets pretty slow because sometimes the villages are
2 limited and they're busy, too, doing their thing.

3

4 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I'll make
5 sure you get one. I'll talk to Crystal when I get
6 back. I think it's even on my computer as well so I'll
7 make sure you get one and you can distribute it
8 electronically.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
13 Percy.

14

15 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I was looking at
16 this and I don't know the process where the
17 consultations are, or the working group stuff, but
18 Walter mentioned there's just a few tribes in there. I
19 know this doesn't give -- ANCSA Corporations aren't
20 tribes and how that relates to our tribes and stuff
21 like that, and so I'm wondering -- you know, I know our
22 tribes don't have monies to attend if they have so many
23 meetings down in Anchorage or somewhere or even -- at
24 least in Washington. But the corporations do always
25 have money to send somebody and we don't always -- we
26 like to work with them, but they don't really always
27 speak for our tribes, so where does that all fit in, in
28 here?

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Let me make sure I
31 understand your question.

32

33 So are you wondering why the ANCSA
34 Corporations are included as well?

35

36 MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh.

37

38 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. I'm going to
39 let Mr. Chen answer that one.

40

41 DR. CHEN: Council members. In one of
42 the prior Federal appropriation bills, there's mention
43 of inclusion of -- at least as far as Federal budgets
44 and appropriations concerns, mention of Alaska Native
45 corporations and so what that has then been interpreted
46 by our folks back in D.C., in both Department of
47 Agriculture and Interior, is that, tribal consultation
48 should also include consultation with Alaska Native
49 Corporations. It's been further discussed and I think
50 the current thinking is that this would involve -- or

1 include consultation with ANCSA Corporations. So
2 that's why there is a consultation policy for tribes
3 and a separate policy for consultation with ANCSA
4 Corporations. And that's what the Program has been
5 operating with, that premise, and so that's why there's
6 been separate sessions held for both tribes and ANCSA
7 Corporations last fall.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: So can I follow up on
12 that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Percy.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: Who's going to -- what's
17 going to take precedence then when you have these two
18 separate consultations, the ANCSA you're going to be
19 working on, or the tribes or.....

20

21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That's a good
22 question and actually what -- the further part of it
23 that's been asked at other Council meetings is what
24 happens to the Regional Advisory Councils
25 recommendations and that's been one of the concerns
26 about all of this issue to begin with because the
27 Regional Councils, we already have that as part of our
28 process. And so the Board has to give deference, they
29 will continue to give deference to the Regional
30 Councils on all matters of taking of fish and wildlife,
31 which they do right now. So if there's a proposal that
32 comes before the Board on fish or wildlife issues, and
33 there's a conservation concern and then that's -- there
34 are only three issues where the Board can overturn what
35 a Council has recommended. So they have to look at
36 conservation; they have to look at subsistence uses;
37 and safety issues. So the Council's recommendation
38 always will have deference over what the tribes and the
39 ANCSA Corporations say -- recommend, but the Council
40 can take those into consideration.

41

42 So if you have an issue, the tribes
43 will give a comment, ANCSA Corporation gives a comment,
44 and then the Council makes a recommendation to the
45 Board. And then the Board can still hear those
46 comments because they're -- you know they will still be
47 -- they could still go to the Board and give those
48 comments, but the Board has to give deference to what
49 the Council has recommended.

50

1 It doesn't take away from the value of
2 these Councils.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, thank you,
5 Percy. Thanks, Helen. Are you done, Glenn?

6
7 DR. CHEN: Mr. Chair. If I could
8 follow up to Mr. Sampson's earlier question about
9 participation by tribal leaders.

10
11 So as I mentioned earlier, we were
12 trying to find people who were available to meet on
13 rather short notice, and when we actually convened our
14 meetings in Anchorage back last summer, there was --
15 the tribal leaders who were there were very cognizant
16 of the fact that they had to represent all Alaska
17 tribes and so they took that charge very seriously.
18 And I think one of the things that they wanted to point
19 out to the Federal folks on the work group was tribal
20 consultation needs to be meaningful and effective and
21 they were trying very hard to convey the interests of
22 all Alaska tribes, even though some of the regions may
23 not have been represented.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Glenn.
28 Thank you, Helen.

29
30 Anyone else on this.

31
32 (No comments)

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll go down
35 to 10C, antlers on Park Lands, Park Service -- is there
36 someone from the Park Service?

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Helen.

41
42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I actually -- I'm
43 not sure because when I was trying to do the
44 teleconferencing, but there was an item under 7C, the
45 .805(c) report that I think we skipped. And so I just
46 want -- what the .805(c) report is, it says the Chair
47 reports on that but -- and I think -- I'm not sure
48 where Victor went, but, anyway, I can give a little
49 update. What that is, is what the Board voted on at
50 the last Board meeting, if you'd like me to do that for

1 you?

2

3

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, please.

4

5

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

6

7

8

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And for your information Victor's water froze, he had to run home.

9

10

11

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MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay. So on Page -- I think the easiest thing to do is to turn to Page 7 of your book, in the meeting minutes, these were the proposals that you deliberated on. I'm only going to go over the ones that were pertinent to this Council because there were about 100 proposals and we don't want to go through all of them.

So there was the Proposal WP12-01, that was a requirement for sealing brown bear claws. Brown bear claw used in handicrafts, it was a statewide proposal. This was the culmination of the brown bear claw handicraft working group. And the Northwest Council had supported that proposal and the Board also supported that proposal.

WP10-02 was a deferred proposal on brown bear claw handicraft as well and the Council had moved to no action and that proposal was withdrawn by the State because of the previous proposal 01. There was no necessity for this one anymore.

Proposal WP12-02 was redefining designated hunter statewide, and this Council also opposed that proposal and that was opposed by the Federal Board as well.

WP12-03 was a trapping proposal and the Council opposed this one as well and the Board also opposed that proposal.

Then there's a crossover with the North Slope Council, a proposal to change the -- actually that was only North Slope, that wasn't Northwest Arctic.

1 I think that was all for Northwest
2 Arctic. So there were only three statewide proposals
3 that affected this region.
4
5 That's all I have on the .805(c)
6 report.
7
8 Mr. Chair. Thank you.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, thank you,
11 Helen. Anyone else -- any input from the Council here.
12
13 (No comments)
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then.....
16
17 MS. LOON: I have a question, Mr.
18 Chairman.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.
21
22 MS. LOON: On the -- concerning the
23 antler on the uses of shed or discarded animal parts,
24 primarily caribou, do I understand this proposal was
25 approved or not approved?
26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that was next
28 on our agenda.
29
30 MS. LOON: Okay. All right.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The Park Service, who
33 was going to speak on this, come up to the table.
34
35 MR. SAMPSON: You just dropped your
36 antlers Ken.
37
38 (Laughter - dropped glasses)
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Ken.
41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
43 members. Good morning. Ken Adkisson, National Park
44 Service. And I'll do the Park Service presentation on
45 the environmental assessment, the EA, for the
46 collection and use of horns, antlers, plants and
47 discarded and naturally occurring products.
48
49 What all of this is about in a nutshell
50 is the Park Service is trying to fix some broken

1 regulations of its own that prohibit certain uses and
2 practices of these kinds of materials that people would
3 probably be doing traditionally. And we're actually
4 trying to improve the situation and make traditional
5 practices legal.

6

7 Sort of some background, quick
8 background on that.

9

10 We're actually in the process of also
11 responding to some formal requests from some of our
12 other Subsistence Resource Commissions and also the
13 Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council, your
14 counterpart in that area, who submitted a formal
15 request to the Park Service. So we're in the process
16 of doing this and where we're at in the process is we
17 have a draft environmental assessment, an EA out, and
18 what we're doing now is seeking your comments, your
19 recommendations on kind of on that EA and where we're
20 at in terms of the draft alternatives that we've
21 developed. As you're probably aware of Federal
22 subsistence regulations already provide for certain
23 utilization, making of handicrafts, sell of handicrafts
24 from legally harvested animals. What those Federal
25 regulations, under the Federal Program don't do,
26 though, is they don't address the use of plant
27 materials and they don't address the question of non-
28 harvested animals. So if you're out in the field and
29 you encounter a dead caribou or a dead muskox or
30 something like that and you want to collect some parts
31 from those animals and use them for making and selling
32 handicrafts inside a National Park unit, you're
33 currently prohibited from doing that. And what we want
34 to do is fix that so you can utilize those products
35 that you encounter.

36

37 Currently we have special regulations,
38 only for Kobuk Valley that covers trapping and the sale
39 of furs as a customary trade item and also the making
40 and selling of handicrafts made from certain kinds of
41 plant materials. But it only relates to Kobuk Valley.
42 We have a similar regulation for Gates of the Arctic,
43 but there's nothing really that covers any of the other
44 Park units across the state and that's what we're in
45 the process of trying to address now.

46

47 So it's my understanding that most of
48 you, but perhaps not the newest members, may have
49 received in the mail, a copy of the full blown
50 environmental assessment document, it's really huge.

1 If you've seen that, great, if you haven't and want a
2 copy we can find a way to get you a copy. I'm not
3 going to use it probably very much this morning,
4 though. What you do have, all of you should have, in
5 your Council materials, is what we call an executive
6 summary that starts on Page 28 of your booklet of
7 materials. And that has a lot of what we're going to
8 spend the rest of the time talking about here.

9
10 The core of what we're going to focus
11 on, you'll really see beginning on Page 42 of your
12 booklet, where you'll see some tables that lay out
13 summary and comparison of alternatives. And that's
14 really the core and the meat of where we're at at this
15 point in the process. And what these different
16 alternatives do, they really differ in just a few main
17 items, really.

18
19 One of these they differ in who's
20 eligible to collect and utilize these plant materials,
21 these discarded shed antlers and parts of these animals
22 that are simply found out in the field. And they sort
23 of range from everybody to a much smaller group of
24 people who can actually undertake that activity. The
25 other thing that they differ on is the issue of how
26 this activity will be managed. Everything from, hey,
27 don't do it; anybody just go out and do it, to, hey,
28 you got to have a permit and you got to have a bunch of
29 conditions on your permit. So those are kind of like
30 the extremes of this is what we're looking at. From
31 who can do it and under what conditions you can do it.
32 And we can talk about that table and sort of just
33 quickly review some of those.

34
35 There are four alternatives. The
36 status quo is what we have now, there are no provisions
37 in the Park Service regs that allow you to do this.
38 It's illegal to do it. And, you know, that's the way
39 it'll remain. No action will be taken. So that's
40 Alternative A. And that's what we're really trying to
41 fix.

42
43 Alternative B is broad eligibility and
44 no permits. And by broad eligibility, that's really
45 what it means. Just about any rural resident in the
46 state of Alaska could go into, for example, Noatak
47 National Preserve, and collect these things. And so
48 that's a pretty huge pool of people that could do that
49 activity.

50

1 Alternative C is eligibility restricted
2 by areas with discretionary permits. And what that
3 sort of means is a much smaller pool of people and
4 freedom for the superintendents or the Park manager
5 generally to make the determination of whether or not
6 permits are going to be required and what might be some
7 of the conditions on those permits. In terms of
8 actually who can do it, if you look at Cape Krusenstern
9 -- and I should say that this only applies to Park
10 Service units, it doesn't apply to BLM lands, it
11 doesn't apply to Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge
12 units; just the Park Service units. For Cape
13 Krusenstern National Monument and for Kobuk Valley, a
14 lot of subsistence use is already pretty well
15 determined by who has resident zone status for those
16 communities. And right now the resident zone status is
17 basically if you live within the NANA region you have
18 resident zone status for Cape Krusenstern and Kobuk
19 Valley, and that's a change that's only been in effect
20 for the last several years. And Walter can remember
21 the struggles and things to get that changed. That was
22 one of the original SRC hunting plan recommendations,
23 to broaden who was eligible so that we didn't have to
24 pit one village against another or require a village to
25 get a permit where somebody else didn't have to get a
26 permit and so forth.

27

28 The problem with that is, in terms of
29 that alternative, as it's expressed here is, it says:

30

31 People who live in a resident zone or
32 have a Section 1344 permit and who have
33 a Federal Subsistence Board customary
34 and traditional use finding for any
35 wildlife species in each GMU or subunit
36 in the Park

37

38 And if you look in the Federal C&T
39 booklets, you'll find, for example, many of the C&T
40 determinations are still carryovers from the old State
41 determinations, customary and traditional use
42 determinations, and some of these, like for wolves are
43 practically statewide. So you have a huge pool of
44 people that are potentially eligible to go into Noatak
45 National Preserve and collect these kind of materials.

46

47 Alternative D is the most restrictive
48 one under these four alternatives, and that's for
49 people who live in a resident zone or have a Section
50 1344 permit and who have a Federal Subsistence Board

1 customary and traditional use finding for each wildlife
2 species in each GMU or subunit in the Park or Monument.
3 What that means is if you have customary and
4 traditional use determination in the Federal Program,
5 say for muskoxen, you're eligible. If you -- and in
6 some cases you'll find that for some Park units,
7 muskoxen's customary and traditional use determination
8 is defined very very narrowly down in some cases to no
9 more than two communities within a hunt area, or an
10 area of a Park. Others like caribou are still quite a
11 bit broader. And moose kind of fall somewhere in
12 between. So just because you have, you know, if you
13 have muskox C&T you can collect muskox out of the unit.
14 If you have caribou C&T you can, you know, collect
15 caribou parts out of the unit. And that contrasts
16 really with Alternative C, which basically says, if you
17 have C&T for any of those critters you can go in that
18 Park unit or that Preserve and collect all the things.
19

20 And there's also some impact tables in
21 here where they try to assess the impacts of these
22 different alternatives. And you'll find that in many
23 cases it's really hard to define the actual impacts,
24 and that they don't seem to differ very much, one from
25 the other. But I think basically you can think of them
26 in terms of the numbers of people who are potentially
27 eligible and how that might affect you locally.
28

29 And we've had a case, for example, not
30 so much up here, but recently on the Seward Peninsula,
31 with Bering Land Bridge, where we had a major muskoxen
32 die off that resulted in the deaths of about 50-some
33 animals. And believe me when people found out there
34 were 50 sets of muskox horns out there it generated a
35 lot of interest in Nome and people were ready to fly up
36 with airplanes and chainsaws and go to work. And when
37 we were in Shishmaref they made it very clear to us
38 that they thought if anybody could take advantage of
39 those resources it ought to be them, and not this huge
40 pile of people all through the state or even in Nome.
41

42 So those are the things that we're
43 balancing in this EA.
44

45 In terms of your comments and
46 recommendations I would point out that once all of the
47 comments are taken and absorbed and addressed, this EA
48 then will go to the Regional Director for a final
49 determination, a record of decision. And you'll notice
50 in some of the pages here you'll see that there's

1 already a -- the Park Service preferred alternative,
2 and I'll tell you right out of the gate that that's D,
3 which is the most restrictive form. And part of the
4 reason for that is, I think, there are Parks like
5 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, that are
6 road connected and are close to much larger population
7 areas like Tok and so forth, and they have some real
8 concerns about what, you know, could come out of this.
9 We're fortunate, maybe, and, you know, we don't have as
10 much of that problem yet, and so we're not terribly
11 concerned about that. But when the final record of
12 decision is made it doesn't have to just pick A, B, C
13 or D, it can actually take -- as long as the elements
14 of those different alternatives have been analyzed, the
15 Regional Director can select from a combination of
16 those. What we can't do is come up with something
17 entirely new that hasn't had any analysis at all. So
18 what I'm saying for you, is, that you can think about
19 some combination of one. You might prefer one entirely
20 recommendation -- one alternative or you might think,
21 oh, well, I like parts of C and I like parts of D or I
22 like parts of C and I like parts of B, and you can
23 identify those and recommend them.

24
25 You also have in your materials, you
26 have a copy of a recommendation from the Cape
27 Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission, in which,
28 they responded to the Regional Director with their
29 comments, and I would only point out in that letter two
30 things.

31
32 One is they want to make the system the
33 least onerous possible for them, and avoid things like
34 permits and things where they can, and so -- but they
35 sometimes -- they recognize that there may be a need
36 for those so their key recommendation there is to allow
37 the Superintendent to have the discretion of whether or
38 not permits and conditions are needed. The other thing
39 that they've addressed in their letter is they felt
40 that more restrictive eligibility requirements were
41 fine because as they pointed out, almost everyone
42 within the NANA region basically is essentially an
43 eligible user. So they felt that gave them sort of the
44 competitive edge or the protection from, you know,
45 being swamped by other people. So in a way they're
46 actually choosing combination of Alternative C and
47 Alternative D. And that's what I meant by, you know,
48 you could mix and match elements because all of those
49 things have been analyzed in there.

50

1 So what we're looking for from you
2 folks this morning are comments on the EA, and the
3 alternatives and any recommendations you have. We had
4 a Kobuk Valley SRC meeting and what came out of that
5 was a recommendation but I believe Walter was going to
6 work with the people on the Krusenstern and see if they
7 could come up with something similar. I'm not sure
8 that timing wise that was able to happen, and maybe
9 Walter would have some, you know, comments and
10 reflections as Chair of that SRC on that. But I
11 believe that the intent of what they were talking about
12 was to try to come up with something very similar, if
13 not identical, to what the Krusenstern folks had been
14 talking about, and then submit it as their own. That's
15 what they did in the original hunting plan
16 recommendations, each SRC -- they met actually
17 together, though, in that case, came up with some key
18 points for the hunting plan recommendations and then
19 went and submitted identical responses, but individual
20 letters from their SRCs.

21
22 Walter, do you want to have anything to
23 add on that in terms of the process for the.....

24
25 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I did
26 get.....

27
28 MR. ADKISSON:Kobuk Valley.

29
30 MR. SAMPSON:an email from Alex
31 in regards to that so I plan to call him and refer the
32 same letter that they've written and get reinforcements
33 to address the issue from the Kobuk Valley.

34
35 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, so you're
36 basically saying you think the Kobuk Valley would be
37 comfortable with a similar response to.....

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

40
41 MR. ADKISSON: Okay. That's all I've
42 got on this unless you have questions or we want to go
43 into great depth on this, but we are looking for your
44 input on it.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, thank you Ken.
47 So how long do we have before this closes out for our
48 input from this group here.

49
50 MR. ADKISSON: Probably a little.....

1 REPORTER: Ken. Ken, your microphone.
2
3 MR. ADKISSON:later in April.
4 The comment period for the EA.....
5
6 REPORTER: Ken.
7
8 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, I'm sorry, I turned
9 off my speaker here.
10
11 REPORTER: Thank you.
12
13 MR. ADKISSON: The comment period for
14 the EA will extend 30 days beginning in February, it
15 ends April 7th, 2012. And I would point out that you
16 can submit formal comments by that date, you can make
17 comments today that will get picked up. It's also
18 available electronically and individuals can also
19 comment. There's a website down on your introductory
20 letter, <http://parkplanningnps.gov> that you can go to
21 and submit a letter -- individuals can submit comments
22 on the EA.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Ken.
25
26 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman, I have a
27 question.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.
30
31 MS. LOON: I'm trying to understand on
32 Page 42 on Alternative D, mandatory, mandatory for
33 these two items for covering Park Service and Cape
34 Krusenstern's' area on customary and trade.
35
36 Does this tell me that I need to have a
37 permit to go out and get birch bark if I were a Kobuk
38 resident and roots?
39
40 MR. ADKISSON: Ms. Loon. No, actually
41 it would not change the Kobuk Valley regulations, which
42 I could get for you if you're interested in exactly
43 what that is. But, no, it would not. But if you were
44 going to do the same activity, for example, in Noatak
45 National Preserve, it would mean that you would have to
46 get a permit. And the only reason that it doesn't
47 apply in Kobuk Valley is because we already have that
48 very limited special regulation for Kobuk.
49
50 MS. LOON: I have another question.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

2

3 MS. LOON: I know we're in the Selawik
4 Wildlife Refuge and, Enoch, I don't know if you heard
5 it, last fall somebody was buying off antlers,
6 discarded antlers in Selawik and they were coming in by
7 boat loads, and I was real saddened to hear that
8 someone came in from, I don't know where, and bought
9 boat loads of antlers. And I was disappointed because
10 those antlers are usually markers that how many bends
11 you have to go there or this is the barrier, if you see
12 that antler there's blueberries underneath those
13 willows and those are significant markers for us, when
14 people come in and buy antlers and remove them from the
15 land.

16

17 Thanks.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Ken.

20

21 MS. ADKISSON: Through the Chair. Ms.
22 Loon. I would say a couple things about this process,
23 too, is that, one, it doesn't include things like
24 artifacts and fossils and second, it definitely does
25 not include the commercial sale of -- collected and
26 unworked materials. And there are already regulations
27 in place that relate to the collection and use of
28 caribou antlers, both from this -- that are special to
29 this area, to Unit 23, that are found in both Federal
30 and State regulations. So, yeah, we're very concerned
31 about the commercial use and the mass collection of
32 stuff and, you know, we could actually set conditions
33 on how much could be collected and things like that or
34 where they could be collected. It's not, at least, the
35 Park's intent at this point to, you know, get carried
36 away with that and overdo it, but if necessary we could
37 do it. But right now we believe that, with very few
38 exceptions, that this kind of activity is not going to
39 have any really significant impact on the Preserve,
40 that it will be used probably pretty sparingly by
41 people, and, you know, commercially can help them out a
42 little bit through the making and selling of
43 handicrafts from those products, which, you know,
44 that's great.

45

46 So that's kind of where we're at on it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thanks, Ken.

49 Go ahead, Walter.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: That very question,
2 Hannah, when the Interior -- or when the agencies give
3 their report, we can ask those very questions with the
4 agency. In that case you could ask.....

5
6 (Noise interruption - construction
7 work)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll call them, go
10 ahead.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: Oh, boy, her name slipped
13 off my mind, LeeAnne, on that very issue.

14
15 (Pause)

16
17 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy.

20
21 MR. BALLOT: Is anybody going to have
22 any comment, any comment from our Board about these
23 options, I'd like to hear them if you guys got them.

24
25 MR. SAMPSON: I think the issue in
26 regards to -- to -- to the opportunity certainly is if
27 -- if this body wishes to make recommendation we ought
28 to take a look at those alternatives and suggest one of
29 those alternatives that if -- if -- if you wish to do
30 so.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, Percy.

33
34 MR. BALLOT: I think we should do that,
35 too. I'd like to see that happen. I don't know what
36 time we're going to have lunch, but if we have some
37 binding comments from anybody else besides hearing
38 about the stuff in here, I think we should think about
39 it through lunch and come up with something.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's what I
42 was going to say. And I just called the hotel about
43 the noise. And I hear you what you're saying, Ken,
44 because I did get a call last fall about concerns and
45 it had to do with Kiana. Hunters were -- a couple of
46 young boys, in fact, they were young, and I was glad
47 they had a concern because a guy was getting boat loads
48 of antlers and I said if I was you, if you have the
49 time I would destroy the antlers so they wouldn't be
50 hauled out -- these are outsiders that use this. And

1 this is our concern and they're trying to make it legal
2 for us Natives to get and use, they disregard it, when
3 these -- these antlers or whatever, that drop. And I
4 got a concern, you said on Noatak Preserve, because
5 last -- two weeks ago I got a call from Seattle asking
6 me to make a kayak, natural way, without -- and tie it
7 with roots the way I did it, you know, when I was 13
8 years old, my grandpa, he taught me how, his was
9 getting dry, he wanted another one. So if I'm going to
10 get those roots out of those certain trees to tie, I
11 need to get a permit?

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Currently
14 you're prohibited -- technically you're prohibited from
15 doing that, period.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So how could we do it
18 to change it, I'm going to be illegal and I want to do
19 it.

20

21 MR. ADKISSON; Well, that's what we're
22 here for and that's what this EA Is for. And the next
23 step in this, once the alternative is selected and
24 described, the next phase will be to actually draft
25 some regulatory language which then will go out for
26 publication in the Federal register, there'll be a
27 notice of intent to, you know, make new regulations,
28 and people can comment on them and then there'll be
29 draft regulations published and people can comment on
30 those and then a final regulation will come out.

31

32 A couple other items that you may want
33 to look at in your materials. Towards the very back of
34 it, there's an Appendix A, Alternative -- and that
35 starts on Page 49. It's alternative revised
36 regulations, and then Appendix C on Page 51, is
37 possible management conditions for collections. And
38 keep in mind that those are only ideas and drafts but I
39 think they're useful for perhaps indicating directions
40 that the Park Service might choose to go.

41

42 And so, you know, I think, like I said,
43 you know, we don't have to settle for one alternative,
44 we can pick and match from elements of more than one
45 alternative, if people want to do that. But I mean
46 when this came up before the Seward Peninsula Regional
47 Advisory Council, the first thing out of their
48 thoughts, out of several people, was, oh, let's go with
49 B, which is the wide open alternative, and the more the
50 Council discussed it was, you know, maybe that didn't

1 seem to be such a good idea and that there ought to be
2 some forms of controls and restrictions on it, and so
3 that's kind of where that was. And you have the
4 material from the Kobuk Valley SRC and Walter's
5 comments or the letter and Walter's comments on the
6 Kobuk Valley to -- and, there, the key, I think, is
7 that they want to leave it up to -- they just don't
8 want to start with the most restrictive alternative,
9 they want to leave that up to the Superintendent to
10 initially decide. And I can tell you that our initial
11 position is we don't want permits either, you know, and
12 we don't think they're really needed.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead. I
15 understand what you're saying but the roots I'm talking
16 about is from the erosion of the -- and I get the roots
17 from the eroded -- the tree's going to fall down and
18 going to lose it anyhow and we use these before they
19 dry, so no matter what happens, it's just like -- and
20 ran -- it's going to die anyhow, you get permit to
21 shoot it, and I'm not going to kill this tree, it's
22 going to die anyhow naturally, and I'm not going to dig
23 these trees that are growing, I'm going to dig these
24 that -- here, from the erosion, and I was asked to do
25 it, and really I'll do it, and I got a call and if
26 that's going to be illegal I'll see you in jail,
27 gladly.

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. I think, you
30 know, realistically if you were to do that I doubt if
31 you would have any problem from us doing it. But the
32 point I think I need to make is that when it comes to
33 things like natural resources and things, you got to
34 know about what the Park Service is, and it's -- of all
35 of the different conservation agencies it's probably
36 the most restrictive and the most protective. And
37 there are regulations that are essentially designed for
38 big natural parks in the Lower 48 that see people as
39 only visitors to the Park, not local residents living
40 in, using, depending on the resources in the Parks.
41 And those regulations basically prohibit pretty much a
42 wide range of collecting and using natural products in
43 the Parks.

44

45 The whole idea is, you know, people
46 come to these Park units and they, you know, the old
47 saying, take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but
48 footprints. And that's kind of what the regulations
49 are and we're stuck with those regulations for now and
50 what we're trying to do is fix them and make those

1 activities that you'd be doing legal, and so then
2 there's no question about, you know, a judgment call
3 on, you know, whether we're going to do anything or
4 not. It's -- it legally acknowledges what you would be
5 traditionally doing.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you. I
8 think we're getting close to lunchtime and maybe for
9 now we'll make Raymond the last one and then we'll go
10 out for lunch.

11

12 Go ahead, Raymond.

13

14 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
15 One thing that concerns us in the last five years, I
16 don't know what kind of permit these gentlemen has that
17 goes to Kiana for five years now and then sets a camp
18 and starts collecting antlers. And, again, this year
19 it was wanton waste, his situation, I don't know, it
20 was reported to law enforcement people but evidently --
21 see what happens, see they do it during the night, I
22 don't know why this individual would harvest five bull
23 caribou and that drags them in and just takes the
24 antlers and takes them away, that was him, and then we
25 get the blame for it. When they contacted law
26 enforcement, they go to investigate, the law
27 enforcement doesn't believe us, they believe that guy
28 that's collecting these antlers. They blame us for
29 that. So, anyway, what concerns me is I think this
30 should be very strict regulations about collecting
31 antlers from -- either from State land or Park land.
32 Like you said, it was kind of obviously embarrassing
33 get the blame of five bull caribou, just drags them in
34 and just takes the antlers. I don't think that makes
35 any sense at all.

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair, to
38 Mr. Stoney. Perhaps if I understand you right, the
39 idea of taking live animals primarily for their
40 antlers, I think that's exactly what the State and
41 Federal regulations in Unit 23 were designed to try to
42 prevent, and that's why there are special regulations
43 to -- and requirements regarding antlers in Unit 23
44 that differ a little bit from most other parts of the
45 state. Whether they're successful or not, you know, is
46 another question.

47

48 The other end of the thing is, I mean,
49 we don't have our law enforcement people here, and, you
50 know, we could go on about this. I mean I'm really

1 interested in what you have to say and my
2 recommendation for now is that you bring that up within
3 the Kobuk Valley SRC and we can sit there and see if we
4 can better pursue it when there's a better opportunity
5 to do it than today when we'd be spinning our wheels.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, thank you. So
8 anyone else for Ken, and try to make it sweet and
9 short, it's lunchtime now.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy, go ahead.

14

15 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I just
16 hope that we come back and make a comment. I know we
17 are all kind of -- want to encourage our people to be
18 able to use the things that they find out there, it's
19 always good, but what we don't want to see is outside
20 groups or whatever, trying to encourage the younger
21 generation of our people to go out there and go get 10,
22 20, or 30, 40 antlers and stuff like that, that's not
23 good. So if we could come back with comments. I don't
24 think -- why we need permits and stuff like that, so
25 that's where I'll be coming from when we come back.
26 But I could stand for either one as long as we allow
27 our people to be able to use those resources that they
28 find out there.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. If you're
31 done, Ken, it's lunchtime and everybody what time do
32 you think we should come back, 1:30?

33

34 MR. STONEY: Yes.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, 1:30 it is.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39

40 (Off record)

41

42 (On record)

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Just a minute, we
45 need a few more working to be here. Okay. We could
46 start maybe, we've got -- Okay. What time is it?

47

48 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: 1:32.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's 1:32 now. We

1 could open this meeting.

2

3 And I would -- I think Michael brought
4 in students here, and I would like to see them be
5 introduced. So, Michael, you have the floor with your
6 students for now.

7

8 MR. KRAMER: Mr. Chairman. You guys
9 have known in the past that I've pushed for high school
10 students to be involved in our Federal subsistence
11 meetings. So I went over to the high school and I
12 gathered up 15 -- 11 students in about 15 minutes. If
13 I could have each one of you guys come up here and
14 introduce your guys' name, and I'll be right there.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, you guys can
17 line up and introduce yourself.

18

19 MR. KRAMER: Names and grades.

20

21 MR. HYATT: My name's Stephen Hyatt.
22 I'm ninth grade.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Welcome.

25

26 MR. ERLICH: My name is Timothy Erlich.
27 I'm in 10th.

28

29 MR. JOHNSON: Koy Johnson, 10th grade.

30

31 MR. HAVILAND: Edwin Haviland, in 11th
32 grade.

33

34 MR. PEACOCK: Isaac Peacock, in 11th
35 grade.

36

37 MS. ERLICH: Jamie Erlich, in 12th
38 grade.

39

40 MS. FERGUSON: My name is Elizabeth.
41 I'm in 12th grade.

42

43 MS. SHELDON: Charly Sheldon, 12th
44 grade.

45

46 MS. NELSON: Diane Nelson, 12th grade.

47

48 MS. TATE: Martha Tate, in 10th grade.

49

50 MS. ATORUK: Briana Atoruk, 10th.

1 MR. KRAMER: So these are the students
2 that I have brought over to participate within our
3 subsistence meeting, and listen and learn. If you have
4 any objections. Do you have any objections to them
5 being here.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No, I have no
8 objections for them to come again. In fact, I will
9 welcome and hear, because they're our future that is
10 going to take over, especially people like me that's
11 just getting close to over the bucket list, put it that
12 way.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And I welcome you.
17 Whatever you need and you have any questions, when
18 we're on break -- you see all of us here that's from
19 the villages, and a few of us here, Walter and me, from
20 Kotzebue. If you have any questions about what's going
21 on, and the Staff here from the Federal different
22 places here, you're welcome to ask them any questions.
23 But all I'm going to ask, if someone's speaking, please
24 respect them and try to wait, and if you want to speak.
25 For now you're not on the agenda. We have to go on
26 with our agenda speak, but they're welcome to listen
27 and learn.

28
29 MR. KRAMER: Okay. If they have any
30 questions, I'd like you guys to raise your hands and
31 make a motion to me, and then I'll ask the Chairman if
32 he can go ahead and answer your guys' question, or we
33 can answer your question. Okay?

34
35 Thank you, Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chair.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, go ahead,
42 Walter.

43
44 MR. SAMPSON: First of all, I want to
45 thank Mike and the school for making time for the
46 students to come to see in action what some of the
47 advisory councils, what some of the organizations do in
48 relations to really the way of life. This whole body
49 is called the Regional Advisory Council.

50

1 We're part of the Federal Board, and
2 what we do and how we do things is that we send in
3 proposals to the Federal Board. If we have issues that
4 deal -- that pertains to subsistence, then we make it
5 known to the Federal Board that we do have some
6 concerns in regards to those very issues.

7
8 There's going to be times when you're
9 going to feel very uncomfortable. I'm going to be up
10 front with you. Because we don't agree with everything
11 that the Federal system tell us, nor the State of
12 Alaska. So we will have an exchange of conversations
13 between the two of us. And sometimes we will feel like
14 -- or you will feel like that we're being negative.
15 Maybe we are. But to a certain point we're trying to
16 make points in regards to those very critical issues
17 that we have in regards to the way of life of our
18 Inupiaq people in this region. So even if you feel
19 uncomfortable, please, recognize that there's times
20 when we have to get to that point of maybe not arguing,
21 but disagreeing on certain things. So I want you to
22 know that it gets to that point sometimes.

23
24 So we welcome you to our Regional
25 Advisory Council meeting.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
28 Walter.

29
30 Go ahead.

31
32 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 Just an administrative matter. We did get the
34 teleconference connected and so that number was
35 published and distributed to a number of the media both
36 in print and radio and the like. So hopefully if
37 anybody is calling in -- I know some of our OSM Staff
38 would be connected.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: When you said media, who
43 were you referring to.

44
45 MR. JENNINGS: Well, I believe most of
46 the -- depending on where the Council meeting is, it's
47 targeted to the local area. I don't know specifically
48 which outlets received it, but we do have an external
49 affairs person that does send the announcements out
50 there.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.
4
5 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. But I think it's
6 going to be important that -- to Staff that whatever we
7 say and whatever we do to making sure that if media is
8 going to put out any information publicly, that those
9 are correct information that will go out, not the --
10 not what they want.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.
13
14 Go ahead, Raymond.
15
16 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 I certainly want to thank the students who have come
18 to.....
19
20 REPORTER: Raymond. Raymond.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Your mic.
23
24 REPORTER: Raymond.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Your mic.
27
28 MR. STONEY:this RAC meeting.....
29
30 REPORTER: No, turn it on.
31
32 MR. STONEY:is very important.
33 The gentlemen that work with the Federal government.
34 And I have noticed now for several years now that we
35 have students up at Onion Portage helping collaring the
36 caribou. And most of them, now they are very
37 interested getting to be game biologists. That was a
38 big investment for some of our students from other
39 villages. I certainly hope that all of you got
40 interested in being game biologists and work with the
41 government agencies, the State and Federal.
42
43 Welcome to this meeting. Thank you for
44 showing up.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
47
48 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,

1 Percy.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I just want to echo
4 and welcome the kids the kids for coming by. I applaud
5 you from Kotzebue, and Michael for bringing them here.
6 It's important that they know what we're doing. All
7 the things that are out there going to be in their care
8 sooner or later. So welcome to our meeting.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else from the
11 Board.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I would like to
16 welcome them all, because we're here to protect the
17 resources, and you are the future generation. If we
18 could save it for you guys, it will be a big step
19 forward.

20

21 Go ahead, Mike.

22

23 MR. KRAMER: With your guys' and the
24 Board's permission, if I could go ahead and take up
25 allowing the high school to have their own small, you
26 know, subsistence board, to be able to look over the
27 issues that we deal with, and to, you know, look and
28 just ask questions about it. And to attend our
29 meetings in the future. And if they have any questions
30 from their meeting, then they can bring it towards us.
31 That way they're always kept in the loop if you have --
32 if I have your guys' permission to be able to do that.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I've got no
35 problem with that, but in the process, we need to see
36 the time involved, and put them on the agenda by the
37 next meeting. And probably we -- since you brought it
38 up, we're going to ask you to run it and chair it for
39 temporarily, since you're volunteering.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. KRAMER: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You see, that's how
46 we go through. So just thank you.

47

48 I respect that, and I know the future
49 is very important.

50

1 Yeah, go ahead, Walter.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4

5 Mike, this is a public meeting. So
6 it's an open meeting to the public, which means that
7 the students are a part of the public system. So
8 they're invited any time this very body meets, whether
9 it's here or elsewhere. So I want to welcome all of
10 you to any of the public meetings that occur at the
11 Federal or State level.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. With that
14 said, I would like to go back to our agenda on, what
15 was it, 10.C on the antlers in the Park lands. And I
16 think Percy wanted to finish. Or who else want to
17 finish on this comments on this antler -- shedding of
18 antlers.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Well, Mr. Chairman, I
21 think we should make a comment. April something is
22 going to be right down the line, and I know we won't be
23 able to get together. I don't know if any of you have
24 thought about anything, but it's something that we
25 should make some comment on rather than wait.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. I understand
28 that. And I think personally, and I'm new in this, I
29 would like to see a working group out of this chair to
30 work on this, because as a group we all suggest a lot
31 of things, and nothing has been really done, and we
32 always say this is what happened next -- last meeting.
33 And I think we need to have a working group to say,
34 from a few of us here, to work on this, and with the
35 Staff, to say this is what we thought of, this is the
36 plan we thought of, and this is how we all agree,
37 because I feel sad where we have to -- we're not in
38 compliance. We're criminals the way it is right now.
39 And I would like to open it, because most antlers of
40 any kind, or plants, just is something we've been doing
41 for our lifetime.

42

43 Go ahead, Walter.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 I think we also need to recognize and understand this
47 very body that's been appointed by Governor, by
48 Department of Interior, by the Federal Board. We have
49 a purpose behind sitting here as an advisory committee.
50 We have what you call our Robert Rules of Orders that

1 we go by. So if we want action, we make those motions
2 and direct whomever we're going to direct to make sure
3 that those things that we say were done. And by making
4 a motion, adopting that motion, we'll start the process
5 in making sure that things are done properly.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Walter, are you
8 making a motion that we start this process to work on
9 this shedding of antlers and plants and stuff like
10 that? Because we need to do it like Percy said, it's
11 short time. April is not that far away. Just it's
12 looking at you, you know. Three weeks.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: I guess let's have a
15 little bit more discussion as to some of those that
16 didn't get a chance to talk about the issue. Then from
17 there we can make the motions to go where we need to
18 go.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. It's okay.
21 With that said, I would open this floor. Anybody who
22 would like to speak on this antlers and plants and
23 roots and whatever we need to speak on. So it's open
24 to the floor right now to anyone.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe I'll start the
27 discussions, or continue the discussion. What do we
28 presently have in place that allows for -- or in
29 regulations or policy that directs what we need to do
30 or what those things that we talked about early on that
31 are being prevented from being taken, or is there a
32 regulation that allows for these things to not to be
33 taken.

34

35 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair. Mr.
36 Sampson. Yeah, it's -- it might take me a couple
37 minutes to dig through the regs, but I think I can
38 basically summarize them.

39

40 If you go in the Federal subsistence
41 regulations in the booklet, and you look at -- under
42 the section on what you can do with wildlife portion,
43 you know, products, you'll see that there are
44 regulations in place that provide for a variety of
45 making and selling of arts and crafts items with the
46 non-edible by-products of various wildlife. There are
47 some special things for bears, and then there's another
48 section under just -- you know, for other wildlife.

49

50 But the key to that is it has to be,

1 you know, from a legally-harvested animal. Okay. So
2 that's what's provided for under the Federal
3 subsistence regulations.

4
5 On the Park Service side of the
6 equation, there's only a small regulation really that
7 applies to Kobuk Valley and part of Gates of the Arctic
8 that provides for customary trade in the form of sale
9 of like pelts from trapping, and the making of
10 handicrafts from plant materials, like the baskets and
11 the things that Hannah mentioned. Beyond that in the
12 Park Service regs, nothing else is provided for. And,
13 in fact, the collection of natural occurring objects
14 and so forth is generally prohibited. And those are
15 based on nationwide regulations. So what's open to you
16 is very, very restricted currently.

17
18 I suspect that the actual reg, and it's
19 been a little while since I looked at it, you might
20 find it in the -- in your 34-page -- or 24-page summary
21 as well. They probably quote the regulations at some
22 point. I know they would in the -- but I'm not seeing
23 it right now. But I think that's a -- what I've given
24 you is a pretty good, you know, overview of it, so.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Ken, do you want
27 to give us a report to make things not complicated and
28 not to mix up the Board here. I think we, you know,
29 just talk about Unit 23.

30
31 MR. ADKISSON: Oh, yeah. That's
32 what.....

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Unless you're going
35 to compare with.....

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: That's what we're talking
38 about.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

41
42 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah. No, that would be
43 my recommendation would be to concentrate on Unit 23
44 and what's going to affect you folks.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. To get things
47 -- I just was passed out a note -- just go ahead, Ken,
48 keep looking -- that Charlotte Westing will speak on
49 that collared caribou when the time comes. While you're
50 looking, I'm going to just -- so we won't have moment

1 of silence. And the other one will be Brendan Scanlon,
2 ADF&G, on the PowerPoint presentation she's going to
3 give out here, a note that was given to me.

4

5 Go ahead.

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: If I could, Mr. Chair,
8 while I do -- I will do that, but also since the ADF&G,
9 the Department's here, if I could make one other brief
10 recommendation in the agenda, I know we've already
11 approved it, but since a lot of the wildlife projects
12 and stuff that we'll talk about later under the agency
13 reports, a lot of that's interagency, and the data goes
14 to ADF&G and stuff for compilation and things, it might
15 be worth under the agency reports putting ADF&G in
16 front of the Park Service, just swapping those two.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken.

19

20 Yes, go ahead.

21

22 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Charlotte Westing is here and she has her child with
24 her, so I thought maybe that since you did discuss the
25 caribou and the collaring issue earlier, that she might
26 be able to deal with that sooner than later. And then
27 I believe the fish information can be included with the
28 agency reports a little bit further down in your
29 agenda.

30

31 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Let me put it
34 this way. I hate to say that, but you guys done here
35 about the antlers and stuff like on Park lands? I hate
36 to go back, because we -- it's the train of thought I'm
37 really after. I don't want to lose it, you know what
38 I'm saying. I respect your baby and everything,
39 but.....

40

41 MS. WESTING: No, my mom is here. So
42 I'm going to actually find her while I.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Those moms are the
45 best.

46

47 Okay. Go ahead.

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
50 This is your agenda and that's perfectly fine. She

1 seems to be accommodating. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Because I hate
4 to lose the train of thought for the group here, unless
5 you guys are done.

6

7 Anyone else have anything on the
8 antlers and stuff like that.

9

10 MS. LOON: Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

13

14 MS. LOON: Bear with me again, I'm new.
15 And I think it's very important for us villagers to
16 being back some kind of information about discarded
17 antlers and how it's being abused in our village.
18 Like, for instance, in Kiana and Selawik. For us to go
19 back and get some voice or whatever and come back and
20 do a more working and development, and not just, you
21 know, like when this is what we have to turn this, by
22 April 30.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,
25 Walter.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 I think we've heard quite a bit in regards to the issue
29 of plants and non-edible stuff, and natural shed horn,
30 as well as horns that are left by hunters. I think
31 what I would like to hear is from the State of Alaska
32 in regards to how the State of Alaska sees the issues
33 that are being discussed this morning and this
34 afternoon. Then we can go from there.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
37 Walter.

38

39 Okay. You have the floor. Sorry about
40 that, it's just they're going to press for time pretty
41 quick.

42

43 MS. WESTING: Good morning, Mr. -- oh,
44 I guess it's afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the
45 RAC.

46

47 My name is Charlotte Westing. I'm the
48 area biologist for the State Department of Fish and
49 Game. I live and work here in Kotzebue, Alaska.

50

1 And Mr. Sampson's question about the
2 State's position on collecting natural shed or other
3 objects from Federal lands, I don't know what the
4 State's position is on that. And I couldn't speak to
5 it anyways. So that would be a question for ANILCA
6 program. But I'm sure they have a position. So, I'm
7 not sure what that is, but we could get back to you.

8
9 MR. SAMPSON: So you don't know what
10 the State regulation says then.

11
12 MS. WESTING: Oh, what the regulation
13 is?

14
15 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah.

16
17 MS. WESTING: Our regulations -- I
18 don't believe we have any regulations about picking up
19 naturally shed objects on any kind of land. The
20 regulations that I know of that exist are for --
21 regarding the sale of items, such as antlers. You can
22 only sell naturally shed antlers, but you can't sell
23 antlers that are attached to the skull. Those are the
24 regulations that I know of. But I don't know of any
25 State regulations that pertain to picking up items on
26 anybody's land.

27
28 MR. SAMPSON: I guess the issue in
29 regards to the antlers that are left by hunters is what
30 I want clarity on. There's got to be some sort of a
31 State regulations in place that provide for hunters
32 leaving horns. If we don't have any regulation in
33 place, what I'm afraid of is that you're going to see
34 folks, maybe both young and the older folks, if they
35 wish to make some money, they could go out and shoot
36 caribou, take the antler out and leave the moose -- or
37 the caribou there. And that's basically is encouraging
38 folks to do that. That's why I was asking if there's
39 any regulation pertaining to that.

40
41 MS. WESTING: And there is a regulation
42 pertaining to that. The regulation states that if
43 you're packing out an animal, if you have shot an
44 animal, you have to take all the meat that is required
45 for you to salvage out first, before you can take out
46 the antlers or the horns of that animal. If someone,
47 you know, encounters a hunter who has a backpack, and
48 this has happened many, many times, with horns or
49 antlers and they have not hauled all of their loads of
50 meat out first, they will be cited, and it's a

1 substantial fine.

2

3 I'm sorry, I didn't understand the
4 question.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you. I
7 think that's an issue we always fall into when we see
8 people, especially upper Noatak, is hunters coming out
9 and hunters coming in and just bringing what they need
10 and taking -- excuse me, taking out what they need.
11 And our concern is to make sure they take all the meat
12 without wasting it. That's our concern.

13

14 MS. WESTING: Right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'll tell you one
17 thing, why is the last of our resources here's in
18 Northwest Alaska. We're gifted and we need to try to
19 save it for the future. I'll tell you that right now.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MS. WESTING: The other regulation
24 that's in place that is meant to address waste is the
25 meat on bone regulation. So the requirement that meat
26 stays on the leg bones before October -- the middle of
27 October sometime, and also the requirement that the rib
28 meat stays on the bones. That all exists because it
29 helps an enforcement agent do the bookkeeping and keep
30 track and make sure that everything have been salvaged.
31 And that's why that regulation's there. People asked
32 for it, and it's in place to prevent waste.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.
35 Anything else you have.

36

37 MS. WESTING: I understand there were
38 some questions coming up this morning about radio
39 collars on caribou, and I'm happy to answer those
40 questions and talk about that now.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. We had concern
43 about the satellite where certain areas on the
44 migration route of the caribou could access the
45 satellite and see where the caribou are at and to
46 harvest them, yet Northwest Alaska, here, we can't do
47 that, yet another town could. It's just not fair. And
48 what we wanted to do is a way to stop them. Otherwise
49 Fish and Game, if they're not going to stop the other
50 areas, just open it up to all of us so we could access

1 the satellite And I hate to see that, because we could
2 have a free-for-all.

3
4 MS. WESTING: That's been something
5 we've been talking about for a long time, just to
6 provide a little background for people in the audience
7 that maybe haven't been exposed to this issue for as
8 long.

9
10 Many, many years ago the Reindeer
11 Herders Association based out of Nome asked the
12 Department if they could have access to the satellite
13 collar information, the PTT data we call it, for the
14 caribou herd so that they could find out when the
15 caribou were in their area and keep their reindeer from
16 getting swept off. The Department was under
17 substantial pressure at the time to provide that for
18 them. And so an accommodation was made. And the idea
19 was that only the Seward Peninsula, a zoomed in view of
20 the Seward Peninsula would be what was shown, and that
21 it would be -- it's a very zoomed out view, so in
22 theory, you know, you can't tell exactly where an
23 animal is with much precision.

24
25 And then additionally, there is a
26 delay, and, you know, it's not exactly real time. It's
27 not updating where that animal is every moment. There
28 has to be a download that's done, and then that map is
29 as old as whenever that download is, and it's going to
30 stay on the website for a certain period of time. So
31 it's not real precise information, but it is
32 information.

33
34 And it was only supposed to be
35 available to a small number of people who were going to
36 access the website.

37
38 Since that was initially put into
39 place, a lot of people figured out how to get to that
40 website, and it has been used to hunt caribou on the
41 Seward Peninsula. And people really like to use that
42 map to get an idea of where animals are. That, of
43 course, is a source of frustration for people in other
44 parts of the range of the Western Arctic Herd who would
45 also like to have that information to direct their
46 hunting efforts. And so they've been asking to show it
47 for the broader area, for the Unit 23 area.

48
49 The Department has obviously had real
50 concerns about doing that, because we've been part of a

1 process, a user conflict mitigation process for many,
2 many years, to try to understand the concerns that
3 everybody has about other hunters coming in and using
4 the resources. There's a concern that people could use
5 the collar maps to come up from other parts of the
6 state or even from other states entirely and direct
7 their hunting efforts as well. And so the map has been
8 kept at just Seward Peninsula for all this time, but it
9 constantly comes up.

10

11 It looks like putting that map together
12 for the Seward Peninsula was probably not legally
13 justifiable, because there's a regulation in place that
14 says that we can't share information about specific
15 locations of where animals are. And defining specific
16 locations gets tricky, because how specific is a
17 location on a zoomed out map that shows the entire
18 Seward Peninsula.

19

20 But I think the position that the
21 Department at the headquarters has come up with is to
22 take the map away entirely. And that to work -- that
23 we would better serve the reindeer industry by working
24 with them individually. And it's better for nobody to
25 have it than it to fall in the wrong hands.

26

27 And really these collars all along have
28 been used -- put out and used for data purposes, data
29 collection and scientific purposes, and they've never
30 been supposed to really guide anyone's hunting
31 activities.

32

33 And really I think the important thing
34 to note is that, you know, people that live in
35 Northwest Alaska have known how to find caribou and
36 hunt caribou since time immemorial. They don't need
37 radio collars to find them really. And so I don't
38 think it will probably be -- have a real impact to not
39 have that map available, just knowing that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. I understand
42 what you're saying. Our concern is just that outside
43 could use it, and we know from the beginning, Raymond,
44 Walter and I, we objected to it. And we gave in to it
45 so the reindeer herders could save their reindeer.
46 There's no longer any reindeer in Nome.

47

48 And I talked to a guy that used to own
49 reindeer. Now he's a guide, and this is what he told
50 me. He will use that satellite to see where the

1 caribou are at. Nome don't have the delay. We do have
2 the delay. Outside world has the delay, except Nome.
3 And this guy in Nome that became a guide will use the
4 access to see where the caribou are at, and he will
5 save money on gas in looking for the caribou. He'll
6 just take his hunters there.

7
8 That's where we would like to stop it
9 here from -- I mean, speaking for me, I don't know how
10 the rest feels. Personally I want to get rid of it and
11 stop everybody from using it, and put it back to
12 traditionally the way we used to hunt caribou, not
13 technology telling us what to do. Technology is great,
14 but we've got to live with it at some time or the
15 other. And this is one of them.

16
17 Anyone else here like to speak.

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
20 the issue that is being discussed here certainly is a
21 concern to all of us. First of all, when the herd, the
22 Northwest Arctic Herd went up to 500,000, and started
23 to decline down to 400,000, now 377,000. With a
24 history of the knowledge of the folks in this region,
25 knowing where the Northwest Arctic Herd migrates
26 through and where to, during the peak of the hunting
27 season people have an idea of where these critters are
28 without having to deal with the collared caribou.

29
30 But the issue, the real issue on the
31 caribou, or the collared caribou is also becoming a
32 problem. For those people that are shooting the
33 collared caribou, they are finding out a lot of the
34 hair that comes off under the collar. I'm sure has an
35 impact on the caribou, especially during winter cold
36 months. That's a problem. And I think it's something
37 that the State of Alaska needs to consider and
38 reconsider in regards to public's input with those
39 issues that are coming before us, if it's such that
40 access is a problem.

41
42 And for people getting into that
43 information, especially with the user group conflict
44 that we have here in this region, every fall, we get
45 the transporters transport hunters up into the Squirrel
46 River and into the Noatak, basically detouring some of
47 the migrating caribou that should be migrating through
48 the Noatak and through the Squirrel River. In times
49 and cases when that herd is deflected, it moves further
50 east, which means for the people of this community,

1 with gas at \$9 a gallon, people have to purchase more
2 gas to go above Kiana and maybe as far as Onion Portage
3 to hunt caribou. That's the problem.

4
5 But yet you have the access from
6 outside hunters knowing where some of the collared
7 caribou are and where -- they have an idea where a
8 major herd of that caribou is within the area.

9
10 These are some of the concerns that are
11 being raised. Those are the issues that people have
12 concerns with.

13
14 And as residents, as subsistence users,
15 we're concerned. That's why we're asking the State of
16 Alaska if they can reconsider and not in the future
17 collar any caribous, because of those issues that's
18 been raised.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Do you want to
23 respond to that.

24
25 MS. WESTING: Sure. The one thing I'll
26 mention is that this issue comes up of the access to
27 collar data at the Western Arctic Herd Working Group
28 every year it seems. At least since I've been
29 involved, which isn't that many. And although it makes
30 a lot of sense to pick on Northwest Alaska, to say --
31 and Unit 23, to just say, well, let's just get rid of
32 the map, you know, let's just nobody have it.

33
34 The people that live in Unit 22 feel
35 strongly about keeping it. And they push hard to keep
36 it. And we have to listen to everybody.

37
38 But the position that is coming down
39 from headquarter's level is that it would be best to
40 not have that collar available. The collar map
41 available.

42
43 On the issue of just overall collaring
44 caribou in general, I can speak to that. First of
45 all, if people shoot a collared caribou, they're not in
46 any trouble at all. I try to let people know that as
47 often as I can. It's never good to target a collared
48 caribou. We don't want our sampled animals being
49 targeted, but if someone shoots a caribou and they
50 drive up on it and it has a collar, we can get a lot of

1 good information from that hunter about the body
2 condition of that caribou. They get \$50 for their time
3 and just for talking with us about the collar and
4 sending the collar in to us so we can use it again.

5
6 But we really like to talk to those
7 hunters and find out from them how is that collar
8 wearing on the caribou? Did it look like it was
9 causing irritation? How did the fur look? Most of the
10 time people say the collar looked fine, but sometimes
11 we get feedback that helps us to put those collars on
12 better and to do a better job. They can also tell us
13 if the caribou were skinny or if are were any other
14 things that looked different about that caribou or
15 concerning about that caribou. We want that
16 information. We want to talk to hunters about what
17 they're seeing.

18
19 A lot of people feel like our collaring
20 program exists so that we can find out where the
21 caribou go. And at this point we've been watching the
22 caribou and learning from the caribou for many, many,
23 many, many years, and their patterns are pretty
24 predictable, where they'll go. Obviously some years
25 they use certain areas more than others. Last year
26 they spent the winter very far to the east and were
27 around Huslia and Galena, a lot closer to those
28 villages and almost completely avoided most of the
29 western villages. So sometimes we see movements that
30 are a little bit different than what we've come to
31 expect.

32
33 But the main role that caribou collars
34 perform for us is that it's part of a sample size that
35 guides our research effort throughout the rest of the
36 year. And those collars help us to get good estimates
37 of herd size. We have about one percent -- less than
38 one percent of the herd collared, which isn't a very
39 significant amount really. But the number of collars
40 that are out there helps us to detect if we've missed
41 groups when we're shooting the photographs of the herd
42 that were going to be counted to come up with the
43 estimate. So those collars are very important during
44 that time.

45
46 They're also important when we're
47 looking at spring recruitment. This time of year Jim
48 and I start flying around looking to see how many
49 calves have made it through the winter, what proportion
50 of yearlings are still around and are doing good.

1 And mortality estimates. If we're
2 losing lots and lots of collars in the winter, it's an
3 indicator of bad winter conditions.

4
5 You know, Jim presents a lot of data.
6 Jim Dau presents a lot of data about all of these
7 different indicators of the health of our caribou herd.

8
9 And calving data is another thing that
10 comes from those collars.

11
12 So there are a lot of pieces of
13 information that we get from those collars other than
14 where they go. They really help us to understand the
15 overall health of our population. And not just helping
16 us. It also helps other agencies that have collars
17 out, like the Park Service and BLM and Fish and
18 Wildlife Service. They also have research programs
19 that use this collar data.

20
21 So it's so much more than just where
22 they are. And it's such a small portion of the herd
23 that we're actually collaring.

24
25 We're sensitive to people's concerns
26 and that's why we collared data at Onion Portage
27 without using drugs and without using helicopters and
28 the more invasive capture techniques, so to be
29 sensitive to the concerns that people have about the
30 collaring program. And we want to continue to be
31 sensitive to those concerns. But we really feel like
32 the information we get is very, very valuable and it
33 serves the people of this region.

34
35 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
36 one issue we all need to think about is that if one
37 user group is being able to use that information from
38 the satellite, then the State of Alaska ought to make
39 it available to the rest of Unit 23, so that way we
40 know where the collared caribous are rather than
41 someone else from Cabelas, for instance, and the East
42 Coast knows more where the herd's at than I would,
43 because they have that access through some folks in
44 Seward Peninsula in regards to where the herd's at.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
47 Walter. I understand what you're saying and I
48 understand what you're saying.

49
50 Yes, we do have concern, because like I

1 stated earlier, I don't know if you was here. I did
2 get a call from Germany and a few other places from
3 outside about that they could access the caribou, you
4 know, and that's their concern. And this is my main
5 concern, where a guide is going to use it to access
6 where the caribou at.

7

8 For your information, way back, far
9 back as we can remember, Northwest Alaska is where the
10 caribou really begin, and just because one area started
11 getting caribou, you want to start telling us how to do
12 it. And we want to preserve it for the future for the
13 generation, for these guys to use when they get my age.

14

15 And I understand Walter's point of view
16 where satellite collar is wearing out their necks and
17 concerns. Maybe enough is enough. If we've got enough
18 data, maybe you could not use so much satellite and
19 collar in our caribou, and you could start using
20 satellite where the bulls could drop off at a certain
21 time, and through the satellite you could retrieve
22 those satellite and collar and save a lot of money.
23 The trouble is, could you land there. Hopefully you
24 could. Because I think we've got enough data on the
25 migration of the caribou.

26

27 We as Natives could see about where the
28 caribou are at falltime. Rough guess. Phone calls. I
29 call Buckland. I call Shungnak. Were's the caribou,
30 or what do they see. I mean, they tell me. And I
31 think that's what need to do outside our region is they
32 need to start being full Natives and starting to rely
33 on technology, because instead of helping us, I think
34 it's going to start hurting us.

35

36 And the caribou's declining at a number
37 where I hate to see it decline, but I think it's better
38 up to a point. More free for the caribou and caribou
39 are healthier. So we have to make sacrifices here,
40 even you guys, to preserve for the future.

41

42 So is there anyone else like to say.

43

44 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

47

48 MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot. When I was
49 giving the information where the caribou was earlier, I
50 didn't use that satellite mapping thing when I was

1 telling you where they were in our area. It's just a
2 good old boy network, what we use all the time. A guy
3 from Noorvik will tell me what's going on over there,
4 or to go to Buckland. I mean, this is what we're
5 taught. Whereas all the way up to the North Slope and
6 farther to see where our animals are, because we know
7 how hard if you come a long ways to go hunt, and they
8 want the information, and we'll share that. If they
9 don't know where they're at, then we'll go take them
10 out to where they're at. It's just something that we
11 do all the time.

12

13 I'm not really happy about the
14 satellite collar myself. I've never seen the data in
15 there, or been persuaded enough to where it's doing
16 good for the caribou or good for us. That this issue
17 increase. I heard Charlie say he's helped with
18 mapping, but, you know, where they fly around in order
19 to get a -- our villages will tell them where the
20 caribou's at, where we think they're at. We share that
21 all the time. I mean, what's the difference between
22 them there. Just cheaper to fly to Buckland when they
23 go out, or someone like that can go fly around all
24 over. I mean, it's going to be used on collaring these
25 things.

26

27 I always seem to think that there's
28 better ways of spending money and enforcing the laws,
29 because you heard what happened to the guy from up the
30 river about the marine mammals, or something that go
31 out and not even have an extension in their shotgun.
32 There's enforcement processes that are being enforced
33 to us and not to other groups of people, where there's
34 a difference between how things are done. We heard Mr.
35 Cleveland talk about someone enforcing regulations when
36 their own -- the agency didn't even have their boat
37 registered, and things like that. You know, what comes
38 for one comes for all. And it should always be that
39 way.

40

41 Anyway, I'm still always glad that
42 (indiscernible, over-modulating). I'd just like to
43 have a real understanding how that collar will -- or
44 when they catch that animal, is it healthy. I never
45 hear after you do all that down the line, whether that
46 collar's been beneficial or not, and whether the
47 information is shared and used enough to justify
48 keeping on doing it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Percy.

1 Go ahead, Raymond.

2

3 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 One thing that concerns me is, you know, we all have
5 been assigned by our village, with a great support from
6 our villages concerning this collared satellite
7 caribou. They are very concerned, not us only, the
8 villages are. They're the ones that ask us to bring it
9 up to the agencies. They said, we don't need that
10 satellite. Get in an airplane to find the caribou
11 where they're at. That's the problem.

12

13 Because, in fact, that I supported this
14 collaring caribou when it first began. I thought it
15 would work primarily to benefit our people, but then
16 when they first brought that out, it was publicly known
17 across the world for quite some times. And then we
18 come to the point where we can't handle it any longer,
19 so anyway the State of Alaska, they put in a system on
20 that to put the information to be 11 months old.

21

22 Otherwise -- here's how they set it up.
23 If somebody wants to find out where the caribou is, you
24 just pick it up on the internet and find out where the
25 caribou is, but they were 11 months late. However,
26 there were still reindeer herders, they still want that
27 satellite to monitor their reindeer. But, however,
28 today, just like Mr. Sampson said, some organizations
29 in the Lower 48, they're monitoring this herd today.
30 How they're doing it, I don't know. I can't tell you.
31 I don't know how they're doing it.

32

33 So our people are very concerned about
34 using the satellite to monitor the herd. So again, and
35 I'll bring it up again, I said it earlier already, that
36 there was some report by a local hunter that -- I don't
37 know the system, how the State of Alaska works, either
38 they collar the bulls or the females, but these herds
39 were located with female caribou, and they said they
40 were pretty well poor, because, I don't know how they
41 put it on, but all the hair on the neck was all gone.
42 So that's our people's concern. So I don't know what
43 to do next.

44

45 I know it's a benefit to your agency,
46 the State of Alaska, to monitor where the herd is, but
47 to us, you know, that we know their route, we know
48 they're coming, but you just hurry up and wait for
49 them.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Charlotte.

2

3 MS. WESTING: I'd mention just again
4 anytime anyone has any information about the status of
5 a collared caribou, how its neck looks, that's really
6 good information for us. It helps us to do a better
7 job with what we're doing.

8

9 And then just again, you know, we get a
10 lot more information from these collars than just where
11 they are. We get all kinds of information about the
12 health of our population, and that will guide us in
13 understanding how they're doing.

14

15 And, you know, we all are becoming
16 aware of the fact that the Western Arctic Herd is
17 probably declining right now. The question is how fast,
18 and how long, and how low. And these collars are
19 pretty important in helping us determine that, because
20 we can get calving information. We can find out how
21 many young are born. We can find out how many of those
22 young make it through winter. We can find out what our
23 bull/cow ratios are in fall using those collars. They
24 are used for so much more than just figuring out where
25 the caribou are. They really help us, all the
26 different agencies with all the different projects that
27 we have, to try to understand how that herd's doing and
28 try to anticipate what it's going to do to protect the
29 people, and to protect their access to caribou forever.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else.
32 Go ahead, Hannah. You'll be next, Mike.

33

34 MS. LOON: Yeah. They're not caribou.
35 They're caribou and reindeer.

36

37 MR. SAMPSON: Reinbou.

38

39 MS. LOON: Reinbou. Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Hannah.

42

43 Go ahead, Mike.

44

45 MR. KRAMER: You know, this is the 21st
46 century, and have you guys ever looked at alternative
47 means, besides collars? Something less that affects
48 the body or the fur or the skin? You know, I know I've
49 helped Brad Schultz with a wolverine study before, and
50 they used implants, you know, that they've installed

1 within the skin of the animal. You know, have you guys
2 looked at alternative means for -- you know, besides
3 having it on the outside where it affects the neck and
4 the hide.

5
6 MS. WESTING: None of the projects that
7 I am directly responsible for involve collaring. But
8 Jim has been doing this collar project for over 20
9 years, almost 30 years, and he has looked at a lot of
10 different things. I don't know if he's looked at
11 things other than collars, but I know that when
12 satellite collars first started coming out, they were
13 big and clunky and heavy, and he was a big part of
14 trying to design a more ergonomic collar that was
15 better, easier on the caribou and better for the
16 caribou. He's been involved in trying to be innovated
17 and look for new techniques with caribou.

18
19 I think -- I don't know that much about
20 using implants, but I do know that if we used them, it
21 would probably involve drugs and helicopters and some
22 of the things that people in this region don't find
23 palatable. The way that we are able to put out the
24 collars right now is pretty non-invasive, and people
25 have appreciated that, because then they don't feel
26 like they have to worry about drugs in the meat of
27 animals that they harvest later, of any kind of adverse
28 effects on them from just the rigmarole of a capture
29 process. So I think you would lose some of those
30 benefits with other techniques, but I haven't really
31 investigated other techniques. Jim probably has,
32 unfortunately he's flying today, so he can't speak to
33 that right now.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: One more.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Walter, I want
40 to follow up.

41
42 Yes, I understand that satellite
43 collaring is starting to be a question, yet Selawik
44 Wildlife Refuge implanted on sheefish. And I was one
45 of them that looked at those and they're sticking out
46 by the belly and stuff like that, that little antenna.
47 They got all the information they want, yet that fish
48 was healthy. And this is a little one. And this is
49 under the water. Just think how much more -- it will
50 be easier if it's on top of the ground where it's not

1 covered, the caribou. These are the things you've got
2 to reconsider. Maybe you need to talk to Lee. And I
3 was happy with it, because when we opened the inside
4 from that sheefish, it was fat, healthy looking, the
5 meat was there, and I didn't see anything wrong. And
6 this is not the only fish I biopsied. I did that a few
7 times with trout and any other animals. So I think
8 these things need to be reconsidered. And I think our
9 satellite, we need to look at something alternative.
10 We can do it.

11

MS. WESTING: Right.

12

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
13
14
15 Walter.

16

MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17

Charlotte, you indicated one percent of
18
19
20 the total herd is what you collar?

21

MS. WESTING: It's actually less than
22
23 that. It's more like half a percent. We have I
24 believe -- and again Jim is responsible for this, but
25 it's in between 100 and 150 collars.

26

MR. SAMPSON: Okay. The.....

27

MS. WESTING: And the -- I'm sorry, go
28
29
30 ahead.

31

MR. SAMPSON: I think the issue that is
32
33 before us, Mr. Chairman, if it's such that the region
34 and the communities have some problems with what's
35 happening with the collaring, there's ways to address
36 that very issue, Two things.

37

One, we ask the communities to put
38
39 together proposals addressing that very issue, one
40 that would go to the State of Alaska and the other
41 proposal would go to the Federal Board for
42 consideration. And it's something that we ought to
43 take a look at if it's such that our villages are
44 concerned about the collaring issue. That's maybe the
45 fix to that very problem.

46

If the State of Alaska wishes to do
47
48 studies down the road, then they come to us and to the
49 village and say, we would like to do caribou studies,
50 and this is how we would like to do the studies, if we

1 can get some support from the communities in that way.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.
4 Maybe I'm going to -- maybe we'll ask Helen to write a
5 letter to the villages to see what they see and maybe
6 we -- where they stand on this. Because like Walter
7 say, we're starting to hear the concern about satellite
8 and collared caribou.

9

10 And I was really happy with what I saw
11 with the sheefish. It's so small. Not only that, I
12 followed it on the computer and they did this. At the
13 Lower 48 where they did it on even smaller fish than
14 that. And they said they lasted as much as three years
15 in there, and they never did notice anything that was
16 sick out of them.

17

18 I mean, there's technology so different
19 now, and, you know, it impresses me. I grew up where
20 there was no phone to technology nowadays. The phone
21 call I had was I go see the gossip of the town, and
22 that was my technology. And today it's everybody's
23 texting.

24

25 I think if the Board here want to put
26 something on proposal, somebody could recommend how to
27 say it and maybe we could work from there, because we
28 need to do something here.

29

30 Go ahead.

31

32 MS. WESTING: I guess I'd like to
33 mention two things. I mean, the difference with the
34 sheefish from caribou is this. As far as I understand
35 those were surgically implanted transmitters and so I
36 mean if that is more palatable to people here to
37 anesthetize caribou and cut them open and surgically
38 implant, you know, a transmitter, we can discuss that.
39 I think people find it palatable with fish; I think
40 they'd find it less palatable with a large animal like
41 a caribou, but we can consider that.

42

43 As far as the longevity of those
44 collars, we have had collars on animals for more than
45 10 years at times. A single caribou that's been
46 collared has lived with that collar and done everything
47 a caribou is supposed to do for 10 years. And Jim may
48 even tell me that it was longer than that. It's very
49 common for them to last longer than five.

50

1 And so it's not like the information
2 that we get from these collars is just a flash in the
3 pan, or that the only information we get is where they
4 go. We get much -- we get a whole bunch of information
5 all about everything that happens in its life history,
6 and we get that for many, many, many years from those
7 caribou. And pretty valuable. And the data set that
8 we have, because it's been collected for the length of
9 time that it has, has really clarified the picture of
10 what's going on with the Western Arctic Herd. And I
11 think it will serve the people in this Region in the
12 end.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
15 Anyone else like to on this collaring. Go ahead,
16 Verne.

17
18 MR. CLEVELAND: And how many radio
19 collars to you get back or lost or eaten by other
20 animals, stuff like that? Do you get any report like
21 that?

22
23 MS. WESTING: So when a collared animal
24 is killed or dies, its collar starts to emit a
25 different signal that tells us that it's on mortality
26 mode. And so we can go and retrieve those collars and
27 they can be refurbished and put out again. So it's a
28 nice cost saving measure, too. We get a lot of bang
29 for our buck with the collars.

30
31 But the other thing we can do is when
32 we -- we do collar retrievals in the summer, so we go
33 to those places where we have detected the mortality
34 signal. We try to find the kill site. We try to find
35 bones, specifically jaw bones, because we can collect
36 teeth data and find out how old that animal was. That
37 can tell us how old it was when it was collared, and
38 how old it was when it died. If the jaw bone is fresh
39 enough, we can use bone marrow to detect what the body
40 condition was. Sometimes the status of the remains can
41 tell us how they died. So there's some pieces of
42 information. Usually we can't get that much from the
43 kill -- from a -- when we land to retrieve a collar, we
44 don't get all of that information. We're lucky to even
45 get some.

46
47 As far as collars that come to us from
48 people who have harvested caribou, we definitely get
49 more than a handful, you know, probably I would say
50 five a year is about what we average for people 1

1 calling us and telling us that they harvested an animal
2 with a collar and they'd like to turn it in and talk to
3 us about it.

4

5 MR. CLEVELAND: And how much you said
6 was that collar if you returned it?

7

8 MS. WESTING: Well, it's \$50. We give
9 \$50 to people who return a collar. Again, we never
10 want our collared animals to be targeted, because that
11 could skew our information about mortality. And it's
12 very -- it's good for us to have our collared animals
13 not be harvested at a rate that's higher than other
14 animals. But if someone harvests an animal and they
15 may realize that it had a collar, again they are in no
16 trouble at all. We would love to talk to them about
17 it. We would love to get the information to them about
18 the health of that animal and learn as much as we can
19 from that hunter.

20

21 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you (in Inupiaq).

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead. Go
24 ahead, Raymond. Thanks.

25

26 MR. STONEY: Okay. My final question
27 to you is this. I know that usually that you guys
28 collar caribou at Onion Portage. How much does that
29 actually cost the entire crew to collar caribou at
30 Onion Point? I mean, the whole operations.

31

32 MS. WESTING: You're wondering how much
33 that costs?

34

35 MR. STONEY: Yes.

36

37 MS. WESTING: Oh, gosh, I don't really
38 know. It's a pretty cheap project to run, because of
39 the fact that we have boats and equipment up there. We
40 don't have to haul a whole -- basically all we have to
41 haul up there are people and gear. Then the Park
42 Service graciously lets us use the Gettings' cabin
43 there at Onion Portage. And so that is another thing
44 that doesn't cost us money. The collars themselves are
45 quite expensive. They vary in their expense, because
46 there are collars that only emit a VHF signal; then
47 there are some collars that emit a PTT, positional
48 terminal transmitter signal, that you get from the
49 satellite. And then there are also collars that you
50 can get GPS locations from. So those collars vary in

1 their expense depending on what they are. I have no
2 idea what number to give you. I'd have to talk to Jim
3 about that, but it's a relatively cheap project.

4
5 MR. STONEY: How about the cost of a
6 collar?

7
8 MR. SHULTS: (Indiscernible, away from
9 mic)

10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Can you repeat that?
12

13 MS. WESTING: So 400 -- he says about
14 400 for a VHF. 2,000 to 4,000 for GPS. So again a
15 pretty wide range in expense.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else on
18 this collar.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. At
21 some point, do we get to hear the numbers of caribou
22 that are radio collared that died out there in the for
23 whatever reason, if it's not man or animal or what.

24
25 MS. WESTING: Okay. Percy, obviously I
26 don't have that information today, and Jim is the
27 person that it's most appropriate for that to come
28 from.

29
30 He puts together a report, the Western
31 Arctic Herd survey and inventory report. That's
32 available online. It's also available in my office,
33 and I can also send you copies. So puts together one
34 of those reports every two years.

35
36 Another place where he distributes that
37 kind of information is at our advisory committee
38 meetings, and I know we haven't had one in person for
39 your area in quite some time. Well, not since I've
40 been around, the last four years. And perhaps that's
41 really past due, and we should go down to Buckland and
42 give a presentation there.

43
44 The other place that he usually
45 presents that information and provides just kind of an
46 overall synopsis for everything that's going on, status
47 and health and trends of the Western Arctic Herd is at
48 the Western Arctic Herd Working Group meeting. So
49 gives a lot of information at that meeting about all
50 the different sources of mortality and everything we

1 know.

2

3 But if you would like for Jim to come
4 down to Buckland at some point and just talk about
5 caribou -- I know he went up to Noatak this fall and
6 gave -- and talked to people there about caribou and
7 listened to what they have to say about caribou, and
8 he'd probably like to do the same in your area.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: Well, yeah, you're
11 invited. I would like for this committee to hear, this
12 Board to hear those numbers at some point in time,
13 because I think it's important to -- if you've been
14 doing this for 20 years, we should have some kind of
15 numbers of how many caribou have been collared and
16 whatever reason they died or not. If we have all that
17 information and we're gathering all this information to
18 do that, why can't we, you know, just have the numbers
19 for us.

20

21 MS. WESTING: I guess another thing I'd
22 like to mention since I'm up and since I can't be up
23 here all day, is that the West -- we did do a photo
24 census of the Western Arctic Herd this last summer, so
25 we took the images of the herd when it was all bunched
26 up tight in the mountains, and we accounted for all the
27 collars. We took those photographs, then we did the
28 overlap lines that tell us when to start and stop
29 counting, and sent them off to Don Williams up in
30 Ambler. He's the person that counts those photographs.
31 He is just wrapping up the count, and will have some
32 information within the next month or so about what the
33 final number of our estimate for Western Arctic caribou
34 is. So that will be coming up in the near future.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
37 Charlotte.

38

39 Go ahead, Michael.

40

41 MR. KRAMER: I know in the past, I also
42 hold a seat on the Fish and Game advisory council for
43 Kotzebue. And then with that, the information from the
44 collars has presented a lot of information as for, you
45 know, the pressure that transporters and guides, mainly
46 transporters that are putting on the caribou. It's
47 been very, very beneficial in helping us see the
48 difference in migration routes and to be able to see
49 that transporters are beginning to push our caribou
50 farther and farther east. You know, the price of fuel,

1 the economy is not getting any better, it's only
2 probably going to get worse. You know, all I've ever
3 seen is it being very, very beneficial to use being
4 able to watch our herd, watch their numbers, watch the
5 pressure that transporters are putting on these
6 animals, to where it's beginning to affect our
7 subsistence way of life, and it's beginning to be, you
8 know, cost a lot of money to be able to go out there to
9 go get these animals. I've seen it very beneficial.

10

11 But I'd like to see other ways and
12 routes to be able to, you know, non-impact, to where it
13 impacts the animals hide or, you know, the body
14 condition.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
17 Anyone else on these collared caribou.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I'll make it
22 fast. Let's go on a 15 -- no, make it a 10-minute
23 break and get our senses together. Thanks.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Maybe if we
30 could take our seats and we could get started. You're
31 welcome to talk and do your plans, but do it out in the
32 hallway. I'm not going to stop you, but we need to --
33 we're going to press for time pretty quick.

34

35 And I think earlier I was reminded that
36 we're going to go back to the antler collection issue
37 and talk about it and what needs to be done on it.

38

39 Go ahead, who was going to come back to
40 it. Walter, you'll start it off.

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
43 Chairman. I think the issue in regards to the use of
44 shed and discarded parts and plans, the alternatives
45 that Ken had brought to this table this morning, we
46 ought to make a recommendation on what we -- what
47 alternative we would support. Actually the
48 alternatives that I looked at were really C and D.
49 Some of the sections in C are good, some are not too
50 good. But I think the overall issue in regards to the

1 permitting requirement's something that we need to get
2 away from.

3

4 If you take a look at the State
5 regulations, in Unit 23 it says that you may not remove
6 caribou antlers from the skull, and buy, sell or barter
7 them. So these are some of the requirements that are
8 already in place.

9

10 But the alternatives that I would look
11 at is maybe C and D, pick out the best from those two
12 alternatives. I don't know what else we need to do to
13 make the recommendation from the alternatives. Ken.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, can you come
16 up.

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Council
19 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

20

21 I guess the only thing I would suggest,
22 that if you're going to want to like pick and mix and
23 match, would be if you could just specify what elements
24 in C you like, and what elements in D you like. And
25 once that's conveyed to the Park Service, I think that
26 will send a message that you want to see something
27 crafted that reflects your concerns.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: In light of that, Mr.
30 Chairman, just to make things easier, let's support
31 Alternative C.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Before I
34 decide or anybody decides, I want to hear from the rest
35 of, and quickly, due to the time constraints here. We
36 need to start running. We've got to be out of here by
37 6:00 o'clock.

38

39 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Percy
40 Ballot, Buckland.

41

42 I was just wondering, or clarification
43 from Walter, C and D are with the use of permits, and
44 so I don't know, is that something you wanted to limit,
45 because I'm not really sure if we really want to have
46 permits.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I have a
49 problem with both of them in regards to the permit
50 requirements. But in order to make take and take out

1 is something that Ken is asking. I mean, the Cape
2 Krusenstern is supporting Alternative C. Then if
3 that's the case, then we ought to look at -- Ken.

4
5 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. My
6 understanding from the letter is that they wanted to
7 make two points. One is they really didn't want any
8 permits, which is Alternative C, it's kind of an
9 option.

10
11 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

12
13 MR. ADKISSON: If they leave it up to
14 the managers or the superintendent whether or not to go
15 to permits. Alternative D, it's a mandatory thing.

16
17 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

18
19 MR. ADKISSON: But on the other hand,
20 the Kake or SRC like liked the more narrow eligibility
21 pool that was formed under Alternative D. And so they
22 mention those two items in the letter without
23 necessarily I think specifying maybe a solid
24 alternative or whatever.

25
26 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Let's take a look
27 at that alternative then with what you explained to us.

28
29 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. I hate to see
32 the Natives have a permit in certain things they would
33 do, because that's a way to cite us and make us
34 criminals for something we've been doing. We need to
35 keep doing what we're doing legally somehow and maybe
36 like Walter say, we have a little time to move from
37 this section to this section. If we could look at it
38 and we could maybe -- if we could get it on email,
39 maybe we could say it, but right now we could basically
40 what we want, but I would like to look at it a little
41 bit more.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 Go ahead, Percy.

46
47 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. I was just thinking
48 I have no any much concern about Alternative D. I
49 think it's a good one. But the permits is what's
50 getting to me, so can we go to that system, plus

1 without permit.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Well, that's what Ken is
4 kind of saying, giving that authority to the Park
5 Service superintendent.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So what I'm hearing
8 is from these, we need to go to Alternative D, so we
9 need to -- are we going to vote on it or we're going to
10 put it in a proposal form that we support Alternative
11 D.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: What do you need from
14 this body? Do we need.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What do we need to
17 keep on -- and move on.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Ideally
20 we would like your comments, and if you have a
21 recommendation, we would like that. I personally think
22 in your comments the most important thing we could hear
23 is forget what -- you know, forget what the
24 alternatives are, A, B, C, D, for a minute and think
25 about what it is that affects your lifestyle that you
26 want to see, and specify those things, and then kind of
27 I guess force us to adjust to that.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
30 one thing we all need to understanding is that from
31 time immemorial our people have utilized that resource.
32 I'm talking about the parts from animals, the plants
33 and whatever, that they're able to use. These are the
34 things that has been used for a period of time, and
35 that's what I want to make sure that we continue to use
36 without any hinderance of a required permit for our
37 people to go through to utilize those animal parts and
38 plants.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.
41 Yeah, I Alternative D, yet the word, with permits, is
42 kind of scaring me a little bit. I understand what is
43 going on, but the word permit -- because if we say with
44 permit and, say, enforcer come around, you don't have a
45 permit to get your antlers, plants, roots and whatever
46 to do your crafts. You understand what I'm trying to
47 say? The word, with permits, if you translate it, maybe
48 I'm not educated enough and not a lawyer, but I see it
49 like that. Your speech is with permits. Are you
50 talking about like the musk oxen, musk ox or whatever,

1 or sheep with horns where we destroy them for trophy
2 value.

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Well, Mr. Chair, the
5 trophy destruction as far as the sheep go under the
6 Federal program has gone away, and it's been gone for
7 several years. There is no trophy nullification
8 requirement for Federal musk ox hunting at this time
9 either.

10

11 So I think the point really is, you
12 know, you really don't want permits. The question then
13 becomes one of competition I guess, and how many
14 people, you know, you're comfortable with opening it up
15 to. And like I said, in my opinion there's no one
16 perfect alternative in those four alternatives. And
17 that's why I said that, you know, hopefully, even
18 though there's an expressed NPS preferred alternative,
19 hopefully the message will come through loud and strong
20 as to what local people want for themselves and their
21 communities, and the Park Service will take that into
22 consideration and make appropriate adjustments, though
23 I can't guarantee what the regional director will do.
24 But, you know, I know what our local preference is.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I got you, Ken,
27 because when I'm out in the country, probably anybody,
28 even these youngsters, when we go out there walking, if
29 we see an antler, we see something we might like, we
30 will just pick it up, and we don't wonder if we need a
31 permit to do this. And we want to keep doing what
32 we're doing right.

33

34 I will -- maybe let me ask you this
35 way, if we pick D, how long is it going to be in place,
36 where we could amend it later. And like any other
37 thing, agency's coming with a plan. Why can't us group
38 here come out with our own plan to say, this is what we
39 want on this regarding plants and roots where we could
40 use.

41

42 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
43 members. If you really wanted to speed it up, maybe
44 one way of doing it would be simply to express the
45 notion that you like the more restricted eligibility of
46 D, but you really don't like the permitting conditions,
47 and you would prefer to see an optional permitting
48 system as identified in Alternative C.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's why -- I

1 like your changing the wording with permits. I hate to
2 see the people get cited for something, because with a
3 permit -- because I don't like to get permits no more
4 than the other guys, because I got a permit to get
5 married, and that's all I wanted to do.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. And I hate to
10 see the permit change as I go to do my thing, as the
11 resources are out there, because antlers that drop is
12 something they do every year. They're going to get
13 rotten. Might as well, if the Natives do it, unless if
14 it's going to be an issue, I would like to see it say,
15 well, this is only for Unit 23.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: That's what it refers to.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. That's the way
20 I would like to see it. And I haven't heard the word
21 for Unit 23 people, for our area. Other areas could
22 pick what they want.

23

24 Go ahead, Hannah.

25

26 MS. LOON: We've always lived in
27 naturally. We never hear about permitting things.
28 Those things didn't bother us. Unbeknownst to elders
29 when they're out gathering. Who created these probably
30 -- we didn't create these, you know, for us to decide
31 you need to do A, B, C, D. We didn't create these to
32 make more trouble for ourselves. We've always lived
33 and walked naturally is what I'm saying. I don't think
34 anybody living in Sisalik or Noatak River or (in
35 Inupiaq) should have any problems with permitting
36 systems as long as they're, you know, living naturally
37 out there getting wood, you know.

38

39 Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
42 you. So I would like to stay with -- that Alternative
43 D is okay up to a point, you know what I'm saying. I
44 hate to say, Walter, you can't take that, it's not in
45 permit, you don't have permit for it. I hate to say
46 that and find out later. That's what I'm really after.
47 I don't want to see the Natives become criminals to do
48 what we've already been doing for centuries to come.
49 That's where I'm trying to come from.

50

1 Go ahead, Michael.

2

3 MR. KRAMER: You know, I spoke to my
4 father last year, and he said that, you know, 20
5 something years ago, maybe 30 years ago, the Park
6 Service came into our area. Maybe longer.

7

8 When they first came in, they said, no,
9 we're just going to be here to observe. And as the
10 years have gone by, they've pulled a little, taken a
11 little more, and eventually, you know, we aren't going
12 to be anything without permits or licenses any more,
13 which I don't understand, you know.

14

15 For medicinal uses, craft uses, I don't
16 understand why we need a permit. You know, we're local
17 we're local users of these plants, animals, you know,
18 these objects of, you know, to benefit people who don't
19 have the necessary means to work. This economy's, you
20 know, eventually take us down. But if you look at it,
21 anything that could benefit people who don't have that
22 ability to be able to work an eight to five job, but
23 have all the time in the world to do crafts, you
24 shouldn't limit them. They shouldn't be limited ever,
25 you know. All them 2, 3,000 heads out there on the
26 Kobuk River, you know what, people leave them. At
27 least you know for a fact they didn't head hunting, but
28 people are using those antlers for crafts. Hey, that's
29 a benefit to them. You know, if somebody goes out
30 there and pick up 50 caribou heads, you know, to
31 benefit his crafts, so be it. You know, at least he's
32 got the means to go out there and go get these, you
33 know, pieces of caribou antler, ribs, whatever. It may
34 be even for medicinal uses, traditional uses,
35 traditional uses, anything else. I don't think that we
36 need a permit to be able to provide for our family.

37

38 That's all I've got.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Michael.
41 Anyone else. You guys want to put this in proposal
42 form and vote on it or what do you guys want to do.
43 I'm open.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
46 it's got to be clear that what we're trying to do is
47 work around what's already been required by State law,
48 by some of the general provisions that the Federal
49 system has, to make hopefully easier for those that
50 utilize animal parts and plants to continue to make for

1 their own or for trade. And that's basically what
2 we're trying to do, to make things easier for those
3 people that do those things.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.
6 Anyone else.

7
8 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
9 agree with Walter, that we want to make it easy and
10 available and have them continue to be able to use
11 these elements out there when they do that.
12 Regardless of our comments, I think the Park Service is
13 going to come with regulations, so we need to put in
14 our own two cents in there. Now is the time.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I understand
17 that a lot. And I thank you. And that's what I'm
18 scared of. I hate to see my people become criminals
19 for something we been do. So we need to vote on this.

20
21 And I asked earlier, Ken, how long and
22 can we amend this later after we look at it, when we
23 get more time. You know, maybe by next meeting.
24 Because I will look at this real heavily and put most
25 of my work aside and really look at it and put them on
26 my computer and I want them to send it to me. That way
27 I could match them and look at them in four different
28 ways all at once.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Counsel
33 members. I don't think you're going to -- this is not
34 going to be the end all of this process. As I
35 explained earlier, once there's a record of decision on
36 the EA, there's steps of announcing the government's
37 intention to promulgate new regulations, and those get
38 published in the Federal Register, and you can comment
39 on them. And then after they've absorbed the comments,
40 there's generally a publication of the new draft
41 regulation, and you can comment on it. And then
42 there's a final publication on the final rule. So I
43 would say, you know, anywhere through that process, you
44 know, you can have a chance to try to influence the
45 outcome.

46
47 Once the final regulation comes out, I
48 think you're going to find it very difficult to change.
49 And it's liable to be there for a long, long time.

50

1 And so, believe me, I think I
2 understand what you're saying, and I share a lot of the
3 concerns. And I think I could tell you that the park
4 doesn't want to go to a permitting system. We don't
5 think there's any need for it. There's no resource
6 conservation issues that demand it at this time. We at
7 the same time recognize that down the road there may
8 be, but we don't foresee that necessarily now. And so
9 we would like to keep our options open, and we would
10 argue for some system that gives us the flexibility
11 based a lot on local input.

12
13 The other thing I'm hearing from people
14 is that, you know, they just don't want to be overrun
15 by a bunch of people sucking up the resources that they
16 can use for the local benefit of local users. And so,
17 you know, that's where I think I would like to see the
18 Park Service try to go. How we get there and kind of
19 who wins the argument, I don't know.

20
21 Like I said, we're not the only park in
22 the Alaska region, and there are some that are facing
23 probably more severe restrictions, and the
24 environmentalists and everybody else, you know, from
25 wide open to highly restrictive will have a chance to
26 comment on these regulations, too, and their comments
27 will get -- or this process, the EA and things, and
28 their comments will get considered.

29
30 So, you know, no, I don't think it's
31 the end of the work. The best job you can do now, you
32 know, it's -- I think that's work it, and, you know, I
33 mean, if I was sitting there looking at the comments, I
34 mean, I would be able to take a lot of what I'm hearing
35 right now, regardless of what you voted on, and
36 interpret that. So, you know, I think you're doing a
37 fine job, you know, so it's -- you're getting down I
38 think what you would like to see. And I think that's
39 what's important.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. Thank
42 you. We'll limit our time pretty quick.

43
44 I'll just make it last two and make it
45 quick. Michael, next Percy, and then vote on this. I
46 think we need to put a proposal in to vote on this how
47 we want to go.

48
49 MR. KRAMER: Okay. You know, this
50 probably going to -- you know, I'm hoping that the

1 decision that we make benefits our future over there.

2

3 I'd like to make a suggestion that we
4 table it until further notice at our next meeting, or
5 we decide now with the possibility of making necessary
6 changes to benefit our future and us.

7

8 That's all I've got.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Michael. I
11 understand your tabling part, but I think we have until
12 April to decide which way we want to go for Northwest
13 Alaska, right, Ken?

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: I think that's
16 advisable, Mr. Chair. I think if you can -- you know,
17 want to make a decision, I think now is an appropriate
18 time, and, you know, I'll try to pull people together
19 and, you know, do a teleconference vote and all that
20 stuff. I'm not sure how easy that is, or if it's worth
21 it. And I would say if you can deal with the issue
22 today, fine. If not, you know, like I said, I think
23 the record will reflect a lot of your concerns.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Walter, vote
26 on it?

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think to
29 put this to rest, we've heard Ken indicated the
30 discussion that we have in regards to some of the
31 concerns that we have, he heard that, and it's in
32 record. And with that, let's move on.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.
35 Last person and we'll.....

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Just clarity on the
38 word collection is limited. If you want to get --
39 collection is limited, does that address this concern
40 about a guy going out and getting 50 horns, or what do
41 you have, a certain -- what.....

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: Through the Chair. Mr.
44 Ballot. Is that the D, is that one that's labeled
45 limited, or.....

46

47 MR. BALLOT: It would be in C and D.

48

49 MR. ADKISSON: I didn't bring my stuff
50 to the table.

1 MR. BALLOT: And there's unlimited, so
2 I just wanted to get a definition of what does that
3 mean?

4
5 MR. ADKISSON: The collection limited
6 option basically means that there are more restrictions
7 on it. And it means thus there are indeed there are
8 restrictions in the eligibility, which narrows the pool
9 of eligibles down; and there's also the permit
10 requirements which are obviously restrictive in nature
11 potentially. So that's what it means when collections
12 are limited. And so it's all the way down then to
13 almost, you know, in D.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
16 Ken.

17
18 So undecided. Should we put it on a
19 proposal and vote on this which alternative, or we
20 should just table this.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: Just he's got the
23 information.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You've got the
26 information, Ken, how we want to go. We like certain
27 alternatives, it's just -- I think it's just your
28 choice of words with permits or limited, you know.

29
30 MR. ADKISSON: Well, correct me if I'm
31 wrong, how about that. Correct me if I'm wrong. I
32 think what I'm hearing is of the options, that, you
33 know, you're fluctuating around C and D and there are
34 elements of both those that you like and elements you
35 don't like.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: See, when you say
38 limit, the enforcer could translate. One enforcer
39 could say I could pick five antlers. One enforcer
40 could say I could pick up to 50. It depends how the
41 translator -- I mean, the enforcer translate the
42 wording on limit. To me, limit is no limit. I'm just
43 trying to -- I hate to see it, but that's the way I'm
44 understanding it.

45
46 I hate to -- I'm not trying to be hard
47 nosed about this, see, I just don't want to see my
48 people get cited because, for your information, if the
49 Federal enforcer enforce someone and cites him and he's
50 convicted, he's forever in the Federal system where he

1 will have hard time even going to the hospital. He
2 have to Fairbanks to protect himself, and he have to
3 pay his fare. He have to get a lawyer. That's what I
4 don't want to see. That's the way I see Federal
5 system, where they enforce someone and they cite
6 someone.

7

8 To begin with, we're not criminals.
9 We're just trying to survive with our culture and our
10 resources out there.

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. I think
13 that's some of the concerns that I would share. And
14 that, you know, I just feel it would be sort of a
15 tragedy that if the result of all of this process was a
16 one size fits all that kind of caters to the worst
17 condition and problem in the state, and tries to solve
18 their problems by making you folks, you know, follow
19 that pattern and, so, you know, I think right up until
20 the end you'll hear the local Park Service argue in
21 favor of a flexible system that we can again interact
22 with local people and adapt the regulations or adapt
23 the conditions or whatever around those things.

24

25 So, I mean, you know, in that sense I
26 would say I would favor C, but I think I also hear
27 people, you know, want to protect the local resources
28 primarily for local people. And unfortunately the best
29 option the I think out of there is D. And so we would
30 go to the regional director and suggest that the final
31 rule reflect a -- or the final decision reflect both of
32 those concerns. And that's where I think we'll go, and
33 we'll listen to you, too, you know. And it's.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. For the time
36 we need, we need to move on and decide which way to go.
37 So I'm going to Walter to say, since I'm new as the
38 Chair, to decide which way should go. Walter.

39

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: I think we've heard from
42 some of the members in regards to some of the issues
43 that they have some concerns with. That's in the
44 record, it's been recorded. The representatives from
45 the Park Service heard our concerns, some of the issues
46 that we may have. Some of the permitting requirements
47 that would be placed in the future. We have two good
48 alternatives that's been talked about. By specifying
49 one alternative over the other would only limit us to
50 do certain things. If there's issues that have been

1 talked about and were raised, they've heard them.
2 They'll pick one of the two from those two
3 alternatives. Of course, the requirement, the
4 permitting requirement would be left up to the
5 superintendent within that area.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So, okay,
8 maybe we'll just table this or whatever and just move
9 on to the next -- back to our agenda.

10
11 MR. SAMPSON: Don't table.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Say again?

14
15 MR. SAMPSON: Don't table.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Don't table.

18
19 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What do I say? What
22 we're saying, Ken, is you hear what our concerns are.
23 Address those and we'll be happy. That's what I'm
24 hearing so far.

25
26 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
27 members. I think that's correct. I think Walter did a
28 really good job summarizing the position. I could
29 probably take his summary right now and take that and
30 turn it into a position for the Park Service.

31
32 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I agree
33 just to a point, except I don't think we really need a
34 permit. It's just -- I mean, I know we could lead it
35 to the superintendent, but could we just say that we do
36 not desire a permit system. That's the point I'm
37 trying to make. So that would be my motion, to put it
38 into the letter as our point towards EA, whatever they
39 call it.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: EA. Okay. Thank
42 you. I think you hear what we're trying to say, Ken,
43 and understand it.

44
45 And I think we need to move on to our
46 agenda.

47
48 So on that per diem rate.....

49
50 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.
2
3 MR. BALLOT: I move to draft a letter
4 supporting Alternative D with a comment that we are not
5 supporting the use of permit system included to that
6 EA. Whatever. That's my motion.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Walter.
9
10 MR. SAMPSON: I second and that's
11 doable.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question.
14
15 MS. LOON: Question.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
18 called for. Okay. So all in favor aye.
19
20 IN UNISON: Aye.
21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any nays. No.
23
24 (No opposing votes)
25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So that passes
27 unanimously. Thank you.
28
29 I think we need to move on.
30
31 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council.
32 Thank you for your time and consideration. Appreciate
33 it.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think we need to
36 move on on that SRC per diem rate. And I was informed
37 that we really have no control over this per diem rate.
38 And to hear about this, I think we just a few minutes
39 to explain to the Board that we really have no control
40 over the per diem rate on this one here. And if you
41 guys don't like it, you're not going to get per diem, -
42 - got high per diem rate, I would get the contractor to
43 give you guys per diem more.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If I could get my
48 refund back, just put it this way. We don't really
49 have control.
50

1 Thanks, Helen.

2

3 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chair. That's correct. The per diem rate's set in
5 Washington, D.C. All Federal employees, all of you,
6 the SRC, anybody who's volunteering and being paid is
7 -- they get the same rate. So as I like to say, I like
8 to worry about the things I have some control over, and
9 this is one we don't. So given the time of the day, I
10 would say talk about things you have some control over.

11

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. So
15 we need to rush these on and limit it. And we need
16 someone on 11.B, proposed Ambler Road.

17

18 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. That's
19 an issue I've heard is coming up, and there had been --
20 I'm not sure who brought this up to Donald, but there
21 was some interest in having somebody come and speak
22 about what's happening with the Ambler Road. And
23 Donald said that he would do that for the next meeting,
24 because we didn't get anybody for this meeting, unless
25 there's somebody here who knows something and you want
26 to talk about. But I guess it's a proposed road from
27 Wiseman to Ambler I believe. And I think it's -- maybe
28 you all know more than I do. I don't know very much,
29 but if that's something that could be deferred to the
30 next meeting, we can do that, because we don't have
31 anybody to make any presentations on that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: At the last SRC
34 meeting -- were you there, Walter? Okay.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. What it
37 is, is the Department of Transportation is looking at
38 doing some studies in regards to some alternatives of a
39 road system into the Ambler mining district. And I
40 think the appropriate people to address that would be
41 Department of Transportation.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.
44 Thank you. And I understand, Walter. And when we had
45 our SRC meeting, this came up, and the understanding
46 that it was to decide. I think they had plans to go
47 ahead and build that road and Upper Kobuk was
48 supporting this, and Kotzebue state advisor were --
49 they didn't like it. My personal feeling is this.
50 This is the last of our resources out there. If they

1 build a road to Ambler, they'll open that road
2 eventually in the future, and there goes our resources,
3 and they're going to start using that road to access
4 the caribou and the fish. And they say they will have
5 cheaper fuel.

6
7 But I'll tell you one thing. I work in
8 Prudhoe there. The gas is no cheaper at Prudhoe, even
9 if they have road already compared to what's at Ambler
10 and Kobuk right now. Makes no difference. This is my
11 personal feeling. I feel like that strongly that the
12 road is not going to make much change, but it's going
13 to impact us on our resources.

14
15 Thanks.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else on that
18 Ambler Road.

19
20 MR. CLEVELAND: I do right here.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

23
24 MR. CLEVELAND: I think -- boy, I went
25 up there, it's 11 bucks a gallon. Gas. And everything
26 is to a standstill. Nobody can afford to go out. And
27 I'm for that road. I want that road built. I want
28 lower fuel costs. There goes our tradition for sure,
29 but in the long run it's going to happen. It's not
30 going to -- nobody's going to stop it. I don't think
31 it will. But that road's going to go on. It's like
32 the movie, the Good, the Bad and the Ugly. It's going
33 to happen.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. CLEVELAND: It will happen.

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, we all know it will
40 happen, but.....

41
42 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go to Walter.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 I think Verne raised a good issue here. Planning
48 certainly has been part of this for a period of time
49 now. The Department of Transportation has been charged
50 to look at different routing from the Ambler mining

1 district. Of course, the three communities, Ambler,
2 Shungnak, Kobuk, have been visited not only once, but
3 several times trying to get their input. People at the
4 three communities are saying cost of products, cost of
5 fuel, transportation cost is high. We need to start
6 looking at something. People are starting to realize
7 that they need jobs to keep their services in place.
8 And that's why there's support from the communities in
9 regards to the dialogue on the road system from the
10 east. And I think Department of Transportation would
11 be the agency that would be able to present their case
12 to this body for information.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you Walter.

15

16 Go ahead, John. I hear you put your
17 hand up. I'll recognize you.

18

19 MR. ERLICH: John Erlich, Kotzebue
20 resident.

21

22 I've gone to a couple of meetings that
23 DOT put on about the road to the Ambler mining
24 district. And what I noticed is one of the guys that
25 moderates the meetings, and he seems to want to inform
26 the people objectively of what the communities feel
27 about the road project, but I think what he's instead
28 doing is kind of cheerleading. He hasn't taken any
29 surveys, he hasn't found any systematic way at these
30 meetings to find out just what the sentiment is, but he
31 decides on the basis of his own judgment that this
32 community is in favor of the road, and then he goes to
33 other communities when he's setting up the meetings,
34 and he tells these other communities that he's been
35 there and these other communities are in favor of the
36 road.

37

38 I know there are a lot of people in
39 favor of the road, and they have been for a while and
40 for good reasons. And not only is ours at \$11 a gallon
41 now, it could be a lot more expensive in a couple of
42 years. And we've had power cost equalization come
43 under discussion before where people talked about
44 rolling that back. And then the bypass mail subsidy,
45 that's come under attack a couple of times recently.
46 And if we lose the bypass mail subsidy, there goes cost
47 of living right through the roof

48

49 And so I'm all sensitive to the cost of
50 living adjustments, and I'm trying to be open-minded

1 about it. But I have a wife who has relatives up the
2 river, all the way into Allakaket, and they're
3 interested in the road, too, hearing about the road.
4 And I think that those communities are still trying to
5 make up their mind, that it is absolutely right to say
6 there are people on both sides of the issue. But I do
7 come across people myself that I talk to, I won't say
8 their names here, because it's not right for me to do
9 that here, but they are adamantly worried about that
10 road, and they're not showing up at these meetings
11 apparently, and they're not making their opinions heard
12 at these meetings, but they are parts of those
13 communities, too. I think it's still an open
14 discussion.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John.

17

18 Anyone else on these roads.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And personally I feel
23 this voting for upper Kobuk should mainly come from the
24 area, but I put in my concern why I think -- I put it
25 in because this is -- whatever's left out there is our
26 resources we have and if it's damaged, it's going to be
27 damaged forever to come. And they always hear from the
28 agencies, we want to preserve for the future. And if
29 there's an oil spill, it's a danger that's going to
30 happen. I feel for them for gas being high, but if
31 they out vote, I will respect their choices.

32

33 But if you think about it, this is the
34 last of the resources in the state. So many resources.
35 It's not only going to affect caribou. All the
36 sheefish and whitefish, pike and few char that go up
37 there, it's going to be affected if there's something
38 major happens. Sure, they say they won't spill, but
39 eventually they will. I will be gone then, I wouldn't
40 worry about it.

41

42 But every people will -- there will be
43 hunters from all over. I'll give you an example. When
44 they opened that Haul Road, there was hunters from all
45 over. And they say they will never open it. And these
46 -- because of the caribou and the sheefish that's being
47 taken at Kobuk and Selawik, because they go after them
48 falltime when they have eggs. Just think if they spill
49 just when they have eggs, the they future of the --
50 that's gone for the future for the resources we have in

1 both drainages.
2
3 Thank you. Any.....
4
5 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Mr. Chairman.
6 They've been in Buckland, too, to share that
7 information. Me being myself, that if that's what the
8 other people want then we'll support, as long as it
9 don't go through Buckland area.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thanks. I
12 just wanted to put my two in.
13
14 Anyone else. We need to move on.
15
16 (No comments)
17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. 11.C, user
23 conflict issues for Northwest areas here. Anyone on
24 that, that's going to speak on this behalf.
25
26 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We don't have
27 anyone. We didn't know if that would be something you
28 want to talk about today, you want to have as an agenda
29 item for the next meeting. Do you want somebody -- we
30 weren't -- it was something that had been brought up
31 and Donald put on the agenda.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: For Noatak really and
34 the Park Service did a good plan that's working out.
35 And I respected their plan and maybe it's okay. Yeah.
36 So it's covered already.
37
38 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, I think we ought to
39 get a report next time from the Park Service, because I
40 know Frank and Willie has been working on a plan to
41 address that very issue.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Maybe we need
44 to advise the Squirrel River area representative, too,
45 because the user conflict is just not Noatak, it's also
46 have to do with Squirrel River, and we feel it.
47
48 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So thank you. And

1 we'll just move on to the next one if it's okay with
2 the rest of you here.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Other development
7 affecting the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

8

9 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: That also could be a
10 future agenda item if you'd like. We didn't have
11 anybody making presentations. It was kind of a place
12 holder in case.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Under D.1,
15 corridors affecting the WACH, Western Arctic Caribou
16 Herd. Anyone on that here.

17

18 And these things that are on agenda, I
19 was never informed of who's going to speak on these.

20

21 Go ahead, Shelly. Shelly got it.

22

23 MS. JACOBSON: I was just going to just
24 speak to the bit of information that I have on those
25 projects as far.....

26

27 Oh. Shelly Jacobson, Bureau of Land
28 Management. Excuse me.

29

30 I just wanted to mention the State of
31 Alaska, Department of Transportation has a good
32 website, and there's a link on there. I think they're
33 calling it the roads to resources, and it describes a
34 number of their proposed different projects. The road
35 to Umiat, the road to Ambler, the road to Nome,
36 different projects like that. And the corridors and
37 how some of those proposals relate to one another.
38 There's a good map on there that shows that. And the
39 DOT guy that has been doing the presentations, I think
40 his name is Ryan Anderson, and he's the one that
41 pointed that map out to us at a meeting.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.

44

45 Go ahead, Walter.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
48 some of the things that Shelly had brought is not only
49 DOT issues. If you remember back in the D2 days, there
50 was some studies that was also done in regards to the

1 corridors. There were some corridors that were studied
2 by watch group, and the quant (ph) going from the port
3 facility all the way into Fairbanks. So there's some
4 studies somewhere that maybe somebody can look at, too.
5 So I just want to bring that to the table.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.

8

9 So anyone else on this here.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Other concerns from
14 the RAC or the public on D.2.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If now, we'll go to
19 the agency report. And due to concern of time, I'd
20 like to try to make this brief as possible, because
21 we've got to be here, what -- out of here by 5:30. And
22 there when the kids start playing back.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, but she's the money
25 lady, so we have to ask her all the questions we can
26 get.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Helen.

29

30 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
31 Chair. Helen Armstrong again.

32

33 The OSM report starts on 54. It's very
34 brief. I've already told you part of it. I earlier
35 said the information about the appointment of the two
36 new public members to the Federal Subsistence Board.
37 And there's a Secretarial release on that on Page 55.

38

39 And just for the record, Mr. Anthony,
40 he goes by Tony, Christianson, is a life-long resident
41 of Southeast Alaska, and he's the natural resource
42 director for the Hydaburg Cooperative Association. And
43 he's also the mayor of Hydaburg. He's also fairly
44 young. We were all -- we said, oh, well, that's -- not
45 that that matters, but we talk about wanting younger
46 people involved in the program and that, so that was a
47 good thing.

48

49 And Charlie Brower, I think you all
50 probably know about Charlie Brower, a resident of

1 Barrow, so I won't go into that.

2

3 And the MOU, we talked a little bit
4 about that this morning. The MOU was provided to the
5 Councils, and there's a work group addressing it at
6 this point in time. And the report will go back to the
7 Board with proposed changes to the MOU with the State
8 May of 2012.

9

10 And there also has been some ongoing
11 discussions at the Board level about the rural
12 determination process. And the Board held several
13 executive and work sessions in 2011 to learn about it,
14 the rural determination process, and they have decided
15 -- they directed the Staff to publish a proposed rule
16 to solicit comments from the public on the rural
17 determination process and the current rural/non-rural
18 determinations. This won't have any effect in this
19 region really, you know, at this point. So I will --
20 but there's more coming on rural. That's just a notice
21 that you're going to have some input at a later date
22 into the rural determination process.

23

24 And then the only -- the last thing is
25 on Page 56, is we have had a lot of Staff changes, and
26 there's a list in here of all the various people who
27 have left. One of the people that has retired was,
28 that is probably of more importance, is Carl Jack
29 retired. He was out Native liaison. And we did
30 advertise for a new Native liaison, and I believe that
31 we're hoping, I'm hoping, we're hoping that the HR that
32 has -- human resources has sent us a list of qualified
33 candidates. Pete Probasco's on vacation right now, so
34 we don't know, but, anyway, so we should be getting
35 that person hired soon.

36

37 We're getting two new Council
38 coordinators. That should be happening fairly soon.

39

40 Polly Wheeler has left us for those of
41 you who knew Polly. She now is deputy manager for
42 refuges. So she's still at Fish and Wildlife Service,
43 but not with subsistence.

44

45 And our policy coordinator left, and
46 David Jenkins is acting in that position.

47

48 So a lot of changes. I think you're
49 going to see more changes. There's early retirement
50 options for Federal employees right now at Fish and

1 Wildlife Service, so you'll probably see some more
2 changes.

3

4 And the only other thing I wanted to
5 mention is that coming up at the next meeting we'll be
6 asking for proposals for the Fisheries Resource
7 Monitoring Program. I mean, not proposals, but
8 priorities for projects. So, well, it's something we
9 do every two years, just to alert you that that's
10 happening. And so if you have ideas for projects right
11 now, you can contact me, helen_armstrong@fws.gov. But
12 we will be bringing it up in the fall, so there's
13 really, you know -- I'm just saying if you have
14 something right now that you want to talk about, that's
15 fine, but we'll be asking in the fall.

16

17 That's all. Questions.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
20 Helen.

21

22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

23 Anyone.

24

25 Thank you, Helen.

26

27 MS. AYRES: Food afternoon. My name is
28 LeeAnne Ayres. I'm with the Selawik National Wildlife
29 Refuge, based here in Kotzebue. And with me is Ann
30 Orlando, our wildlife biologist at the Refuge, also
31 based here in Kotzebue.

32

33 And I think I'd like to start off first
34 by just following up on Hannah, your question earlier
35 about the antler issue there in Selawik. And you
36 probably all heard enough about antlers for the day,
37 but I did want to let you know that that did turn into
38 a law enforcement issue. There were folks in Selawik
39 that got ahold of Eric Loring there in the Troopers,
40 and also some folks in Kotzebue helped out by providing
41 some pictures. And that was one of the really key
42 things that helped with that case to kind of put that
43 -- actually to have some kind of serious charges
44 against the person who was selling that, was that once
45 those antlers were cut off, it's very difficult for
46 them to make a case. But they had some pictures of the
47 person with the antlers that were, you know, taken off
48 of some folks' places there in Selawik. So what they
49 were doing was illegal, and thanks to folks kind of
50 helping out and talking to the Troopers here, I think

1 they addressed that. And I don't think he'll be back
2 there in Selawik again.

3
4 The next thing that I wanted to just
5 update you on was our kind of regular report on
6 commercial activities on the Refuge. And I passed out
7 a sheet there, and you've probably seen this before.
8 It's the little one-page one that kind of shows the
9 history of our commercial use on the Refuge. That's
10 the snowmarker one there. It should be -- I think we
11 passed it around here. It should be just the -- there
12 should be a graph on it. Did you find it there? Percy
13 has it.

14
15 Anyway, in a nutshell, what we saw this
16 year was a little bit of a decrease in the number of
17 hunters that our commercially-permitted transporters
18 took on the Refuge. They took a total of 38 hunters.
19 So we had two transporters that took 38 hunters on the
20 Refuge last fall under the permits. This was two less
21 transporters than operated on the Refuge and 26 fewer
22 hunters than were transported in the fall of 2010. So
23 we've been just kind of seeing kind of a steady kind of
24 decrease or kind of -- I think it's been kind of
25 staying down at this level for a number of years now.

26
27 We have also closed the application
28 permit period for the fall of 2012's transporters. And
29 we haven't received any new additional transporters.
30 We've actually lost one transporter who was a boat
31 transporter out of Selawik there. So we kind of expect
32 to see the same level of activity there on the Refuge
33 as we did this year.

34
35 One of the other changes that took
36 place as far as commercial use on the Refuge was the
37 finalization of our conservation plan, which kind of
38 formally closed a lot of blocks of Refuge land between
39 Selawik and Noorvik. And these were blocks of lands
40 that were kind of interspersed with NANA land. And I
41 really don't think it had any impact on the levels of
42 use on the Refuge. Those areas typically hadn't been
43 used in the past, and so they won't be used in the
44 future by commercial operators.

45
46 And the next thing on my administrative
47 list, since I've become more of the bureaucrat and I'll
48 let Ann talk about things more from the biologist side
49 of it, is that I just wanted to thank all of the folks
50 that helped us with our conservation plan. For the

1 last few years we've been going to villages like
2 Noorvik and Buckland and Selawik and asking people for
3 their input on what we should be doing on the Refuge,
4 what directions that they'd like to see the Refuge go.
5 And those were all combined in our management plan that
6 was finalized this last fall.

7

8 What I have up there, and you're sure
9 welcome to, but I think folks in the villages that have
10 been involved in the Refuge thing have already seen it,
11 and this is the summary of our conservation plan, which
12 is basically the management plan for the Refuge for the
13 next 10 or 15 years.

14

15 One of the things that I really like
16 about it, and I hope folks who are interested or, you
17 know, are involved with things on the Refuge look at,
18 is that it's organized a little differently than the
19 past big documents. We have eight goals that we
20 identified that we thought were what we heard from
21 people and from the agency that we wanted to focus our
22 work on. And under each of those goals are a set of
23 objectives. And these objectives are really the kind
24 of the nuts and bolts of what we think we should be
25 doing as a refuge to accomplish those goals. So I
26 thought I'd just give you one example of something just
27 to kind of show you that this really is a readable
28 document and one that we really are trying to use to
29 guide what we do on the Refuge.

30

31 And that's goal number 3, which is to
32 provide and promote opportunities for local residents
33 to engage in subsistence activities on the Refuge. So
34 that's one of our goals. One of the objectives for us
35 to accomplish that has been to coordinate and cooperate
36 with partners to mark and maintain winter trail systems
37 to provide safer travel on the Refuge for subsistence
38 and other activities. So that's kind of thanks to
39 Walter, who's kind of pointed that out as something
40 that we be doing. That's one of our objectives to
41 accomplish that goal of providing good access for
42 folks.

43

44 So in that document, or in this book,
45 that's what you'll find a list of, our goals and
46 objectives of how we want to accomplish those.

47

48 Now, we won't be able to probably get
49 all of them done, but I'm really proud of our staff in
50 the Refuge for really starting to look at this document

1 seriously. And I think we've accomplished a number of
2 the things in there that came out in our scoping.

3
4 Thanks to the Selawik Council we've
5 been able to hire an RIT and then placed in the Council
6 office there, so they're a little bit more involved in
7 what's going on there. So small things like that,
8 we're going to try and keep making progress on.

9
10 So with that, one of the things that's
11 been a goal in the plan is for us to become kind of
12 more involved with not just partnerships with the
13 communities here, but also to be looking at climate
14 change issues. That was something that everybody kind
15 of identified as kind of an important role for the
16 Refuge to take and to be working with other
17 organizations and other entities to helping people kind
18 of find out what's going on and how it relates to our
19 world up here.

20
21 So with that, I'm going to hand it over
22 to Ann who's been kind of helping us out on that front,
23 and she'll talk about a project she's working on, and
24 then just highlight some of the other Refuge projects
25 we'll have going on this year.

26
27 MS. ORLANDO: Hi. I'm Ann Orlando.
28 I'm a wildlife biologist at the Refuge.

29
30 I wanted to tell you about our snow
31 monitoring project which we began this year. I guess
32 all of who are involved with the caribou herd would
33 like to know what caused this population to up and down
34 as it does. You have a lot of factors that affect
35 them, like wolves and bears, vegetation, lichen, fire,
36 insects, human activities.

37
38 We decided we wanted to look at snow
39 conditions, especially ice that can form in the
40 snowpack. This idea originally came from the Western
41 Arctic Herd Working Group. There were a couple events
42 in the last decade where there was extensive icing that
43 happened in the snowpack from rain on snow or thawing
44 and freezing. And that can really cause devastating
45 impact to the herd per the extent of land that that
46 happens on. It can also affect, you know, many other
47 species like musk ox, furbearers, ptarmigan.

48
49 So basically they wanted to cover the
50 winter range of the herd, so I think the front of that

1 sheet that I handed out is a map of the sites that we
2 selected to monitor. If you look at the winter range
3 of the caribou herd -- right now they're actually
4 spread from the road system all the way out to Seward
5 Peninsula and the Brooks Range down to like Shaktoolik,
6 and then Nulato Hills. So it's really difficult to get
7 a handle on what's going on across this entire range.
8 And a lot of it is really far from villages, and
9 there's just no information on weather and snow
10 conditions in a lot of their winter range. So we
11 decided to go out there and directly measure the snow.

12
13 So I selected 14 different sites, and
14 this is one use of the collar data I guess. I used the
15 last 10 years of data from collars and tried to
16 identify all the places where caribou concentrate year
17 after year in most years. And I put sites there. So
18 they go across BLM land, State land, Refuge land, Park
19 Service land.

20
21 And we're getting out there -- I'm
22 actually using three different methods to measure
23 what's going on in the snow pack. So the back side of
24 this sheet, there's a picture of this orange and black
25 post. It's a snow depth marker, and that's like a
26 nationwide and statewide system of looking at snow.
27 It's a program run by NRCS, and here it's the Alaska
28 Snow Survey, where you put out these markers and you
29 fly by them near the first of the month every month
30 from December through May, and then we report -- you
31 take a snow depth measurement from them, and it goes
32 into this database for the whole state. And they use
33 that for things like forecasting floods and looking how
34 much water is coming into the system. So we're getting
35 to be part of that system.

36
37 And then I used two other methods. On
38 the bottom there's this picture of this stake where I
39 lined it with temperature sensors every 10 centimeters.
40 And I put two of those stakes out at each site. So
41 basically the temperature within the snowpack is a lot
42 different than the temperature above the snowpack, so
43 we can see what the snow level's at. And they take a
44 measurement every four hours continuously. So it lets
45 me see what the snow depth was day by day for the whole
46 season.

47
48 And the third thing that we're doing is
49 actually flying out to each site and physically
50 measuring the snow twice each season. So we did it

1 once in January and early February, and we're doing it
2 again now. I'm trying to get them all done before the
3 caribou migrate. What I want to know is what do the
4 caribou have to contend with when they're digging
5 through the snowpack trying to get to their food. And
6 I take -- we go out there, we take depth measurements,
7 50 depth measurements, and then three densities where
8 we weigh the snow and look at how deep it is, and
9 actually dig a pit and look at the hardness layers in
10 there.

11

12 And it's really variable across the
13 range. Like I was in Buckland a couple days ago, and
14 they had pretty good soft snow and they had a lot of
15 caribou down there.

16

17 But I did the Kotzebue course and
18 that's been pretty interesting, because I'm doing it
19 here at Lockard Point every two weeks, because we have
20 really great weather data here in Kotzebue, and then I
21 can go to and measure the snow and see how what's going on
22 in the snowpack lines up with, you know, meteorological
23 data. And the last three weeks that show just got
24 really hard out here. And we had a couple of days
25 where it went up to like 28 degrees and I got an ice
26 layer in the snowpack. So I actually broke my
27 measuring stick and I was out there like jumping up and
28 down on the shovel, just trying to dig down in it
29 yesterday. And this actually is the hardest snow that
30 I've found.

31

32 I think there's a couple other sites
33 where I had a little bit of ice, but it really does
34 vary across the range. And I'm just starting to get
35 the data.

36

37 And there's an element that I want to
38 add to this, is to actually get really good close up
39 photos of caribou at each of these sites. So if I see
40 something interesting in the snowpack, I can see if
41 that's actually affecting the condition of the caribou.
42 I don't know if we'll get really dramatic results this
43 year, but we're going to do this year after year. It's
44 a long-term project so we can look at what's going on
45 at different parts of the range and how that might be
46 impacting the herd.

47

48 So that's the snow study. And then I
49 just wanted to run down a couple other projects we'll
50 be doing this summer, our biological programs.

1 I guess last year we started doing some
2 water monitoring. We basically don't have baseline
3 data about our ecosystem that you can get from looking
4 at water. So we're focusing on the Selawik River and
5 the Selawik Lake drainages. We had Bob Stottlemeyer,
6 the researcher who came out here last summer and got us
7 started on a program.

8
9 One thing we were interested in was is
10 there saltwater from Kotzebue Sound, how far does that
11 get into our system. Does it come into Selawik Lake.
12 And we got results that salinity hasn't been much of an
13 issue.

14
15 We're also looking at basic water
16 chemistry and what organisms make up the base of our
17 food web. We're looking at the species of plankton,
18 nutrients, how these -- taking this baseline allows us
19 to see how this might be changing over time since we
20 have permafrost thawing. And we could expect some
21 changes in our ecosystem.

22
23 Another project that we'll be
24 participating in again is Ray Hander from our fisheries
25 unit in Fairbanks has been looking at sheefish
26 genetics. So we've been collecting fin clips from
27 people who are out there fishing. And we actually do
28 genetic analysis on those. We're trying to see where
29 these sheefish are spawning and where are they ending
30 up when they're in Kotzebue Sound and down around
31 Selawik, see if we could identify different stocks of
32 fish. Is that basically right?

33
34 MS. AYRES: Uh-huh.

35
36 MS. ORLANDO: Okay. And then I believe
37 -- are we going to have a third season on the Fossilent
38 (ph) research?

39
40 MS. AYRES: Yeah, this is -- that will
41 the final work up there at the headwaters of the
42 Selawik, looking at the slump and the impacts of that.

43
44 MS. ORLANDO: Yeah, we had -- most of
45 you are probably familiar with the thaw slump that
46 happened on the upper Selawik where we had basically
47 the cliffs along the side of the river have just
48 collapsed and it was near spawning habitat. So we've
49 have researchers up there the last two, three summers.
50 They're going to be back again this summer to do a

1 little bit more work. We're interested in, you know,
2 what caused this to happen. Can we expect these things
3 to happen more, and in what areas. Can we predict
4 where we might see these changes.

5
6 So that's basically what we're doing
7 for biological programs this year. If you have any
8 questions, I'm happy to answer them.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Thank you.
11 Walter.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: I don't have any
14 questions, but I want to comment on Fish and Wildlife
15 in general. The relationship that you folks
16 established with the Community of Selawik is certainly
17 something that's been good. The employment you created
18 for the folks at the local level is something I get
19 periodic thanks from folks in Selawik. And thank you
20 very much for being a good neighbor to those folks.
21 And that's why I think the work that you do goes pretty
22 smooth in relations to how you do things within the
23 Refuge. So I want to thank you, LeeAnne, for your good
24 work.

25
26 MR. AYRES: Well, thank you. They're
27 sure an important part of our program.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.

30
31 Go ahead, Percy.

32
33 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
34 just wanted to thank them, too. They've been to
35 Buckland and we appreciate the information they share
36 with us and the work they do. And it's always
37 important to communicate what you're going to do, and
38 it's always good to see people. I think our community
39 appreciates them being there.

40
41 MS. AYRES: Thank you.

42
43 MR. SAMPSON: One more.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Walter, one
46 more.

47
48 MR. SAMPSON: Just one more issue.
49 Just a warning I guess, if I may, because this occurred
50 in some other areas in other conservation areas.

1 Archeology. And that's a very sensitive issue with
2 folks at the community level. If you can please stay
3 away from those things. What happened up at above
4 Kivalina, what happened on the Kobuk. Those things
5 don't belong to the Federal Government. Those things
6 belong to people that lived there, that died there. So
7 whatever findings there are, just make notes that you
8 know where these potential archeological sites are.
9 Just don't go out digging and taking things out.

10
11 I had a discussion with a guy in
12 Fairbanks, and I said, what are you going to do with
13 those findings? They said, oh, we'll take them to the
14 museum. And then I asked, I said, do you know what
15 that's called? I said, that's stealing. It don't
16 belong to you. It belongs to the people within that
17 area.

18
19 So I just want to make sure that you
20 know and aware of how sensitive that very issue is.

21
22 MS. AYRES: I appreciate that. Duly
23 noted.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Walter.

26
27 MS. AYRES: I just had one other
28 comment I was going to just provide for the Council.
29 And it was in regards to when you were talking about
30 alternative means for collaring caribou. And I think,
31 you know, Michael, you mentioned that kind of new
32 technology. I guess I'd just encourage you to use the
33 Western Arctic Herd Working Group, that they would be a
34 great resource for you. And if there were issues that
35 you wanted them to explore or tackle or provide
36 recommendations, I think they'd be -- they're certainly
37 there to do that. And those are the types of issues
38 that that group was formed to address. They have a
39 technical committee that's made up of a number of the
40 biologists from the agencies, as well as folks that are
41 on the working group, and they could be asked to, you
42 know, explore or provide you some background of some of
43 the latest techniques or alternatives to the collars.
44 So I just thought that it's a resource there for you.

45
46 And you have a lot of people on the
47 Council here who are part of that group, or who have
48 been part of that group. So I'm sure a request to
49 their executive or their Chair, Roy Ashenfelter, and
50 the executive committee would be the proper avenue if

1 you thought that they could help out on the issue.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, LeeAnne.

4

5 Go ahead, Percy.

6

7 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I was
8 looking at your report, LeeAnne, and appreciate it. At
9 some point in time, I don't know, I think it would be
10 very useful for Buckland and Selawik -- I'm part of the
11 Selawik -- or Seward Peninsula committee, to look at
12 this sometime and have some discussion regarding, you
13 know, the permits or -- what you don't have in here is
14 where you're dropping them off and stuff like that. I
15 think that would be good to know for Buckland
16 facilities where we're dropping off these hunters also
17 for the future.

18

19 MS. AYRES: Yep. Sure. And we do have
20 -- one of the requirements for their permits it to
21 report where they drop folks off. So I could sure
22 email that to Mona there at the tribe so you can kind
23 of get a snapshot of where folks are.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

26

27 Anyone else from the Board.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll move on
32 to the National Park Service. Anyone here from
33 National Park Service. Only one hand, please, not both
34 of you.

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: Would it be possible
37 that ADF&G maybe swap with us.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Sure. I've got no
40 problem with that, if it's okay with the rest.....

41

42 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead.
45 Yeah, I got a note here that Brendan from ADF&G have a
46 power presentation.

47

48 MR. SCANLON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
49 Chairman. It's going to take me just a couple minutes
50 to get ready, so if you'd like to take a short break,

1 I'll get the projector and everything set up.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll take
4 five minutes.

5

6 MR. SCANLON: Is that okay? Thank you.

7

8 (Off record)

9

10 (On record)

11

12 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 My name is Brendan Scanlon. I'm the sport fish area
14 biologist for the Department of Fish and Game for
15 Northwest and North Slope. I don't get up to Kotzebue
16 as much as I'd like to. Nome and Unalakleet have been
17 keeping me pretty busy.

18

19 I'm excited to say that we've got some
20 new funding and some new technology, and we're going to
21 put together three really cool Dolly Varden projects,
22 or trout projects starting this summer. And I thought
23 this would be a good venue to get the word out.

24

25 Well, there's three projects I want to
26 talk about today. The first one has got to do with
27 satellite tags. This project is a Fish and Game
28 project. It's also funded by University of Alaska-
29 Fairbanks, and Red Dog has given us quite a bit of in-
30 kind support with fuel, travel, and helicopter time.

31

32 The second project will be on Noatak
33 River and it will have to do with using radio tags to
34 look for over-wintering locations. And attempting to
35 use DIDSON sonar to count fish as they move back out in
36 the spring. It's a cooperative project with Fish and
37 Game and National Park Service. And again Ray Dahl is
38 going to help out a little bit.

39

40 The last project, we just found out
41 about this one. It think it's going to go. It's a
42 genetics project to look at the subsistence harvest
43 from people that live in Noatak to try to determine
44 what proportions of the fish that they catch in the
45 winter and spring are actually from the Noatak and from
46 other places.

47

48 Well, we've always known for a long
49 time how important trout are to people in Northwest
50 Alaska. I actually did not realize until Subsistence

1 Division conducted their harvest survey in 2007 how
2 important they were. Almost 70,000 Dollies were caught
3 in Kivalina in 2007, 33,000 in Noatak. Clearly they're
4 very important to the people that live up here. In
5 addition, the Federal Government has recently sold
6 offshore oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea.

7

8 And this first project I'll talk about
9 will be our first attempt to look at ocean migration
10 and ecology of Dolly Varden. Well, I just want to
11 start off just very quickly talk about their life
12 history.

13

14 When trout are born, they stay in
15 freshwater for two to four years before they make
16 annual migrations to the ocean and back. Usually they
17 don't spawn until they are about seven or eight years
18 old, so they'll go in and out of saltwater three to
19 five times. And they must come into freshwater to
20 overwinter.

21

22 And once they become sexually mature,
23 they generally only spawn every two years. And they
24 show fidelity to where they are born. I mean, they
25 only span in the streams that they were originally born
26 in, but in the years that they are not spawning, they
27 can overwinter in rivers that are quite a ways away
28 from their natal streams.

29

30 We know they can travel long ways in
31 saltwater, but we don't know very much at all about
32 what they do in saltwater. And this project will
33 attempt to get a handle on that.

34

35 So back in 1990 Department of Fish and
36 Game used small spaghetti tags, individual number
37 spaghetti tags, and they put them out in Dolly Varden
38 in the Wulik River, about 3,000 tags, in an attempt to
39 see where these fish might turn up. And we had to rely
40 on tag returns to get this information, so we put out
41 over 3,000 tags. We got about 200 back. And we found
42 that most of them stayed within the Kotzebue Sound
43 region. Most of them went up to the Kivalina River and
44 the Noatak River. And there's a few places in the
45 Kobuk they spawn. But they also went down to the
46 Seward Peninsula, went into the Cobin River. Egavik is
47 a small stream between Unalakleet and Shaktoolik. They
48 showed up in Savoonga, and three fish actually went to
49 Russia. Two of them went way up the Anadyr River.
50 That's over 1,000 miles.

1 So what we'd like to do with this
2 project is get a little better handle on what they do
3 out in the ocean. We want to see what time in the
4 spring they move out into the Chukchi and the Bering
5 Seas. There's dispersal in the summertime. Temporal
6 and spatial distribution, meaning do they move together
7 as a school, or do they spread out on their own. And
8 these tags also will give us really detailed
9 information on temperature and depth.

10

11 So this is what a satellite tag looks
12 like in a fish. In fact, I have a dummy tag here that
13 I could pass around. If you're interested, you could
14 take a look at it.

15

16 Up until recently only really large
17 fish could be tagged with satellite tags, like whale
18 sharks and tuna and things like that, but technology is
19 getting better. The tags are getting quite a bit
20 smaller. And we think we've found a tag that will work
21 on some of the larger trout that we find up here. This
22 tag is called X-series tag. It will measure, and I
23 have every two minutes, but it's every 10 minutes.
24 While it's on the fish, it will measure temperature and
25 depth and we'll get a rough daily location based on
26 sunrise and sunset.

27

28 But what -- the greatest thing about
29 these tags I think is that on a program date that we
30 set, the tag will release from the fish and float to
31 the surface. An antenna will stick out of the water,
32 will shoot all that data to a satellite and we get that
33 information. Where that tag pops up out of the water,
34 we'll know within about 30 meters where that fish is.

35

36 Another great thing is we don't have to
37 go find this tag. Unlike our radio tags or acoustic
38 tags, we don't have to find this tag to get the
39 information. And in other studies where they've tagged
40 fairly small fish on the East Coast, they generally get
41 80 to 90 percent of their tags transmitting data. So
42 they're really good at telling us what's going on in
43 the ocean.

44

45 So this project is funded for 2012 and
46 the contingent for 2013 is how well we do this year.

47

48 So this is a striped bass in Chesapeake
49 Bay, and this is what the tag looks like. Our tag
50 won't be quite that big, but this fish is about 20

1 pounds. And they tagged 20 fish and they got data back
2 on 18 of them.

3
4 And these tags cost about \$4300 each,
5 so we're going to be really careful about what fish we
6 put them in to maximize our data.

7
8 This is a barracuda that's not really
9 that big. You can see how the tag is mounted to the
10 back of the fish using a titanium dart, and it's got a
11 shrinkwrap sleeve that goes through the fish that holds
12 the tag on. Our tags will stay on the bodies for --
13 we're going to stagger the release dates from the fish
14 from mid July through the end of August.

15
16 And there's another -- this is a pretty
17 small barracuda here. But there's plenty of trout in
18 the world that about this size. So we feel pretty good
19 that we can find 20 fish large enough to handle this
20 tag and give us some good information.

21
22 So I was going to move over to Noatak.
23 Does anybody want to make any comments or have any
24 questions about the Wulik project. Yes.

25
26 MR. CLEVELAND: Are there any radiation
27 or anything on these collars or whatever you call these
28 things?

29
30 MR. SCANLON: Are you concerned about
31 if you caught one, if it's safe to eat?

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Yes.

34
35 MR. SCANLON: Oh, sure. Yeah, we're
36 not even going to anaesthetize these fish. This will
37 just be a metal dart and a piece of wire sticking out
38 the back.

39
40 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you.

41
42 MR. SCANLON: Okay. I'll move on to
43 Noatak. Oh, yes.

44
45 MR. BALLOT: So you say that some of
46 them went up to the Russia side?

47
48 MR. SCANLON: Yeah. Three of the
49 tagged fish were found in Russia. Russia doesn't have
50 the kind of detailed fish research program that we do,

1 so it's pretty hard to coordinate any kind of tagging
2 project where we can count on getting some tags back
3 from them. But if these fish are going to Russia and
4 these tags release when they're off the coast of Japan
5 or off the coast of Russia, we'll know that they were
6 probably on their way there.

7
8 Okay. This next project's going to be
9 using radio tags and sonar. We know that Noatak has
10 the largest spawning population. It's about five times
11 the size of the spawning population in the Wulik in any
12 given year.

13
14 But one thing we can do in the Wulik is
15 it's real easy to count them in the falltime when they
16 come in to overwinter. The Wulik is much smaller and
17 shallower and aerial surveys when the conditions are
18 right work really well. I've seen them this fall, and
19 I counted about 80,000 fish on the first day of
20 October, and there were still fish coming in.

21
22 But the Noatak is a much, much bigger
23 river, and we're not able to do overwintering fish
24 counts like we can in the Wulik. So it's kind of the
25 black box about what we don't know about Noatak Dolly
26 Varden is how many come in to overwinter. But we think
27 we can tease some of that out using a combination of
28 radio tags and sonar. What we'd like to do is put the
29 radio tags out in the falltime, find out where they
30 overwinter. And we anticipate them going fairly far
31 upriver. Well use a sonar in the spring to count them
32 moving back out.

33
34 So this is what it looks like in the
35 Wulik. I took this hanging out of a helicopter a
36 couple years ago. There's about 3500 fish in this
37 picture, and they're virtually all Dolly Varden, but,
38 you know, the Noatak as everybody knows is much larger.
39 And we've tried to do some surveys in the fall and you
40 definitely see some fish, but there's so much deep
41 water and so many fish, you just can't count.

42
43 So our plan is starting this fall to
44 put out radio tags, 120 radio tags in fish in September
45 to see where their overwintering locations are. Like I
46 said, we feel pretty good that most of them go upstream
47 of the village. People from Noatak go up towards Kelly
48 in the wintertime to fish through the ice. Also it
49 appears that the saltwater intrusion in the wintertime
50 goes pretty far up the Noatak, maybe 20, 30 miles in

1 some years. So we're pretty sure they want to get past
2 that.

3

4 So based on where we find these fish in
5 the wintertime through tracking stations and tracking
6 with some planes. We'll hopefully be able to find a
7 spot below which they're all overwintering where we can
8 put sonar in the water like they use for counting
9 salmon in different parts of the state to count these
10 fish moving back out to saltwater in the spring.

11

12 The first up is these radio tags. And
13 we've been tagging Dolly Varden for a long time. And
14 they're really hardy fish, and these radio tags work
15 really well.

16

17 And is what the sonar looks like from
18 the beach. It doesn't block the stream, but it's
19 really good at counting fish that swim by. One tricky
20 part of the sonar aspect of this project is that we're
21 going to use two DIDSON sonar units, one on each bank.
22 They're going to shoot at each other. The total
23 effective range is only going to be about 80 meters, so
24 it might be a little tricky to find a spot that's less
25 than 250 feet across to get full coverage. But I'm
26 pretty certain we'll get some decent information of
27 fish moving downstream. And it should be just about
28 all Dollies moving downstream at that time of year.

29

30 But we are going to do some beach
31 seining below the sonar to look at species
32 apportionment. And I suspect we'll see a few grayling
33 and whitefish and maybe some pike. But I.....

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: So one like this goes out
36 about what, 240 feet?

37

38 MR. SCANLON: The beam does. The
39 actual unit only goes 10 to 30 feet off the bank.

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

42

43 MR. SCANLON: And it shoots a cone-like
44 beam. So there's going to be one on each bank shooting
45 at each other.

46

47 And these work really well. They're
48 used all around the state in different salmon projects.

49

50

1 And we hope to have one or two local
2 hires from Noatak to help out on this aspect of the
3 project.

4
5 We're going to do this for two years.
6 So we'll put out tags in 2012 and 2013, and we'll try
7 to use the sonar in the spring right after breakup in
8 2013 and 2014.

9
10 Okay. I'm going to jump into genetics
11 real quick. Does anybody want to talk about the sonar
12 project. Yes.

13
14 MR. KRAMER: Have you had any problems
15 with Arctic char and Dolly Varden not being able to get
16 up to their spawning beds due to beaver dams? I know
17 there's a very, very high increase in beavers up in the
18 Noatak River, and I've heard of beaver lodges up as far
19 as Kugururok and up farther. Wulik and they're
20 starting to go everywhere now. Are they having any
21 affect on the Dolly Varden?

22
23 MR. SCANLON: Not that we've measured,
24 but it's something we haven't looked at in particular.
25 I fly the Wulik a couple times every year and I can see
26 where they spawn. I don't recall any beaver dams that
27 were in the way at all.

28
29 I know that juvenile fish usually can
30 go right through the dam. There's enough space between
31 the sticks and the mud that they can go right through
32 the bottom of it.

33
34 In the upper Noatak, you know, I've
35 heard that also about the beavers, but I just don't
36 know. But it's something we can keep our eyes open for
37 while we're up here doing this research.

38
39 This last project is going to start --
40 it will start this summer. There's kind of two
41 components to it. What we're trying to do is to look
42 at the subsistence harvest of trout from the people in
43 Noatak, and take genetic samples. and what we're
44 trying to learn is how many -- what proportion of the
45 harvest is from fish that are actually born and raised
46 in the Noatak River, and what proportion of it comes
47 from elsewhere. And of those fish that come from other
48 rivers, where are they coming from.

49
50 We did a similar project on the Wulik

1 River from the people at Kivalina in 2004/2005. We
2 found that about two-thirds of the fish came from
3 Kotzebue Sound streams, but one-third of the fish came
4 from places either we couldn't tell or they -- some
5 came from Seward Peninsula streams, and one fish
6 appeared to have come from the Togiak River down in
7 Bristol Bay.

8

9 So we need to finish getting our
10 baseline sample of DNA from spawning streams around
11 here. We have some of that information already in the
12 Noatak streams, and we need where they spawn in the
13 Kobuk. We'd like to get on the Buckland River, and
14 there's some other tributaries of the upper Noatak,
15 like on the Kelly and Rinse (ph) Creek and some of the
16 Kugururok streams where we don't have the genetic
17 baseline data.

18

19 So that's the first step, is to get fin
20 clips from either juvenile or spawning fish that are on
21 the spawning grounds.

22

23 We don't need to kill any fish for this
24 part of the project. That's one really nice things
25 about this.

26

27 The second step is to visit Noatak in
28 the falltime, the wintertime, and the spring when
29 they're fishing through the ice and get samples from
30 the harvest. We'd probably hire somebody from Noatak
31 to help us collect those samples. And we'd also like
32 to maybe make this a cool project through the school,
33 through the science teacher at the school and get the
34 kids to help out.

35

36 So this study will help us understand
37 how important Noatak River fish and fish from other
38 rivers are to the subsistence harvest. And we'll be
39 able to -- if we repeat this study, we'll be able to
40 look at the stability of the stock composition, see how
41 it's changing, and to see if there's any difference in
42 stock composition of immature and mature fish. We
43 think that the immature fish, the non-spawners that are
44 younger than seven, there's probably a greater
45 proportion of those that come from other places into
46 the Noatak, but we just don't know that quite yet. But
47 we hope to learn that from this study.

48

49 And that's about all I've got. I was
50 hoping to go to Kivalina this week to talk to people

1 about these projects. I'm going to try again later in
2 the spring. And also go to Noatak. The National Park
3 Service, Marcy Johnson here is a cooperator on the
4 Noatak sonar and telemetry project, and she and I hope
5 to get up there and get the school involved. And we
6 also would like to hire a few people from Noatak for
7 the sonar component of the project.

8

9 And as I get results from these
10 projects, I hopefully will get to come back here and
11 tell you folks what I found.

12

13 That's all I've got. So thank you very
14 much and let me know if you have any questions.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone has any
17 questions for Brendan. Go ahead, Percy.

18

19 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. You
20 mentioned something about Buckland River, about taking
21 some sample.

22

23 MR. SCANLON: Yeah. We know that they
24 spawn up in the Buckland River, but we haven't been on
25 the ground to get any genetic samples. I think what
26 we'll probably have to do is -- they spawn pretty far
27 up. We'll have to go in with a helicopter or find a
28 place to land a small plane and float downriver and set
29 little minnow traps and use little tiny beach seines
30 and try to collect juvenile fish that way. But if you
31 have any ideas, I'd be glad to hear them, because I've
32 never been there.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anyone else
35 has any questions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thank you.

40

41 MR. SCANLON: Thank you.

42

43 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
44 Fish and Game. Thirty seconds or less.

45

46 I brought several publications here.
47 It's a chronology of the customary trade of
48 subsistence-caught fish in Alaska. I'll leave them
49 over there. It's from 1974 to 2011. This is a hot
50 topic on the Yukon right now. So I brought a couple

1 extra copies and I'll leave them over there for you,
2 sir, if anybody's interested. It's also online. I
3 just want to pass that along.

4
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes. Thank you.
8 Okay.

9
10 Now where were we. We've got to go
11 back to BLM, right? That's right, because I never
12 crossed out BLM on my -- correct me if I'm wrong.

13
14 MR. SCANLON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.
15 Subsistence Division, Fish and Game, has to give a
16 report. Is that okay?

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes, that's okay. Go
19 ahead.

20
21 MS. BRAEM: Hi. I'll make this quick.
22 I brought a handout so you don't have to listen to me
23 as much. You can kind of read this at your leisure.
24 Okay. I'm going to look at my watch.

25
26 Hi. My name is Nikki Braem and I work
27 with the Subsistence Division. I've been employed with
28 the division for almost five years now, tasked to Nome,
29 Kotzebue, Barrow regions.

30
31 And one of the projects that you
32 approved in January was a subsistence fishery project
33 for eight communities here in this region. And we
34 submitted the proposal in partnership with Maniilaq
35 with Attamuk in fact is one of our co-investigators.
36 And the project will be beginning in April this year,
37 and conclude in 2016.

38
39 Basically it updating subsistence
40 harvest information. We haven't really systematically
41 collected information on subsistence harvest of salmon,
42 trout and other species, whitefish, in a very long
43 time. We lost funding back in 2004. So it's kind of
44 important to update this information given climate
45 change, likely industrial activity, road building and
46 other things that are going to be happening in the next
47 decades really.

48
49 So we will be going through the
50 community approval process. We're going to start doing

1 that. I guess we get our funding in April. And I'll
2 be going to all these communities many times. We're
3 going to go three years in a row.

4
5 We really try to make sure that these
6 are not super long surveys, because we know that more
7 and more research is being done in these communities
8 and we're trying to keep these short and sweet.

9
10 One thing I might add, we're not just
11 counting dead fish. One of the weaknesses in our data
12 at times is that we don't get any context. Was it a
13 good year? Was it a bad year? Did the run, you know,
14 arrive late? Did people miss it? When I was in Noatak
15 and Kivalina last spring, both communities mentioned
16 that they had had a very hard time with trout that
17 year. So we're going to be collecting information that
18 helps us understand the numbers, and doing that very
19 systematically.

20
21 We'll also be going out and we're going
22 to see which communities are interested, and go out and
23 do some what's called participant observation, go out
24 with people while they're fishing and document what
25 they do, how they preserve things, because that's
26 important, too.

27
28 Anything else. Oh, yes, and a big part
29 of this is going to be local hire. So we will be
30 hiring people in each study community every year for
31 three years.

32
33 And I could say more, but I'm going to
34 stop and let you guys read that, unless you have any
35 questions.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone have question
38 for Nicole.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll move
43 on, and I'll move on to F Native organizations. Yeah,
44 we're down to F, 12.F., Native organization.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I think we're
49 down to 13 and.....

50

1 MS. LOON: The BLM.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. BLM. That's
4 what I thought.
5
6 (People talking without turning on
7 their microphones)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: ADF&G? You're done.
10 Okay. Back to BLM then. The Park Service did already.
11 They're not done?
12
13 MR. ADKISSON: No, BLM. We haven't
14 done anything really. We just -- let BLM go and then
15 we'll finish up real quick.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: BLM first. Okay.
18
19 MS. JACOBSON: Okay. I'd like to thank
20 the Chair and the members of the Council for your time
21 and attention today. It's really appreciated and I
22 appreciate the opportunity to be here.
23
24 My name is Shelly Jacobson. I'm the
25 field manager for the Central Yukon field office.
26
27 And today with me is one of our
28 wildlife biologists, to my right, Merban Cebrian. He
29 comes to us from our BLM office in Glennallen, but he's
30 also got extensive experience with the fish and wildlife
31 and other entities, so we're happy to have Merban with
32 us.
33
34 And I think John is still here. John
35 Erlich is our lone ranger so to speak here in Kotzebue.
36 He's the natural resource specialist who helps us in
37 this region on all kinds of different projects that
38 we're up to.
39
40 So I'll have to read parts of this, but
41 I'll try to go through it quickly.
42
43 Just to make sure people know or just
44 in case you don't, a little bit about BLM. We're one
45 of the Department of the Interior agencies, and as such
46 we have the same responsibilities as the Park Service
47 and the Fish and Wildlife Service with regard to
48 ANILCA, but pretty dissimilar from those two agencies.
49 We're also a multiple use agency, so we don't have
50 primarily a conservation mission. Conservation is one

1 part of our mission, but we also have aspects of our
2 mission that have to do with economic stimulus and
3 other activities.

4
5 So the way we develop our management
6 programs is we write land use plans similar to the
7 other Federal agencies that outline our objectives and
8 our areas where we need information for our management
9 plans. That goes out for about 20 years, those
10 resource management plans. And then we begin a process
11 of implementing projects to answer the questions, the
12 data gaps that we've identified in our planning. And
13 also we have a huge program of permitting which
14 occupies well over probably 50 percent of our Staff
15 time, so we aren't both for budget reasons and time
16 reasons as able to do the number of inventory and
17 monitoring projects that we would probably like to be
18 doing. So what I have for you is sort of a combination
19 of project work as well as permitting work that I
20 thought might be of interest.

21
22 Let me -- the first one I'd like to
23 really talk about is our Squirrel River planning. The
24 Kobuk/Seward plan identified the Squirrel River as a
25 special area for management focus. And the decision
26 was to do a plan for that area specifically to address
27 the user conflict issue with guides and the
28 transporters. And so we've started that planning.

29
30 We've had -- last spring we went around
31 and did some community scoping meetings and refined
32 what we thought of as the issues. And we've taken that
33 information now and we've developed a range of
34 alternative for our internal consideration, but we're
35 -- probably next week we'll be sending an invitation
36 out to our agency partners to review that range of
37 alternatives and make comments on it and give us some
38 feedback before we go to the communities for the
39 government-to-government consultation on the range of
40 alternatives and the draft analysis that we should have
41 done this spring.

42
43 So let me just -- also you spoke a
44 little bit earlier today about the new policies and
45 guidance on the government-to-government consultation,
46 and we're working on that every day. And every time we
47 issue a permit, we're trying to do more outreach.
48 We've always sent scoping letters. We very rarely get
49 any comments back, but you might hear from us a little
50 bit more often, you know, giving you a call to see,

1 especially if we think there might be a permit in your
2 area that you might have missed the opportunity for
3 comment. And if there's any interest in having us come
4 out for either a special meeting or part of an existing
5 meeting that you might have for your Council or other
6 ways that we could communicate with you, we're very
7 open to that. So hopefully we can do better and better
8 on the government-to-government coordination.

9
10 This year what we did is we implemented
11 a due date for all of our commercial guiding and
12 transporters. The Squirrel River's the only place we
13 actually permit transporters. In other regions it's
14 just considered a casual use, so we don't have
15 permitting in place for them any place else but the
16 Squirrel. But we felt it was important to establish a
17 due date for all the guides and the transporters
18 throughout our office so that -- which, by the way is
19 March 15th, so it's coming right up. If you don't get
20 your application by then, you won't be guiding that
21 year. And there will be an annual opportunity to
22 submit an application, but we aren't going to be
23 accepting them all through the spring and into the
24 summer as we have in the past.

25
26 That will give -- a couple good reasons
27 for that. It will give us an opportunity to do a
28 comprehensive .810 at one point in time knowing the
29 full extent of the interest for commercial use of the
30 area, so we see that picture all at once instead of
31 seeing it develop as permits trickle in through the
32 season. And I think it will also give us a better
33 chance to have more meaningful dialogue with the
34 communities and incorporate the comments and the things
35 that we're hearing into the permit system.

36
37 Some of the permit system is evolving
38 obviously through our Squirrel River plan, so I can't
39 right at this moment share the details specifically
40 about how we plan to administer our program, because we
41 haven't finalized it yet. But I think we've got a good
42 range of alternatives for it.

43
44 And we're also trying to participate
45 with the State of Alaska on their guide -- I guess it's
46 a selection process for the concessionaires or guide
47 system that the State is trying to get moving on. But
48 although we're partnering on it, we're not just waiting
49 on it, we're moving forward on our own process, and
50 hopefully we'll be pretty similar, be able to dovetail

1 in with theirs as they get going.

2

3 So we had a total of seven hunting
4 guides permitted in Guide Use Area 2306, which is the
5 Squirrel River, last year. Only four reported any use
6 last season, with a total of 38 clients reported.
7 Species taken were 40 caribou, 4 moose, and one
8 grizzly. The BLM -- to this point, we have had no
9 requests for new permits anywhere in the northwest
10 Arctic region. And, in fact, actually not because they
11 went away, but because the land transferred ownership,
12 we've lost two of our permittees that will either be
13 applying to the State or -- actually I think it may
14 have gotten transferred all the way to the borough, so
15 I don't -- I guess they'll be applying to somebody else
16 if they're going to have their guide camp in the same
17 location.

18

19 Let's see. In 2009 we started all
20 transporters and air taxis that were taking clients on
21 to the BLM lands in the Squirrel were required to have
22 a BLM permit. That's still the case today, and
23 probably forever.

24

25 We issued four permits to transporters
26 last year. One permittee reported no use. The other
27 three reported a combined total of 59 clients
28 transported. And all transporters to the -- well, we
29 already said that. They'll all have to renew their
30 permits this year, so there'll be additional
31 opportunity to comment on their activities.

32

33 Some of our fisheries projects that
34 might be of interest. Our Staff have continued to work
35 on a summary report for the Dolly Varden spawning
36 habitat project on the Kivalina River. Data summarized
37 in the report includes Dolly Varden spawning locations,
38 number of spawners present, extension of known fish
39 habitat range for Fish and Game's anadromous waters
40 catalogue, description of the physical habitat. Sort
41 of on and on. I won't read you the whole list, but
42 it's quite an extensive project.

43

44 And ADF&G requested we count the fall
45 chum salmon present in the river last year, and on
46 August 14th we counted 5,408 chums in the main stem
47 with 3,750, 69 percent, congregated near the mouth of a
48 tributary that I can't pronounce, Sapumik perhaps.
49 Sorry for the butchering of that name.

50

1 The Squirrel River. Fisheries work on
2 the Squirrel River, we plan to focus the work on
3 detailing adverse effects of fourwheeler use on the
4 floodplain, including the riparian and streambank
5 disturbance. We're trying to collect baseline data
6 within the drainage for our fish distribution
7 information and characterize the aquatic environment.
8 They did some preliminary work last year, mainly out of
9 a helicopter, so they were just doing spot work. I
10 think this year we're going to try to float at least
11 portions of it to get some additional information.

12
13 Mining. There's been no new mining
14 plans that we're aware of on BLM lands within the
15 region. We've had some recent inquiries, but no
16 permits have been issued as yet. The Lik project, Zazu
17 Metals, continues bits of work on the Federal mining
18 claims on their property, but haven't gone into any
19 level of production, so that stays fairly low level for
20 us.

21
22 Realty work. We haven't -- there
23 haven't been much application yet for us, although
24 there would be some permitting work we'd be involved
25 with for rights-of-ways if any of these various roads
26 to resources or other things were to move forward. So
27 we're partnering on some of the environmental work so
28 that if we're called upon to issue a permit, we would
29 have participated and be in a position to do that.

30
31 But we did issue -- we had to issue
32 rights-of-way grants to the Selawik Refuge and actually
33 to ourselves for our RAS (ph) stations and the snow
34 survey sites where we have -- are occupying land for
35 more than a year. Those things aren't considered
36 casual use, so there's a permit for those as well.

37
38 I think I will -- I don't know if I
39 told everyone, I mentioned to Raymond on his concern
40 about getting some additional law enforcement help on
41 the Squirrel River. We've had a vacant position for
42 the last couple of years, so we've been using detailed
43 law enforcement rangers to come up here for a couple of
44 weeks during the hunting. It hasn't really been, you
45 know, as effective as it could be. Next week -- or
46 actually the following week, we're going to start our
47 interviews for our pilot/ranger position. The position
48 used to not be a pilot, now it is. So we'll be sharing
49 a plane with our special agent in Fairbanks, and I
50 think that's going to be a really big asset to us,

1 cover a lot more ground. We've got a really big field
2 office, and so we'll be using that plane out here to
3 help us with our compliance work.

4
5 And I hesitate to bring this up, but
6 nonetheless I know that people are aware, and Walter
7 is, that BLM archaeologists have been conducting work
8 in partnership with the University on a site near
9 Kivalina that they call the Raven's Bluff on the upper
10 part of the Kivalina River. And I think that this year
11 will be BLM's last year working on that project. It
12 may be if work continues there at all, it would be
13 under permit to the University. And we've tried to
14 include community members from Kivalina and give
15 reports and make sure everyone knows what's going on up
16 there, you know, and what's being done with the
17 material that they're finding. It doesn't look to be
18 any kind of a grave site or no human remains, but
19 there's been some interesting partial points I think
20 they found and some other animal remains that are old,
21 so it's a significant site.

22
23 So that's the update on that, although
24 our archaeologist, Bill Hedman, also makes the offer
25 that if anyone would like to schedule a presentation,
26 he'd be happy to do that.

27
28 And then I'd like to let Merban talk
29 about some of the wildlife work that's being done and
30 that has been done.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Maybe someone
33 -- before we move on, maybe someone have any question
34 for Shelly.

35
36 MS. JACOBSON: Sure. Okay.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Train of thoughts.

39
40 MS. LOON: I have one.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

43
44 MS. LOON: I just have a comment, Mr.
45 Chairman.

46
47 Shelly, for your information, the
48 Squirrel River has been used by Selawik people in the
49 late 1950s to 1960s. My dad used to travel over there
50 to Kiana and stay with relatives to hunt for caribou.

1 Otherwise he would have to go up to Kugururok and stay
2 two weeks to a month to look for caribou up there. So
3 he used Coal Mine and Squirrel River with his dogs to
4 bring back caribou. That has been a traditional, long-
5 time use by Selawik people. Maybe Noorvik, too. So
6 whatever is happening in Squirrel River affects us,
7 too.

8

9 And not too long ago, maybe five years
10 ago we used to go out picking berries to (In Inupiaq)
11 which is close to the mountains towards Kiana. And
12 when we picked blueberries, you know, we could run into
13 a bunch of caribou. Maybe get one or two for our camp
14 there.

15

16 Just for your information that area was
17 very -- Raymond will probably know who go to Kiana in
18 those days with dog teams.

19

20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
23 Walter.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26

27 Shelly, gave some numbers in regards to
28 take of caribou, bear, and moose from the numbers of
29 permits that you issued. Can you give me some numbers
30 again, what the take was.

31

32 MS. JACOBSON: Through the Chair. Mr.
33 Sampson. I'll give you those numbers, and then I'd
34 like -- I'm pretty sure the guide numbers are accurate.
35 Personally, I'm questioning the transporter numbers.
36 But since our rec staff gave this to me, I'm going to
37 go ahead with it.

38

39 The BLM has a total of seven guides
40 permitted in 2306. Four reported the use in 2011, a
41 total of 38 clients, 40 caribou, 4 moose, 1 grizzly.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: So how to justify in
44 regards to making sure that all the caribou that is
45 taken get -- I mean, you're talking a good 7,000 pounds
46 of caribou meat. You're talking 2500 pounds of bear
47 meat and about 8,000 pounds of moose meat. Are all the
48 meat and stuff taken in and where do they go.

49

50 MS. JACOBSON: Well, it's my

1 understanding, you know, we did have one of our
2 transporter clients, one client that was flown there by
3 a transporter, which I can give you those numbers, too,
4 ended up with a game violation, not for wasting meat,
5 but for shooting a sub-legal animal that he then did
6 salvage. But otherwise we weren't aware of any
7 non-compliant issues last year from our clients or even
8 anyone from the public. I'm not saying it might not
9 have happened, I'm just saying it wasn't reported or
10 discovered, so we didn't -- so my assumption then is
11 that they salvaged all the meat and took it home or
12 donated it properly.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Shelly.

17

18 Go ahead, Percy.

19

20 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. So I guess I heard
21 you say that you didn't have any other sites, like the
22 Buckland River, you don't have transporters there or
23 guides in the Buckland River.

24

25 MS. JACOBSON: Mr. Ballot, through the
26 Chair. We don't have any permits, that's correct, on
27 any transporters anywhere else other than the Squirrel
28 River right now. That's something that may become part
29 of our statewide program. I know the Commercial
30 Services Board has talked about potentially moving
31 their focus from guides as it has been onto the issue
32 of transporters. We continue to hear that's a bigger
33 issue of concern, that commercial use. So we're
34 getting a handle on it through our permitting, and it
35 will also provide an opportunity to put restrictions in
36 place. And that could happen in other areas as well.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Mike. We'll
39 make you last, and then Merban.

40

41 MR. KRAMER: I know last fall I spent a
42 lot of time up in around the Aggie area hunting
43 caribou, to which I only saw about three. I know that
44 several times we hiked up on some mountains. And it's
45 the lower -- it's where the Aggie goes into the
46 mountains is where a transporter drops off some people.
47 You know, me and my kids, we hiked back about five
48 miles and we noticed that, you know, that leading edge
49 of BLM land is -- the transporters, they're deflecting
50 the caribou northwards towards the Eli and not down

1 towards the mouth of the Aggie and, you know, Attamuk
2 probably shares the same concerns, because, you know,
3 just no caribou moving through there. I know that
4 there's some migration fluctuations. But, you know, I
5 think it would benefit the people who hunt on the
6 river, because I know I must have counted at least, you
7 know, 40, 50 boats that went up there, and, you know,
8 they all came home with nothing.

9
10 I'd like to see a restriction placed on
11 that leading edge of BLM land right on the Aggie River,
12 right below the Park Service boundary to see if that
13 can be a later date that they're allowed to drop off
14 hunters there, because I noticed that was beginning to
15 be a problem with people who are waiting on the river.
16 They're deflecting the caribou northward. I did see
17 caribou on the flats, but as they went up the mountain,
18 these people would start shooting and they'd deflect
19 them back and northward. So, you know, it was really
20 beginning to affect my and everybody else's efforts
21 that were there at the Aggie waiting for caribou to
22 come down.

23
24 You know, and people did share concerns
25 with me, because they know I'm on the Fish and Game
26 Advisory Council and the Federal Subsistence Board.
27 You know, they shared a lot of concerns, and, you know,
28 a lot of people are pretty ticked off in the way that,
29 you know, they're allowed to function back there. And
30 that's a vital area where caribou migrate through. You
31 know, they're beginning to deflect them northward as
32 they're starting to migrate farther and farther east.
33 I mean, northeastward from the Aggie.

34
35 That's all I have.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. We'll
38 move to Merban. Go ahead.

39
40 MR. CEBRIAN: Mr. Chair. Merban
41 Cebrian, BLM wildlife biologist for Central Yukon.

42
43 I have a couple of things to tell you
44 about what we're doing and what we plan to do, but I'm
45 going to respond to Mr. Kramer here's comment also
46 after that.

47
48 The first thing, BLM continues to be
49 active with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working
50 group, and will provide finding, coordination, and

1 logistical support for the December 2012 meeting. BLM
2 will plan to cooperate with ADF&G and the Fish and
3 Wildlife Service for a moose survey in the Lower Kobuk
4 sometime in early April.

5
6 And just to emphasize also that the BLM
7 is currently working on the Squirrel River Management
8 plan. And this plan will incorporate alternatives that
9 will address user conflicts on the Squirrel River.

10
11 And specific to those and in partial
12 response to Mike here, Mr. Chair, we plan to
13 incorporate culturally relevant hunting practices in
14 the ways that we're going to consider permits in the
15 Squirrel River specifically to address the deflection
16 of caribou and also knowing which side of the river
17 people hunt, and issues about crowding and hunting
18 pressure.

19
20 Other than that, Mr. Chair, that's all
21 I have, unless you have other questions.

22
23 Ah, yes. We have a habitat management
24 plan for the Nulato Hills. And that's being worked on.
25 We're in the early stages of that.

26
27 And one last thing, the DNR has their
28 guide concession plan open for public comment right now
29 until the 23rd of April. And in that -- there's a
30 website that points to that project. Mr. Chair, there
31 are maps that are erroneous in that website. Some of
32 those maps indicate what might appear to be BLM
33 specified number of guides that are included in this
34 plan. That is not so. What's in that map are the
35 State number of guide concessions that they plan to
36 approve.

37
38 That's all, Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.
41 Anyone else.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: National Park
46 Service.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,

1 Vern. We'll go to National Park Service.

2

3

Thanks, Shelly, Merban.

4

5

MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. I'll make this very quick. I'll just go through some of the things that you've got in your packet of material from the Park Service.

10

11

And I'll start with what we're currently doing in relation to the management of our transporters in Noatak National Preserve. I won't go into a lot of detail, because, you know, I heard earlier that you're hoping for additional information at a following meeting, and that would be appropriate, but I thought there's some things you should be aware of or maybe interested in before we get around to that, because we're going to be coming into a cycle of issuing the new round of permits for 2012/2013.

21

22

You've got a map in your materials that looks this. And we're revamping our stipulations or our conditions on our commercial use authorization permits for transporters. And one of the key features of that is a management area in the westernmost part of the Noatak National Preserve, and it's outlined in red. And within that management area commercial transporters will not be authorized to operate for the delivery and service of non-local caribou hunters prior to September 15th. So that they will be excluded from those activities at least until September 15th.

33

34

Another key element of what's going to be done in relation to that is Frank Hayes, our superintendent, and Willie Goodwin will be trying to identify people in the local communities that are potentially affected to kind of formulate a working group that can meet fairly regularly, probably by teleconference, and talk about the, you know, latest information on the status of the migration and caribou harvest that we hope will allow us to sort of like, like fish, sort of make in-season management decisions in a timely way related to that.

45

46

A key element of all of what we're doing right now is that this still remains a work in progress, and we'll find out what works and what doesn't work, and we can continue to work on modifying the stipulations, shifting the areas, whatever we need

1 to do until we, you know, get this down to where we're,
2 you know, getting a primary objective, which is seeing
3 that animals get across the river areas in the
4 appropriate area, and the migrations aren't interfered
5 with.

6

7 Now, unless there are questions, that's
8 all I've got on the transporter thing for right now.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. Any
11 questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: The next item in your
16 packet, you've got a brief report from our law
17 enforcement officer in the park, Dan Stevenson, our
18 ranger/pilot, on a summary of 2011 enforcement and
19 protection activities. You might look that over. I
20 think there were a number of issues that have come up
21 today that will we'll be hearing more about in the
22 future, jurisdiction and some law enforcement issues.
23 And some of these I think, you know, not only should
24 you be interested in, but I do think it's a really good
25 venue for raising up more in detail with us though the
26 SRC systems. And several of the members here on the
27 Council come from the SRCs, and I think they can, you
28 know, kind of keep us focused on some of those areas.

29

30 You've got another item in here, a
31 newsletter from the Arctic Network Inventory and
32 Monitoring Program which basically covers a lot of
33 activities, research projects, monitoring activities
34 that have been ongoing, some of which are peripheral to
35 subsistence, but ma not directly relate to harvest
36 regulations. Things like our weather and climate
37 monitoring, some of our water characteristic studies
38 for the large and small lakes, riverine areas,
39 passerine birds, migratory birds, and a really
40 innovative and non-evasive sort of work on some black
41 bears in the Kobuk that Marcy Johnson's been
42 conducting.

43

44 It also provides a little calendar up
45 front that shows some of the ongoing projects we're
46 involved with. The current moose -- or musk ox census
47 work for -- or population estimate for the Seward
48 Peninsula and Cape Thompson populations is wrapping up.
49 The next step in the musk ox work will be composition
50 work that follows on the heels of the population

1 estimate work.

2

3 And then we'll also be doing, as BLM
4 has mentioned, participate in the Lower Kobuk moose
5 survey. And we've got a couple dall sheep and caribou
6 projects ongoing.

7

8 The other thing that you have in your
9 packet is a series of what we call resources briefs on
10 our individual species monitoring projects. You have
11 one on dall sheep, one on caribou, and one on brown
12 bears. And those are for species that we've identified
13 to continue to monitor. And it shows what we think is
14 important about the species, what characteristics or
15 what things we're trying to monitor in relation to
16 those, and kind of a little bit about how we do it. So
17 I'd recommend that you look those thing over and
18 continue a dialogue with them on it, especially if you
19 see, you know, things that are of really concern to
20 you.

21

22 In terms of the sheep, in addition to
23 the resource brief, there's also a later graph that
24 shows results of the 2011 sheep survey, and you'll see
25 that the numbers of sheep are down, but they're still
26 within basically the upper range or more of some of
27 those years that -- leaner years when we started
28 hunting again after that prolonged period when hunting
29 had been closed. And so, you know, we've had some talk
30 about trying to fund a sheep survey in 2012 for this
31 summer, but I don't think we're going to be able to
32 come up with the funding for that. So I think, you
33 know, currently the Park Service's view on the decline
34 in sheep is it's probably not severe enough and
35 significant long-term, and that the Federal harvest,
36 for example, in the Bairds really doesn't warrant, you
37 know, taking any really restrictive actions on Federal
38 harvest at this point. But we'll continue to monitor
39 the situation.

40

41 So I guess that's pretty much it.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Due to
44 time, I think we need to move on. Under Native
45 organizations, I think -- is there anyone here for the
46 Native organizations.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Brad, you had

1 one real brief, you asked me earlier. Yeah, go ahead.

2

3 MR. SHULTS: Brad Shults, wildlife
4 biologist for the Park Service.

5

6 I just wanted to -- Percy had an
7 earlier question about caribou monitoring and how much
8 money was spent. One of the briefs that you have is a
9 caribou monitoring brief for the Park Service, and we
10 have a program where we've deployed 69 collars over the
11 last three years. They're GPS, satellite-transmitting
12 collars, so they store the data on board and transmit
13 it via satellite radio -- or satellite signals, excuse
14 me. And that's part of our monitoring program. We
15 deploy those collars in conjunction with the collaring
16 at Onion Portage for a variety of reasons.

17

18 Maintaining that sample and doing some
19 other work costs about \$125,000 a year for the Park
20 Service monitoring program. I just wanted to let you
21 know that, so if you're looking at numbers. I don't
22 know what the Department spends. That's a good
23 question, like Charlotte said, for Jim Dau.

24

25 Right now we've got about 50 collars
26 out and we try to maintain 40 a year. It's mainly to
27 get female adult mortality rates, some productivity
28 data, and it adds a lot to the movement information.

29

30 The other question you asked was about
31 adult female mortality. That collared sample for the
32 last two years, we've gotten adult female mortality
33 rates. These are crude estimates. We haven't run the
34 mortality estimates that we usually run with confidence
35 intervals that gives us the low and the high and the
36 point estimate. But for September '09 through August
37 2010 the adult female mortality rate for that sample
38 was about 18 percent. And then September 10 through
39 August of last year was about 13 percent. Those numbers
40 are pretty comparable I think to what the Department's
41 seen with the collar sample they have. And I talked to
42 Kyle Joly this afternoon about it a little bit, and he
43 says that's pretty indicative, based on other metrics
44 like recruitment and those sorts of things that it's a
45 declining population.

46

47 So I'll stop there. I just want to
48 throw that.....

49

50 MR. SAMPSON: What do those percentages

1 translate to numbers?

2

3 MR. SHULTS: Well, I don't have an
4 estimate of the number or adult females in the
5 population, but you could probably estimate that
6 backwards from composition data. And it's fairly
7 trivial, but I can't do it in front of you right now.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: I guess you heard clearly
14 the discussion in regards to collaring?

15

16 MR. SHULTS: Uh-huh.

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

19

20 MR. SHULTS: And, you know, I don't
21 want to belabor it, but we've talked about it a lot
22 over the years, and I think that one thing that we
23 should mention is that one of the things we've really
24 worked with you guys to, one, not do anything you
25 didn't want to do in the first place. The musk oxen
26 project is a good example. We brought that before the
27 Subsistence Resource Commissions, before you guys, and
28 we had a lot of debate about how we were going to
29 mitigate your concerns about putting collars on female
30 musk oxen. And one of the way we mitigated that was we
31 put those break-away devices so those collars will come
32 off of them. And we've removed collars from brown
33 bears. We've removed collars from moose at the end of
34 the projects.

35

36 And there's two ways we try to get
37 information. One is by counting things, doing aerial
38 surveys, and the other one is by using these collared
39 samples that we assume are representative of an entire
40 population. There's two different ways of going about
41 it. We spent a lot of time moving backwards using
42 aerial survey data and using less collaring projects.
43 One, because you have concerns, and, two, they're very
44 expensive any more. So we're up against that. So
45 we're always open to comments and discussion on those
46 issues.

47

48 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead.

1 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Just one thing at
2 some point in time I wanted to know, what he was
3 saying, is the numbers, the percentage, we hear
4 percentages, 13 percent to me seems like a lot. I
5 never get to hear of the 50 collar, how many of them
6 had babies for the last three years or something like
7 that. Or, you know, I never hear why that one died,
8 whether it's man or whether it was for whatever reason,
9 if it has anything to do with the collar. Those are
10 the kinds of things I want to hear in addition to the
11 stuff you shared with us. So that's the point I was
12 trying to bring out.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. I think
15 you heard what Percy said. Maybe by next meeting we
16 could say, because it's -- yes, Hannah.

17
18 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19
20 NPS is doing caribou monitoring and
21 collaring and Department of Fish and Game is doing
22 collaring and monitoring. Why is there duplication.

23
24 MR. SHULTS: I wouldn't call the
25 efforts duplicative. they're more synergistic in a lot
26 of ways. We're certainly focusing on different aspects
27 and these different metrics that we have. We're not
28 simply -- you know, and Percy brings up a good point.
29 There's a lot of different metrics that we use. It's
30 productivity, it's recruitment, it's adult female
31 mortality. We focus on different aspects of those
32 collared samples. And even with the collar -- and
33 technology is different, too. You know, we've gotten
34 over 300,000 locations on caribou in the last three
35 years with those GPS collars, which is an amazing
36 amount of movement information. We an also tell with
37 those GPS collars, we're honing down on where cows are
38 calving without even looking based on their movement
39 rates on a daily basis.

40
41 So we're trying to provide
42 complementary and not duplicative information. And
43 we're working with the Department as much as we can
44 cooperatively to do that.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you. So
47 everyone basically gave a report. And I would like to
48 thank everyone. And everyone is happy.

49
50 I think we're all looking forward to

1 the future meeting at the location. 2012, next meeting
2 date. So anyone got -- there's a calendar that was
3 given to us that's open. So basically we were talking
4 about somewhere meeting in August it look like. So
5 it's what you guys choose to have a meeting for our
6 next meeting. Anyone got an idea. We usually have
7 ours right around August 21st or so. No one got an
8 idea when they want to have meeting from the advisory
9 here. Helen.

10

11 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The date that you
12 selected, August 21st, we wanted to just confirm that
13 you still would like to have it then. And the place,
14 we have been directed, because of our extreme travel --
15 well, budgetary constraints we're under these days that
16 we do all the meetings in the hubs, unless, you know,
17 there's some reason to have it somewhere else that's a
18 resource issue. Like if there was a proposal that was
19 affecting Noatak, for example. One time we went to
20 Noatak. But that would have to be approved by our
21 assistant regional director. So we are -- we do want
22 to have our meetings in the hubs.

23

24 And I would also just like to know if
25 you liked having the meeting in the hotel, or if you'd
26 rather be at the Park Service, their new building, or
27 if you have a preference even within Kotzebue.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think due to costs,
30 personally I think we should have it at the Park
31 Service, then we could have meeting late as we want.
32 We don't have to be out by 5:30 or so, you know
33 Sometimes, some of our issues and concerns are heard
34 and we never finish talking about due to time involved.

35

36 What's you guys think, have it at the
37 Park Service.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: And so the dates,
42 basically we're thinking of August 21st or so.

43

44 Yes, Ken.

45

46 MR. ADKISSON: Just one caveat on that,
47 when you mentioned the time scheduling. Definitely
48 the.....

49

50 REPORTER: Ken.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Sorry. Mr. Chair. Ken
2 Adkisson, National Park Service.

3
4 One caveat to your time scheduling on
5 that. Generally the interpretive staff of the park
6 there has an evening movie series, and they do it every
7 Tuesday evening. And so that's the one real I think
8 real time constraint about being through by 5:00, 5:30
9 is on every Tuesday. And I noticed that Tuesday's the
10 date set for -- the tentative date set for the next
11 meeting. So just be aware of that, Tuesday is -- they
12 would like us to wrap it up.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Ken. Go
15 ahead.

16
17 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I
18 think if selected like this venue again, we can make an
19 arrangement in the contract that we did arrange for
20 this time and make it more specific to a longer, you
21 know, evening if need be, into the evening.

22
23 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We could go into the
24 evening. We could put that in the contract. So that's
25 not an issue.

26
27 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay. Thank
30 you. So we could maybe -- due to time, I would like to
31 see -- I mean, I've got no objection if we start half
32 an hour earlier, you know, next year. That will give
33 us another half an hour to deal with. So under
34 consideration. What do you guys thing of it. Because
35 we have our meeting only twice a year and so we try to
36 cover so much in one day, you know.

37
38 Go ahead, Walter.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Well, that's why I'm
41 thinking of suggesting making this a two-day meeting
42 rather than one day. I mean, look at the State of
43 Alaska. They did their thing, rushed off and gone. If
44 we have issues that we all need to address, then let's
45 make time to ensure that we address those things,
46 because we're talking about our way of life. And
47 that's critical to the people of this region.

48
49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. I understand
50 that completely. I have your same concerns, because at

1 some times earlier I felt we should have talked about
2 something a little bit more, but due to the timing, you
3 know. Maybe we could start our meeting in the
4 afternoon and continue next day, and they could take
5 off in the evening flight, and they could catch the
6 morning flight to Kotzebue. You know, these things
7 need to be considered. That's the way I would do it if
8 I was the supervisor. I'd say check-in at 6:00
9 o'clock, start the meeting at 1:00.

10

11 Yes, go ahead, Mike. Go ahead, Mike.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: You know, if we are
14 planning in the future of having KOTZ radio and radio
15 collars throughout the region, it will take up more of
16 our time. I think that was a great addition that
17 Walter made that, you know, it will be taking longer,
18 because we'll be taking radio calls from people
19 throughout the region with concerns of what we talk
20 about. I think making it a two-day meeting would be a
21 very feasible thing. That way we get to address
22 everybody's issues over the radio, you know, through
23 teleconference, or whatever it may be I think a two-
24 day thing would be much better and more informational
25 on all of us.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
28 else.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Then maybe, Helen, if
33 you'd talk to the Park Service or some place, wherever
34 we're going to have the meeting, you know, if they
35 would -- if we could just book it ahead of time enough,
36 maybe other meetings won't be booked on top of it where
37 we have to rush.

38

39 Go ahead.

40

41 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Some of the
42 other Councils that have met already this winter, we
43 had a shortened scheduled, but they ended up running
44 into the evenings so they had longer meetings as a
45 result of like the one-day meetings. So your points
46 are noted.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So rest

1 of the Council here, how does August 21st sound to you
2 guys and maybe August 22, and not 21 due to movies or
3 whatever you decide. I know we haven't -- I think we
4 should decide which building, here at the hotel or at
5 the Park Service building. So I need to hear from the
6 rest of the Board where you guys want to have your
7 meeting, about what date.

8

9 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. It doesn't
10 matter to me, just as long as we have it and maybe a
11 little more time. Because, you know, we just go hit
12 with this making a recommendation to National Park
13 Service and that is the first we saw of it, so if
14 there's other issues that are coming up, I think it
15 would be great that somebody mails it in to their --
16 you know, mails it before we come here even so that we
17 could get a little more input from our local people.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Than you, Percy.
20 Yes, I had little time to look at it, too. I get it
21 and I just looked at it a little bit, because, you
22 know, being me, I'm busy. You all agree right around
23 August 21st or 22nd, because I hate to hold these guys
24 through Friday night. You know, they've got to go
25 home, too. But I want to go on Friday after work, too.

26

27 Any suggestions from you guys.

28

29 MR. KRAMER: How about a suggestion of
30 August 21st and 22nd, that would be a two-day session.
31 That way we have some room for phone in and, you know,
32 radio. And then also by then hopefully I'll have a
33 high school subsistence board all set up, and if they
34 have any concerns or anything by then, then that will
35 be plenty of time if they have any concerns within our
36 meeting.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So that would
39 probably be -- I would like to see that two-day
40 meeting. Let's do it.

41

42 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We'll put it down.

43 Yeah.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

46

47 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: 21st and 22nd.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So 21 and 22 is

50 August.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. 21 and 22 of
2 August. Yeah.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay.

5
6 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: It usually depends
7 on the -- on what we have on the agenda, but I think at
8 that meeting we'll have the Fisheries Resource
9 Monitoring Program priorities that we'll need to
10 discuss, and we have reports from the user group
11 conflict issues, and I think there will be a fair
12 amount. And we also want to do a training for new
13 members, which we didn't get to this meeting, and so we
14 can do that half a day, and if other people want to
15 attend. So we'll take that back to the powers that be
16 at the office.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Everybody
21 agreed, August 21, 22.

22
23 (Council nods affirmatively)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It sounds like no
26 objections.

27
28 We will move on to the winter meeting
29 2013. Are we planning to have one in Anchorage or are
30 we going to have one here in Kotzebue.

31
32 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I believe it should
33 be in Kotzebue. And the only thing I wanted to point
34 out is that we don't like go -- we can't schedule two
35 meeting -- more than two meetings a week, so the week
36 of February 26th, there are already two meetings.
37 Otherwise the calendar is wide open.

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: I have an objection to
40 that, Mr. Chairman. There's a purpose behind the
41 creation of this very body. Money shouldn't be an
42 issue by the Federal Government. They go out and do
43 their consulting. They go out and do many things.
44 There's no reason why the Federal Government can't
45 accommodate us in regards to doing what we're trying to
46 do for this region. Placing a restriction on us is not
47 a way to deal with what we're trying to do. So I
48 object to saying that, no, we can't have two days.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: I didn't say we
2 couldn't have two days.

3
4 MR. SAMPSON: That's how I interpreted
5 what you said.

6
7 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: No, I'm sorry then.
8 No, I didn't say we couldn't have two days. He asked
9 if we were having it in Anchorage or Kotzebue and I
10 said, I assume Kotzebue. So I'm sorry if I misspoke or
11 it was misinterpreted, but that wasn't what I said.

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: Well, that's how I
14 understood you. that's why I objected to what you
15 said.

16
17 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah. I just want
18 you to know that we are all very frustrated with the
19 budget restraints, and it's a national problem; it's
20 not -- it's very, very frustrating. And, you know,
21 we've taken on paying for two new Board members, and,
22 you know, we have a lot of requests, and so it's -- I
23 mean, that's why we're trying to move to
24 teleconferencing more and we have limits on our Staff
25 coming in. But we're not limiting you guys coming to
26 the meetings or trying to cut down on the size of the
27 Councils. So it's a tough situation. It really is.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. With that
30 said, for our winter meeting, in February I see Nome
31 has February 12 and 13. They've got two days. And
32 who's the coordinator for Tok, or not anyone from you
33 guys?

34
35 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The only conflict
36 you have with coordinators is North Slope and Bristol
37 Bay, and Bristol Bay hasn't met yet. Donald Mike is
38 the coordinator for North Slope. But we're also hiring
39 two new coordinators, and we don't know, there may be
40 some shifts in who's the coordinator. So I wouldn't
41 worry about that. I think the dates that you're
42 interested in.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So it looks like
45 we're going to be opened right around February --
46 Monday's a holiday. I'm talking about the 18th of
47 February. So basically we're looking at February and
48 March. And you mentioned that we can have two
49 different meetings for one coordinator within two
50 weeks?

1 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: The only week you
2 can't pick is the week of February 25th, because
3 there's North Slope and YK Delta. All the other times
4 -- all the other weeks on this calendar are open.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So again I guess we
7 could pick right around March. And who would want to
8 watch the finish of the Iditarod. We could have it in
9 Nome.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Actually the Seward
14 Peninsula Council has tried that, and we can't get
15 conference rooms in Nome during that time, and we can't
16 get rooms.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I would expect
19 that. I just thought I'd throw that out.

20
21 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 MS. H. ARMSTRONG: We tried that. I
26 called the Aurora Inn, and they said that they won't
27 take pre-reservations for rooms, that it's by email
28 only and that you have to submit an email at midnight
29 at a certain date to get rooms, and within five minutes
30 the hotel's booked. So we'd have to be on there at
31 midnight. And they won't give us a conference room,
32 because they use the conference room for something
33 else. So that's out.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. So like
36 we will look at from the first part of March, March 4
37 and on. So have you guys got any preference. I've got
38 no real preference of what date. The only thing that
39 conflict with me was the open water meeting, that seal
40 meeting they had, and I would like to attend that. But
41 that was under Maniilaq, so next year I'm planning to
42 retire, so I won't have interest in that one.

43
44 So what you guys think.

45
46 MR. KRAMER: March 12th and 13th I
47 think would be a great window right there. That's a
48 whole week that's completely open.

49
50 MR. CLEVELAND: March 12, that's NANA

1 day.

2

3

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: That's what I was
4 just going to say. So we might lose Walter and Raymond
5 and a few others here. So to keep it full, I think we
6 need to worry about, on, March 1st -- the first week of
7 March I guess. March 4.

8

9

MR. SAMPSON: 5 and 6.

10

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I've got no problem
12 with 5 and 6. Any objections, look at Walter.

13

14

(No objections)

15

16

(Laughter)

17

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. No objection.
19 We'll look at March 5 and 6 for 2013.

20

21

MS. H. ARMSTRONG: Thank you very much,
22 Mr. Chair.

23

24

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So due to time
25 restraints, what do we have. We're going to be here by
26 now? We're supposed to be out by now?

27

28

MS. LOON: 5:30.

29

30

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What time is it.
31 I've got 5:31.

32

33

Yes, go ahead.

34

35

MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I think
36 you're good. They're not rushing in here any time
37 soon.

38

39

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, being Natives,
40 they probably will come at the last minute anyhow.

41

42

(Laughter)

43

44

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So to make it sweet,
45 make the closing comments from the Board, should make
46 it short and sweet if possible. That way everybody
47 will have a chance to say their thing.

48

49

I'm sorry to rush you guys, but we have
50 to. We've got no choice really here.

1 So whoever wants to start is welcome to
2 start, to open. Go ahead, Verne.

3
4 MR. CLEVELAND: Thank you very much for
5 our meeting. I'm new here, but a lot of good
6 information. Thank you very much.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.
9 Anyone else.

10
11 MR. KRAMER: It was great having them
12 kids here. While I was bringing them back over to the
13 school, they started asking a lot of questions. I
14 think it was a pleasure having them here. I gathered
15 up 11 students in 15 minutes that were interested in
16 coming here. And if you noticed, they all paid
17 attention. They weren't drifting off, they weren't
18 texting. They were all sitting there and they would ask
19 questions amongst themselves. I think that's a real
20 benefit to our future.

21
22 And I'm hoping that at the next meeting
23 that we're allowed to, you know broadcast this over
24 KOTZ radio. That way the remainder of our region can
25 hear of the matters that we take care of on their
26 behalf.

27
28 I thanked all them students for
29 attending. They were very pleased. They were very
30 enthused as to the way things are run around here
31 within this Board. I hope to see them in the future,
32 and I hope they remain here in the future long after
33 I'm gone.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Go ahead,
38 Walter.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much, Mr.
41 Chairman. Congratulations for taking the Chairman, and
42 Victor. This gives me more opportunity to speak
43 freely. As your -- every time you sit as the Chair,
44 then you're pretty much restricted to conduct business.
45 So thank you very much.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I've got no problem
48 with that, but I won't turn around so much to look at
49 you next year.

50

1 (laughter)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I was just joking,
4 Walter. It's good to have your input, especially from
5 the rest of the Council here.

6

7 Anyone else. Go ahead, Raymond.

8

9 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 It's been a great pleasure for all of us, you know, to
11 meet with the entire Staff and all the agencies, you
12 know. You guys have done a lot of work for us here for
13 this meeting today. And I was very pleased with all
14 you guys.

15

16 I want to thank the agencies to discuss
17 the -- well, I'll say it again, that caribou collar
18 thing. I'm glad it was discussed. And that's
19 something that we were asked to do so and to bring it
20 up to our agencies, and it was done at this meeting. I
21 certainly hope that something do happen to help the
22 people that requested, which were concerned about the
23 radio collars on caribou.

24

25 Congratulations to Mr. (in Inupiaq),
26 and congratulations.....

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Under translations,
31 he's as an usher now.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone else.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, I would thank
40 you guys for voting. I hated to take it away, but I
41 will depend heavily on Walter and Helen and the rest of
42 the agency to help me through with this, because I will
43 try my best to serve the people, but I tell you one
44 thing, nothing can be solved overnight and we still are
45 going to go on for another 40 years.

46

47 So I would thank you for your trust and
48 for voting for me. Thank you.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I

1 just want to say congratulations and that you're
2 stepping up to the plate.

3

4 It's good to see everybody again. I
5 always enjoy coming to these meetings. I welcome Verne
6 and Hannah on the Board, and I'll be glad to see you
7 guys again whenever it's time.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

10

11 Anyone else.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, meeting to
16 adjourn.

17

18 MR. CLEVELAND: Motion to adjourn.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Verne moved. Did you
21 second?

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Percy second. Okay.
26 See you guys next fall.

27

28 (Off record)

29

30 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 169 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 8th day of March 2012, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Kotzebue, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 16th day of March 2012.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14