

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 National Park Service
7 Multipurpose Room

8
9 Kotzebue, Alaska
10 March 18, 2011
11 9:00 a.m.

12
13
14 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

15
16 Peter L. Schaeffer, Chairman
17 Percy C. Ballot, Sr.
18 Leslie D. Burns
19 Victor Karmun
20 Michael Chad Kramer
21 Walter G. Sampson
22 Enoch Shiedt, Sr.
23 Raymond Stoney

24
25
26 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Atoruk

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 3/18/2011)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. It is now 9:01.
I will call the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional
Advisory Council meeting to order. And we will have a
moment of silence, please.

(Moment of Silence)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Roll call.

MS. ATORUK: Raymond Stoney.

MR. STONEY: Yep.

MS. ATORUK: Victor Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Yes.

MS. ATORUK: Mike Kramer

MR. KRAMER: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Pete Schaeffer.

MR. SCHAEFFER: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Walter Sampson.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Present.

MS. ATORUK: Enoch Shiedt.

MR. SHIEDT: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Austin Swan is excused for
family reasons. Leslie Burns.

MR. BURNS: Here.

MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. You've got a
quorum.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.
2 (In Inupiat)
3
4 Review and adoption of agenda. Is there
5 any additions to the Agenda. Yeah, Pete.
6
7 MR. SCHAEFFER: Yeah. Mr. Chairman. I
8 don't know half the people here. I was wondering if you
9 could have them introduce themselves.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Yeah. We can
12 do that before we move on to our adoption of our agenda.
13 Let's go through the process of introduction.
14
15 Chuck, we'll start with you.
16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
18 RAC members. My name is Chuck Ardizzone from the Office
19 of Subsistence Management. I'll talking to you a lot
20 today. You'll probably get tired of hearing me talk, but
21 nice to be here.
22
23 Thanks.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The lady in the green.
26
27 MS. SWEENEY: Hi. I'm Brittany Sweeney
28 with Selawik National Wildlife Refuge.
29
30 MS. AYRES: I'm LeeAnne Ayres, also with
31 the Selawik Refuge.
32
33 MR. HANDER: Ray Hander. I'm with the
34 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service out of Fairbanks. I'm a
35 fishery biologist with the Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife
36 field office.
37
38 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson with the
39 National Park Service, Western Arctic National Parklands,
40 subsistence program manager.
41
42 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, NPS here in
43 Kotzebue.
44
45 MR. MAGDANZ: Jim Magdanz, Fish and Game,
46 Kotzebue.
47
48 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Fish and
49 Game, Anchorage.
50

1 MR. SCHAEFFER: George who?
2
3 MS. JESSE: Linda Jesse, National Park
4 Service.
5
6 MR. PAPPAS: Pappas.
7
8 MS. JESSE: Sorry.
9
10 MS. MCBURNEY: I'm Mary McBurney, acting
11 superintendent for Western Arctic National Parklands.
12
13 MR. STEVENSON: Dan Stevenson with the
14 National Park Service here in Kotzebue.
15
16 MR. ERLICH: John Erlich, BLM, Kotzebue
17 field office.
18
19 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson, National
20 Park Service, Kotzebue.
21
22 MR. SCHAEFFER: Marci?
23
24 MS. JOHNSON: Marci Johnson.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Come on in. We're
27 going through introduction.
28
29 REPORTER: Walter, your microphone.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Introduce yourself,
32 please.
33
34 MS. GEORGETTE: I'm Susan Georgette with
35 Fish and Wildlife Service.
36
37 MS. ORLANDO: And I'm Anne Orlando with
38 Fish and Wildlife Service.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any others.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And we have Barbara
45 Atoruk here, our Staff for the Regional Advisory Council.
46
47 You have before you the agenda. Is there
48 any changes. Any agenda items we need to add onto.
49
50 Do we need to talk about a joint session

1 with the Arctic Slope folks.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, I think we need to
4 meet with them, maybe with Nome also, because on some
5 issues we do have with each other the way our resources
6 migrate.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Barb.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. That
11 comes up when you guys are setting up your meeting date
12 for next year, when you are confirming your August 23 and
13 24 for this fall, that should come up then.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So we can
16 discuss that towards the end of the this. Okay.

17

18 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, towards the end. It
19 comes under No. 8.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But we also need to
22 think what the topic issues we need to cover with them,
23 so it's something we need to think about.

24

25 Here, seeing none, what's the wish of the
26 members in regards to the adoption of the agenda.

27

28 MR. SCHAEFFER: Mr. Chairman. I move to
29 adopt the agenda.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion by
32 Pete.

33

34 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Attamuk second.
37 Discussion on the motion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. BALLOT: Question.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The question has been
44 called for. All those in favor of the motion to adopt
45 the agenda as written signify by saying aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same sign.

50

1 (No opposing votes)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.
4
5 Review of the minutes of October 8.
6 They're in your packet. What's the wish of the members.
7
8 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.
11
12 MR. BALLOT: I move to approve the
13 October 8 meeting minutes.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to
16 adopt October 8 minutes. Is there a second.
17
18 MR. STONEY: Second.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Seconded by Raymond.
21
22
23 Discussion on the motion.
24
25 MR. SHIEDT: I'd like to make a
26 correction.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Attamuk.
29
30 MR. SHIEDT: I'd like to make a
31 correction on Page 6. The Dolly Varden. At the time I
32 was talking about the rainbow trout at Aggie. So there's
33 a big difference between rainbow trout and Dolly Varden.
34
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Make note of
37 that for the change.
38
39 Any others. Further discussion on the
40 motion.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MR. SHIEDT: Question.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The question has been
47 called for. All those in favor of the motion to adopt
48 the minutes with correction signify by saying aye.
49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed same sign.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.
6 Election of officers. I will step down as the Chair. As
7 we go through the process of election of officer, and
8 maybe Barb or Chuck or someone can take that role for
9 election of officers.
10
11 I think if the committee would like to
12 step down for a couple minutes if you wish to, to have
13 some discussion amongst yourself for chairmanship, we can
14 do that. Would you like to take a couple minutes. Okay.
15 We'll take a couple minutes.
16
17 (Pause)
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Before we continue, we
20 had some latecomers come in. And for those of you that
21 came in late, please introduce yourselves, please.
22
23 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers, National
24 Park Service.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I didn't say tell the
27 truth, the whole truth now.
28
29 (Laughter)
30
31 MS. HERNANDEZ: Tina Hernandez, National
32 Park Service.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Okay.
35 Thank you.
36
37 Go ahead, Chuck and Barb.
38
39 MS. ATORUK: Okay. For election of
40 officers, nominations are now open for Chair.
41
42 MR. KARMUN: I'll nominate Pete
43 Schaeffer.
44
45 MS. ATORUK: Pete Schaeffer has been
46 nominated. Are there any other nominations.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 MS. ATORUK: Any other nominations for

1 Chair.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: I move to close the
4 nominations and ask for unanimous consent.
5
6 MS. ATORUK: Is there unanimous consent.
7 Do you want a roll call.
8
9 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second it.
10
11 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Unanimous consent for
12 Pete Schaeffer to be your new Chair.
13
14 Mr. Schaeffer, you may take over. Thank
15 you.
16
17 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, thank you.
18 Nominations are now open for Vice Chair.
19
20 MR. KARMUN: I nominate Walter.
21
22 MR. SHIEDT: I nominate Victor Karmun.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter Sampson and
25 Victor Karmun have been nominated. Are there others.
26
27 MR. BALLOT: Percy Ballot. I move to
28 close.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. The motion's
31 been made to close nominations. Is there a second.
32
33 MR. KRAMER: Kramer. Second.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. We'll do
36 a secret ballot.
37
38 (Pause)
39
40 MS. ATORUK: Okay. I have Walter
41 Sampson, Victor Karmun, Karmun, Vicki Karmun, Victor,
42 Vic, Victor, and Victor C.
43
44 7/1 Mr. Karmun is your Vice Chair.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
47 you, Barb.
48
49 Congratulations I guess, Vic.
50

1 At this time we have the nominations over
2 for Secretary.
3
4 MR. KARMUN: I'll nominate Raymond
5 Stoney.
6
7 MR. BALLOT: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Ray Stoney has been
10 nominated.
11
12 MR. SHIEDT: I'd like to close the
13 nominations. Enoch.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. There's a
16 motion to close nominations. Is there a second.
17
18 MR. KRAMER: Kramer. Second.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
21 you. So at this time.....
22
23 MS. ATORUK: Is that a unanimous consent?
24
25 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: At this time I'll
26 ask for unanimous consent. Are there any objections.
27
28 (No objections)
29
30 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Hearing and seeing
31 none, congratulations, Mr. Secretary.
32
33 MR. STONEY: Thank you.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, at this time,
36 I think as the new Chair, I think I'd like to give a
37 little overview as to where I think we're at, and if
38 you'll bear with me, where I think we need to go.
39
40 I think we're in the midst of significant
41 changes in terms of fish and game management, and the
42 relationship with the Native community. As most of you
43 probably know, that prior to the inception of Federal
44 management, I think it's probably safe to say that the
45 Native community had very little involvement in fish and
46 game management even though we were the primary users and
47 our culture was basically built on the hunting and
48 gathering methodologies and the ways of now we went about
49 surviving up here in the Arctic.
50

1 I think we've now entered another realm
2 of survival, and that's in the political field, and with
3 the Secretary of Interior with the new administration --
4 well, not so new now, maybe even counting its last days
5 for all we know. I think there's a real opportunity to
6 do within the Native community what needed to be done a
7 long time ago, and that's to unify and go after specific
8 regulations and policy changes that we think need to
9 happen, and trying to meaningfully involve the community
10 in fish and game management.

11
12 For those of you that don't know, and I
13 think some of the scientists here already know, that it's
14 just not fish and game hunting and gathering that's at
15 stake here. It's the way of life. It's also the custom
16 of and the tradition of the Native people throughout the
17 State of Alaska and probably every everywhere else on
18 this planet that has a vested interest in making sure
19 that we try to retain as much as possible our way of life
20 and integrity within that way of life.

21
22 The unfortunate part is that since the
23 inception of non-Natives into the Native society at the
24 turn of the previous century, it's been mostly a
25 confrontation where one culture has to overwhelm the
26 other. And when you really think about it, that really
27 not need to happen. There's such a real opportunity to
28 partner and to further it now. I think where we need to
29 go with what we need to do is the harnessing of some
30 political horsepower to get what we need to do done, and,
31 you know, for too long I think there's been a lot of
32 talking about doing this and a lot of doing that. And I
33 think we're now at the doing part, which is much
34 different, and I think that in terms of where we need to
35 go, a lot of us have taken the time to educate ourselves
36 into the fish and game management regulatory authorities,
37 and I think we're now at a point where as we proceed with
38 the development of fish and game regulations is to have
39 more of an understanding as to what that way of life was,
40 is and will be.

41
42 And I think that up here is probably many
43 generations of hunting skills that have been handed down,
44 and the culture of the people has been such that those
45 skills have been honed to the need to survive first and
46 then, of course, the need to provide for your family and
47 for your extended family that cannot hunt or have somehow
48 not been able to harvest what they need, so that's the
49 sharing aspect of what we're all about.

50

1 So we hope you take the time to truly try
2 to understand the nuances of our culture, just like we've
3 taken the time to understand what the governing
4 regulators have been doing in terms of trying to modify,
5 invent or put forward some reasonable, at least in our
6 opinion, regulatory proposals that we thing need
7 consideration for where we need to go.

8
9 So with that, I hope we have a good
10 meeting and I think that every one up here brings some
11 level of expertise in what they do, and we hope that you
12 all meaningfully participate.

13
14 Thank you very much.

15
16 So at this time we'll go to Item 7, and
17 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd report with our member,
18 Percy Ballot. You have the floor, Percy.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Really, I was there on
21 behalf of whoever, but I think that we all know our
22 caribou is declining. And the report I got there is that
23 all of our people have been having a hard time getting
24 caribou for whatever reason.

25
26 And that they are proposing roads. I
27 wasn't aware I was going to be giving any report, but
28 they're proposing roads down the line between Ambler and
29 to Nome, or Fairbanks to Nome. So there is concern about
30 that.

31
32 They had some presentations from local
33 hunters, go do snare, and how to trap and we had a lady
34 from our area talk about hunting and provide -- putting
35 food away and stuff like that.

36
37 The main concern they got is that our
38 caribou's declining, you know. And everybody else is
39 having a hard time hunting.

40
41 And our representation down there, I
42 think that we could be really looked at, because how many
43 years ago when we were first started probably talking
44 about Western Arctic Caribou Herd, we had picked a couple
45 of guys from our region, and we'd have somebody goes,
46 that one or both of them hasn't always been there at the
47 table. And hopefully that sometime we have another
48 chance or however they -- who decides that, who's going
49 to be at the table, that we look at it, because always a
50 need to involvement all the time, and it would be nice to

1 have somebody from our group here that has voting powers,
2 because I had no voting powers, but listening powers.

3

4 That's it.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Percy.

7 Walter.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: I guess just for clarity on
10 the decline of the caribou herd, talking to Fish and
11 Game, I thought they've indicated that there has been
12 some increase from 300,000 to almost 400. Maybe Jim
13 Magdanz or somebody can tell us what's happening.

14

15 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
16 Jim Magdanz with Fish and Game.

17

18 Mr. Chairman. Congratulations.

19

20 Jim Dau and Charlotte are at Red Dog this
21 week on a muskox survey, so they couldn't be here, but
22 the status of the herd right now is stable. It declined
23 from about 490,000 several years ago, and the last
24 census, I don't have the number off the top of my head,
25 but it was statistically the same as the previous
26 estimate. There are other indicators that Jim could
27 speak to better than I can, and I think you know Jim's
28 working with a jaw project where they're looking at jaw
29 size as an indication of whether the herd is on the
30 decline, because we have every reason to believe that it
31 will, but they don't have the results back from that. So
32 I'd say we would call it stable right now, but expecting
33 a decline.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Jim.

36 Ray.

37

38 MR. STONEY: Jim, I've got a question.
39 As you know, like you said before, we experienced 490,000
40 and it dropped down to about 300,000. Now like you said
41 the population is just rising slowly, or it's just about
42 in the same size as of about two years ago?

43

44 MR. MAGDANZ: About the same size. But
45 what has changed is the timing of the fall migration. We
46 continue to see late migrations, and this past fall the
47 animals crossed the Noatak way upriver in the vicinity of
48 the Cutler. There were not many animals down low, so
49 Noatak had, you know, a tough time getting animals. And
50 the bulk of the herd came quite late and were very

1 concentrated, and that made it harder for villages to get
2 caribou in their prime. And so while the herd may be
3 stable, access to the animals has changed because of the
4 timing and the course of the migration.

5

6 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Jim.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: any other questions
9 on the caribou reports.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. The reason why
14 Percy had attended this WACH meeting was because you were
15 asked to see if you would want a representative in there.
16 And like Percy said, he was not a voting member, although
17 Mr. Ashenfelter, the Chair, put him up sitting up with
18 the other members that were on the table. And he was the
19 person that went down to see if Northwest Arctic Regional
20 Council does want the representative on WACH. And that
21 was the reason why he went. So it is at your call at
22 this time.

23

24 Thank you, sir.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Barb.

27

28 What's the wish of this Council. Vic.

29

30 MR. KARMUN: I'd like to nominate Percy
31 Ballot if he would accept the nomination to be our rep.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

34

35 MR. KRAMER: Kramer. Second.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER:

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I think Raymond
40 is part of -- an officer, I think I'd feel comfortable.
41 You know, Raymond's been involved and has been the Chair
42 of WACH, Western Arctic Caribou Herd Committee. I'd
43 recommend Raymond as a seated member to that
44 organization.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: I have no objection.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Vic.

49

50 MR. KARMUN: I'd like to see a primary

1 and a secondary, or possibly an alternate.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: That's up to this
4 group to decide, however you want to do it.

5

6 Ray, would you be willing to be the
7 primary representative of this group to the Western
8 Arctic Caribou Herd Committee?

9

10 MR. STONEY: (Nods affirmatively)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: And, Percy, would
13 you be the alternate?

14

15 MR. BALLOT: Sure.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. If we could
18 put that in the form of a motion and make it official,
19 that would be okay.

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
22 make a motion that Raymond Stoney be the primary
23 committee member to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
24 Committee, and Percy as a secondary or alternate.

25

26 MR. SHIEDT: I'll second. Attamuk.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Is there any
29 further discussion.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Question.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. The
36 question has been called. All those in favor of the
37 motion signify by saying aye.

38

39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any opposed, same
42 sign.

43

44 (No opposing votes)

45

46 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Hearing none, it's
47 unanimous.

48

49 Would that be it for the caribou report?

50 Barb.

1 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Before we can do
2 that, now that this has been done, I will write a letter
3 to Mr. Ashenfelter requesting a seat for Northwest
4 Arctic to sit on the WACH meeting in this coming December
5 2011. (In Inupiat)

6
7 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right, thank
8 you.

9
10 Okay. The meeting date for next meeting.
11 There was some previous discussion about a joint meeting
12 with the Barrow and the North Slope. As most of you
13 might -- some of you might recall the earlier Regional
14 Council was made up of representatives from the Barrow
15 area, the Kotzebue and the Bering Straights area. But
16 it's been since split up into smaller districts. So I
17 think the usefulness back in the old days, and that
18 previous set up was that we had a better exchange of
19 information as to what was going on within the various
20 regions and as well to put the three entities in pursuit
21 of some of the regulatory proposals that we're after.
22 And I think the discussion was pretty useful in, you
23 know, having dialogue with them to understand what their
24 situation was and how we can help, and vice versa.

25
26 So the floor is open for discussion.

27
28 MR. SAMPSON: I think it's critically
29 important, Mr. Chairman, that we have a joint session
30 with the Arctic Slope. I mean, after all, the shared
31 resources both in regards to the care of the Northwest
32 Arctic Herd as well as moose and as well as sheep. So I
33 think it would be an ideal thing to have a joint session
34 with the Arctic Slope folks hopefully sometime either
35 late this summer or early fall.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Walter.
38 Attamuk.

39
40 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. I wanted to ask
41 Barbara, would it make it hard if we included Nome, just
42 because our caribou migrate all the way into Nome area,
43 below Unalakleet, and we are taking the same herd. So in
44 our decision to help us in the future for our caribou, if
45 they could hear, if Nome could hear how we as Natives
46 take caribou, because some of them had question, for the
47 younger generation, they were fairly new to it.

48
49 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Attamuk. North
50 Slope first asked for this tri-Council meeting a year

1 ago. And they put it on their annual report and the
2 Federal Subsistence Board supported their request. And
3 last year during the meetings that we had and then asking
4 this for this tri-Council meeting, Seward Pen had set up
5 their own meeting for September 21 and 22, and our ARD
6 was there at their meeting and he discussed with them
7 that at the time he wasn't too privy about having tri-
8 Councils to meet. And when we were trying to find out
9 what we needed to do, or I needed to do to have this tri-
10 Council meeting, I was informed that there has to be a
11 very good reason or justified reason why the three
12 Councils should meet. And when I brought this back up to
13 the North Slope just a few weeks ago when they met on 7
14 and 8, they said their primary reason to want to meet
15 with the two other Councils and they requested again to
16 invite Seward Pen into this meeting, is to discuss global
17 warming should be discussed between the three councils,
18 because of the shared resources between the three
19 regions, and mostly naming the caribou, because the
20 caribou went up, were up there and down here and further
21 down, so that was why they requested again.

22
23 So you can have your discussion for
24 my.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
27 you, Barb.

28
29 Vic and then Walter.

30
31 MR. KARMUN: I'd go along with this tri
32 meeting. Probably, if I may make a suggestion, that
33 check with the Seward Pen and the North Slope, where
34 there would be no other conflicting activities at this
35 time. It might be a little bit tough to do, because the
36 three different regions, and they each have their own
37 activities certain times of the year.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you. Walt.

42
43 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 I think it would be an ideal thing to have a joint
45 session with Arctic Slope folks. Climate change
46 certainly would be an ideal topic, because that very
47 issue is also having some problems with the resources.
48 We heard this morning that the herd, Northwest Arctic
49 Herd came in very, very late last fall, and that is one
50 of the biggest reasons is because of the changes in

1 weather patterns. I think that discussion can stem to
2 other resources as well, too. So that climate change
3 would be an ideal base discussion to start with, and I
4 would suggest at the invitation of Barrow we take that
5 offer and have the Feds charter us to Barrow.

6
7 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Walter. That
8 was the first discussion that they had was either to have
9 it either at Kotzebue or Barrow or Nome while Nome was
10 still there at the time. Right now Nome is meeting on
11 September 21 and 22 on Page 10 of your meeting book, but
12 still the invitation will still be given to them, because
13 North Slope asked to invite them again. And if they
14 would want to change their meeting to meet with you if it
15 was approved.

16
17 I forgot what else I was going to say.
18 It will come back while you're discussing it.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

23
24 MR. SAMPSON: Barb, I know there's some
25 other meetings that are occurring, Wrangell, Cantwell,
26 Aniak and the Yukon, because those meetings are done by
27 other coordinators. Would the change of date from the
28 recommendation on the 23rd, 24th August, would it affect
29 if we could change it to later in September.

30
31 MS. ATORUK: Walter. Mr. Chair. Yeah,
32 it would, because of the whaling season of North Slope.
33 The whaling season up there starts the first two weeks of
34 September. And the other reason why I think the
35 Anchorage Staff has suggested that if this meeting should
36 happen, that it would happen in Anchorage, because of the
37 staff problem. There would be, there would be the Staff
38 for Northwest Arctic, the Staff for North Slope, and then
39 there's the Staff for Seward Pen. And the Staff would
40 already all be there in Anchorage. And then we would try
41 to pull all the Council members in to come in. And then
42 to meet, if it should happen, to meet on August 23rd to
43 discuss everything that needs to be discussed between
44 whatever topics you guys have. Right now it's like the
45 share resources, or the global warming would be discussed
46 all day on the 23rd, and then you divide out to three
47 different meetings on the 24th.

48
49 And this has happened before. The ones
50 that have been on the Council before, I think Pete has,

1 back when we had a tri-Council meeting in Anchorage, and
2 we had it at Day's Inn conference room, but we had it all
3 in one day, all in two days, and then just had each
4 Council. Then the other Council sat in to watch to see
5 how each Council operated or ran their own meetings. And
6 then that was also helpful at the time, like an
7 orientation. But this time they're discussing that the
8 23rd, if it should happen, everybody meets together and
9 discuss whatever topics that they want to discuss,
10 including global warming. And then divide out the next
11 day to have their own meetings happen.

12

13 Thank you, sir.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Do we have
16 any idea when school may be starting in the region.
17 August usually is the set date for school. I don't know
18 when in August though.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah. Well, I don't
21 know the exact date, but I think it's usually towards the
22 end of August. Probably the latter part of the third
23 week or the fourth week. But I don't know.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: What about the following
26 week, the week of the 28th. Would there be any problems
27 with those dates?

28

29 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think we probably
30 ought to kick it around with the North Slope primarily,
31 because, you know, if we interrupt their fall hunting,
32 they won't be very happy.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So perhaps our
37 coordinator can get some dates suggested by the North
38 Slope and that we work from there to see if it's okay
39 with us and then we work with the Bering Straits Region
40 to see if that's acceptable as well. But I think the
41 meeting will happen; is that correct?

42

43 MS. ATORUK: Well, right now it's still
44 up in the air. It has to go through our ARD for
45 approval, and the Federal Board had approved it, and so
46 it's up to our -- before it should happen or I should
47 start anything, this will be heard by Mr. Probasco, and
48 if he approved of the tri-Council, then it will go
49 forward. I will be back on-line, on email and phone call
50 to Ray, to be talking to you about this meeting.

1 And the reason why I think Seward Pen was
2 setting up their own meeting date to begin with was
3 because I think that's when their moose season, moose
4 hunting season happens around that time. So maybe they
5 even move it further back, even into October.

6
7 But then the other thing, the other
8 option we have is that they always only allow two
9 meetings per week because of Staff travel. And then
10 that's why there have just been two meetings per week.
11 But I can talk to the Chair. Right now it's Mike Quinn,
12 and Weaver is still recovering from his stroke and is
13 into a lot of therapies right now. So I will discuss
14 with them and get back with you, and then keep in touch
15 with you to see what happens.

16
17 MR. SAMPSON: I'm sorry. Who's ARD?

18
19 MS. ATORUK: The ARD for OSM is Pete
20 Probasco, and his deputy is Polly Wheeler.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: I think, Mr. Chairman, one
23 thing we ought to bring to the Regional Office attention
24 is that if we've been created under a certain section of
25 Federal law, and we're asking for meetings, we don't have
26 to go out begging for dollars for meetings. If they want
27 to control this very body in regards to when we can meet
28 or why we can't meet, then maybe we ought to change how
29 we have the system set up.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, that's why I
32 asked the question previously is that we need to know if
33 this is going to be a reality, and as soon as possible.

34
35 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. I think the main
36 reason that Mr. Probasco was questioning this is because
37 of the dollars. And as you know or have heard, the
38 dollars are falling off from every which way direction.
39 So that might be one of his main reasons.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
46 maybe the message ought to go to the Regional Office
47 folks that there shouldn't be an issue in regards to
48 dollars. If the Federal system is able to hire
49 helicopters to go out tickle the flowers during
50 summertimes, there's no reason why we can't have a

1 meeting that would provide for an opportunity to look at
2 resources that would the folks in the two regions. And
3 that's what ought to be the basis of argument to making
4 sure that there's dollars in place. I mean, the Federal
5 system spends a lot of money taking a look at plots out
6 in the boonies in regards to how much grasses grow and
7 this sort of thing. That ought to be secondary to what
8 we're trying to do as a Regional Advisory Council,
9 because it is important.

10

11 If it's such that we address this to the
12 Federal Board, then let's do that.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you. Chuck.

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I understand
17 the concerns. We'll bring it back to the office. I do
18 want to point out that there are many pots of oney, an
19 the helicopter money comes from a different pot than our
20 money comes from. So I will make sure your concern is
21 brought back to the ARD, and we'll see what we can do.
22 You know, there's no promises, but I will make sure that
23 your concerns are noted.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Well,
26 thank you. And I think in addition to global warming, we
27 also need to discuss other issues and in particular the
28 fact that with what happened with the caribou last fall.
29 It's kind of like in the grapevine that the commercial
30 hunters won't even start until either September or even
31 close to mid September, which presents a real problem in
32 that the caribou are not going to be changing their run
33 time, and the concentration of commercial hunters, I
34 think everybody pretty has come to the conclusion that it
35 has significant impact on the caribou migration, whether
36 it's anecdotal, short of scientific information, which
37 takes a long time to verify.

38

39 So I would say that along with global
40 warming, the other impacts are the timings of certain
41 types of hunts, because I think we've had not only the
42 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, but we've also
43 had a Caribou User Conflict Working Group as well with
44 the Board of Game Chair, Federal Subsistence Board Chair,
45 along with a numerous amount of other members that in my
46 personal opinion has not accomplished very much despite
47 horsepower of that group.

48

49 I think part of the issue is that we made
50 the decision early on to work by consensus, but it's

1 pretty hard to use consensus when something disagreeable
2 as whether hunt for meat is more important than hunt for
3 sport is an issue, or whether the timing is such that
4 since there is a Federal law that pertains to a rural
5 preference, unfortunately that kind of deviated from a
6 Native preference somewhere along the line, but we're
7 having to live with the fact that there are no more equal
8 access issues in terms of the Native hunter, because
9 we're pretty much confined to the river, waterways, and
10 that the commercial hunters have the access by aircraft
11 and whatever other means that gives them more of an
12 advantage for access. And that was supposedly
13 constitutionally protected by the Alaska Constitution,
14 but unfortunately you add politics to that factor, and,
15 of course, you're going to be spending more time trying
16 to figure that out than you are going to be getting any
17 meaningful action.

18

19 So I would say that we try to do our best
20 to create this meeting, because I think it's necessary,
21 because what we're talking about is a way of life when
22 the caribou issue is such that people cannot meet their
23 needs for meat, as well as some of the other parts of the
24 caribou for the traditional celebrations that happen
25 during Thanksgiving and Christmas. That's a cultural way
26 of live, and I think that the Feds are obligated to
27 protect it.

28

29 Barb.

30

31 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. If I'm
32 able to talk to Seward Pen, and then they have their
33 meeting date set for September 21 and 22, and if they
34 should agree, would you be willing to make it flexible to
35 move down to September 21 and 22 for that date, and then
36 talking to North Slope to see if they'd be willing to
37 move down for September 21 and 22, too?

38

39 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think whatever it
40 takes, go ahead and pursue it.

41

42 MS. ATORUK: Okay. I'll do that. And
43 I'll be in touch with you. And even if we do move down
44 to September 21 and 22, and North Slope does want to meet
45 down there, and then Seward Pen still do not want to
46 meet, we'll just keep -- we could just keep those dates,
47 but that will just be in the air, and then we'll be
48 discussing, I'll be in touch with you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay.

1 MS. ATORUK: All right. Thank you. Now
2 to your.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Any more
5 discussion on the next meeting date.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Hearing none, we'll
10 go to the next subject.

11
12 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Barb.

15
16 MS. ATORUK: You have your winter 2012.
17 And it's on Page 11 of your meeting book. We're setting
18 like our year ahead again. We're back in that track
19 where we set our meeting dates a year ahead. And for so
20 far right now today, we have February 14 and 15th for
21 Seward Pen. Then North Slope requested February 15 and
22 16th. There's only -- has to be two meetings per week.
23 So North Slope has February 15 and 16. This is not
24 marked on your calendar. And then for the week of the
25 19th, we have February 23 and 24 is Y-K Delta. And then
26 we have February 28 and 29 we have Western Interior. And
27 March 2 and 3 for Eastern Interior. We have March 5 and
28 6, Bristol Bay. We have week of March 11 and week of
29 March 18 open. And we have the week of February 20, only
30 one Council is meeting that week, and the week of March
31 4, there's only one Council meeting that week. So any
32 one of those four weeks is open for your request for your
33 meeting.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

38
39 MR. SAMPSON: March seems to be working
40 good. Maybe we ought to take a look at March 7 and 8 or
41 14 and 15.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any other
44 suggestions. Which date would be preferable to any of
45 you.

46
47 MR. SHIEDT: About the same time we have
48 it. The 18th is okay with me, because I don't know who's
49 in that church conference, I'm not, but if we try to have
50 it at the same time as the church conference, you know,

1 I'm not into it, so it won't bother me if conflict the
2 dates. Unless Barbara want to go.

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe, yeah, we ought to
7 leave that to coordinator and take a look at 7 and 14 and
8 15, see which one of the two dates work better.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Vic.

11

12 MR. KARMUN: Yeah. Usually in March,
13 doesn't the NANA regional corporation have their annual
14 meeting also?

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: It would probably --
17 probably is the 12th.

18

19 MS. ATORUK: They have their meetings
20 like March 12. Probably around about March 12, so 7 and
21 8 would be good.

22

23 MR. STONEY: Yeah, I remember that
24 quarterly meeting is always in March.

25

26 MS. ATORUK: Yeah.

27

28 MR. SHIEDT: Why don't we look at March
29 7 and 8 and see what happen, just as an opening date?

30

31 MS. ATORUK: Or if you want earlier,
32 there's the week of February.....

33

34 REPORTER: Barbara.

35

36 MS. ATORUK: Oh, I'm sorry. The week of
37 February 19 is open, too, if you guys want to stay away
38 from March. There's February 21 and 22, or 22 or 23. Or
39 the same time, 23 and 24.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, I think we're
42 leaning towards March 7 and 8. I that okay with the
43 Council.

44

45 (Council nods affirmatively)

46

47 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. All right.
48 Is that the end of the subject. All right. Thanks.

49

50 MS. ATORUK: Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Now we go to
2 the next subject, charter review, and whenever you're
3 ready.

4
5 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. That's on Page
6 12 of your meeting books. And most of you know that we
7 do this every two years, just to come and review and see
8 if there are any changes that you want to do, and we
9 discussed this earlier.

10
11 And the changes that you are responsible
12 for is, of course, the name change of your Council, the
13 number of your members in the region. Right now
14 Northwest Arctic has 10. And the removal criteria of
15 your Council members for non-attendance or whatever
16 reason. And I think those are the main reasons why you
17 -- and if there are no changes that you are requesting at
18 this time, that's all I have.

19
20 Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

23
24 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. It's clear
25 under the Charter that, you know, if we have any issues,
26 any problems with the Regional Office, we address some of
27 those issues to the Federal Board, because that's what it
28 says under official to whom the Council reports. The
29 Council report to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair
30 who's appointed by the Secretary of Interior. So if we
31 have some issues in regards to finding dollars for
32 additional meetings, then we bring that to the Chair.
33 It's clear.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Vic.

36
37 MR. KARMUN: Yeah. Reading this charter,
38 there's no provisions for a couple of alternates if and
39 when maybe the membership falls short and can't get a
40 quorum going. I would still like to see the addition of
41 a couple of alternates if possible.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Barb.

44
45 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Victor.
46 That is in discussion right now, because a lot of other
47 Councils are also asking about alternates. And so far
48 right now Northwest Arctic is only have one vacant seat,
49 and are doing well with Northwest Arctic. But then they
50 ask to see what other Councils would like alternates, I

1 did mention Northwest Arctic and North Slope, both the
2 regions that I'm working I'm working with.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Mike.

7

8 MR. KARMUN: I would also like to see if
9 we can add a few seats from our youth within our region.
10 Due to the fact that they are our future, and it would be
11 good to educate them now in our process for subsistence.
12 And I think it would be a great idea also to include our
13 youth. I think there should be a membership process with
14 a membership for them, and jus the exact same process
15 that we have to go through. Let them be in high school.

16

17 You know, we are getting older, and I
18 think it would be great to involve our youth in our
19 process here.

20

21 That's all I've got.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Mike.

24 Someone in the audience?

25

26 Barb.

27

28 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. Mike. We did
29 also discuss that, and because we had so many problems
30 with North Slope, some of the villages having any
31 representatives, and then they had two young hunters that
32 are still in high school that knew all the resources,
33 kept up with all the paperwork and reading, and then up
34 to a T. But then it was keeping them away from school,
35 that the IRA in one of the villages up there backed off
36 in putting the two high school kids to apply for the
37 Council membership, to be on the Council. So that could
38 be a problem if this should come up, but that is a good
39 reason what we need to do.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah. Well, they
44 probably should be four hours instead of three, reading,
45 writing, arithmetic, and regulations, you know. It's
46 amazing that there's no natural resource classes that I
47 know of, that really is a shame. I know years ago the
48 Tech Center used to have a natural resources course that
49 kind of disappeared due to lack of participation. And
50 you'd think that, you know, something like that would be

1 happening in our schools, which I think some of us
2 finally noticed that we're getting really old, because
3 we've been in -- kind of our noses in the books for so
4 many years, that we never really stopped to notice.

5
6 And I appreciate your suggestion, Mike.
7 Somehow I think we need to figure out how to combine
8 natural resources with what goes on in the schools. I
9 know that one example is Charlotte Rusting had been
10 trying to do a hunting class, and I think that it kind of
11 got started and then, you know, things started to happen,
12 like summer was coming and all that kind of things, and
13 it just never really sailed.

14
15 So that probably ought to be something to
16 consider in some way.

17
18 Any other comments.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I like that
21 idea, too. Even if we can't get them to sit on our
22 Board, you know, we have those kids go out to go
23 collaring and doing some stuff with different agencies in
24 our region. Maybe an invitation for, you know, even if
25 it's in Kotzebue or wherever we can, to have them come
26 and see way ahead of time that we're having this meeting,
27 and come and be part of the good experience that we're
28 going through, because some day these kids, you know,
29 will be having to manage our resources for us.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah. And I think
32 nobody really noticed as to how mobile this younger
33 generation has gotten with, you know, the snow machines
34 and all that kind of stuff. So I think maybe it's more
35 a matter of trying to work with the school district to
36 see if something can be offered, you know, within that
37 system, because for all practical purposes, you know,
38 some of those young people are not really connected to
39 their Inupiat heritage, and I think some of them go out
40 and hunt and not even -- I mean, take a rifle and not
41 even take a sled, that kind of thing, which is not a very
42 pretty sight to see, because, you know, you carry a
43 rifle, it's clearly an intent to go do something.

44
45 So I wouldn't know what to suggest other
46 than trying to take a look at what's going on within the
47 school district to see if that could be an offering in
48 some form to, you know, have them get credit for showing
49 up here, because I think this is a far more important
50 schooling than sitting down and doing algebra. I mean,

1 no criticism of math or nothing, but I think that it's
2 something that really needs to happen.

3

4 Go ahead.

5

6 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I know
7 other Regional Advisory Councils have had classes some
8 to their meetings, and get involved, you know. The
9 Council Chair will ask the students what their opinions
10 are, and take them from the classes, and I think it's
11 done through the school district. I'm not sure how it's
12 been set up, but I know Western Interior has had students
13 come multiple times to listen and learn about the
14 process.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
17 you. Attamuk.

18

19 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Maybe on the student
20 thing, it's interesting, and it's a good idea. Maybe our
21 school board and our superintendent will see it different
22 and slow. Maybe we could go talk to them first, see if
23 they're willing to open the doors for students to come in
24 and listen and sit. We could start from the
25 superintendent and go see the school board after that.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Ray.

28

29 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman, it's like I
30 said, that I've seen for a number of years now
31 enforcement taking caribou, they sell it, you know,
32 people that go into school from quite a few other
33 villages now, and this is coming to a point where the are
34 very interested in fish and wildlife. A number of calls,
35 the numbers come in, and they're learning what we are
36 doing in the last 25 years. It's a big help for the
37 students that that goes unreported, and then they take
38 the caribou themselves. I was so proud of the State
39 doing that for them, it's a big help for them.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ray.
42 Barb.

43

44 MS. ATORUK: Mr. Chair. So with
45 Attamuk's suggestion, do you want me to work with the
46 superintendent or the school board to see, in writing a
47 letter to them and asking to see if there would be some
48 student participants at your meetings.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think that's part

1 of it, and then perhaps look at other Regional Councils
2 to see what they may be doing in trying to get their
3 younger generation to participate.

4

5 MS. ATORUK: Okay. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

8

9 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Pete, under the
10 career, the school lets some students go out from school
11 early to work in our local stores to try to advance them
12 in their career, so under career, I think it's possible.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. So is that
15 satisfactory to the Council, to have Barb, our
16 coordinator contact the school district and see what we
17 can do.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Okay.
22 Walter. That's a good suggestion.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. So with the
27 consensus of the Council, Barb will do that.

28

29 Any further discussion on the charter
30 review.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Let's take a 15-
35 minute recess.

36

37 (Off record)

38

39 (On record)

40

41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. We need to
42 call this meeting back to order. I've been advised that
43 Item 10 is no longer needed, so we'll just scratch Item
44 10 off and go directly to Item 11.

45

46 The call for proposals to change Federal
47 subsistence wildlife regulations. And the proposal
48 deadline is March 24 of this year. As a matter of fact,
49 of this month.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Six days.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So the floor is open
4 for discussion. And I'd like to advise the public that
5 at any time you feel you need to participate, just let me
6 know.
7
8 Walter.
9
10 MR. SAMPSON: If I may, I guess I would
11 like to ask maybe Chuck or someone to update us in
12 regards to what's in the books in regards to the bear
13 claw handicraft regs for Unit 23, and what it is for
14 North Slope or what the State may have in regards to
15 their regs?
16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Give me a second. I have
18 to find them in the book myself.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah, take your
21 time.
22
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. Do the
24 Council members have the Federal regulations booklets by
25 chance.
26
27 MR. SAMPSON: Yes, we have.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah, we've got it
30 here somewhere.
31 MR. ARDIZZONE: I can read it; it's not
32 very long.
33
34 MR. SHIEDT: What page. Just say the
35 page.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So on Page 18.
38 There's two columns, and it's the bottom column there I
39 believe. Let's see. Okay. Actually it's on Page 19
40 when it refers to bears. It says, the skin, hide, pelt
41 or fur of black bear in Units 1 through 5, you may sell
42 handicrafts made from articles of the skin, hide, pelt,
43 fur, claws, bones, teeth, sinew or skulls of a black bear
44 taken in Units 1, 2, 3, and 5. And then it goes on to
45 talk about brown bears in Units 1 through 5, 9A through
46 C, 9E, 12, 17, 20, 22, 23, and 24, 25 and 26.
47
48 MR. SAMPSON: So we're just.....
49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: So you're included. You

1 can actually sell handicrafts made with brown claws and
2 parts.

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Is there an issue in
5 regards to the bladder issue as part of the bear.

6

7 MR. ARDIZZONE: At this time I do not
8 believe under our regulations you can sell the bladder or
9 the gall bladder at all.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. The reason why I'm
12 asking is, you know, once these younger kids find out
13 there is a provision for that, then you're going to see
14 younger kids going out and doing exactly what -- to make
15 a quick dollar, and that's why I'm asking.

16

17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Oh, if the gall bladder
18 was?

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah.

21

22 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. And it's not
23 allowed at this time.

24

25 And, Mr. Chair, there is a meeting today.
26 There's a brown bear working group addressing the sale of
27 handicrafts with brown bear claws attached. I'm not sure
28 what the status of that is, but they are working together
29 to try and coming up with a proposal to go before the
30 Board for this wildlife cycle.

31

32 MR. SAMPSON: Can we get a comparison in
33 regards to what the State has.

34

35 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think Mr. Pappas here
36 can speak to what the State has.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead.

39

40 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
41 George Pappas, Department of Fish and Game. Under State
42 regulations it's not legal to sell brown bear claws.
43 Under State regulations.

44

45 And to reiterate what Mr. Ardizzone said
46 here, the work group, the Brown Bear Handicraft Claws
47 Work Group, was formed in response to a Department
48 proposal asking for tracking and reporting from the
49 Federal Subsistence Program. The different RACs
50 involved, interested in the process, have representatives

1 on that work group. They started I believe at 10:00
2 o'clock this morning to try to come up with consensus on
3 a way to protect both the subsistence user and the
4 population of brown bears as a whole. And that would be
5 only for Federal subsistence qualified users.

6

7 Mr. Chair. Mr. Sampson.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead, Walt.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Can you reiterate the issue
12 in regards to the justification of why the State of
13 Alaska is not consistent with what the Federal regs are?

14

15 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Sampson.
16 I'll do my best to remember. During the formation of the
17 proposal that went to the Federal Subsistence Board,
18 there was concerns about illegal harvest, not tracking or
19 have an idea of where the claws were coming from or going
20 to. There was concerns about export of handicrafts from
21 the State into like the European Union, since the brown
22 bears are CITES listed, even though we do have a fair
23 amount of -- actually a very healthy population of brown
24 bears in Alaska, in a lot of the other worlds, they are
25 listed as threatened, and transport of claws back and
26 forth across the borders is now illegal unless you have
27 some type of CITES certification. That's part of the
28 process they're trying to come to a conclusion with
29 during this Brown Bear Claw Working Group.

30

31 But why the State of Alaska doesn't allow
32 it, I don't have that information in front of me. I will
33 find that out for you. During a break I'll borrow a cell
34 phone.

35

36 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: Who is CITES or what is
39 CITES?

40

41 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. Mr. Sampson.
42 Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Ray.

47

48 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 You know that one question we say about the entire brown
50 bear, because we all know that even local people know

1 that the commercial operators, of course, have a number
2 of regulations when I know we don't have any separations
3 or not. But when we're going bear hunting, it's
4 happening. The commercial operators, you know, they do
5 got a number of clients out in the field, and, of course,
6 you know, they harvest grizzly bear. And then the thing
7 I noticed a number of years now that the client would
8 just harvest the brown bear, just take the claws and the
9 skin and head and leave the meat.

10

11 I would like to hear, make it real clear,
12 is that legal to do that?

13

14 MR. PAPPAS: Let me bring Mr. Magdanz to
15 the table, sir.

16

17 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, for brown bear
18 there's two hunts, and there's a hunt that requires
19 salvage of the hide and the skull and there's a second
20 hunt that requires salvage of the meat. And so a hunter
21 may choose whether to harvest in the meat hunt or
22 registration subsistence hunt or whether to participate
23 in the general hunt that only requires trophy salvage.

24

25 So it is legal to leave brown bear meat
26 in the field and salvage the hide and the skull only.
27 They have to be sealed after they've been harvested if
28 they don't salvage the meat.

29

30 MR. STONEY: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: More discussion.

33

34 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: To ahead.

37

38 MR. ARDIZZONE: Just to be clear under
39 Federal subsistence regulations edible meat of a brown
40 bear must be harvested or taken out of the field. So
41 there is a difference between State and Federal
42 regulations.

43

44 And then also, Mr. Chair, Mr. Towarak
45 just mentioned that North Slope did change brown bear
46 regulations or put in a proposal to change brown bear
47 regulations to align seasons up there, just for your
48 information.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Walter.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Two questions to Chuck I
2 guess. Maybe if Arctic Slope folks are looking at that,
3 making a change to align the seasons, are our regulations
4 aligned with -- or do we need to make a recommendation to
5 a recommendation to make those changes.

6
7 MR. ARDIZZONE: Through the Chair. Mr.
8 Sampson. The State just recently changed the brown bear
9 season in the North Slope, so I think all they were doing
10 was aligning. I think our season here is the same.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. As a biologist, do
13 you have any recommendation or is there any issues that
14 we need to look at in regards to resources were we need
15 to make any proposals for changes.

16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Through the Chair. At
18 this time I'm not aware of any issues for this region.
19 However, we do have that closure review we have to look
20 at, and I will be looking for a recommendation from the
21 Regional Council if they want to maintain that closure or
22 not, but that comes up next.

23
24 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Good. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Further discussion
27 on this subject. Go ahead.

28
29 MR. PAPPAS: One other item. The
30 question was asked about Department allowing the sale of
31 claws. The only exception on the State side is during
32 the defense of life and property auction in Anchorage
33 every year. They do sell bear hides. They auction them
34 to the public, including the claws, of animals that were
35 illegally taken defense of life and property, but the
36 regulations prohibit the resale of the claws. Once you
37 buy the animal, it's sealed. It's yours. You can't part
38 it up and resell its parts.

39
40 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any other questions
43 or comments.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Barb, under Item 11,
48 is there anything in particular we needed to cover.

49
50 MS. ATORUK: No, unless you have any

1 proposals that you can think of on wildlife that you need
2 to bring forward. That's just a reminder that the
3 proposal season is open until March 24.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
8 you.

9
10 I just want to let the Counsel know that
11 there are several processes already in place that are
12 still working toward either the development of
13 regulations, or some review of policy pertaining to
14 mostly caribou.

15
16 As I said in my earlier discussion that
17 the Caribou User Conflict Working Group has been dealing
18 with the problem in terms of local hunters and how we are
19 going to be trying to and have tried to develop some
20 agreeable process so that local hunters can meet their
21 needs in terms of trying to get some of the animals.
22 Unfortunately or fortunately for others, they're the same
23 targets for most of the sporthunters that want to get,
24 you know, the biggest rack they can find and that kind of
25 stuff.

26
27 And I think one of the advantages to that
28 User conflict Working Group has been the opportunity to
29 let the transporters know the depth and breadth of the
30 problems that we face in terms of what happens when
31 caribou don't show either by cause of human or weather or
32 just the idea that caribou have their own little brain
33 and go where they please whenever they please.

34
35 And I think some of the local hunters
36 have also noted that with the influx of the reindeer into
37 the caribou, they seem to be behaving somewhat
38 differently now. And the facts of life are that in some
39 fall hunts it's noted that where there are reindeer
40 present, that they tend to rut earlier. And so, in fact,
41 I think the other thing is that they birth earlier, too,
42 in the spring.

43
44 And then the other part of life is
45 dealing with the fixed calendar issue in terms of how and
46 then the regulations are in effect, which seems to be a
47 real problem in terms of trying adjust local hunting and
48 trying to meet their needs in what they need to get.

49
50 So what I'm saying is that we in our next

1 meeting may forward some proposals that may emerge from
2 either the Caribou Conflict Working Group or through the
3 process of the Advisory Committee meetings. And I think
4 the interface now is the opportunity to try to interface
5 some of the local concerns into either the Federal
6 Subsistence Board management or to the Board of Game,
7 Board of Fish processes. So that's kind of like a work
8 in progress. And I think until we get there, we're kind
9 of like waiting and watching to see what may be
10 recommended as far as any proposals that may, you know,
11 come about.

12
13 Anyway, any further discussion on this
14 subject.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Just for
19 notification for the Council, I think we'll probably like
20 go for about another hour and then break for about an
21 hour and a half, and then resume the meeting at 1:00
22 o'clock or thereabouts, depending on where we are on the
23 agenda. Just to let you know.

24
25 Okay. If that's the extent of the
26 discussion of Item 11, we'll go to Item 12, And that's
27 the Wildlife closure review and Council recommendations.
28 Chuck.

29
30 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. Mr. Chair. Excuse
31 me.

32
33 On page 15 there's a written briefing on
34 wildlife closure reviews. I'm not going to read the
35 whole thing. Basically the Board has a policy.....

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: What page is that.

38
39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Pardon me?

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: What page is that.

42
43 MR. ARDIZZONE: Page 15. I'm sorry. So
44 basically the Board has a policy to review closures every
45 three years based on there could be changes to the
46 wildlife population, or it could be changes to
47 subsistence uses. So the Board wants us to look at
48 closure reviews every three years.

49
50 This review that we're going to look at

1 today was last reviewed in 2006. The review will contain
2 a brief history of why the closure was implemented, a
3 summary of the current resource condition, and a
4 preliminary from OSM as to whether the closure should be
5 lifted or be retained.

6
7 The Councils are asked to consider the
8 OSM preliminary recommendation and share their views on
9 the issue. Any regulatory proposals that may result from
10 this review process will be considered through the normal
11 regulatory cycle. And proposals addressing this issue
12 can come from anyone, the Regional Advisory Council,
13 individual or any organization.

14
15 And the review we're going to look at
16 today is, excuse me, found on Page 16 -- or, excuse me,
17 Page 20. And the closure policy is also in your book
18 starting on Page 16 which is there for your reference.
19 We don't need to go through that, but for reference
20 materials, the closure policy is included in the book.

21
22 So as I said, today we only have one
23 closure review, and I guess maybe I should stop there,
24 because I think that would be C. I don't want to get too
25 far on your agenda if you have questions

26
27 MR. SAMPSON: Now the -- I'm sorry, Pete.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead, Walter.

30
31 MR. SAMPSON: The closure review that
32 you're looking at under WCR10-27, is that based on some
33 problems with the muskox issue or is it something other
34 than the decline or problems with muskox?

35
36 MR. ARDIZZONE: The original closure was
37 set in place because we had a small quota for muskox in
38 that area, and actually I think it's one of your ANILCA
39 .804 where the user pool got reduced to only two families
40 near the Krusenstern National Monument.

41
42 So it's kind of a resource issue. The
43 resource numbers are low. We want to make sure there was
44 some subsistence use of that resource, so we limited it
45 down to a couple families so they could actually harvest
46 muskox.

47
48 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think the other

1 issue is some of the animals have become a significant
2 nuisance in terms of their being kind of like an opposite
3 wild animal, where they frequent camps and become a real
4 problem in terms of having to shoo them away from either
5 the camps or interrupting berry picking activities or
6 some other gathering types of activities that
7 traditionally happen.

8

9 I know that a couple of years ago we had
10 brought up the issue to the Park Service here in Kotzebue
11 as perhaps an enforcement issue or what to do with those
12 animals.

13

14 And in talking to people like Cyrus
15 Harris that live there during the summer, I guess some
16 animals when they get accustomed [sic] to going to
17 camps and becoming a nuisance kind of take that as a
18 career of their own and, you know, continue to do that
19 kind of thing. It seems like it's getting harder and
20 harder to chase them away. They become used to even
21 gunfire in some cases.

22

23 So along with the closure, is there
24 anything that can be done in terms of trying to get some
25 relief for the problem and how those animals sometimes
26 frequent certain camps.

27

28 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, this closure only
29 applies to the Monument, and I'm not sure if the camps
30 are in the monument or not. They are?

31

32 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah.

33

34 MR. ARDIZZONE: We don't have -- give me
35 a second to think about it. And can I have Ken Adkisson
36 come up here, because he might be able to help me out a
37 little bit.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah, he's right
40 behind you.

41

42 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
43 members. The original closure actually was helped
44 developed with the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource
45 Commission. And as has been indicated, because of the
46 relatively small number of animals at the time, and the
47 low allowable harvest, that, you know, that's what
48 precipitated the .804.

49

50 Now, the issue of whether the animals are

1 increasing substantially, and we'll have some more
2 information on that later -- in fact, they're just
3 completing a new count.

4
5 But as far as human/animal interactions,
6 you know, the Federal Program really doesn't really have
7 a defense of life and property provision. That's really
8 a State thing that allows you to take animals in the
9 defense of life and property. We have had reports of
10 nuisance animals before in the vicinity of people, and
11 we've expended a fair amount of effort to keep tabs on
12 those animals and see where they're going, or in some
13 cases we've actually worked to try to haze them away, you
14 know, from people's area.

15
16 Probably that's going to be an on-going
17 issue. And a good place to probably bring that up would
18 be within the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource
19 Commission, and see if we can work something through
20 there.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter and then
23 Attamuk.

24
25 MR. SAMPSON: I guess I don't why are we
26 dependent on the State of Alaska on these issues? I
27 mean, can't we come out with a piece of regulation that
28 would reflect the Federal res rather than having to
29 depend on the State? I mean, you have State of Alaska
30 that is not in compliance with ANILCA, but yet the
31 allowance of dependency is on them.

32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. We do have
34 some defense of life and property regulations in place,
35 but they don't address muskox, they address grizzly
36 bears, black bears, wolverines, coyotes, and so I guess
37 that could be changed. I'm not sure what the State
38 allows under their harvest, but on Page 19 of our reg
39 book, it addresses just those species I just mentioned.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

42
43 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Walter, we're in the
44 Federal and State -- I mean, mostly Federal lands in our
45 area. We should be able to set our own.

46
47 I'll give you an example, what Pete
48 mentioned. Yes, I was there when Cyrus was there when a
49 muskox went after a kid trying to pick berries. And we
50 could hear him hollering, and we couldn't get there fast

1 enough, and yet we tried to take this muskox away. He
2 wouldn't leave, because I think due to the feed. That's
3 solican (ph). So there was more than one kid. They were
4 lucky. And I tell you one thing, if this kid wasn't
5 running, he would have get run over by this muskox. This
6 is just for his own safety. And I think they will come
7 back again, because they know it's there finally.

8
9 I don't know what happened to that
10 muskox. I didn't see it any more. A blessing to
11 someone.

12
13 And it was scary. I see it, I tried to
14 chase it a couple of times. Cyrus did. And it would not
15 move.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Ray.

18
19 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 That's one thing not only me, but there's a lot of people
21 concerned with muskox. The regulations between the State
22 and the Federal are different. If I live in a area down
23 here, like over at Cape Krusenstern or elsewhere around
24 Buckland, and if I wanted to hunt muskox, of course, I
25 had to be issued a permit. Now, I have noticed now, for
26 example, just like at Cape Krusenstern, if there is a
27 muskox within, I don't know, 100 feet near a house and
28 it's a closed area, and now you have to go 50 miles in
29 order to get a muskox.

30
31 Why can't they make the regulations,
32 change it to one regulations. Just get muskox, don't
33 worry about the Federal or State land. That's a
34 confusing thing. Like I say, if you want a muskox, if I
35 want one, I'll have to go 50 miles away if there's one
36 right next door to my house. I think to me that doesn't
37 make any sense at all. Is there a reason for that.

38
39 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I guess all
40 I can say is ANILCA applies to Federal lands. And we
41 can't preempt State jurisdiction on State lands. And so
42 if you're going to harvest under Federal regulations, it
43 has to be on Federal lands. And that's about all I can
44 say.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: But then that would
47 mean that defense of life and property would have to go
48 the State route before we do anything on the Federal
49 side?

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: The regulations in our
2 booklet, our handy-dandy, do speak to defense of life and
3 property, surrender to the State immediately, so I think
4 it's deferring to State regulations for DLPs. But if you
5 give me a second, I can look in the CFRs and see --
6 actually I don't have them with me. I can check on that
7 at a break. But maybe this is a proposal you'd like to
8 put in is a defense of life and property to include
9 muskox on the Federal side.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think you
12 have some State representatives here that could probably
13 address that issue if there's a question.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Who wants to try
16 that. Jim. Thank you, Ken.

17

18 MR. MAGDANZ: So I'm not sure exactly
19 what the question is.

20

21 REPORTER: Microphone.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think the question
24 is where does the authority lie, and who initiates like
25 say the inclusion of muskoxen into defense of life and
26 property, and to maybe discuss some of the regs that
27 apply to it, including the surrender of meat. I mean,
28 where does it start?

29

30 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, I guess the first
31 place it would start would be just who owns the land
32 where the DLP occurs, so that if it occurs on State land,
33 then the State would apply. If it occurs on Federal
34 lands.....

35

36 MR. PAPPAS: The State regs apply.

37

38 MR. MAGDANZ: The State regs apply. And
39 then Mr. Pappas mentioned this to me, too, that DLP per
40 se is not a subsistence use. So defense of life and
41 property is not a listed use for subsistence.
42 Subsistence uses are consumption, family and personal
43 consumption, consumption or making of arts and
44 handicrafts and those things. But DLP is not a
45 subsistence use.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: I guess what we're trying
50 to do, Jim, is just trying to get clarity in regards the

1 process of how DLP would start. I mean, if it's within
2 Cape Krusenstern, within somebody else's Native
3 allotment. And a prime example is kids trying to pick
4 some berries and stuff like that. The process that's in
5 place, that would allow for taking care of the muskox.

6
7 MR. MAGDANZ: On an allotment, that would
8 be State regulations, so it would be under the State
9 rules. And as far as I know, muskox can be taken DLP
10 under State regulations.

11
12 George, is that incorrect?

13
14 MR. PAPPAS: Yeah, that is correct.

15
16 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, George and I agree on
17 that matter, so on an allotment an individual could take
18 a muskox in DLP. He would call our office, and we would
19 fill out a report on the DLP and then we would advise the
20 hunter on how to dispose of the meat, and we usually
21 instruct them to share it or take it to the senior center
22 or something like that.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

25
26 MR. SHIEDT: So in a case like the
27 example last summer where, you know, it's attacked two
28 different kids at two different times within a few hours,
29 so under emergency cases, to protect the people, can we
30 just go ahead and get it, because it was getting
31 aggressive.

32
33 MR. MAGDANZ: It says in the regs here,
34 you may kill game animal, and that includes muskox, in
35 defense of life or property if you did not provoke the
36 attack or cause a problem by negligently leaving human
37 food/animal food, and that would be mostly bears that
38 that would apply, not muskox. So, yes, on an allotment
39 or on State-managed land, you may take a muskox in
40 defense of life or property, and just simply report it to
41 us and we'll do the paperwork and tell you what to do
42 with the meat.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

45
46 MR. SAMPSON: So when that occurs, how is
47 the meat taken care of? Does the State come to pick it
48 up or what happens?

49
50 MR. MAGDANZ: That would depend on the

1 circumstances. I think usually the hunter would be asked
2 to deliver it to whatever we decided they should with it,
3 whether it's the senior center or distributed to camps at
4 Sisualik or, you know, just what the disposition is.
5 We'd work with the hunter to deal with that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah. Well, it
8 reminds of one instance, Clifford Weyanna sending an
9 entire grizzly bear in gunnysacks to Nome to comply with
10 what he thought was the regulation at the time, so, you
11 know, nine gunnysacks later, here was the bear in its
12 entirety.

13

14 MR. MAGDANZ: It was freight collect,
15 too.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Ray.

20

21 MR. STONEY: You know, that Jayla, I've
22 noticed a number of years in my work that one individual,
23 he went to his camp, that's his home. Of course, there
24 was a big thing about it, because there was 11 muskox
25 right on his doorknob right there. He couldn't go in for
26 half a day. Now, if you were around, he'd have to call
27 you next time. Then you have to get a helicopter and go
28 chase the muskox away. That actually happened.

29

30 MR. MAGDANZ: Uh-huh. No, I know that
31 they will do that. They will herd and they will come in
32 close on settlements.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: So in Deering, I know this
37 occurred sometime back, there were what, about eight of
38 those critters over on the graveyards, knocking out all
39 the markers. So if there's eight people, they can kill
40 eight muskox?

41

42 MR. MAGDANZ: I think one muskox actually
43 was taken DLP in that case to try to move them away, and
44 there was one that causing particular problems.

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: I'm just trying to get
47 meat. No.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So for clarity, let
50 me see if I understand this right, say in Krusenstern, or

1 Sisualik we call it, if there's a problem with a muskox,
2 then State DLP applies, correct?

3

4 MR. MAGDANZ: That's my understanding.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So what would be the
7 shortcomings of the Federal system in trying to
8 accommodate that? It's just the lack of people
9 understanding the reg, or do we have to do something
10 ourselves to clarify it?

11

12 MR. SAMPSON: We need a new regulation I
13 guess based on what Chuck said.

14

15 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I'm not sure
16 how it would work in Krusenstern, because we do have DLP
17 regulations, they just don't read exactly the same as
18 what the State's reads. I mean, I guess the easy fix
19 would be to submit a proposal to say to align with the
20 State's DLP regulations, and then they would read the
21 same, and it would make things less complicated.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So is the Fed one
24 more or less restricted than the State one?

25

26 MR. ARDIZZONE: The way it reads right
27 now, it appears to me to be more restrictive than the
28 State DLP regulations.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: And, of course, I
31 think those people that put those regulations together
32 understand the difference between muskox and bears, don't
33 they?

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes, I think what's
38 happened is the State's regulation has evolved, we just
39 haven't evolved to mirror what the State regulation says.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So what would it
42 take to mirror the State reg then in terms of what we
43 should do?

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: All it would take, Mr.
46 Chair, is for you to say, Chuck, please work on a
47 proposal to have DLP mirror the State's and I can do
48 that.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, Ray, then

1 Walter. Go ahead, Ray.

2

3 MR. STONEY: Yeah. Okay. My question
4 would be probably to file a muskox, I left as both of
5 you, is there a permit issued for Kobuk Valley for
6 muskox, if it's necessary? Because muskox has been being
7 seen quite a bit now around Kobuk Valley, so if it would
8 be a permit issued for Kobuk Valley?

9

10 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, we have actually been
11 talking about the Selawik Valley, which is, you know,
12 closer to the Seward Peninsula where the herd has been
13 expanding from. But what would be required would be a
14 proposal to the Board of Game and a proposal to this
15 group, to the Federal Subsistence Board through this
16 group to open muskox hunting in that area. And we would
17 on the State side need to redefine the muskox population,
18 which is right now is a Seward Peninsula population, so
19 we would have to -- the Board would have to make a
20 decision about whether the animals that are expanding
21 into the Selawik and the Kobuk River are a new
22 population, or whether we need to redefine the Seward
23 Peninsula population. So there's some procedural things
24 that we would have to go through, but basically it's a
25 regulatory process just as you would change of moose
26 season. We'll submit a regulation and work on it in both
27 bodies, the Federal and State Boards.

28

29 MR. STONEY: How about the Federal land?

30

31 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I think we
32 have the same hunt area as the State in Unit 23, so.....

33

34 MR. STONEY: Ken. Ken

35

36 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead, Ken.

37

38 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Stoney, through the
39 Chair. Yeah, the process would be the same. Currently,
40 as Mim pointed out, there's really two only open hunt
41 areas. There's the Unit 23 Southwest, which is sort of
42 defined as that area south of like Kotzebue Sound, and
43 east of the Buckland River drainage, or westward of it.
44 And then there's the Unit 23 Northwest which is defined
45 roughly as that area north and west of the Noatak River.
46 So basically it leaves everything south of the Noatak
47 eastward and northward of that Unit 23 Southwest as
48 closed. And so there would have to be proposals put in
49 to establish hunts in those areas. And one way to work
50 that would be to, you know, try to submit ideally similar

1 proposals to the Federal program and State programs.

2

3 MR. STONEY: So if there was a permit to
4 be issued, like you said, you know, we'd have to find out
5 the population of the herd. So currently right now
6 there's no regulations or anything that would be issued
7 to Kobuk Valley. If it happened and what would happen,
8 they would issue for how many muskox?

9

10 MR. ADKISSON: Well, right now there is
11 no open season for that area, and there is no legal
12 hunting there. So if someone were to take a muskox, and
13 basically it would be equivalent to, you know, taking a
14 muskoxen in a closed are. So what you'd have to do is
15 have a proposal in to, you know, create a hunt area in
16 there, and then that would require, you know, an
17 evaluation, I think Jim could, you know, answer this
18 probably better than I can on the State side, but, you
19 know, you would have to look at that as whether the
20 Board's going to define that muskoxen group as a
21 population and whether they then want to find, you know,
22 a customary and traditional use for that population,
23 which would open the door to a finding for an amount
24 needed for subsistence, and a subsistence hunt or whether
25 they might find no C&T for that population and go right
26 to a say a registration or drawing hunt for muskoxen
27 similar to what happened early on the Seward Peninsula.

28

29 On the Federal side there, you know,
30 would have to be a similar process to that. Obviously if
31 there's no C&T, that leaves the door open to a non-
32 determination, which usually on the Federal side, that
33 equates to all rural users.

34

35 So, yeah, you could submit a proposal to
36 the Federal program, too, to establish the hunt. They
37 would look at it from a customary and traditional use
38 point of view. If they found a positive C&T, very likely
39 the hunt would be limited Federally, on Federal lands to
40 those people that have the C&T determination. If there
41 is no finding of C&T, it would sort of default to a hunt
42 opened to all rural residents.

43

44 MR. STONEY: So if there is a life and
45 property occurring to the individuals out in the field,
46 of course, you know, you have to save your life. And
47 then we'd have to -- if we harvest it, we have to report
48 to you or the National Park or BLM?

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Stoney, again through

1 the Chair. I think as I read, and I perhaps stand
2 corrected when I told you earlier that there really
3 wasn't a Federal defense of life and property. But as I
4 read that, I think you'll find it's very ambiguous and
5 basically in effect what it says is, as Jim has already
6 explained, DLP isn't really a subsistence use, so one
7 could get into the question of whether or not the Board
8 is even authorized to regulate that use or activity. And
9 that's kind of where I was coming from in my earlier
10 assessment. So I think it's really a really fuzzy gray
11 area perhaps, and I know I have some questions I want to
12 ask some of our other Staff on relationship to parks and
13 monuments, but as I read the Federal reg book, it
14 basically says that if you take an animal for DLP, it's
15 not for subsistence use, and basically you have to comply
16 with all the State regs. So that means you have to
17 repeat it to the State. If it's on the park or monument
18 or Federal public lands, obvious the Federal manager
19 would like to know, too, but you have to follow whatever
20 the State procedure is.

21

22 MR. STONEY: Yes

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: And their instructions for
25 what you -- you know, how the animal is disposed of.

26

27 The only case that I can think of
28 recently that I'm aware of for a muskox DLP, and, Jim, I
29 don't know if you're aware of that or not, and
30 Charlotte's not here, but she would have the details
31 maybe, if Jim doesn't, on what the disposition of the
32 animal was, but in this hunt year, the 2010/2011 hunt
33 year, a DLP was, a male muskox, a bull muskoxen was taken
34 by a Buckland resident. And I don't know what the
35 disposition of that animal was.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: So it depends on
38 whether the animal falls into the Park's jurisdiction or
39 State; is that what you're saying?

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I think what I'm
42 saying.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: As to who initiates
45 the process of hunting or DLP?

46

47 MR. ADKISSON: Well, as far as DLP goes,
48 I'm not sure that we actually have any jurisdiction over
49 that. And so in the case of Krusenstern, and this is
50 something I want to check on in relation to the State

1 regulations, but generally on Federal lands I don't think
2 we have any jurisdiction over DLP, and if one was taken
3 for that purpose, you would have to, you know, comply
4 with all the State regulations in place for that. And,
5 of course, we would like to know about it simply for the
6 biological information, and to, you know, track the
7 population and, you know, the human harvest or
8 utilization of it.

9
10 I think Krusenstern poses a really
11 special and perhaps difficult issue. And I'm thinking
12 that maybe the best way to approach that now is through
13 a process of the Park Service working with the Cape
14 Krusenstern Subsistence Resource Commission, and bring
15 that area up as sort of whether or not it could be worked
16 into a management plan of some kind or a response plan to
17 where maybe it didn't get that far or we had some
18 guidelines established that people could know what to
19 expect in terms of both the Federal and State response to
20 problem animals.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Jim.

23
24 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair. At least from
25 the State's perspective, if a wild animal is endangering
26 your life or endangering your health, there is nothing
27 that the State would do to preclude you from taking that
28 animal. If you're in danger, take the animal and report
29 it to the State.

30
31 It is hard for me to believe that Federal
32 regulations would preclude someone from doing that on
33 Federal lands. But if that is the case, then perhaps we
34 need some clarify, some research to figure that out.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

37
38 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
39 members. In response to Jim, no, there's nothing that
40 would prevent you from taking an animal under existing
41 Federal regs for defense of life and property, or
42 defending yourself. The question is what do you do with
43 the animal after you've taken it, or, you know, killed
44 it. And that's where if you look at the Federal reg
45 books, and even though there isn't something specifically
46 addressing muskoxen, it's pretty clear I think that what
47 you do after the point where you kill it to protect
48 yourself or your property, it goes under whatever the
49 State guidelines and process for disposing of that animal
50 are. So, no, there's no difference between the State and

1 Federal systems that says, you know, you can't take an
2 animal or can't kill an animal for defense of like and
3 property. It's just what do you do with it after you've
4 done it.

5
6 And I suppose in some hard park areas
7 like Denali maybe that used to prevent firearms or
8 something, maybe that, you know, poses a special problem
9 for, you know, how you would defend yourself or whatever,
10 but especially like -- but that's not an issue up here,
11 and it's no longer an issue in terms of firearms
12 basically I don't think either.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk, you had
15 something.

16
17 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. You answered my
18 question, but we need to understand that different stocks
19 or population is -- the muskox expand, even upper Noatak,
20 across my camp. A few years ago I had six. They grew to
21 eight, they had two young ones. Not only that, just
22 about seven miles from Upper Noatak, there is another
23 stock completely the goes there. And they're right where
24 the Noatak people, I have seen them try to get wood where
25 there's a lot of driftwood from the current, where they
26 get caught. And there was muskox behind them, and they
27 didn't want to go get the wood, because they were scared,
28 because they were just standing there.

29
30 And so maybe just for understanding,
31 maybe Chuck need to put a proposal in our book to say we
32 could take it for life and for our safety, for the
33 people. I think it needs to be in there so they could
34 see it on their regulation so they won't have to make so
35 many calls to Kotzebue and they could see what they need
36 to do when they get it under emergency cases, what hide,
37 head or whatever. They need to give it to the State or
38 the Federal.

39
40 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, in the Federal book
41 on Page 19, there is a section about what to do in
42 defense of life and property, so you might refer to that
43 and then decide if you need additional regulation.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I guess the big
46 issue is communicating it to those that are directly
47 affected. I mean, it's kind of useless to be betting to
48 minute detail as to what the reg is if it's not applied
49 to those that really need to know it in some simple form,
50 if that's possible.

1 Walter.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
4 I think just imagine a 70-year-out that camps out in a
5 camp trying to understand exactly the process. You and
6 I know the system, to a certain extent know the process.
7 But yet there's no clarity. I think what I'm going to
8 suggest is that we direct Chuck to work on a proposal, to
9 put together a proposal that would reflect the take of
10 muskox under the DLP in all Federal lands, not just Cape
11 Krusenstern, but in all Federal lands so that way there
12 would be clarity in regards to what people can -- or how
13 people can act when there is a possible DLP.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Go ahead,
16 Chuck.

17

18 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
19 guess I was going to suggest I can either do a proposal,
20 or we can make this an annual report question, how does
21 DLP work between the two systems, and we can do some
22 research and get back to the Council. I mean, it might
23 be covered already. I'm just not -- I'm like everyone
24 else here at the table, if you read both books, they read
25 a little differently. I'm unclear of exactly how things
26 would happen on Federal lands. I can surely put a
27 proposal in from the Council, and that will come out
28 either way. I mean, we can do it through annual report
29 or I can do it through a proposal process. And, you
30 know, it not even be need for a proposal, but if it's in
31 there, then we're covered and we can change things if we
32 need to.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah, I think we
37 need to put something in place because I think in real
38 life what sometimes happens is that it becomes an
39 underground activity that's not conducive to issues of
40 violation upon discovery so to speak, so I think we need
41 to do something.

42

43 Ray.

44

45 MR. STONEY: Concerning muskox, you know,
46 I know that a lot of people out in the field a long way
47 from home, 100 miles away, and now a muskox happen to
48 attack the individual, and he's 100 miles away, and then,
49 of course, we have to take a trek of a couple of days, to
50 report it to you that you just shot a muskox 100 miles

1 away, and how are you going to go get it? Me, myself,
2 bring it to the State office in Kotzebue, or you take a
3 helicopter and go get it? How are you going to do that.
4 I know it weighs about a ton.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: Charter. Charter.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, I think the that
11 you'll be dealing with are reasonable people, Eric Loring
12 and Jim Dau and Charlotte Westing. And they'll take the
13 circumstances into account.

14

15 We had a call from Ambler a week and a
16 half ago about a moose in the village there, and they did
17 take it in DLP. And it was not a big deal. Usually
18 these things are not a big deal. It's pretty obvious
19 what the right thing to do was. People have good
20 judgment about when to take an animal and when not to.
21 And so it's not usually a problem.

22

23 But we work together. If you call us,
24 we'll work with you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Chuck.

27

28 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Just to help
29 move things along, what I will do, I'll put in a proposal
30 from the Regional Advisory Council to basically align our
31 DLP regulations with the State so it's clear that muskox
32 can be taken DLP and then either go through if it needs
33 to, or if we're already on the same page, and I'm just
34 not clear, I'll just make sure the Council knows next
35 meeting that it's allowed.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Is that agreeable to
38 the Council.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

41

42 MR. KARMUN: Yeah, sounds good.

43

44 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah.

45

46 MR. STONEY: Yes.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
49 you, Chuck. Anything else we need cover under this item.

50

1 Oh, LeeAnne, go ahead.

2

3 MR. SHIEDT: LeeAnne's going to say, go
4 shoot it.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
9 LeeAnne Ayres with Selawik Refuge.

10

11 And I just wanted to provide the Council
12 some information following up on Raymond's comment about
13 seeing muskox on the Kobuk, and Attamuk's comment about
14 expanding groups of muskox in the Noatak.

15

16 Recently in our cooperative surveys we've
17 located a population in the Upper Tag River that's
18 primarily on BLM Land. It's a group that there were a
19 few individuals sighted for about the last 10 or 15
20 years, but now we've documented at least 90 animals in
21 that group. It's a pretty kind of stable group of new
22 muskox that are out there.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: So they're taking advantage
25 of the climate weather -- the climate change.

26

27 MR. AYRES: Well, evidently. We were
28 kind of thinking they were kind of a spur group from the
29 Buckland population that has kind of moved up there. And
30 actually Ralph Ramos was the first ones who told us about
31 starting to see muskox in that area. So that's kind of
32 the new group.

33

34 One of the things, and, you know,
35 Charlotte Westing would really be the one to be talking
36 about this if she wasn't up working on muskox right now.
37 But we've been talking to folks in Selawik and I think
38 Charlotte's been talking to folks in Buckland about this
39 group how that -- you know, what their thoughts are about
40 muskox hunting. And I can just speak for folks that
41 we've talked to in Selawik who are interested in hunting
42 the individuals that they see coming down in Selawik and
43 around the village, but they don't think they really have
44 access or it would be feasible to hunt the group, the
45 kind of the core group up in that upper Tag area. So I
46 guess I just kind of wanted to share that information,
47 because I know folks in Selawik are interested in, you
48 know, the possibility of hunting muskox, but they kind of
49 realize that there's other issues involved in Buckland
50 and the hunt areas and whatnot.

1 But anyway I just kind of wanted to
2 provide that information about that new group up there.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, LeeAnne.

5
6 I guess one of the future concerns would
7 be is, you know, the question of what triggers the
8 process of determining whether a group of animals has now
9 reached a level to be hunted. I don't know. At some
10 point we'll probably wind up having to deal with that,
11 but I guess in terms of the issue right now, that's
12 probably enough to do for now.

13
14 But I think we need some clarity in terms
15 of people doing what they need to do. So anyway I think
16 that help in that record would probably be necessary,
17 including the communications with the affected folks
18 somewhere down the road.

19
20 All right. Any further discussion on the
21 closure issue. Chuck.

22
23 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, Mr. Chair, I think
24 we've kind of talked around it, about it a little bit,
25 about the closure. And I guess, you know, the population
26 is kind of low. They're not real sure. It seems it
27 might be decreasing a little bit, and I guess I just need
28 your input on the Cape Krusenstern closure, if we want to
29 maintain it or if it should be lifted.

30
31 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Anybody got any idea
32 as to what that herd's been doing lately. Vic.

33
34 MR. KARMUN: For right now as far as I
35 know, there's no permanent families living over in
36 Napaktuktuk or Sisualik like there had been in the past,
37 so I'd leave it status quo.

38
39 Mr. Chairman.

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: That's a family of muskox
42 or a family of people.

43
44 MR. KARMUN: Both.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk, Leslie, any
49 comments on what you might no.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MR. ARDIZZONE: So, Mr. Chair, to be
4 clear I guess, the Regional Advisory Council
5 recommendation will be to maintain the closure, so status
6 quo?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think that's
9 probably the most sensible thing to do. And then later
10 when we get the information as to the numbers we can
11 perhaps do something different.

12

13 MR. ARDIZZONE: Thank you. Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Because one of the
16 other problems is that those populations that are the
17 core group obviously have, you know, some of the other
18 spur groups running around, and what to do with those
19 probably needs to be determined a little later.

20

21 All right. Thank you, Chuck.

22

23 Is that if for this subject.

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

26

27 MS. ATORUK: Uh-huh.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, we have a
30 series of agency reports. And we're a ways from the
31 lunch hour, so do we want to do one or two before we
32 break for lunch.

33

34 So the first one would be yours, Chuck.

35 Or Barb, excuse me.

36

37 MS. ATORUK: It would be an update on
38 travel procedure, Page 26 of your meeting book. There's
39 been some changes again on travel procedures, and they're
40 a little more stricter than how they used to be.

41

42 And for those of you who travel, it's so
43 that any -- this is mostly all for Federal, even for
44 Federal travelers that this has come down on us, that we
45 have to make our changes, travel changes for the Council
46 members that do travel, that the coordinators have to
47 make any changes. We have to do the travel, and if you
48 can't get ahold of me, Durand, can do it from the office
49 at OSM. The numbers are right there, his number, direct
50 line is 786-3888 or the 800 number. And later on I'll be

1 sending you guys a card with their home numbers that you
2 need if you should get stuck. Our home numbers, my cell
3 phone number, and stuff like that will be provided to
4 you.

5
6 Because if you do make your own changes,
7 that will cut you off from your travel and your per diem
8 will be cut off at wherever you are at. You might still
9 be able to travel, your per diem could be cut off because
10 of that change. And this has already happened, but then
11 they have looked the other way the Council members to
12 continue and do their travel. So even with the local
13 airlines here you can't use your ticket the day before or
14 two days before your travel date. It's got to e on that
15 travel date unless you make the changes through your
16 coordinator or through the OSM office.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: But you do
19 accommodate for issues of weather?

20
21 MS. ATORUK: Yeah. With weather that's
22 understandable. If the weather is holding you, then we
23 still can make the changes by calling us if you're stuck,
24 and then also your hotel and stuff. That's still open
25 for traveling.

26
27 And I think that's about all I have on
28 this update on travel procedures, but it's gotten
29 stricter where I had to go to the local airlines out here
30 and talk to them to let them know that any Federal
31 tickets that they have out there with them are to be used
32 on the date that they have made the reservations on,
33 unless they are sent changes.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

36
37 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Attamuk here.

38
39 Barb, I've just got a question. This
40 mainly pertain to the people from the village, if they
41 decide to stay longer since they're here, to go to the
42 hospital or something, and they have flight today. We
43 know they're going to be cut off. Can they make the
44 change without, you know, being hurt on their future
45 travels due to.....

46
47 MS. ATORUK: Like if the council member
48 want to stay -- like today is Thursday and tomorrow's
49 Friday, and they want to stay until Saturday. They have
50 to let me know. Then I can call the office then and make

1 the changes and make their travel to go back on Saturday.
2 But then they check -- like they have -- the Council
3 members travel tomorrow, and they check out from the
4 hotel tomorrow. If they want to stay another night at
5 the hotel, that will be on their own nickel.

6

7 MR. SHIEDT: Well, that's what I was
8 asking.

9

10 MS. ATORUK: Yeah, unless they're going
11 to stay with relatives. And that was the first time that
12 ever happened to me on the North Slope, because I've
13 worked with you guys for almost 20 years now. And when
14 the meeting got down in North Slope, I talked with the
15 two Council members, straight up and down, being forward,
16 and trying to change their reservations to travel with
17 me, but there is no room on the plane. And then we
18 couldn't get out from the plane and get on the wait list
19 for them to get in. There was already a wait list. And
20 they wouldn't get on anyway, because they would be the first
21 ones in line to get them on, and then the Council members
22 wouldn't get on anyway. And that got back to OSM. And
23 I got reprimanded for that.

24

25 And so if any of you traveling Council
26 members have any problems with me leaving tonight before
27 you travel tomorrow, let me know, and I'll stay another
28 night to accommodate and stay here until you leave, but
29 if you have no problems, you can let me know personally.
30 Otherwise, I'm not leaving ahead of time, and they look
31 for reasons like that to reprimand me. I need to know
32 and hear from all Council members that travel. That if
33 they need me for any reason to stay another night and be
34 with them until after they leave, let me know. Then I'll
35 stay another night. I'll be willing to stay another
36 night and stay with you until you leave and travel.

37

38 So I just need to make that clear, but I
39 did not know that that would have come up with the other
40 meeting that I had and I wanted this out to be open, and
41 let the Council know here.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Another commandment
46 cast in stone. We'll keep you out of trouble, Barb.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Thank you,

1 Barb. Any questions for her.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Then we'll go
6 to the next item. Chuck.

7

8 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Let
9 me apologize in advance for this. My briefing papers and
10 the pages are kind of fumbled around, so we'll be doing
11 some flipping back and forth in the pages of the book.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: And just for your
14 information, what we can do is to 11:30 and then we'll
15 commence whatever you have left after lunch.

16

17 Okay.

18

19 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. Whatever you want
20 to do, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 So the next thing we need to talk about
23 is the Secretarial review. If you go to Page 27 of your
24 book, there's a letter from the Secretary to the Chair,
25 Tim Towarak. And this basically tells the Federal
26 Subsistence Board what the Secretary would like the
27 Federal Board to address based on the review. So it's
28 basically the action items that came out in the review
29 process. I'm not going to read through it, but there's
30 quite a number of things that they'd like to see done,
31 and the Board has actually started to look at the issues
32 and started to address things.

33

34 So if you look at Page 44 of your book,
35 the Federal Subsistence Board had an executive session in
36 which it addressed a number of the concerns brought up by
37 the Secretary as action items. This summary's in your
38 book for your reference.

39

40 And then on Page 46 there's a matrix
41 which makes things a little easier to follow. It's the
42 number of action items that the Board is taking steps to
43 address.

44

45 And the very first one of those is the
46 expansion of the Federal Board, the changing composition.
47 So like I said, I apologize for all the flipping, but on
48 Page 31 there's a briefing on the changing of the
49 composition of the Board. And I'll just summarize it, I
50 won't read the whole thing.

1 So the expansion is there's a proposed
2 rule out right now to expand the Board by two members.
3 The two members would be representatives of rural Alaskan
4 subsistence users. The Office of Subsistence Management
5 and Pat Pourchot developed the proposed rule to effect
6 this change to expand the Federal Subsistence Board to
7 include two members to represent rural Alaskan users.

8
9 It was published on February 11th, 2011
10 with a 60-day public comment period. The comment period
11 closes April 12th, 2011. And public comments can be
12 provided in a number of different ways. If you look on
13 Page 32, the bottom of the page, you can see the
14 different methods. It can be by mail or hand delivery to
15 our office, delivered to Regional Advisory Councils at
16 the meeting today, or through regulations.gov. So those
17 are the three ways comments are being taken on this
18 proposed rule.

19
20 Once the comment period closes, the
21 Federal Board will review public comments and make
22 recommendations to the Secretaries who make the final
23 decision. And that decision will be published as a final
24 rule. If the decision to expand the Board is finalized,
25 a selection process for those two new members will be
26 forthcoming.

27
28 This is a Subpart B change to regulations
29 which is program structure, which means the Board doesn't
30 have the authority to do it themselves. It's done by the
31 Secretaries.

32
33 And right now is your time to weigh in on
34 your thoughts on the expansion of the Board. Let's see.
35 And at this time I'm here to take notes based on what you
36 tell me you'd like to tell the Board.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, after the AFN
39 convention when the Under Secretary gave his speech, I
40 think there was an expectation by rural communities that
41 Federal management would begin to include local folks in
42 a more meaningful way. And as I stated in my opening
43 remarks was that it has already been a problem in terms
44 of meaningfully inputting into the previous sole State
45 system.

46
47 And I think that there's an expectation
48 by the Native community that something was going to
49 happen. And, you know, they had us rush trying to get
50 comments between October and the end of December or

1 somewhere thereabouts. So the Native community scrambled
2 to have several meetings, or more than that, to figure
3 out exactly what the concerns were. And I think it
4 became abundantly clear that the Federal Board itself had
5 significant shortcomings in terms of experience in rural
6 life, with no insult to the respective, those that made
7 it up.

8
9 And I would think that in terms of some
10 of the people appointed their reference to some of the
11 issues in the Native community probably was with their
12 native liaisons to the extent that they had them. But
13 yet Native liaisons generally had to live in Anchorage or
14 some of the more populated centers to even input into the
15 process, so I think in some ways there's a little bit of
16 touch being lost and kind of like direct opportunities
17 for input, and I think the Native community would like to
18 see real live practitioners of subsistence ways of life,
19 I hate that word, but I've got to use it.

20
21 And I think in terms of how that's going
22 to manifest itself is who those individuals will wind up
23 being chosen to fill the two seats are. And I think they
24 were sorely needed before and they're really needed now
25 in terms of all the changes that are coming about in both
26 Federal management as well as current State management.

27
28
29 So I'd appreciate some of the Council's
30 comments in how they would feel about, you know, the
31 issue, and what we would need to do to respond to that,
32 besides the talking part, because the doing is something
33 else altogether.

34
35 So the floor is open for comments in
36 relation to the two additional Federal Subsistence Board
37 members.

38
39 Walter.

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks, Pete. I think this
42 is an opportunity we need to take advantage of.

43
44 During the Chairman's meetings last
45 couple, at least two years, we've pounded the very issue
46 to the Secretary's representative, Pat Pourchot, in
47 regards to trying to find ways to get some representation
48 into the Federal Board from rural communities. If you
49 take a look at the existing system that's in place, when
50 the State of Alaska through an MOU can get a seat, even

1 though it's a non-voting seat, it still has some
2 influences on the Board. And that was one of the
3 arguments that we made. If the State of Alaska can put
4 together an MOU with the Federal Subsistence Board to
5 have a seat on the Federal Board, why is it that as a
6 rural community member and as a user can't we get a seat
7 on the Federal Board, because it impacts on those user
8 groups at the rural community level. So based on that,
9 that was an argument.

10

11 On top of that you have the State of
12 Alaska to this point who's not recognized the tribal
13 entities throughout the State of Alaska. And that's
14 where the State of Alaska is lacking in. And our
15 attempts to working with the State in regards to amending
16 the Constitution to provide for hopefully a rural
17 definition in the Constitution, but to date the State of
18 Alaska has been avoiding that very process.

19

20 I think it's time that we take advantage
21 of an opportunity that is provided to us today, even
22 though writings for those positions might change, but at
23 least it's been recognized by the Federal system finally.
24 So I'd like to support trying to get a seat on the
25 Federal from the rural community.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, two would be
28 even better.

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, two.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Other comments.
33 Vic.

34

35 MR. KARMUN: Yeah. This two rural people
36 sitting on the Federal Game Board would sound good to me,
37 but I have yet to hear any kind of protocol on how these
38 individuals are going to be selected. Are they going to
39 be selected similar to the way Regional Council members
40 are or by the IRAs or the nonprofit organizations, or how
41 is that going to work.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Chuck.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. At
46 this time the proposed regulation doesn't say anything
47 about the selection process for the new members. It only
48 speaks to adding two members and changing the number
49 needed for a quorum.

50

1 I don't think it will ever be in
2 regulation. I think, the process will be determined by
3 the Secretaries and probably Pat Pourchot. It would
4 probably be similar to, you know, like the Chair of the
5 Federal Subsistence Board gets appointed, or even as
6 similar to the Regional Advisory Councils. But they
7 didn't include that in regulation because that bogs
8 things down and makes things more complicated. That's
9 one of those things that they'll take some time to look
10 at after the final rule is final. You know, they'll say,
11 you know, two new members, now we'll have to decide how
12 to determine who they are.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Or they may in fact
15 be appointed by the Secretary himself.

16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: That's true. They
18 actually probably would be appointed. I haven't read the
19 rule, but I think that's probably what it says.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Vic.

22
23 MR. KARMUN: Yeah. I just wondered also,
24 would these two individuals that sit on the Federal Game
25 Board, would they also have the privilege to vote or are
26 they just going to be there in an advisory capacity?

27
28 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: No, my
29 understanding, they'll be full-fledged members with all
30 of the authorities within the.....

31
32 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. On
33 Page 32 of your Board book, you can see it does say two
34 public members representing rural Alaskan subsistence
35 users, to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior
36 with concurrence of the Secretary of Ag, and they would
37 be full-fledged members. They would be voting members.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. With that,
40 it's a little past 11:30, if we want to break for lunch
41 for how long, an hour, hour and a half?

42
43 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. Can I just
44 summarize I guess what I heard and make sure I have my
45 comments correct?

46
47 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay.

48
49 MR. ARDIZZONE: So the Regional Advisory
50 Council is supportive of adding two rural users to the

1 Board.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: That's correct.

4

5 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. Thank you, sir.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you. At this
8 time we'll break for lunch until 1:00 o'clock and we'll
9 see you then. Thank you.

10

11 (Off record)

12

13 (On record)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Whenever you're
16 ready, Chuck.

17

18 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. Mr. Chair. I
19 think next on our agenda is deference to Councils. It's
20 more of an informational item. If you look on Page 46 of
21 your Council books, in the table, it's the second row on
22 the table. And it's expand deference to RACs. It's
23 basically the Board was directed to look at deference to
24 the RACs based, you know, on C&T, because right now we
25 have deference on the taking regulations, but not on C&T.
26 So it's just information for the Council that that is
27 getting looked at right now. It will be ready this fall,
28 come back out to the Councils to get comments on. And
29 that's all there is for that item.

30

31 And the next item, if you want me to
32 continue, Mr. Chair, would be.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I would just ask if
35 there's any questions on the deference issue. Vic.

36

37 MR. KARMUN: We got some new people that
38 came in, Pete.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Oh, okay. Well, why
41 don't you just introduce yourselves. The latecomers know
42 who you are.

43

44 MS. WESTING: Good morning. I'm
45 Charlotte Westing. I'm the area biologist for the Alaska
46 Department of Fish and Game here in Kotzebue. And we
47 just got in last night from Red Dog, putting out some
48 fires this morning, but I'm here. I understand there
49 were some questions for the State today, so I'll be happy
50 to answer those whenever you think for me to.

1 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you,
2 Charlotte. Okay. Go ahead.

3
4 MR. ARDIZZONE: So if there's no
5 questions on the deference, like I said, it will be
6 addressed later. The next meeting you should have some
7 more information on that.

8
9 Next on our agenda would be the
10 Memorandum of Understanding. And on Page 33 there's a
11 briefing document for that.

12
13 So, Mr. Chair, in the letter from the
14 Secretary to the Board, the Board was directed to take
15 another look at the MOU between the State and the Federal
16 systems. The key points for that is the MOU helps to
17 address the necessity of having some degree of
18 communication and coordination between the State and
19 Federal governments in order to aid in effective
20 management of fish and wildlife resources in Alaska.
21 Several sections of Title VIII expressly require the
22 Secretaries to communicate and/or consult with the State
23 representatives on certain issues relating to subsistence
24 uses by rural Alaskans.

25
26 The MOU was carefully reviewed by the
27 Federal team and legal counsel to ensure the provisions
28 of Federal law and the Board's obligation to rural
29 residents as defined in Title VIII of ANILCA continue to
30 be maintained.

31
32 The body of the MOU contains several
33 references to State law, prompting some observers to
34 express concerns that in signing the MOU, the Board
35 undermined their obligation to Title VIII to provide for
36 the subsistence priority for rural Alaskans on Federal
37 public lands. However, the Board's authority, charge and
38 obligation to rural residents come only from Title VIII
39 and other applicable Federal statutes. The MOU will not
40 and cannot change that.

41
42 Other key guiding principles of the MOU
43 include avoiding duplication of research, monitoring and
44 management; involving subsistence and other fish and
45 wildlife resource -- excuse me, management planning
46 efforts, and promoting clear and enforceable hunting,
47 fishing and trapping regulations.

48
49 So the action we're looking for today
50 from the Council is to review the MOU, which is on Page

1 35, and provide specific comments about the wording in
2 the document and how it might be improved. So I guess
3 that's what I need from the Council today is if there's
4 any comments I need to take back to the Board, I need to
5 know now so I can take the notes back and say this is the
6 changes the Council would like to see to the MOU.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

9

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

11

12 First of all, I want to thank Chuck for
13 your brief outline of what the MOU is between the Federal
14 government and the State of Alaska.

15

16 First of all, under the first whereas,
17 the State indicated that they under the sustained yield
18 principles they're subject to preference among beneficial
19 uses such as providing a priority for subsistence
20 harvest. That is I think misleading in a way that the
21 State of Alaska really provides -- or uses equal
22 protection clause under the Constitution as a way to
23 manage resources. And that's basically what they use.
24 When you talk about equal protection clause, it provides
25 for everyone. It doesn't give preference to any one
26 individual or any one group. And under the .804 section
27 under the eighth whereas, it says protecting and
28 providing the opportunity for rural residents. That's
29 under .804.

30

31 But under the provisions of Title VIII,
32 I don't know the Federal government and the State of
33 Alaska can agree on something like this when the State of
34 Alaska is out of compliance with ANILCA, the provisions
35 of ANILCA.

36

37 And that's been part of the problem is
38 that this very document that is being addressed today has
39 been a document that was made between the State of Alaska
40 and the Federal system without having to go through this
41 very body for scrutiny. I say scrutiny, at least -- what
42 I should have said was if the Federal government could
43 have given us an opportunity to put in our views into the
44 MOUs, we at least could have had an opportunity to
45 address some of the issues that within the MOU.

46

47 And I think MOU itself was done between
48 the State and the Federal government. To me that is
49 something that I don't call a Memorandum of Agreement,
50 because it bypassed the organization that should have at

1 least an opportunity to give their viewpoints and their
2 input into the MOU.

3

4 That's my only comments from that.

5

6 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
7 think that's the reason I'm here taking comments today,
8 to correct that problem.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, I think the
11 first thing that ought to be considered is if we are
12 indeed inputting into the MOU now, it seems like a little
13 like the cart pushing the horse, that somewhere in this
14 document that it reflects the consideration of the MOU by
15 the RAC.

16

17 I think I agree with Mr. Sampson that it
18 did not follow the protocol as I understood it, and maybe
19 it's a policy change since the days of George Bush and
20 now the new President, but I think normal process would
21 have called for at least some consultation with the
22 affected users, primarily the tribes and subsistence
23 users.

24

25 And I understand I think the constraints
26 of the Alaska Constitution, which is pretty straight
27 forward. But there is Article 12, Section 12, which
28 reflects the relationship between the Native people of
29 Alaska and the Federal government, so I guess in that
30 light the Constitution was stepping on thin ice in terms
31 of whether it is complied with or not.

32

33 And to further dig into the Constitution
34 I think it provides for equal access, and I think it's
35 intended to include equal access to resources. And as I
36 had pointed out earlier, that it's not the case anymore
37 when the access issue has pretty much split itself into
38 distinct user groups creating conflict. And especially
39 in the light of the item to be discussed with the North
40 Slope, which is global warming which affected animal
41 behavior.

42

43 And the idea that we're now faced with
44 more and more users of the commercial nature, I think
45 it's created situations that kind of lack for scientific
46 scrutiny. And one is the migration of the caribou for
47 one. And the other, as I stated before, is the effects
48 on global warming and animal behavior. And I think those
49 are items of interest for the discussion between the
50 North Slope Borough, the Seward Peninsula and this region

1 for the meeting that was suggested earlier.

2

3 The floor is open for comments by anyone
4 who feels compelled to speak.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Chuck.

9

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. So I have
11 everybody's comments written down. Is there any specific
12 comments to specific paragraphs that I need to take back?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think that in the
15 event that we have the inclusion of two more members of
16 the Fed Board, that needs to be reflected here in the
17 document somewhere.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think one
20 other thing that should have occurred is that when --
21 this is an agreement between the Federal government and
22 the State of Alaska. Because of that very fact, what we
23 should have at least is to hear explained to us exactly
24 the content of the MOU so we can get a good clear picture
25 of what the content of the agreement is. When you has
26 been given an opportunity to give your viewpoints in
27 regards to what's already been adopted, sometimes it's
28 hard to try to incorporate into documents those very
29 issues that we feel should have been addressed in the
30 original MOU.

31

32 I guess at some point in time maybe
33 somebody from the legal side can provide us a good
34 background and good explanation in regards to what each
35 section of the MOU says and what the intent of it is,
36 because I can read this and I can misinterpret exactly
37 what the legal counsels from both side are reading.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, I think what's
40 happening is that there was some correspondence from Mr.
41 Fleagle that reflected his determination that there was
42 no violation of any sort towards the integrity of Title
43 VIII. Of course, that's probably debatable, but I think
44 Mr. Fleagle made for a great referee, but now it's in the
45 hands of Tim Towarak. And I think that he is taking very
46 seriously the issue and will probably address it
47 accordingly. At least that's my expectation reading the
48 correspondence and the MOU, because the MOU is not fixed
49 in stone. It's amendable.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Right.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any other comments
4 on the MOU.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead, Chuck.
9
10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. Mr. Chair. The
11 next item that we need to cover is customary and
12 traditional use determinations. I have a few bullet
13 points I need to read.
14
15 So this is an opportunity for the
16 Regional Advisory Councils to weigh in on the very
17 general level. Before the Federal Subsistence Board
18 looks to regulatory changes, it first wants to assess if
19 regulatory changes are even needed.
20
21 To this date more than 300 customary and
22 traditional use determinations have been done. The
23 decisions on customary and traditional use have been
24 affirmed by the Courts when they have been challenged,
25 and at this point the Federal Subsistence Board is
26 interested in what the Regional Advisory Councils think
27 about the existing process.
28
29 So they wanted me to be here and ask --
30 there's two questions they'd like to have you answer.
31 First, is the current process working for the Regional
32 Advisory Council? And, secondly, if not, how or what
33 would you like to change in the current customary and
34 traditional use determinations.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Input from the
37 Council.
38
39 MR. SAMPSON: What page is that?
40
41 MR. KARMUN: Mr. Chair. Is there any
42 animal or anything like that in question right now?
43
44 MS. ATORUK: Victor.
45
46 MR. KARMUN: Excuse me. Is there any
47 animal or bird or anything in question right now for
48 customary and traditional taking or use?
49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. No, Mr.

1 Karmun. Basically the Board just wants to know. So
2 currently we have this process we use to determine who
3 has C&T. There's the eight factors that are used to
4 determine who has the use of the resource. I guess the
5 Board just really wants to know, is the current process
6 working, and if not, how would you like to see it
7 changed? So there's no specific C&T use determinations
8 in mind. It's just the general process overall.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, I would like
11 to suggest that perhaps we drag some of the previous
12 discussion on the Caribou Conflict Working Group.

13

14 On the first question, is the current
15 process working for you, I think we're kind of headed in
16 a direction where it will work. I think that there's
17 some deficiencies in terms of, at least in this region,
18 about how the parks work and how they almost fail to
19 address the issue of user conflict when a lot of the
20 conflict is created by not necessary custom and
21 traditional use, but the influx of hunters into the
22 region.

23

24 I know that the Noatak Controlled Use
25 Area has been expanded, but you have to understand that
26 X number of hunters come into the region. And if you
27 restrict them in one region, they basically go elsewhere
28 in the region to get their needs met. Unfortunately,
29 what's been happening is that more and more of the camps
30 have been affecting migration since they camp pretty much
31 right next to the possible routes anticipating, you know,
32 that the caribou will move through there, and they
33 usually do when they start. Of course, for some reason
34 the customary and traditional use of the animals in the
35 river is not necessarily happening, because they're being
36 diverted elsewhere. And I think it's a real problem in
37 terms of how Federal agencies will deal with increasing
38 user conflict.

39

40 As most of you know, I watched those TV
41 shows on Alaska and I think some of them are just plain
42 idiotic, but I think what has created those is hour of a
43 country wide open for gold mining or for hunting or for
44 whatever when in fact what we're talking about is not
45 necessarily restrictions, but knowledge of the behalf of
46 those that are coming in to understand what in the hell
47 they're getting in to when they come up here. And I
48 think that the user group with some of its output has
49 done at least the start of informing folks when they come
50 into GMU 23 as to what to expect, because it's not as it

1 appears, that if it's wide open you can go and jump in
2 your Super Cub and go buzz the herd close to the river,
3 when in fact the urge to shoot the airplane is probably
4 climbing to a point of really becoming risky by those
5 that have waited there for a long time and were
6 anticipating that the herd would come down usually in its
7 traditional migration path. Because the other thing most
8 people don't understand is that most of the hunting camps
9 have been occupied for generations and generations by
10 people that are knowledgeable about how the animal
11 behaves and where it's going to go.

12
13 So if that not customary and traditional,
14 I don't know what it, but, you know, I think that's the
15 real issue.

16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. I wish we had
18 an anthropologist here, but I have notes on what you
19 said, but I guess there's confusion, and I guess I might
20 have confused you.

21
22 If we turn to Page 107 in the regulation
23 booklet, we have a customary and traditional use column
24 here, and then the hunting regulations on the other side.
25 And the process that we get these customary and
26 traditional use determinations is what the Board wants to
27 know if it's working or not.

28
29 So, you know, like for black bears, the
30 customary and traditional use determination for Unit 23
31 is rural residents of Unit 23, Alatna, Allakaket,
32 Bettles, Evansville, Galena, Hughes, Huslia and Koyukuk.

33
34
35 That's the issue we want to look at here.
36 They want to know if this process is working, determining
37 what communities have C&T use for a specific animal in a
38 region.

39
40 So it's a little bit different than like
41 user conflicts issues. It's more of what Federal
42 subsistence users have a customary and traditional use
43 pattern of bears in the units. So the process is a
44 little different than what we were just discussing I
45 guess.

46
47 MS. ATORUK: They're talking about the
48 eight factors.

49
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Where are the eight factors
2 that they're referring to? Do you have copies of.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I saw it somewhere
5 last night in the documents somewhere.

6

7 (Off record conversations re finding the
8 eight factors)

9

10 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think I'm part of
11 the confusion, but what I'm saying is that I think in
12 terms of what is causing and effecting emerging problems
13 is going to have to come up sooner or later. And that we
14 may have customary and traditional determinations already
15 on different species, but what I'm saying is that
16 eventually it's going to have to wind up being issues
17 pertaining to users.

18

19 One of the first instructions we got from
20 the Board of Game when we had a meeting back a few years
21 ago is that when Mr. Fleagle was the Chair, he said we
22 can discuss uses, but we cannot discuss users, which is
23 exactly the problem. So if the MOU that we talked about
24 previously is pretty much, you know, giving that
25 determination of sorts the priority, then I think the
26 issue is going to be brought up in some form somewhere in
27 terms of what's got to be done from the start to fix the
28 problem.

29

30 (Off record conversations re finding the
31 eight factors)

32

33 MS. ATORUK: Page 10 in your manual.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead, Walter.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think when
40 you read the section under what are customary and
41 traditional uses determinations under 7 there, Page 10,
42 I think I would rely upon the definitions of what those
43 are, because the State of Alaska can define or make their
44 own definition, whereas it don't relates to the uses of
45 resources. So I don't know what -- where we want to go
46 with the C&T use determination, Pete.

47

48 I guess it would really depend on how
49 those things are defined. I don't know if we have any
50 definition section for those things that we're saying,

1 because State of Alaska will define the way they see fit
2 based on their protocol.

3

4 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. On Page 10,
5 as Mr. Sampson stated, number 7, this is how our program
6 currently determines who has customary and traditional
7 use for a resource in a region. And the eight factors
8 are listed, so our Staff actually looks at all these
9 factors to make a recommendation to the Federal Board,
10 and then the Board, you know, says, yes, those
11 communities are the ones that have customary and
12 traditional use of a resource in that area.

13

14 So this is how things work, and this --
15 I guess this is what we want to address. Are there any
16 things in this list of eight factors that the Council
17 wants changed or doesn't like, or have things been
18 working well? I mean, most Councils we've heard from so
19 far said they like the way customary and traditional use
20 determinations have been done so far.

21

22 And they're concerned, there's already
23 been 300 determinations made, so if we change the
24 process, what happens to those determinations? Do we
25 have to go back and relook at everything.

26

27 So those are the kind of comments I need.
28 I'm sorry, I'm not well versed in this. This is what our
29 anthropologists do, and I'm sorry for the confusion.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, I think that
32 in describing the problem that I just mentioned, that
33 item one is yes. Two, yes. Three, all the way down the
34 line.

35

36 But what's happening is that it's become
37 an issue of jurisdictional matters. Because if it's in
38 a park, and a preserve, then it's different in the park.
39 We all understand that. But if the record of movement,
40 all of the satellite information that we've gotten over
41 the last 30 years shows that the migration typically
42 happens in the preserve, then it seemed that the user
43 conflict issue has escalated there, because there's
44 nobody -- I mean, there's no real authority to deal with
45 it in terms of having immediate relief for the residents
46 of the region.

47

48 So I would say that, you know, given what
49 you said, I think it's working okay. It's just that it's
50 got a ways to go.

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: And I don't want to
2 confuse the issue any more, but basically C&T just
3 applies to Federal users. It doesn't apply to -- this is
4 just for our program, it's not the State's system. The
5 only thing we want to address is this part.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: But that's where I
8 make the disconnection is that Title VIII is for
9 subsistence priority.

10
11 MR. ARDIZZONE: Right. And this
12 addresses -- I mean, this is all for subsistence
13 regulations, period. I mean, it's just -- under
14 subsistence regulations, who has C&T. Who has customary
15 and traditional determinations. It's not -- we don't
16 include State users unless they happen to be Federal
17 users also. But it's just who shows a history of using
18 that resource in the area.

19
20 It seems like we're getting spun up on
21 conflicts which this doesn't address conflicts. It's
22 just under our regulations, who's allowed to go harvest
23 that resource.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Which in fact
26 creates the conflict already.

27
28 MR. ARDIZZONE: It may.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Vic.

31
32 MR. KARMUN: Thank you, Chairman. Let me
33 just use for example, many years ago muskox were
34 depleted, then reintroduced back into the region. Some
35 of the State Fish and Game Board meetings I attended, and
36 the Feds, said it was no longer customary and traditional
37 animal. We had to go through the process all over again
38 to prove that they were in the past a customary and
39 traditional animal. Being there was nothing in writing,
40 everything was verbal. I'm just using that as an
41 example.

42
43 In the past, if something like that
44 should happen again, let me use for example, sheep. Kind
45 of restricted, but you still have an opportunity to take
46 and use. But what I would like to see is something to
47 where we don't have to go through that process all over
48 again if an animal is depleted, reintroduced, and it had
49 been customary and traditional in the past, that they
50 have to prove all over again it was a customary and

1 traditional use animal or bird or fish.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: If you take a look at,
6 under that Section 7 there where.....

7

8 MS. ATORUK: Walter.

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: If you take a look at that
11 section under 7 there under customary and traditional
12 uses, you go down to the last sentence of that paragraph,
13 it says that the Board reviews technical data,
14 information from the public, and the advice and
15 recommendations of the Councils before making a
16 determination. Does that refer to this very body or does
17 it refer to the public providing information based on
18 their knowledge and their information they may have.

19

20 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. These eight
21 factors are use as a guide. And then the Board does take
22 input from the public. It takes input from the Regional
23 Advisory Council. It takes input from whoever before it
24 makes a determination on who has customary and
25 traditional use. But it does listen to traditional
26 knowledge. I mean, that's what they want to hear. They
27 want to know, hey, in the past, you know, we've used this
28 resource in this area. That's important things. And I
29 just don't know enough about the process, I'm sorry, to
30 go into a lot of detail.

31

32 But they're not proposing to change the
33 way things are done. They're just wondering if there is
34 a better way.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Chuck, then
37 are you telling us then this is a buy-off of the State of
38 Alaska then, they abide by this?

39

40 MR. ARDIZZONE: No. The State and our
41 Federal program do customary and traditional use
42 differently. So this is our program is.....

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Now, now does the State of
45 Alaska work then with the Federal government if they
46 manage the resources, and we're saying one thing and the
47 State says the other? How do you balance that?

48

49 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, I think for
50 purposes of, for the discussion, maybe what we ought to

1 do is leave it there, because I think the Fed Board is
2 headed in the right direction now with the inclusion of
3 Tim Towarak and the attrition of some old timers there
4 that are now replaced with maybe people that think a
5 little different.

6

7 So I guess the answer to both questions
8 is it's working okay, but I think given some of the
9 insight, I think probably ought to at least warn the
10 Federal Board that this stuff is coming down the pike
11 here.

12

13 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. If we were to
14 determine customary and traditional use for like Tag
15 River, and we have a history in Buckland, can we expand
16 our area to show that's customary and traditional use if
17 we were to look at opening up that way.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: You know, I don't
20 think I'm equipped to answer that question. Although on
21 a similar note would be, for example, the Noatak
22 Controlled Use Area where it started off kind of small,
23 but then it's been expanded several times, this last time
24 at the recommendation of the User Conflict Working Group.

25

26 But you have to understand that the State
27 system is difficult to work with, because most Board of
28 Game members do not like instituting controlled use areas
29 period. As a matter of fact, ours has been under attack
30 several times trying to get rid of it.

31

32 So I'm not sure where that would go,
33 Percy, in terms of determining, you know, whether it's
34 customary and traditional in your area, because it's
35 difficult to do, seemingly impossible under the Federal
36 system.

37

38 MS. WESTING: Maybe I can talk about that
39 a little bit. This is Charlotte with Fish and Game here
40 in Kotzebue.

41

42 I've thought about the situation with
43 those oxen over in the Tag and how the customary and
44 traditional thing might play out with the Board of Game.
45 I think it's all going to depend on whether or not they
46 consider those Tag muskoxen as part of the Seward
47 Peninsula population, and therefore lumped into that C&T
48 finding, or if they try to say that they're separate and
49 try to make their own C&T finding. So that's going to
50 really make a difference as far as if anything happens

1 with that group.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you,
4 Charlotte.

5

6 Was that anywhere near an answer, Percy?

7

8 MR. BALLOT: I guess I just -- we all
9 know, animals don't have no boundaries, and they don't
10 know where the lines are. So if the population is good
11 at Selawik is just as Buckland or Deering.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Ken.

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: Member Ballot through the
16 Chair. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

17

18 The process is fairly similar on both the
19 State and Federal sides. In fact, I think, you know, you
20 could probably ask Jim Magdanz for more detail on the
21 State side, but the Federal side's eight criteria
22 originally -- I won't say it mirrored exactly what the
23 State used to use or their characteristics that they
24 defined in the early days of the State's subsistence
25 program as characteristics of subsistence use. So there
26 is that connection between the way the State used to
27 operate and the way the Federal system operates. There
28 are some minor differences, but that's sort of the origin
29 of the eight factors as characteristic of subsistence
30 use.

31

32 Now, in terms of something like muskoxen
33 in the Tag River, basically these things begin with a
34 proposal to open up a hunt and then the appropriate
35 Boards collect their information and basically make some
36 sort of determination. In the case of something like
37 muskoxen that's been, you know, essentially absent for a
38 fairly prolonged period of time and you have no recent
39 history of use on them, it really complicates the
40 decisionmaking process. And I would only remind folks
41 that in 1995 when the State Board of Game first took up
42 the issue of Seward Peninsula muskoxen, they found that
43 there was no C&T. The Federal program took up the same
44 question and they came to the completely opposite finding
45 and they made a positive determination for C&T basically
46 on a whole range of things, including those eight
47 factors.

48

49 And so I can only speculate, but I think
50 it would help you understand the process. But it's not

1 the final decision as to how people weigh the various
2 factors, put them together and arrive at a conclusion.

3
4 But in the case of the Tag, you know, as
5 Charlotte pointed out, part of the question is whether
6 you really view them as sort of the same animals or sort
7 of want to separate them off in a separate group. But
8 those are, you know, expanding. You know, it's a natural
9 expansion now, though the original, you know, animals
10 came from a reintroduction. But I think that the Board
11 would probably look at the whole range of Buckland's
12 uses, as other communities as well, and ask who utilizes
13 resources over in the Tag River, and a whole range of
14 resources. You know, I mean, and if you've never shown
15 any use in the Tag River, it might be hard to, you know,
16 justify going there for this one resource, but if you've
17 shown, you know, resource use for other things, caribou,
18 moose, whatever, you know, you're beginning to build that
19 pattern in that area.

20
21 But it is a process, and, you know, it
22 starts with a proposal, and it gets a hearing and people
23 listen to all the available information and evidence and
24 the Board makes a decision. And decisions are not
25 unanimous, and sometimes they're kind of strange and
26 mysterious. So you can't really predict necessarily the
27 outcome, but I would suspect that there's, you know,
28 probably a better than fair chance that at least the
29 Federal program would, depending again as I said on a
30 whole range of Buckland uses, and as well as other
31 communities, might find some positive use for them.

32
33 I would also point out that even though
34 the Federal program found a positive C&T for Seward
35 Peninsula muskoxen, especially working through the
36 cooperators is where the idea of managing by these hunt
37 areas came from, too. And that gave both the State and
38 Federal programs a lot more flexibility. But, you know,
39 we're now beginning to question, you know, whether that's
40 still a valid means of management, so, you know, it's not
41 a hard and fast thing.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ken.

44
45 Walter.

46
47 MR. SAMPSON: I don't know, maybe I'm
48 confusing myself. I can understand, recognize what the
49 Federal system is trying to do with the eight factors
50 that you. After reading them, they certainly are good.

1 But at the same time, when the Federal system talks about
2 a consistent regulations with the State of Alaska, how
3 can the State of Alaska's regulations be consistent with
4 the Federal system's when you have two different factors
5 that each agency use to come out with a piece of
6 regulation. What happens? Where do they go from there?

7
8 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. The
9 regulations don't have to be consistent. I mean, I think
10 they talk about being consistent where they can be
11 consistent. And in this case I don't think we're
12 consistent at all for C&Ts. I mean, the State doesn't
13 have to use what we use; we don't have to use what the
14 State uses for C&T. There's no requirement that says
15 that. We're trying to abide by what ANILCA says, not
16 what the State Constitution says.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: So how does the State
19 enforces those regulations then in the field?

20
21 MR. ARDIZZONE: Well, they enforce their
22 regulations and we enforce ours. I mean, I'm not sure --
23 I mean, Mr. Magdanz is here. He can speak to the State
24 customary and traditional use. I can't really speak to
25 what the State does for sure.

26
27 (Conversation away from microphone)

28
29 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, they're
30 talking about it. Because Walter's right, you know.

31
32 MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. I'll try
33 to keep this very simple. The State has eight criteria.
34 The Federal program -- excuse me, factors. The Federal
35 program I believe initially adopted those eight factors,
36 have changed them since. The State goes through each of
37 these criteria as a check box, and makes sure that each
38 of these criteria is met for determining C&Ts. I
39 understand the Federal government does not. They use it
40 as a guide. So the State is more restrictive when
41 determining C&Ts for areas for populations. And when the
42 Federal Subsistence Board adopts C&Ts that the State
43 disagrees with, we challenge that. And I don't think
44 we've won one of our challenges in recent.

45
46 And I believe that helps answer your
47 question, sir.

48
49 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
2 you. Well, perhaps we'll just leave it there and then
3 what we'll do is see what develops on that topic as time
4 goes on. Is that acceptable to the Council.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Go ahead,
9 Chuck.

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: Do I have to?

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Unless you have
15 somebody else to speak for you.

16
17 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, there's no one else,
18 unfortunately.

19
20 The next couple of items are just
21 informational purposes.

22
23 As I think we talked about a little bit
24 last night, for the people who were here, the Federal
25 Subsistence Board is having a work session on April 6th
26 to discuss rural. The Regional Advisory Council Chairs
27 are invited. The meeting will not be teleconferenced,
28 and the Board is not prepared to make any decisions with
29 regard to the process or regulation changes until after
30 its grounded in rural.

31
32 So basically every so often, every 10
33 years, the Board is supposed to readdress rural and non-
34 rural determinations. That will be coming up shortly, so
35 the Board's having this premeeting so the Board can
36 understand the rural process and also get input from the
37 Regional Advisory Council Chairs on what questions to ask
38 to help determine if an area is rural or not. I mean, I
39 don't think out here anybody will have to worry, but, you
40 know, some of the non-rural areas or rural areas on the
41 edge of, you know, there could be a change. So the
42 Board's just trying to get input from the Council Chairs
43 on what they should look at during the process.

44
45 The next is another informational item.
46 It's executive sessions policy. The Board's committed to
47 an open and transparent public process, and towards this
48 end they're trying to eliminate as many executive
49 sessions, closed door sessions as they can. I mean,
50

1 that's been input from Regional Advisory Councils and
2 other things that, you know, they're concerned about the
3 executive sessions they have where people aren't allowed
4 in. So basically the Board's trying to do away with
5 those wherever they can.

6
7 However, there are certain times that
8 they'll have to have closed door sessions. Anytime
9 there's legal issues, they can't have -- you know, they
10 don't want it open to the public. It's, you know,
11 between the Board and the solicitors. Or if they're
12 talking about personnel information, you know, they don't
13 want to discuss personnel information in public. So
14 those are the two reasons they're going to still keep
15 executive sessions in play. But generally they're going
16 to try and have everything open to the public.

17
18 So that covers those two.

19
20 Now, if you turn to Page 42, that's a
21 letter from Tim Towarak to Regional Council members
22 describing the Federal Subsistence Board process, or
23 proposed process for tribal council consultation. So
24 that the letter goes through and tries to explain what
25 the Board's looking at for tribal consultation and I have
26 a couple bullets I need to read.

27
28 So although they're working on a tribal
29 consultation process, deference to the Councils ensures
30 that rural residents have meaningful role in the
31 management of fish and wildlife and subsistence uses as
32 envisioned by Congress in Title VIII.

33
34 The administration by Presidential order
35 has underscored the importance of tribal consultation
36 across the government. Consistent with the Secretaries
37 of Interior and Agriculture, renewed emphasis on
38 respectful relationships with tribes, the Federal
39 Subsistence Board would like to enhance our government-
40 to-government consultation with tribes.

41
42 Towards that end, the Board had a meeting
43 in January, 2011 in Anchorage. Invitations were sent to
44 all Federally-recognized tribes in Alaska, as well as all
45 ANCSA corporations. The invitations were two-fold.
46 Tribes were invited to provide comments on fishery
47 proposals, and they are also invited to a meeting on the
48 21st of January to discuss the development of a tribal
49 consultation protocol for the overall subsistence
50 management program.

1 Each Regional Advisory Council member was
2 also sent a letter signed by the Federal Subsistence
3 Board Chair explaining the Board's intended process to
4 ensure the Councils of their continuing vital role to the
5 program.

6
7 So basically on the 21st was a listening
8 session to gather information from tribal entities on
9 they envision tribal consultation between the Board and
10 tribes would work. The main themes expressed at this
11 first session were that tribal traditions in the use of
12 fish and wildlife predate western management systems;
13 that knowledge is passed down through the generations;
14 and we need to listen to that knowledge; the Regional
15 Advisory Councils with all due respect are not tribes;
16 there is a necessity to consult meaningfully directly
17 with tribes; the tribes need to be informed of program
18 developments early on; and tribes need to be a partner in
19 the process; and tribal participation in Council process
20 needs to be explicit. Those were the main themes that
21 came out of that meeting on the 21st.

22
23 So the current meeting window provides an
24 opportunity for the Regional Advisory Councils to look at
25 this update and information on tribal consultation and
26 provide your perspective. So the Board right now is
27 looking for your input on how you think tribal
28 consultation should work. And remember the consultation
29 is not between the Office of Subsistence Management and
30 tribes, it's between the Federal Board and tribes. We've
31 had some confusion in the past, so it's, you know, the
32 Federal Board and tribes themselves.

33
34 Some key points to remember is that in
35 making regulatory decisions, the Board must follow the
36 recommendations of the Regional Advisory Councils unless
37 they are not supported by substantial evidence, or if
38 they violate recognized principles of fish and wildlife
39 conservation or would be detrimental to the satisfaction
40 of subsistence needs. So basically the Board has to
41 follow whatever you recommend unless one of these three
42 reasons can be supported.

43
44 The second key point is ANILCA does not
45 provide rights to tribes for the subsistence taking of
46 fish and wildlife -- excuse me, taking of wildlife, fish
47 and shellfish; however, because tribal members are
48 affected by the subsistence fishing, hunting and trapping
49 regulations, the Secretaries through the Board will
50 provide Federally-recognized tribes and Alaska Native

1 corporations an opportunity to consult.

2

3 So at this time, if the Council has any
4 input on how they think tribal consultation should work,
5 I can take some notes on that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: We're open. Vic.

8

9 MR. KARMUN: Being as the RACs aren't
10 regarded as tribes, possibly in the near future would we
11 be cut off or would the RACs be extended, like just
12 extensions of existing tribes?

13

14 MR. ARDIZZONE: Through the Chair. In
15 ANILCA the RACs are provided for in regulation, so they
16 cannot be excluded. I mean, you'll always be here. This
17 is just a process for the Federal Board to get additional
18 input from the tribal organizations. Because, you know,
19 the Federal Board has to give deference to the Councils,
20 and that's right in the statute.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think that.....

23

24 MS. ATORUK: Your mic.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I think in terms of
27 having input immediately to the consultation process, I
28 think since it's been included, I think it's kind of a
29 wait and see kind of thing on the outcome end, right?
30 And then if we see any evidence that tribes had been
31 consulted and it came out in some form, then I think we'd
32 be inclined to agree that it's probably a good thing.

33

34 Anything else.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead, Percy.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: You said there was a meeting
41 on January 21st, so has anything been developed out of
42 that meeting when they had the 10th. Or a draft of
43 anything regarding consultation?

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Through the Chair. No
46 draft has been developed at this time, no.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Go ahead and
49 continue, Chuck.

50

1 MR. ARDIZZONE: Okay. Mr. Chair. On
2 Page 44 there's a summary of the January 5th Federal
3 Subsistence Board executive session. It's really just an
4 information item. We've kind of talked about everything
5 that's in here already. That's what all these briefings
6 stem from is based on what that session had as results.
7 So it's just pretty much informational.

8
9 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any questions on
10 that section.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Then continue.

15
16 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair. You're done
17 with me. Move on to the next victim, which would be the
18 National Park Service.

19
20 MR. SAMPSON: Did you say next victim?

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Next cooperator.

25
26 MR. SAMPSON: Are they cooperating then?

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Well,
31 thanks, Chuck.

32
33 MR. ARDIZZONE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: And we'll go to Item
36 B, National Park Service. I think Mary McBurney is going
37 to be giving a presentation.

38
39 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
40 the record, I'm Mary McBurney, acting superintendent for
41 Western Arctic National Parklands.

42
43 And I think first off I'd like to let you
44 know that we now have a new superintendent that has been
45 appointed to the park, and his name is Frank Hayes.
46 Frank is going to be arriving probably the first week of
47 April, so a couple weeks off yet, and he's going to be
48 coming to us from Honolulu, Hawaii. So it will be a bit
49 of a sea change for him.

50

1 But he comes with a really interesting
2 background that I think is really going to complement the
3 work that the National Park Service does here. And
4 specifically he has managed numerous parks. In his
5 present position he oversees 11 parks in Hawaii,
6 American Samoa and Guam. And so he's had extensive
7 experience working with Native peoples and ancestral
8 lands and traditional uses. So while they may have been
9 experiences that he's had in warmer climates, we're
10 hoping that that will be something that he can bring to
11 this job, and to be working with you and the rest of the
12 traditional users.

13

14 My last day is going to be next Friday,
15 the 25th, so this will be my last meeting with you. And
16 I would like to thank you all for making me feel very
17 welcome in Kotzebue. I've really enjoyed my six months
18 here. Initially it was only going to be four, but I
19 liked it so much I went ahead and signed on for another
20 two. But it's time for me to head home and I'll be
21 turning over the keys to Frank in a couple of weeks.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: You're home.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MS. MCBURNEY: My other home, the Homer
28 home.

29

30 But I have had conversations with Frank
31 about the key issues that he's going to need to be
32 picking up and running with once he arrives. I've talked
33 to him about the RAC and also the importance of
34 revitalizing the SRCs. And I anticipate that that will
35 be something that he will make contact with you, Walter,
36 and with Pete to talk about how we might be able to do
37 that.

38

39 He's very interested in spending more
40 time in the communities, working more closely with the
41 communities and getting to be a better neighbor to the
42 communities. So the SRCs are a very obvious starting
43 point.

44

45 I wanted to give you a quick update on
46 the transporter plan. As you know, the previous
47 superintendent had drafted, or was preparing a draft of
48 a transporter plan. And when I arrived I was handed the
49 draft and told, okay, do something with this. So I
50 assembled my Staff and we took a very long, hard look at

1 it and determined that it was in a very, very rough shape
2 that was going to require a lot of work, a lot of Staff
3 time, and that really this issue needed to be dealt with
4 in a more responsive manner. And what we have done is
5 we've tabled the plan for now.

6
7 And the intent is that since the current
8 transporter permits expire at the end of this year, that
9 the best way to deal with it is just to deal with it
10 through permit stipulations. And so that the new permits
11 that come out for the transporters will have some
12 specific stipulations outlined that hopefully will more
13 directly address the issue of user conflicts. And I will
14 be recommending to Frank that he undertake this as a
15 collaborative approach, and working with the users
16 directly to see how to best craft stipulations that can
17 address the key issues and address those things that are
18 important to the traditional users while still allowing,
19 you know, an opportunity for transporters to operate a
20 business in the preserve.

21
22 One of the other things that kind of came
23 out of our review of that transporter plan was there's
24 kind of a general lack of really good information,
25 especially about traditional uses and that body of
26 traditional knowledge that resides in communities and in
27 the traditions that are passed down from generation to
28 generation.

29
30 And one of the things that I will suggest
31 also to the new superintendent is to pursue funding
32 through a subsistence funding source that the National
33 Park Service has that's specifically for subsistence
34 research needs. And I think a traditional ecological
35 knowledge project that could work closely with the local
36 communities and identify those key tradition bearers that
37 have the knowledge of caribou behavior and how caribou
38 can be influenced by the presence of people in sensitive
39 places and perhaps at sensitive times, and the whole body
40 of information that the people carry with them from
41 having lived with the animals and living close to the
42 land. And I believe that this would an extremely
43 important piece of research to have, because if there
44 does come a time when there is a transporter plan that
45 needs to be put together, there needs to be that
46 information that can stand up and complement the
47 biological science that's going to be considered at the
48 same time. And so we can get away perhaps a little bit
49 from that, oh, it's anecdotal, oh, it's just, you know,
50 hearsay, but rather that that body of knowledge is

1 compiled in a scientific fashion so that it can be
2 utilized. And it also has many other applications,
3 specifically that it's preserved for future generations,
4 can be used by young people, can be used for a variety of
5 different purposes and educational programs.

6

7 And, finally, I thought you might be
8 pleased to know that Ricky Ashby is going to be stopping
9 by the office next week and picking up his cabin permit.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Good.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 MS. MCBURNEY: Ricky had approached me a
16 few months ago asking for an amendment to his permit so
17 that he could be permitted to put up a traditional cache
18 for food storage and for storing gear away from animals.
19 And so we have amended his cabin permit and made
20 arrangements for him to come and pick it up so that we
21 can hand it to him personally and get the necessary
22 signatures and it's done.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: When is that going to
25 occur?

26

27 MS. MCBURNEY: You want to come over?

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: When is that going to
30 occur?

31

32 MS. MCBURNEY: Let's see, Dan, when did
33 Ricky say he'd stop by?

34

35 MR. STEVENSON: It should be tomorrow.
36 Or the 20 -- no, excuse me. Next week sometime. Next
37 Tuesday.

38

39 MS. MCBURNEY: So early next week.

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: (Indiscernible, microphone
42 not on) can pick it up in Anchorage.

43

44 MS. MCBURNEY: We'll videotape it for
45 you.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. MCBURNEY: Any questions from the
50 Council.

1 MR. SAMPSON: First of all I want to
2 thank Mary for your work. I know on a short-term notice
3 you managed to accept the role as an acting
4 superintendent for this region. And certainly we've had
5 some good dialogues in regards to some of the issues
6 that's been sort of, not haunting us, but almost getting
7 to that point. But I think the relationship that you had
8 with your Staff to address some of the needs here has
9 been good. And I want to thank you for that commitment
10 that you made to work with your present Staff and work
11 with the local folks here in this region.

12
13 And some of the information that you
14 referred to, some of the studies that occur, where do
15 those go? I'm talking about some of Brad's work,
16 biological work, is that information in Kotzebue, or does
17 it go somewhere, Brad?

18
19 MS. MCBURNEY: Brad, would you like to
20 come up.

21
22 MR. SHULTS: Sure. I can answer that.
23 Hello. Brad Shults with the Park Service.

24
25 It goes in a variety of formats. With
26 our monitoring program, we're doing annual monitoring
27 reports for each one of the vital signs, like muskox
28 and/or sheep, or what have you. And then those reports
29 will be available, they're available on line, and we make
30 hard copies and those sorts of things.

31
32 A lot of the data that we use just for
33 day-to-day, you know, decisionmaking, like if we do a
34 muskoxen survey or stuff, it doesn't always end up in a
35 file report. Fish and Game does their survey and
36 inventory reports on cooperative projects, so Charlotte
37 can speak to that. But they report on all that.

38
39 But it ends up in a variety of formats,
40 and some of it just ends up in a computer file and not
41 necessarily disseminated as a final report for on-going
42 sorts of things, if that answers it. Some of it's
43 published.

44
45 MR. SAMPSON: You've partially answered
46 my question. I'm interested in, you know, at some point
47 in time we're going to have to look at some of that
48 information for comparison purposes in the future. Some
49 of the moose studies, some of the sheep studies that
50 you've worked with the State of Alaska jointly. And

1 that's why I'm asking, is there any reason why we can't
2 have some hard copies here at this office so when we have
3 the time to come over and take a look at some of that
4 information. I'd love to come and do that, not having to
5 try to dig it out of State or your Fairbanks office.

6

7 MR. SHULTS: I understand, and I think,
8 you know, I find the same problem with myself, you know,
9 after you might do 19 years worth of annual surveys, but
10 there's not one document that says what does that mean
11 over 19 years, and it's not readily accessible.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: Can that be made accessible
14 then on some sort of reports? I mean, after all there
15 are studies and whatnot that's supposedly was a joint
16 thing with the State of Alaska.

17

18 MR. SHULTS: They can be, and I think
19 that's -- you know, we've talked a lot about that for
20 muskoxen, and after collecting information since their
21 reintroduction, there's not one place where it's all
22 compiled and says this is what it means at this point.
23 But we can certainly work on, you know, by species or by
24 area and work with you to get you that kind of stuff
25 before the meetings.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

28

29 MR. SHULTS: Sure.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much, Brad.
32 Mary, is there any way we can get a copy of that Draft
33 Management Plan that was supposedly drafted by a previous
34 superintendent? Or is it not to.....

35

36 MS. MCBURNEY: It's very, very rough. It
37 really was never meant for public release. And when I
38 say that it was very rough, it was very rough.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. That's good. Don't
41 worry about it. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, I'd like to
44 take this opportunity myself to echo what Walter said
45 about it being a real pleasure working with you, Mary,
46 and we wish you well in Lake Clark. We tried to steal
47 you, but it didn't work.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: For those of you that are
2 interested and will be here the 25th, that's this month,
3 right?

4
5 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes.

6
7 MR. SAMPSON: We'll have a dinner for
8 Mary, and we'll set it up maybe in this place, or if we
9 can't utilize this facility, then we'll go somewhere
10 else. So we will have a dinner for you.

11
12 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you very much.
13 Thank you very much. That would be very meaningful and
14 special.

15
16 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any other questions
19 for National Parks. Mike.

20
21 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I'd like to
22 eventually be able to read that draft. You know, I
23 worked as a guide for several years under a guide here in
24 our region. It would be very interesting to read over
25 that material and come to a decision as to, you know, how
26 that will benefit the subsistence users and the
27 commercial users within this region.

28
29 Eventually I'd like to see it set in a
30 way that, you know, the first 200 hunters that come into
31 this region go under the transporters, and after that all
32 the rest fall under the guides, because the guides have
33 been left out in the dark with not very many hunters as
34 the transporters get, because the transporters are a
35 cheaper way to go. And this beginning to leave the
36 guides, you know, out in space, not making much money,
37 not getting as many clients. That's one of the reasons
38 why I haven't working as an assistant guide the last
39 several years is because of not as many clients. That's
40 why I'd like to see that be spread throughout both.

41
42 Eventually I'd like to just see guides
43 here, because I prefer guides, because it's a one-on-one
44 deal with hunters. And I'd eventually like to see a lot
45 more local assistant guides, because we know the area, we
46 know the animals and to have local assistant guides here
47 within our region, I think that would be much better for
48 our economy. And it would also help these outside
49 hunters understand our culture and our way of life.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. MCBURNEY: Mr. Chair. Mike, I would
4 really encourage you to stop by next month when Frank is
5 here and introduce yourself. I think that's some
6 important information that I think he would really
7 appreciate having. It's more information for him to
8 consider as he gets his feet under him with this issue,
9 and also tries to tackle it.

10

11 But thank you.

12

13 And Marci Johnson has just joined me.

14

15 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. I just wanted
16 a few minutes of your time. I'll try to be brief, but
17 we'll have certainly time for questions if you have
18 them. I wanted to talk about a few projects I'm working
19 on.

20

21 Again, my name is Marci Johnson. I'm
22 based here in Kotzebue.

23

24 One that's coming up this summer, it's a
25 small-scale, non-invasive we call it project. We're
26 primarily interested in black bears in the Kobuk Valley.
27 We have some funding to start looking at it. There
28 haven't been any black bear projects in the region, and
29 so this is just kind of the first chunk out of it, just
30 to get a glimpse of things like density and some other
31 metrics out there. This is going to be a small-scale
32 project around the sand dunes area, and hopefully along
33 the river corridor using dogs that are trained to sniff
34 out scat. So it seems to be a common theme with my
35 career is picking up a lot of bear poop, but these dogs,
36 I know a lot of dogs can find this stuff, but these dogs
37 are trained to find it in some tricky areas and cue the
38 dog handlers, and then the dog handlers go and take a
39 small sample. We can determine diet, parasites, stress
40 levels, things like that, but we can also send these to
41 geneticists and they can take their DNA fingerprint and
42 tell us how many individual black and brown bears are out
43 there. So we have a lot of different information to work
44 with.

45

46 So as I said, it's a small-scale project.
47 I'm hoping to have the teams in and out within maybe two
48 and a half weeks, two weeks time. We'll use two
49 different dog teams, because one will kind of check the
50 other. But using dogs, their detection rate or their

1 ability to find just most of the scats out on the
2 landscape is so great that they've had great success with
3 this technique.

4
5 So along with that project, once we
6 finish, one of the teams has agreed to come with me to
7 Ambler and give a demonstration, and here in town we'll
8 give a demonstration of how this works.

9
10 But like I said, it's a small-scale
11 project, a small area, a couple weeks of time. So that's
12 one project coming up a little later this summer.

13
14 Another project is kind of generated from
15 discussions at the RAC meetings. Previous meetings with
16 Virgil Adams and Mr. Burns from Noatak had expressed some
17 concerns about bears coming near towns because of fish
18 drying on the drying racks. And George Pappas here
19 mentioned electric fencing, and since then I got a grant
20 from the National Park Foundation to provide fencing to
21 those who wanted it.

22
23 And also I added on there, if there's
24 money left over also to provide some of those locking
25 steel drums or other kinds of bear-resistant food
26 containers for people that camp. And like Ricky Ashby
27 Leslie had asked about those, and so I can make those
28 available for folks.

29
30 So I've been to Noatak a few times now.
31 I've worked with some -- been to all the classrooms,
32 talked to all the kids about the importance of these
33 fences and what they mean and how to take care of them.
34 Some public meetings and trying to get kids involved with
35 the science fair, so we had a project this year related
36 to it.

37
38 And I just came back from the IRA last
39 week. And so right now I'm in the phase where I've got
40 the funding and I know a few different types of fences I
41 can custom build for people, whether or not they need
42 gates for elders, or if they need a different power
43 source, if they're going to make -- if they want a
44 portable unit they can take to their camps, and what not.
45 So I'm all ready to go. And I put my phone number up
46 around town and I've tried to contact some folks, and I'm
47 looking for new ideas to kind of get the word out.

48
49 But right now, you know, I'd like the
50 whole community to be on board if I'm going to do this in

1 the Village of Noatak. And so far everybody seems very
2 supportive. I just need to know if I bring some fences
3 out there, they'll be there with me, that I can show them
4 how they work, and I'll know where to put them up and
5 things like that.

6
7 So that's kind of where I'm at right now
8 with that. If it doesn't work this year in the village,
9 if not everybody's on board, if maybe, you know, it's
10 moving too quickly, and there are concerns with people in
11 the village, then I can make it available to people at
12 camps in different places and up the coast and things
13 like that.

14
15 So I'd always appreciate if you hear of
16 people that might be interested, let them contact me here
17 in Kotzebue.

18
19 The third project that takes up all my
20 time is the muskox research project in the area. And
21 this project is led by Lane Adams of the USGS and Joel
22 Berger who's with the University of Montana and the
23 Wildlife Conservation Society. And this started a few
24 years ago, and we've been trying to keep about 30 collars
25 out on adult females in Bering Land Bridge area and also
26 up north, the Cape Thompson population. Thirty in each.

27
28 Right now we're down to, I have to look
29 again, I think 22 and 23. And Saturday the helicopter
30 comes in, since the hunt is over this year, the
31 helicopter will come in and we'll do a few more captures
32 to get that number back up to 30.

33
34 A lot of these collars are GPS collars
35 and so we get six locations a day, so I'm up to -- I had
36 to change databases because I'm up to something like
37 70,000 locations for many of these animals. So we're
38 getting a lot of data.

39
40 When I go out, I take photographs, and
41 I'm trying to keep track of how they move from group to
42 group, and it's amazing how much they move. We've had
43 some groups -- one that started in the Igichuk Hills and
44 she's up on the North Slope now. A couple are up on the
45 North Slope now. So they look like they're just standing
46 there, but they do keep me on my toes.

47
48 One thing that this project's really
49 brought about just this last week, I was out March 1st,
50 two weeks ago, radio tracking. And we just returned a

1 few days ago. And it was because of this project we were
2 able to notice this, down at Cape Espenberg area we just
3 had a large mortality event. And it seemed to be related
4 to that weather we had a couple weekends ago. Remember,
5 we had that storm surge, and there was talk of
6 evacuations on Front Street here. There was quick
7 flooding, and the ice was breaking up.

8
9 Well, they seemed to be in a low area
10 near Cape Espenberg, a group that had previously been
11 photographed of 55 animals, including our of our collared
12 animals. And when I returned the other day, all of the
13 four collars were on mortality. We flew around and all
14 we saw was ice, and it turns out that they were down low
15 and they got caught in this flooding event. And so
16 they're all encased and entrapped in the ice and they
17 died down there. So just from the ones we've been able
18 to see, and I have a photograph I could share with you
19 just to get an idea of what we're looking at there, and
20 pass that down. Basically just a clump or a chunk of fur
21 that's sitting out of the ice.

22
23 And so given that, we have taken a
24 Trimble, a very accurate GPS unit down there, and we
25 found 32. It looks like there's possibly a group of
26 seven that may have gotten away, looking at the region.
27 We're still not sure of the total number, and we probably
28 won't know until spring. But it's still a significant
29 number of animals.

30
31 This weather system was certainly unique,
32 and, you know, discussions of if it's related to the
33 increase in severity and, you know, different types of
34 storms, perhaps climate change related. It's certainly
35 for discussions in the future.

36
37 But right now, because Lane Adams and
38 Joel Berger are in town for the capture work, too, we're
39 certainly discussing this, and we're starting to gather
40 some data to make this -- to get as much information from
41 this as possible. Certainly we're going to contact folks
42 who have cabins in the area so they're aware of this for
43 next summer, in case there's some, you know, bears
44 increasing in the area.

45
46 And, of course, we're scientists, so
47 we're going to document this and get this in a journal
48 and make it known. So it's certainly been a unique event
49 that we're -- that the project alerted us to.

50

1 So I tried to be quick, now my throat's
2 dry, but I'd be happy to take some questions if you have
3 some.

4
5 MR. SAMPSON: I guess the issue with
6 regards to bear studies, do you plan to use the man's
7 kennel, the dogs there for hunting?

8
9 MR. STEVENSON: Not mine.

10
11 (Laughter)

12
13 MR. SAMPSON: No, I'm just kidding.

14
15 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. He has some well-
16 trained dogs also, but it's a different type of training.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 MR. SAMPSON: Well, I think one of the
21 things, the best and easiest way of addressing that is
22 you have guides in this region that are State controlled.
23 I think part of the problem has been they are limited to
24 only taking so many a year. If you can increase that, at
25 least for a year or two, then it's something that you
26 ought to look at. A lot of it is the paper track that
27 they have to go through to file and apply for and pay
28 for. I think that option, you ought to look at. If the
29 take can be increased in all areas, because the bear
30 population certainly is much higher. In the past you'd
31 never hardly see any bears on the Kobuk delta, but today
32 you go boating, you'll see a bear here and there, both
33 grizzly and black. So not only grizzly but some of them
34 are silver-colored, you know, that usually are up in the
35 mountain.

36
37 I think we've defeated the muskox issue.
38 It's sad to see that. You know, this occurred over in
39 Espenberg side, but out of 32, you said seven might have
40 escaped?

41
42 MS. JOHNSON: Out of what we believe is
43 55 two weeks ago, at least 7 may have.

44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks.

46
47 MS. JOHNSON: And I should clarify, too,
48 that this bear project won't be large enough. You would
49 need a much larger area to get a population estimate, so
50 that we won't be getting those types of numbers from this

1 project.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: You get a dune buggy out
4 there and ride around the sand dunes.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any other questions
9 for Parks.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Excuse me. What about --
12 what do the locals about -- have you talked to locals
13 about this?

14

15 MS. JOHNSON: About that?

16

17 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

18

19 MS. JOHNSON: At this point we're just
20 working on that today to get more information. I always
21 keep in touch with Fred Eningowuk from the Shishmaref
22 IRA, tell him when we go radio tracking and if we find
23 anything unusual or interesting, and so I told him about
24 this right away. And Fred Goodhope, Jr. and others who
25 have cabins out there we're contacting as well. And
26 state trooper and a whole list of people. And we're
27 working through that right now to continue to do that.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Don't go harassing muskox
30 with helicopter now.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: I'm just harassing you.

35

36 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MS. JOHNSON: We're very respectful.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Well,
43 thank you very much, Mary.

44

45 MS. MCBURNEY: There may be more here.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: We're trying to get
48 done here by 3:00 so if it can be summarized, that would
49 be useful.

50

1 MS. MCBURNEY: This will be one last
2 short update.

3
4 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay.

5
6 MS. JESSE: This is Linda Jesse with
7 National Park Service here in Kotzebue, and I manage our
8 education program.

9
10 I wanted to share a few things with the
11 Council about what we've been doing with students and
12 people throughout the region here to help them learn
13 about the resources in our Parks. The information that
14 I have from October 2010 to October 2011, which is our
15 last fiscal year, and it gives you a good picture I think
16 of the year around amounts of activities that we do. And
17 we're doing similar kinds and numbers of programs for
18 this physical year as well.

19
20 So for outreach we're talking generally
21 K through 12 grades in the village schools of the region.
22 And it's primarily Gina Hernandez who's our education
23 specialist, but also Willie Goodwin is in the schools a
24 lot teaching Inupiat studies classes, and Marci, as she
25 mentioned, is working with students on muskox and black
26 bear topics.

27
28 So in this past fiscal year we had 201
29 programs with students, and we contacted 2,819 kids in
30 nine different villages on lots of topics. Just real
31 briefly, and you're welcome to look at the full sheet if
32 you would like, but Gina did programs on bears, weather,
33 salmon, Willie's Inupiat studies, medicinal plants, bird
34 migration, archeology, career day, safety and survival,
35 sled dog history, pollution, hunting wetlands, owls,
36 muskox, yellow-billed loons, climate change, gold rush,
37 tracking, map and compass, caribou. Lots and lots of
38 topics.

39
40 And we get good feedback from the kids,
41 and I wanted to read you real quickly here one letter
42 from one of our students. Dear Gina, thank you for the
43 plants we used for our project. This was for a medicinal
44 plant class that they do in the school. I gave the oil
45 to my anaan. She loved it. She has lots of sore spots.
46 When it is summer, I think I will make more. Thank you.

47
48 And we always try to make that connection
49 with the topic so that students will go home and talk to
50 their family members and their elders about these

1 concepts and find out what they think about that. And so
2 Gina has a little bit of homework that she sends back
3 with the kids, and in this one for her plant class, she
4 asked them to do an elder interview about medicinal
5 plants. The student came back and said that you use
6 stinkweed leaves, you boil the plant, and you take it out
7 and you chew on it after you're done boiling it, which is
8 good for sore throats. And she got a lot of good
9 feedback from kids on wild celery for sore muscles,
10 tundra tea as a medicine, and more stinkweed for sore
11 throats and bad colds. So always trying to make that
12 connection with the traditional uses that people have.

13

14 She's been doing art projects with them
15 and collecting stories on aurora, information and
16 perceptions that people have around here on aurora and
17 also caribou work and stories. They made up their own
18 stories about how caribou got their antlers.

19

20 And recently we went to the science fair
21 and gave out an award to two high school students who did
22 a project on shrinking lakes in Kobuk Valley National
23 Park related to climate change and how the water is being
24 reduced in a lot of places because permafrost is thawing
25 and it's changing the shapes and sizes of some of the
26 bodies of water around here where people have
27 traditionally -- I think this case the lake was one where
28 they had traditionally was hunted waterfowl who were
29 molting at a certain time of the year. So the kids were
30 specifically interested in that.

31

32 And then here in the heritage center, in
33 our new building, we've had 10 events over the last
34 fiscal year where the community has come in to use this
35 meeting room for different events, like Native language
36 conferences and a Veteran's celebration. The conference
37 participants who were involved with those 10 event, plus
38 the people who have just walked in the door to look at
39 the exhibits and browse our bookstore, that's been 4,400
40 people over the course of last year who have come into
41 the building. And we have a lot of formal education
42 programs in this building as well, and out of those we've
43 had almost 4,000 participants specifically for Park
44 programs in here.

45

46 And one that I would like to bring to
47 your attention is just recently we had -- I think I'll
48 pass these around. Adam Freeberg is an archeologist who
49 has been working at Cape Krusenstern for a number of
50 summers, and we sponsored a talk by him for the -- a

1 summary of the work that they have accomplished out there
2 at Cape Krusenstern. And he has money for an education
3 kit as part of their work. And when they finish
4 crunching all their data, they will get this education
5 kit put together that reflects what they learned out
6 there about historical uses of the resources at Cape
7 Krusenstern. They'll have copies of some of the
8 artifacts that they found for people to see and to touch
9 and use and that kit will be available for loan to any
10 educational group that would like to have it.

11
12 And tonight, I don't know how many people
13 are leaving town, but tonight we're actually having a
14 program in here on artifacts that have been documented at
15 the British museums that ended up there, that were taken
16 from this very region in the 1700s and ended up in
17 British museums. And Amber Lincoln is the researcher who
18 has documented that work, and the Goodwin family has
19 helped. They went over to some of those museums to look
20 at these items, and Amber has a very good program.

21
22 And next week we're doing one on reindeer
23 herding. There's a professor who will be in here to talk
24 about that as well.

25
26 So we try to get as many of those
27 research and cultural programs as we can. And we have a
28 lot of different things for kids and adults going on year
29 round.

30
31 So does anybody have any questions about
32 any of that. Go ahead.

33
34 MR. SAMPSON: The artifacts that you find
35 from Cape Krusenstern, what exactly do you do with those
36 things?

37
38 MS. JESSE: Well, they store those in the
39 -- at the office in Anchorage where they climate-
40 controlled storage facilities for those things. But Adam
41 did say that it might be nice if some of those perhaps
42 less delicate items could go on temporary display here in
43 that lighted case right when we walk in. We might be
44 able to do some rotating displays with some of those
45 items.

46
47 Some of them don't look like a lot, you
48 know. He showed us pictures of some ulus and I don't
49 remember what some of the other items were.

50

1 MS. MCBURNEY: There were different
2 projectile points.

3
4 MS. JESSE: Oh, that's right. Different
5 projectile points. And if those could be okay in an
6 uncontrolled climate like we have in the building here,
7 we might be able to have those in the cases for people to
8 see.

9
10 MR. SAMPSON: The issue in regards to
11 digging in certain areas, what process do you go through
12 to get sort of some views from people within the area
13 that live or even from Kotzebue in regards to some of
14 those that might think, leave that stuff alone, leave it
15 buried.

16
17 MS. JESSE: Right. Right.

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: What kind of feedback do
20 you get?

21
22 MS. JESSE: They're very careful to leave
23 burial sites alone. You know, those are not touched or
24 moved in any way. As far as the consultation that they
25 go through, there's a formal process for consultation
26 with Native people and groups in the area, and, Mary, you
27 might be able to help me out with this a little bit.
28 Adam's not here to speak to that specifically, but I know
29 that they work -- Herbert Foster was a constant presence
30 in their camp over the years, and so they spoke with him
31 a lot.

32
33 Do you have anything to add about the
34 process that they go through for that?

35
36 MS. MCBURNEY: I know there is a process.
37 I'm not that familiar with the steps. And I believe that
38 it's a process that is separate from the government-to-
39 government consultation that we're required to do,
40 especially under the new directives with this
41 administration. I could hook you up with our
42 archeologist who could definitely give you specific
43 information about that.

44
45 MS. JESSE: Yeah. Mike Holt I think
46 would be able to help with that.

47
48 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I guess one
49 other thing that I would like to address is once you've
50 identified, because you're using public dollars, that's

1 public information. Once public finds out where some of
2 these potential sites are, you're not going to be there
3 to be checking every day. How do you enforce those
4 things when people go in to do their digging? What do
5 you do? I mean, how do you enforce that?
6

7 MS. JESSE: I don't believe all of that
8 information is public information about sites where items
9 have been found, but I think that perhaps Dan might be
10 able to speak a little bit to the enforcement of ARPA
11 regulations on that. But there is a process for managing
12 those sites and keeping track of people that might be
13 taking things out of national monuments, which the public
14 is not allowed to do that.
15

16 My job as an educator is to try to remind
17 people constantly, if you find things, you have to leave
18 them there. That is the rule. Yeah.
19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks.
21

22 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Raymond.
23

24 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
25 question would be, I've got a number of questions, but I
26 won't ask you but one question specifically is do you
27 know it's a burial site? Because I've seen the Pekoki
28 (ph) -- people in the region, they've got different
29 procedures of making the burial let's say 5,000 years
30 ago. How do you tell what is a burial site?
31

32 MS. JESSE: Well, for sure if there are
33 any human remains, that is left alone.
34

35 MR. STONEY: Yeah.
36

37 MS. JESSE: It's a good question, but I
38 think we'd have to get our archaeologist in here to tell
39 you a little bit more about that. I don't have the
40 technical knowledge. It's a good question though, and we
41 could sure get you an answer to that if you'd like. Mike
42 Holt I think could help with that.
43

44 MR. STONEY: These artifacts that they
45 were collecting way back probably about 1940, and then
46 there was a lot of them was stored in the University of
47 New Hampshire. And I wanted to visit it, but I wasn't
48 allowed. There was the names of the villages like Kiana,
49 Onion Portage, Selawik. It said Long Beach, that's
50 Kobuk. And I was not allowed to go in that museum. I

1 want to know why I guess.

2

3 MS. JESSE: Well, I think you're talking
4 about Brown University where perhaps those artifacts have
5 been stored from Louis Gidding's time when he was at Cape
6 Krusenstern and Onion Portage, when he was doing work
7 there.

8

9 MR. STONEY: Yes.

10

11 MS. JESSE: Again, I think Mike might be
12 able to speak to that a little bit more. Certainly these
13 days we try to be more open with those items to make sure
14 that people know where they are and have some access to
15 them. But we can get you an answer to that as well, if
16 you'd like.

17

18 MR. STONEY: Just like you said, it was
19 be nice to bring them back to Alaska and put them here so
20 we can.....

21

22 MS. JESSE: Yeah. Oh, and here he is.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe one more, just a
25 comment. The issue in regards to some of these artifacts
26 that are stored somewhere else, if there's a way that you
27 could work to get these things back from wherever they
28 were shipped out and either put them into the museum here
29 or take them out to the areas where they came from and
30 bury them back. I mean, that -- people left them there
31 and they ought to be there. If I went to New Hampshire
32 and say I want to go into your backyard and dig, would
33 you allow me to go out and dig in your backyard to take
34 some of your stuff out, maybe your ancestors' artifacts,
35 whatever they may be?

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: I'm just being facetious.

40

41 MS. JESSE: Yeah. Yeah. I'm glad that
42 Mike is here, who can talk about that, but I can say that
43 if Adam Freeberg has some items that could, like I say,
44 stand this uncontrolled environment, I would be the first
45 one to jump up and down and say, yes, let's have them
46 here in the cases out front. But do we want to ask Mike
47 for a few responses to the questions?

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: I guess for some of the
50 artifacts that are stored somewhere else, because they

1 have to be stored in a condition that they don't dry up
2 and over time deteriorate and fall apart.

3

4 MS. JESSE: Right. Yeah.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: The issue in regards to
7 bringing those things back up and setting them up into an
8 area here, what do you need to do to make sure that the
9 quality of those things are kept up?

10

11 MR. HOLT: Well, good afternoon, Council.
12 Thanks for turning that up. I'll try not to blast
13 everybody's hearing here. So basically we have to make
14 sure that the collections are secure, first and foremost,
15 meaning under lock and key, and that there's limited
16 access, restricted access to those items, the
17 collections, the artifacts and features that we may have
18 here. Another consideration that we have to think about
19 are sort of the environmental attributes in the building
20 itself. You just mentioned kind of keeping them dry and
21 certain artifacts, of course, most of the bone artifacts
22 and wood artifacts need to be at a certain humidity
23 level, and we don't have those controls as of yet in this
24 building to do that. So I hope that answers your
25 question.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

30

31 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah, thanks, Pete. Yeah,
32 you mentioned that you're digging only on non-burial.
33 I'll tell you one thing, you could go to my yard here in
34 Kotzebue, because I've got bone and a body with
35 artifacts. I just moved them. What I'm trying to tell
36 you, do not -- the ones you are finding, the tools,
37 hunting tools was probably was stored with a body that
38 died, and they had no way to dig, so they just drag it
39 there.

40 And animals probably took the body to eat it, and that's
41 why you see only artifacts. So that's a question. And
42 you're saying it's -- and this has got to be into
43 consideration. Because I do have some in my yard with a
44 lot of hunting tools that I buried. That was when we
45 were trying to build that old house. So I would say it's
46 part of the custom that they just put them on top of the
47 ground, because they had no way to bury them.

48

49 MR. HOLT: We have, and maybe a lot of
50 you here at the Council are aware of NAGPRA, the Native

1 American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. And we
2 have clear guidance on how we're to treat a burial and
3 grave goods that are related to a burial if we find
4 something like that. And, you know, to be honest with
5 you, it is sometimes difficult to tell whether or not
6 there are human remains associated with burial items and
7 goods, but if we can make that association, we assume
8 that the artifacts we find in context with those bones,
9 those human remains, are burial goods, and they belong to
10 that grave or that burial.

11
12 MR. SAMPSON: So you leave them alone.

13
14 MR. HOLT: Yes, we like to leave them
15 alone.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Raymond.

18
19 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 There's one more thing that's informational to you.

21
22 MS. ATORUK: Ray, your mic.

23
24 MR. STONEY: Okay. Thank you. You know,
25 one more thing that should be brought up for your
26 informational. And this building is sitting on hundreds
27 and hundreds of artifacts, but I worked for the museum
28 here. They had to use steam piling. We dig down 30
29 feet. Within 15 feet the whole area is full of
30 artifacts, hundreds and hundreds of them. But anyway
31 that the project was to stop, but they keep on drilling.
32 So, you know, it's something that you guys should know,
33 that you should have went nowhere else and dig right
34 here. You'd find real strange things.

35
36 MR. SAMPSON: Let's all go crawl under
37 there.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Any other
42 questions for Parks.

43
44 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. We're
45 building a nursing wing at Maniilaq as we all know, and
46 we would like to showcase some things from our region and
47 hopefully something could be worked out so that Maniilaq
48 knows what's needed to store some stuff, some kind of
49 thing that we're working on to get this so that we could
50 have something up there that showcases our region for

1 people that end up there.

2

3 MR. HOLT: Can I respond to that? We do
4 have guidance on how we can house collections and things
5 like that, and I'd be happy to look further into that as
6 far as the requirements we'd have for maybe a rotating
7 display or something. It would still require security
8 and also humidity control and environmental control.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: I do have one more. I
11 wanted to invite your group, I see you do have a lot of
12 stuff working with kids, and I'd like to see, we do run
13 our own culture camp in Buckland, and we have them two
14 weeks at a time, sometimes longer if we can, but it would
15 be great to have us work out something together with all
16 the things I hear you say and do, even if it's not the
17 culture camp, I think it would be good to see you in our
18 school or any other of our area schools at some point,
19 because it's very good what you're doing.

20

21 MR. HOLT: I agree. And I look forward
22 to that.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Mike.

25

26 MR. KARMUN: As I stated earlier about,
27 you know, our youth, wanting to start getting our youth
28 involved in a lot of our subsistence and fish and
29 wildlife issues, I think it would be great for the Park
30 Service to take that first step, and I know Barb's going
31 to be writing a letter. I'd like to eventually see, you
32 know, each village, their rural advisory councils or, you
33 know, whatever they have there, start involving their
34 kids, and they come into our community here in Kotzebue
35 when we have these meetings to be able to learn what it
36 is that we talk about. I know this is my first meeting
37 here, but I've been involved with the Fish and Game
38 Advisory Council for the last six to seven years. I
39 think it would be a good learning thing, because we're
40 not going to be here, you know, 10, 20 years from now.
41 They are, and they're going to have a lot of different
42 aspect as to what we saw now as to what they see then.
43 And I think it would be good for the Park Service.

44

45 I mean, I'm all for making a proposal for
46 this to be a statewide thing, that we teach our youth
47 about subsistence, fish and wildlife issues, and they
48 start taking the next step in getting involved in, you
49 know, this process. And if it starts here or if it
50 starts as a proposal, I'd like to see it go farther.

1 Thank you.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: Heck, I'm going to be here
4 for another 40.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Mike.
9 Yeah, along those lines, I spoke to some of the Staff
10 people here and, you know, some of the things we may do
11 is even assign them certain projects relevant to upcoming
12 meetings to get their input, because, you know, how are
13 they to know unless you ask.
14
15 Thank you.
16
17 Any other questions for Parks.
18
19 (No comments)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, we appreciate
22 your presentations. Thank you very much.
23
24 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you.
25
26 MS. JESSE: Thank you.
27
28 MR. HOLT: Thank you.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Next up I
31 think is the Department of Fish and Game.
32
33 I guess, BLM, you'll have to be next,
34 John. Sorry. I'm getting old and my eyesight is failing
35 here.
36
37 MR. PAPPAS: My portion will be extremely
38 brief, sir. My name is George Pappas, Fish and Game
39 Liaison Team.
40
41 Just to give you an update on the Liaison
42 Team, the State has a three-person Liaison Team. An
43 assistant director, who is liaison to the Board, a
44 fisheries biologist, which is myself, and a wildlife
45 biologist which used to be Terry Haynes. Terry Haynes
46 retired, but we just rehired the position last week. We
47 filled it. His name is Glenn Stout. He was the area
48 manager in Galena for 10 years, a very competent wildlife
49 biologist, so now we do have a full team.
50

1 And that's all I have.

2

3 Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: That was brief.

6

7 MS. WESTING: Well, good afternoon. I'm
8 Charlotte Westing with the Alaska Department of Fish and
9 Game. I'm based here in Kotzebue. I'm the area
10 biologist for Unit 23.

11

12 I'll try to make this as quick as I can.
13 I wasn't really prepared to come talk today. I thought
14 I'd still be at the Red Dog doing muskox population
15 estimate flights.

16

17 Last fall we did our moose composition
18 surveys with our partners at Fish and Wildlife and the
19 Park Service. We focused on the Selawik drainage, and we
20 found healthy bull/cow ratios, around 50 bulls per 100
21 cows. We'll continue to do those fall surveys every
22 year.

23

24 This year our spring moose work is going
25 to also focus in the Selawik. We'll do a population
26 estimate there. The last spring population estimate was
27 done in the Selawik in 2007, so we'll be able to compare
28 the results we get from the survey, which will be again
29 connected with our partners at Fish and Wildlife Service
30 and the Park Service. So that's in the future.

31

32 What we just wrapped up is a survey.
33 Since the introduction of the Cape Thompson population of
34 muskoxen, the population has been surveyed many years,
35 most years. And what has happened over the last decade
36 or so is that we're finding more and more incidental
37 observations of animals outside of the core area that we
38 sample year after year after year.

39

40 We're trying to understand -- what we're
41 also seeing over the last probably five years is a slight
42 decline in the number of animals that we're seeing in
43 that population core that we survey every time. So what
44 we'd like to understand is how much of that change can be
45 attributed to change in distribution of those animals,
46 and to try to also monitor it over time in a way that's
47 more taking a comprehensive approach to how the animals
48 are using the landscape.

49

50 So we developed a study this year. We're

1 using the distance sampling techniques that were
2 developed for the Seward Peninsula last year, and we
3 worked with the Park Service. We based out of Red Dog.
4 And we just looked at a bunch of muskox and flew over a
5 lot of country. So that survey was not only focusing on
6 Unit 23, it was also focusing on 26A, so the areas of the
7 North Slope north of the Brooks Range, and just trying to
8 get a real comprehensive view of that population. And
9 we'll be generating an estimate from the information that
10 we collected. And we just finished that up yesterday.

11
12 The other thing that Percy's probably
13 going to ask me about or talk about is the muskoxen hunt
14 down on the northern Seward Peninsula in 23 Southwest and
15 the work that we'll be doing there. We will be doing our
16 composition surveys towards the end of this month. And
17 those composition surveys, the information we get from
18 those is what we'll use to set the quota for next year.
19 And Ken Adkisson and I will be working together and
20 communicating with Ron and Percy on how that quota is
21 going to be set up and how we're going to carry out that
22 hunt for next year.

23
24 There will be the normal complement of
25 caribou work. Next year is going to be a photo census
26 year. So Jim Dau, of course, is still with the
27 Department of Fish and Game, he's still doing a lot of
28 work with the Western Arctic Herd, and this summer will
29 be doing the photo census. So we'll be hoping to get a
30 population estimate from that next spring, early next
31 spring.

32
33 MR. SAMPSON: The Squirrel River area,
34 what are the numbers looking like for moose on the
35 Squirrel; do you have any idea what that may be?

36
37 MS. WESTING: Well, the Squirrel River
38 area was last looked at in 2008. It was considered as
39 part -- even though it's part of the Kobuk River
40 drainage, it was included with the Lower Noatak surveys,
41 because of the amount of interchange that had been
42 observed between the Squirrel and the Lower Noatak back
43 when there were radio-collared moose out there. And I
44 don't think we've split that out. Because of those
45 exchanges, we're uncomfortable kind of splitting out
46 little tiny pieces of our survey area. So I don't -- I
47 haven't looked at what the densities area in the
48 Squirrel. But I could try to see.

49
50 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe you ought to take a

1 look at it and compare those with previous studies if you
2 have any, you know, previous studies that were done on
3 moose. I'd like to take a look at it and compare the
4 trend of the population of moose within the Squirrel.

5
6 MS. WESTING: We could try to parse that
7 out and see, you know, what we could learn. The problem
8 is when we do these big survey areas, cutting it down
9 into smaller pieces, the information that you get when
10 you do that isn't quite as reliable, especially since
11 animals do move around a lot, so we make get a lot of
12 noise when we look at it. But I'd be happy to look at
13 that.

14
15 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

16
17 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. The things
18 that just got through happening out there, out in
19 Shishmaref area, is that going to have some kind of
20 effect toward muskox hunting.

21
22 MS. WESTING: Well, the Shishmaref area
23 falls in 22E, and that's managed out of the Nome office
24 by the Nome area biologist there. There is some exchange
25 throughout the units on the Seward Peninsula, so we don't
26 get really worked up when the numbers in 23 Southwest
27 bounce around a little bit, because we know the animals
28 are moving between 22D and 22E and 23 Southwest. We
29 expect that.

30
31 But I don't know what impact that will
32 have on the muskoxen in 23 Southwest, and I don't know
33 what management actions will be taken down there. But I
34 suspect since the harvest in 22E is generally pretty shy
35 of the quota, I don't think it will have an impact on
36 hunters, but I can't say for sure. I'm not the biologist
37 down there.

38
39 MR. BALLOT: So in the past we went from
40 16 down to 8, and now we're going to be probably looking
41 at some other numbers when you're done. Is there going
42 to be considering about the timing, like winter hunts or
43 fall hunts or whatever in regards to your decision on the
44 hunt?

45
46 MS. WESTING: Absolutely. Because of the
47 interchange that I mentioned between 22D and 22E and 23
48 Southwest and maybe even the area in the Tag, I'm not
49 sure, it's feasible that we may have had some refilling
50 of bulls into that area, and we'll just have to see what

1 that is. So it's possible that that quota could be
2 somewhere in between 8 and 16. The more likely thing I
3 would say is that it will be 8 again next year, but we'll
4 just have to see what the numbers are.

5
6 As far as when those animals are taken,
7 I have a lot of flexibility with how I conduct that hunt,
8 and I'd just like to continue talking to you and Ron
9 about what's going to work best. I think this year it
10 was very difficult and very stressful to manage a hunt
11 for so few animals. It happened right around the start
12 of the year. I had to close the hunt on the 2nd, if you
13 remember. It reopened on the 1st and I closed that on
14 the 2nd, and that's a really short window. And there's
15 a real possibility of overharvest with that scenario, so
16 I'd like to avoid trying to manage a quota that's that
17 small in the future, but we're just going to have to see
18 what we get in a couple weeks here and talk about it.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: Before any decisions are
21 made though, are you going to be able to come with Ken or
22 whoever and have some discussions with Buckland, Deering
23 regarding the quota and the timing?

24
25 MS. WESTING: I'm not -- I would
26 definitely think we can commit to phone calls. Lots of
27 phone calls. We could also do a teleconference, and we
28 also might be able to come down there. And then
29 additionally there's also a Muskox Cooperators Group is
30 going to happen at some point in between now and
31 November. If it was going to happen well before the
32 hunt, we could also talk about it with you all there. So
33 whatever you want to do, we can probably accommodate
34 that. Especially after my field season dies down a
35 little bit.

36
37 MR. BALLOT: Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Well, thank
40 you, Charlotte.

41
42 Okay. We've the option to either take a
43 break or just continue until we finish. What do you guys
44 want to do?

45
46 SEVERAL: Just continue.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay.

49
50 MS. WESTING: Was there a question

1 earlier about muskoxen DLP? Did that all get -- defense
2 of life and property, is that all clear, or do I need to
3 provide.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yeah, we took care
6 of it. Thank you.

7
8 MS. WESTING: Okay. Good.

9
10 MR. SAMPSON: What we were told was shoot
11 them.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MS. WESTING: The State provides DLP
16 regulation for all animals including muskrats and
17 whatever you need to do.

18
19 MR. SAMPSON: No, no

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 MS. WESTING: We just have paperwork to
24 fill out, so just talk with us about what's going on.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Thank
27 you, Charlotte.

28
29 Next up is John Erlich from BLM.

30
31 MR. ERLICH: Good afternoon, Mr.
32 Chairman. Council. I'll be reading a prepared report
33 prepared for me by one of my supervisors in Fairbanks.
34 His name is Tim Hammon. He's the acting field manager
35 for the Central Yukon Field Office.

36
37 Mr. Chairman. Council members. My name
38 is John Erlich. I'm a natural resources program
39 coordinator with BLM Central Yukon Field office.

40
41 The BLM administrative units that overlap
42 the Northwest Arctic Region are primarily in the Central
43 Yukon Field Office, and a small area of the Anchorage
44 Field Office on the Seward Peninsula. Today I represent
45 the Central Yukon Field Office.

46
47 As far as outreach goes, BLM used
48 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to support
49 cooperative agreements with the Northwest Arctic Borough
50 and the Native Village of Koyuk for intervillage trail

1 markings and mapping. Work funded through these
2 agreements should be completed this spring.

3

4 And in the spring of 2010 BLM entered
5 into agreement with the Native Village of Kotzebue in
6 support of the Sisualik Cultural Camp for local youth.
7 The camp was held from July 19th through the 25th with a
8 total of 23 students participating. The BLM funding of
9 \$5,000 supported the hiring of the camp coordinator and
10 three camp counselors.

11

12 We'll have some work in fisheries going
13 on. The name of our fisheries biologist is Dave Parker.
14 Funding for the final year of fish habitat assessment is
15 doubtful for this year, but will be requested in future
16 budget years until the work can be completed on the
17 Kivalina River. Work continues on summary reports for
18 2009 and 2010.

19

20 There's going to be a Squirrel River
21 project. BLM will conduct a fish inventory of the upper
22 headwaters of the Squirrel River in an attempt to extend
23 the State of Alaska's anadromous stream catalogue and
24 also assessing the impact of stream banks in the riparian
25 zone from four-wheeler trails at permitted hunting guide
26 camps. This is a two-year project that will provide data
27 for implementation of the Squirrel River Special
28 Recreation Management Plan.

29

30 With respect to mining, there were no new
31 mining activities on BLM-managed lands in this region
32 this year. Azazu Metals plans to continue doing
33 exploration drilling at the Lick project in 2011 on State
34 and Federal mining claims, including on some BLM-managed
35 lands. The Lick property is a zinc, lead and silver
36 property located about 12 miles northwest of Red Dog
37 mine.

38

39 The BLM received a request for a right-
40 of-way from United Utilities, a subsidiary of GCI,
41 Incorporated, to conduct ground work and tests prior to
42 installation of a terrestrial hybrid fiberoptic microwave
43 broadband network to serve communities along the Norton
44 Sound, Kotzebue Sound and southern slope of the Brooks
45 Range. The project is being called Terra Northwest, and
46 is the next phase of a similar project called Terra
47 Southwest which is underway in Southwestern Alaska. If
48 completed, the project would provide the infrastructure
49 and towers needed for broadband communication in the area
50 previously described. No fiberoptic lines in the ground

1 are planned for this project. Preliminary project work
2 would include bore drilling and testing for clear line of
3 sight for the relay communications towers.

4
5 With respect to regional issues that the
6 BLM's involved in, the BLM is involved in an eco-regional
7 assessment for a geographic region roughly described as
8 the Nulato Hills, Seward Peninsula, and Kotzebue
9 lowlands. A contractor will inventory available data and
10 identify gaps in resource data in the area.

11
12 We're also partnering with the U.S. Fish
13 and Wildlife Service on the Western Alaska Landscape
14 Conservation Cooperative, which encompasses the area of
15 Arctic region as well as well as the rest of southwest
16 coastal Alaska. A state of science workshop is being
17 planned by the Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction
18 with the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation
19 Cooperative for April.

20
21 As far as recreation operations, all of
22 the guides in the Squirrel River area will need to renew
23 their BLM permits in 2011. Scoping letters will be sent
24 out when the authorizations are being processed.

25
26 And new as of 2009, all transporters and
27 air taxi operators taking clients to BLM-managed lands in
28 the Squirrel River Special Recreation Management Area
29 were required to have BLM permits. We issued five
30 permits to transporters in 2009. Two permittees reported
31 no use during the fall hunting season. The other three
32 reported a combined total of 38 clients transported to
33 BLM lands in the Squirrel River. All transporters to the
34 Squirrel River will also have to renew their permits for
35 2011.

36
37 With respect to wildlife, the BLM
38 currently has two vacant wildlife biologist positions.
39 One has been advertised. The selection should be made
40 soon. The other will be advertised as soon as possible.

41
42 And the BLM continues to be active in the
43 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and will
44 provide funding, coordination and logistical support for
45 the December 2011 meetings.

46
47 And lastly, we expect to have our regular
48 law enforcement position filled this spring.

49
50 Mr. Chairman. That concludes my

1 presentation.

2

3 Thank you for your time.

4

5 I will now try to answer any questions
6 you or the Council may have.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, John.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you. Any
13 questions for BLM. Ray.

14

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

16

17 Mr. Erlich, do you plan to have any law
18 enforcement in the Squirrel River this coming season?

19

20 MR. ERLICH: I've worked out the Kotzebue
21 field office for basically two seasons now, and in both
22 seasons we at least one law enforcement ranger come up to
23 spend at least a week to 10 days patrolling out in this
24 area. We had hoped at other times to have as many as two
25 law enforcement rangers up here for a short time, but
26 haven't managed to make that happen, but we do hope to
27 have a permanent law enforcement ranger hired at the
28 Fairbanks office. Last year we sent for a ranger from
29 down in the Lower 48 to spend a couple weeks up here
30 working in this area, and it's possible that he may come
31 up again this next year, but there's no guarantee of that
32 yet.

33

34 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Erlich.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: The microwave systems that
37 GCI's thinking about, maybe I didn't catch it. Exactly
38 where are they looking at, the site location, site-
39 specific?

40

41 MR. ERLICH: The reference is to
42 geographic area here. they don't get any more specific
43 than saying that it's going to be a broadband network to
44 serve communities along the Norton Sound, Kotzebue Sound
45 and southern slope of the Brooks Range. They haven't
46 specified the right-of-way.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Thanks.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Attamuk.

1 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Just a quick
2 question, Raymond asked part of it, but your ranger, law
3 enforcement guy that's here, about when he's coming?
4 What part of the fall?

5
6 MR. ERLICH: We've actually had a law
7 enforcement ranger come up to be available here during
8 the first day of opening season last year and the year
9 before. And to the extent that I can let the people in
10 the Fairbanks office know when is the best time for us to
11 have the ranger, I think it is best to have them up here
12 on opening day. And I think that would be the game plan
13 if we can get a ranger up here, it would be the same game
14 plan.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any other questions
17 for BLM.

18
19 MR. BALLOT: Mr.

20
21 Chairman. Do you have any numbers on
22 guides or transporters that were in our area, or an
23 update on them?

24
25 MR. ERLICH: I think on the Squirrel
26 we're looking at between five and seven. I don't know
27 exactly. I haven't had a look at all the post-use
28 reports for this year, but we should have between five
29 and seven in the Squirrel. And then we've had a couple
30 of people up above Kivalina. We've got at least one
31 person down between Selawik and Buckland, but beyond that
32 I don't off the top of my head have any more specific
33 information.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Ray.

36
37 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

38
39 One more question, Mr. Erlich. Are you
40 aware of that the Big Game Commercial Service Board did
41 hire an investigator for this area last fall?

42
43 MR. ERLICH: Yes, I am. And I did talk
44 to him a couple of times. And I think when he was
45 preparing to do a report for the Northwest Arctic
46 Borough, he got ahold of me and I gave him some
47 information that he used in his report to the assembly.

48
49 MR. STONEY: As far as I know now that,
50 you know, for Big Game Commercial Service, but they're

1 willing to do it again, so I imagine they'll get ahold of
2 you.

3

4 MR. ERLICH: Okay. And I just want to
5 clarify something. I think I confused, the person that
6 I talked with was actually hired by the Borough to track
7 the hunting season and to prepare a report for the
8 assembly.

9

10 I did talk to the person from the Big
11 Game Commercial Services Board, but I got him confused
12 with this other person here. I just met that person. I
13 haven't worked with him yet.

14

15 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any other questions
18 for John.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: If not, thank you
23 very much, John.

24

25 Okay. Next up is U.S. Fish and Wildlife
26 Service. LeeAnne.

27

28 MS. AYRES: Hello. I'm LeeAnne Ayres,
29 refuge manager for Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, and
30 I have three quick updates. I'll try and do three
31 updates in three minutes, and then I'll hand it over to
32 Ann and Brandon to give you some updates on some of the
33 wildlife projects that we have going on.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Wait, let me set my watch.

36

37 (Laughter)

38

39 MS. AYRES: Are you ready?

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

42

43 MS. AYRES: Okay. The first one I'd like
44 to just give you an update on is where we are with our
45 management plan, our Comprehensive Conservation Plan for
46 the Refuge. Public comments for that ended on March
47 15th, and this is the plan that we began the scoping back
48 in 2008. So we're just really appreciative of all the
49 comments and time people in the region, agencies and
50 organizations spent on looking at the plan, the draft

1 plan, and providing comments for that. We'll be looking
2 over those comments and coming up with a final decision
3 we hope by sometime in August.

4
5 If there are additional comments that
6 people in the region have, there's a few villages that
7 we're going to look at and see if they haven't commented,
8 kind of check with them and make sure that they have an
9 opportunity to. We're allowed to accept comments on the
10 plan up until the time we make a decision on it. So if
11 you hear of any groups that feel like they've missed the
12 deadline and they still want to have some input on the
13 plan, make sure they contact us. And that opportunity is
14 still there.

15
16 The second item is just our regular
17 update on transporter and commercial services activity on
18 the Refuge. This year we had a total of 64 hunters that
19 were transported by four transporters and our one guide
20 on the refuge. And that's kind of about the ballpark in
21 the past. Three of those were air transporters and one
22 was a boat transporter. The total of those clients
23 harvested 28 caribou and 13 moose.

24
25 Our application deadline for this next
26 fall ended actually on March 15th also, and we only had
27 three transporters apply for operation on the Refuge.
28 And the boat transporter did not apply this year. So
29 that's kind of where we are.

30
31 My last, my third update, is just a
32 staffing topic or update. We're really pleased to
33 announce that Nicole Henshaw joined our staff as the
34 Refuge information tech in Selawik. She'll be working
35 there with Sonny Berry and the rest of our Staff to
36 provide support for projects and activities in Selawik.

37
38 One of her main role is to kind of help
39 us keep in touch with the community there, the types of
40 projects and activities they have going on, and also I
41 think it's really exciting to have the Staff support here
42 in Kotzebue and also having the Staff in Selawik to be
43 able to do things with the community.

44
45 There are a number of projects that we've
46 identified that are high priorities for the community,
47 and they also are priorities for the Fish and Wildlife
48 Service. Right now they're excited about working on some
49 projects for youth there in the community and recycling
50 projects and I think we have some water quality projects

1 coming up for us to work together.

2

3 So anyway, just to kind of update that
4 she'll be there and we'll be working with her in Selawik.

5

6 So with that, how did I do, Walter?

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: Three minutes.

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MS. AYRES: All right. I'll turn it over
13 to Brandon and Ann, and then certainly be available to
14 answer any other questions afterwards.

15

16 MS. ORLANDO: Hi. I'm Anne Orlando, a
17 biologist at the Refuge.

18

19 Let's see, like Charlotte said, we're
20 going to be doing the moose count this spring, the first
21 two weeks of April. We conducted a bull/cow composition
22 survey this November, also in the Selawik drainage on the
23 Refuge. And we found about 47 bulls per 100 cows, which
24 is a pretty good number. So this spring we're going to
25 spend about -- well, we've got two weeks allotted. We're
26 going to have four planes from the three different
27 agencies. We've got Park Service, Fish and Game, and
28 Fish and Wildlife Service will be cooperating, so we can
29 try to get a large area done as quickly as possible to do
30 a good survey. And I'll be coordinating that this time.

31

32 We're going to cover -- well, there's
33 1200 units in our area. We're going to try to hit 200 of
34 those units to give us a good estimate of moose numbers.

35

36 The next thing I want to talk about was
37 the study of changes to surface waters that could happen
38 with climate change. We know that climate change can
39 have impacts, like thawing of permafrost in the soil. We
40 don't really have any good baseline data on water quality
41 or conditions, surface water, for the Refuge. So we're
42 working with some university researchers who will be up
43 here this summer taking water samples from Selawik Lake
44 through to about the Village of Selawik.

45

46 What we're -- they'll be looking at how
47 much brackish water or salt water is coming into our
48 surface water and how that might change throughout the
49 season or potentially from year to year. And then
50 they'll be recording basic water quality data and what

1 compounds are found in our water which might be changing
2 over time. If you've got mud, you know, organic
3 compounds coming into the water.

4
5 They'll be looking at the phytoplankton
6 in our water, which is like the basis of the food web,
7 the tiny plants in the water, which we don't have much
8 information on what species are in there and how that
9 might be changing, or basically the amount of nutrients
10 at the base of our ecosystem.

11
12 And then they'll be using satellite
13 images to measure changes in size or potential loss of
14 lakes and ponds over time.

15
16 And then we are just beginning a study of
17 winter condition impacts on caribou throughout the winter
18 range. And that came out of the Western Arctic Herd
19 Working Group. It's been a topic of interest for several
20 years. Basically we know that severe winters or winter
21 conditions could have a major impact on the caribou herd,
22 but it's a really tough thing to measure, and there
23 hasn't been monitoring of weather conditions, because
24 it's such a huge and remote area. So that's what we're
25 taking on and working with other agencies and hopefully
26 partnering with communities in this.

27
28 Luckily the Park Service will be putting
29 out weather stations in some important areas of winter
30 range on their land. And the BLM just got word that they
31 will be putting out three weather stations in the Nulato
32 Hills, which will really help.

33
34 And we're going to be filling in a lot of
35 holes with our research. We're going to be using two
36 methods, doing snow core surveys where we actually fly in
37 and land or take snowmobile trips out and establish
38 permanent sites where we measure snow conditions. We do
39 depth measurements, density measurements where you weigh
40 a core of snow and then we actually dig a pit and look at
41 the profile of the snow, like the layers that are
42 different hardness and measure the amount of ice in the
43 snow.

44
45 We're going to be trying to do those
46 courses twice a year when we can access it. And if we
47 can find schools or local people who are interested in
48 working with us, then maybe we can get those measurements
49 pretty often, or expand that program.

50

1 And at each of those sites, we identified
2 eight sites with the help of Jim Dau actually to really
3 cover important areas in the caribou winter range. And
4 at each of those we're going to install an aerial snow
5 marker, which is just a big stake that you can fly by.
6 We're going to try to fly by those once a month and just
7 record the snow depth levels, and then a couple times a
8 year actually get on the ground and get good
9 measurements.

10
11 So those are permanent sites. And it's
12 kind of a standard methodology that's used across the
13 U.S. that we modified to make it work here in the Arctic
14 and to give us good information about what caribou are
15 confronting.

16
17 But you don't know where the caribou are
18 going to go from year to year, so we're using a second
19 method where we actually look at the craters that caribou
20 are digging to get to their food. So we go out and fly
21 two or three times a year to each major caribou
22 concentration area. And we use the collars that are on
23 caribou or other knowledge to actually go where they are
24 and measure the conditions that they're confronting. So
25 they can aerial photos out of the plan and actually
26 measure the size of craters on those and get down on the
27 ground when we can and measure them, too.

28
29 And the assumption is that when
30 conditions are really icy, caribou will keep chipping
31 around the edges of craters and making big, wide craters,
32 because it's hard for them to move somewhere else and dig
33 through again to establish a new feeding crater, get down
34 to the lichen, whereas when conditions aren't so bad,
35 they'll make a lot of little tiny craters.

36
37 And I found that to be true from what
38 I've looked at so far. I just went out this week and
39 sampled at three different sites. Like out on the Seward
40 Peninsula I saw a lot of little tiny craters, and we went
41 down and measured the -- I did depth measurements,
42 density measurements, and looked at the hardness in the
43 snow pack, and that snow was fairly light and fluffy and
44 no big ice layers. Whereas when I went to the Nulato
45 Hills, I was seeing really big craters and measured -- it
46 was pretty shallow snow, but it was hard and it had maybe
47 25 percent ice in that snowpack. So that assumption
48 seems to be true.

49
50 So that will basically give us two ways

1 to measure what the caribou what the caribou are
2 confronting. And I'd also like to get some measure of
3 body condition in the fall, in the late winter that I
4 could compare this data with either by working with
5 hunters or maybe by measuring off of photos.

6
7 So that's given us a good opportunity to
8 really fill in an important hole in our knowledge about
9 caribou.

10
11 And if you have input or suggestions,
12 maybe people who might like to work with us on this
13 study, I'm definitely interested. So we're going to
14 start it in earnest next December.

15
16 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Percy.

19
20 MR. BALLOT: You said weather stations in
21 Nulato Hills. Just Nulato Hills or at the Selawik Kauk
22 River or anywhere in closer to our area?

23
24 MS. ORLANDO: Are we putting in one in
25 Selawik?

26
27 MS. AYRES: No, we already have one in
28 the Selawik River, one of these remote stations. They're
29 kind of in cooperation with the Fire Service folks. But
30 then we just recently put in one in the upper Tag area.
31 So we kind of have that Selawik covered.

32
33 And, boy, what BLM is putting in down in
34 Nulato will really fill in another hole down in that
35 area.

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: In regards to some of the
38 studies that you do for caribou and moose, is there any
39 way that the agency can look at maybe working with some
40 of the local folks during their hunts to do some analysis
41 on the meat? I mean, you know, we had periodically
42 people will call and say, oh, I found some pus or some
43 abnormal stuff within caribou meat or moose meat. Is
44 there any way the agency can look at coordinating that
45 effort with the villages?

46
47 MS. AYRES: Yeah, we sure can. And I
48 guess that's one thing, you know, Ann and Brandon both
49 are working really closely with Charlotte and Jim on
50 this. And I know Jim's really -- you know, both of them

1 are real advocates for trying to get any analysis done or
2 any information about anything that has to do with
3 disease back. So that was one of the things that, you
4 know, Ann was really talking about with folks, too, of --
5 especially that spring conditions, you know, they may be
6 in a little poorer condition, but really relying on
7 hunter to help with that body condition things. But,
8 yeah, any concerns folks have, we're certainly there.
9 You know, the State's -- with Jim's background in disease
10 and parasites, you know, he's kind of our go-to guy for
11 a lot of those things. But anything we can do to support
12 them, or help folks in the village, we certainly will.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Good.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

17

18 I'd like to see -- I know you told us of
19 your counts here, but do you get to share -- who else do
20 you share that with? Do you share with the tribes or
21 whoever about the number of hunters that you just said
22 and things like that? I don't know if -- are you going
23 to be doing moose counting, too in the Kauk River?

24

25 MS. WESTING: Yes, it's part of the study
26 area.

27

28 MS. ORLANDO: Yeah. Yeah, we'll be
29 counting in the Kauk River in April.

30

31 MS. AYRES: And as far as the hunter
32 numbers, actually I just shared those with folks in
33 Selawik yesterday at their Council meeting, so that's a
34 pretty regular part of information we share with them.
35 We'd certainly be glad to include that and provide the
36 same information for the Buckland IRA, too.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Mike.

39

40 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. Fish and Game, BLM
41 take note, they did great by giving us their numbers and
42 how many caribou was harvested and moose. I think those
43 should be brought up at every meeting, especially for
44 transporters and hunters, because there is somewhat of an
45 unbalance there, and there needs to be a good set of
46 checks and balances within that to people to spread, you
47 know, the wealth out between those two entities, guides
48 and transporters.

49

50 You know, the person that not trying to

1 renew his transporter license with a boat, you know, he
2 should be encouraged to, because I know he has a lower
3 hand, and the people with the aircraft have the upper
4 hand. You know, I think the ones that put in for
5 transporter licenses with boats should get first priority
6 over the ones with aircraft.

7

8 But other than that, I think that was a
9 great report, how you gave how many guides, how many
10 transporters, how many animals were harvested, and I
11 really appreciated that.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe one other additional
16 information, that you ought to try to get from both the
17 guides as well as the transporters, is we see a lot of
18 horns coming out from, you know, being shipped out, but
19 hardly any boxes of meat. And I think we ought to try to
20 enforce something in regards to how much of that meat is
21 being taken out from the field.

22

23 MS. AYRES: I think I'll just follow
24 them. Yeah, one of the things both on their reports
25 through the State system, they are required to report how
26 many pounds of meat kind of with those transfer and
27 possession forms. And I guess the other thing that we
28 found that we hope is helping on that regard is that our
29 law enforcement person that comes up and helps us out in
30 the fall, we found having them stationed at the airport
31 here to do the ramp checks right when the planes come in,
32 of looking at, you know, the antlers and the meat and
33 kind of helping with that match up and things like that.
34 We hope that that's kind of helping out address that
35 issue, too.

36

37 MR. SAMPSON: Good.

38

39 MS. AYRES: And I'll pass it on to
40 Brandon to talk about a few more fisheries projects.

41

42 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 Do you give notice to tribes like when
45 you have -- issuing permits to transporters or how long
46 are their transporting license good for, or permits or
47 whatever you call them.

48

49 MS. AYRES: The permits we issue are good
50 for just one year from the time we issue them until the

1 end of that year, I think up until, you know, the end of
2 December there. And as soon as we get all of the permits
3 and we look at where they're going to operate and the
4 numbers of clients, and, you know, do the background
5 check and all of that, we do issue out, you know, a list
6 of all of the people that, you know, we're issuing or
7 we're considering issuing permits to, so that's available
8 for everybody.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: And so what time of the year
11 are these permits issued or are they looked at?

12

13 MS. AYRES: From the time that we close
14 the application period in March, March 15th, the agency
15 has 45 days that they're required to respond to a permit
16 request.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: So do you have a process
19 that you inform the tribes or village in the area they're
20 trying out for the permit, do they get notice?

21

22 MS. AYRES: We don't issue, we don't
23 solicit input for each permit request we get for each
24 operator from the tribe. One of the things we do do is
25 we do an .810 analysis where we look at the number of
26 permit requests that we get or number of transporters
27 that want to work in the area, and the number of where
28 they want to work and the number of clients that they
29 want to work -- they want to bring on the refuge. If
30 that's under a certain number that we know that have been
31 operating in the past where there haven't been a high
32 number of complaints or conflicts, then we go ahead and
33 issue that number; and we do an .810 analysis where we
34 find that we don't feel that that number is going to
35 impact subsistence opportunity or the refuge.

36

37 If it were to be over that number, then
38 we would have to go into a case where we'd look at, you
39 know, how do we mitigate the issue if there's possibly
40 more people wanting to work on the refuge than can
41 without affecting subsistence. So we haven't gotten to
42 that point yet, and if we did, then we would have to be
43 consulting with folks before we issue the permits.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: Well, we've had an issue
46 with a transporter over the years, and it seems to be
47 like a sore thumb year after year. We've had no problem
48 with guides or anything, you know, in our area, but still
49 it keeps coming up, and things that have happened over
50 the past. So what is it that we need to do so that we

1 could have an input on whether he gets a license or not.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: I think the issue that he's
4 talking about is more within BLM lands. BLM lands are
5 down on Buckland side, so you can work with.....

6

7 MR. BALLOT: Right on their area, too.

8

9 MS. AYRES: Yeah. And I guess we've got
10 some -- there's been some developments this last fall
11 with that particular guide, and I think John Clark, the
12 Big Game Commercial Services Board investigator, along
13 with Eric Florine (ph) and the State wildlife troopers
14 were very much focused on looking at that area and the
15 problems that you've been having down in that area, as
16 well as we've been having with people who aren't
17 permitted to operate on the Refuge. So I think that's --
18 hopefully there will be changes with that. We'll see
19 that in this upcoming year.

20

21 MR. BALLOT: For Walter's information,
22 BLM lands are way farther up, too. We don't have so much
23 concern there, because it's so far up and too shallow
24 during the fall. It's the Selawik Hills and the Tag
25 River, the Kauk River that we have a lot of concern on
26 where there's transporters or hunters in that area during
27 the fall.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Yes. Yes.

30

31 MR. SAITO: All right. Mr. Chair. My
32 name is Brandon Saito, and I'd just like to talk about
33 some sheefish projects.

34

35 So we have three projects going on this
36 year. The aerial telemetry tracking on the Kobuk and
37 Selawik, and these are old transmitters that we're just
38 still continuing to track as long as their batteries
39 still work. So we'll be doing that.

40

41 And then also this sheefish winter
42 movement patterns, a partnership with UAF, Native Village
43 of Kotzebue, USGS and the Refuge. We have 160 acoustic
44 transmitters and 20 receivers deployed last year, and
45 this is going to be the second, last year where we deploy
46 another 160 acoustic transmitters.

47

48 And then a new project that's going to be
49 happening this year is the sheefish genetic mixed stock
50 analysis, and it's also a partnership with the Native

1 Village of Kotzebue, the Department of Fish and Game, and
2 Fish and Wildlife Service. This is a two-year project,
3 and it's taking fin clips from subsistence-caught
4 sheefish in order to determine the harvest proportions
5 between the Kobuk and Selawik.

6
7 Also I'd like to talk about the tundra
8 swan tagging. Last year there were 192 tundra swans that
9 were captured in three locations in Kotzebue Sound. And
10 it's part of a larger project of over 600 swans that were
11 tagged and sampled for avian influenza, stable isotope
12 analysis, contaminants, and genetic analyses. None of
13 the samples tested positive for avian influenza. And
14 that was the last year of that project.

15
16 Also we're going to be doing the Kotzebue
17 Sound coastal bird aerial survey. It's where the Refuge
18 conducts a coastline bird survey along the southern
19 Kotzebue Sound and from the mouth of the Noatak up to
20 Kivalina. And the abundance and distribution of the
21 birds and their timing of their use in these areas will
22 be documented from mid August to early October. And the
23 survey was last done last year.

24
25 And then the final project I want to talk
26 about was the white-fronted goose breeding population
27 survey. In May the Refuge will survey the white-front
28 breeding pairs in order to determine migration timing and
29 abundance. And when it was last conducted in 2008, the
30 results suggested that the breeding pair population at
31 the Refuge were stable.

32
33 And that's it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Walter.

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: As far as the fisheries are
38 concerned, how far up does sheefish goes up for spawning?
39

40 MR. SAITO: Up in the Kobuk or Selawik?

41
42 MR. SAMPSON: On both Selawik and Kobuk.

43
44 MR. SAITO: I think they go up right
45 below the slump on the Selawik Refuge and Selawik River.
46 And in the Kobuk, I don't know, Ray, what's the.....

47
48 MR. HOLDER: The Paw.

49
50 MR. SAITO: Yeah, up to the Paw River.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: You guys fell asleep
4 or what.
5
6 (Laughter)
7
8 MR. SAMPSON: I was thinking sheefish for
9 dinner tonight.
10
11 (Laughter)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: I wonder where it
14 came from.
15
16 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.
17
18 MR. SHIEDT: I know we're pushing for
19 time.
20
21 MR. BALLOT: Are you -- what else do you
22 study? Do you like about smelt or herrings or things of
23 that nature?
24
25 MS. AYRES: I was going to say we
26 actually have Ray Hander here who is a fisheries
27 biologist from our Fairbanks Field Office that does quite
28 a bit, or helps us out with a number of our projects on
29 the Refuge, and actually he'd be the best one to answer
30 to, and if you have any other kind of general regional
31 kind of fisheries questions here. If you don't mind,
32 I'll turn it over to him.
33
34 MR. HANDER: Good afternoon, Mr.
35 Chairman. Ray Hander from the Fairbanks fishery office.
36
37 And as far as kind of the more maritime
38 species of smelt, herring, cod, things like that, our
39 office more deals in the freshwater end of things. While
40 we know sheefish go back and forth between saltwater and
41 freshwater, we concentrate on more the whitefish species
42 like broad whitefish, humpback whitefish, sheefish that
43 spawn up into the fresh waters of the -- mostly Selawik
44 Refuge and then the Kobuk River, too. we partner with
45 the State of Alaska to do some of the projects up the
46 Kobuk.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Any further for Fish
49 and Wildlife Service.
50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Just one quick comment. I
2 want to thank the Fish and Wildlife for their
3 relationship with the Community for Selawik. I know you
4 folks do a lot of PR work in that community, and not only
5 PR work, but also work with the community as far as
6 staffing on some of your work on the Selawik River.

7
8 So I want to thank you for that.

9
10 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, thank you very
11 much for your presentation, LeeAnne and your staff.

12
13 MR. SAITO: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 MS. AYRES: Thank you.

16
17 MR. HANDER: Thank you.

18
19 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, the next item
20 is new business. Is there any new business that we ought
21 to be aware of.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Chuck?

26
27 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, I don't have
28 anything. I just came up to take notes if I needed to.

29
30 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: It doesn't appear
31 that anybody has any issue of any particular interest.
32 I guess you don't have to take notes.

33
34 (Laughter)

35
36 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Okay. Closing
37 comments. I think we'll just go through the Council
38 starting with Mike.

39
40 MR. KRAMER: I think this has been a
41 pretty productive meeting. This is my first Federal
42 subsistence meeting. Hopefully many more to come. It's
43 been great to hear all the reports from all the different
44 entities. And I really look forward to seeing that youth
45 program where we involve them in our process, you know,
46 fly, goes far.

47
48 That's all I've got. Mr. Chair.f

49
50 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I thank

1 you all once again for sharing the work that you do.

2

3 I just would like to see when you have --
4 I know that there have been some minutes regarding those
5 issues you were talking about earlier about prior
6 meetings that had taken place regarding -- I don't know
7 what it was. But we ask for the draft -- councils that
8 were going to be meeting, but if they have minutes of
9 meetings or something that shows what the discussions
10 were and all that beforehand, if we could have them in
11 the packet.

12

13 MR. KARMUN: No comment, thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thanks, Vic. Walter.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much. Do
18 you want me to talk for you. No.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: First of all,
23 congratulations, Pete, for taking the Chairman.
24 Certainly one less easier out from me from work. But
25 certainly I'm still involved with the subsistence issues
26 with the work that I do.

27

28 But I also want to encourage this very
29 body that when there is a Federal Board meeting that
30 occurs, now that they're starting to involve us more into
31 the process of their Board meeting, we need to make sure
32 that we're there to address some of the issues that we
33 have. And not only that, being able to respond to some
34 of the questions that they may have.

35

36 And it's an opportunity for us to improve
37 what's in place now that we're under Federal management.
38 And also hopefully to try to correct some of the problems
39 that exist as well.

40

41 And to the agencies, thank you for making
42 time.

43

44 Quyanaq.

45

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

47

48 First of all, I want to thank all the
49 agencies for all the hard work that you've been doing for
50 us up here. You know, just realize just how much area

1 you've covered. It's a very large area in order to
2 manage, the Fish and Wildlife people and agencies that
3 came up here and then work with us, including law
4 enforcement.

5
6 We thank all of you doing a well job
7 done.

8
9 Barbara, I want to thank you for, you
10 know, still being the coordinator, you know, for this
11 Council here. I hope you continue to be on.

12
13 MS. ATORUK: Thanks, Ray.

14
15 MR. STONEY: That's all I've got. Mr.
16 Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Thank you, Ray.
19 Attamuk.

20
21 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Attamuk. I would
22 like to thank all the agencies here. You notice by now
23 I've got less and less questions, because I started to
24 understand and all the answers that you guys give back to
25 us is very understanding. And I'd like to thank you all.

26
27 And then back to Barbara. Thank you,
28 Barb, and you're not going to retire until we all are
29 gone.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. SHIEDT: You're younger than us, so
34 you've got to stay a while. Not as your retirement comes
35 up, but you're going to retire afterward.

36
37 So I thank you all.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Leslie.

40
41 MR. BURNS: I just want to say thanks for
42 all the -- and, Barb, thanks for getting our packets.
43 And congratulations on your Chairman. And hopefully it
44 will be a good. Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Well, thank all of
47 you.

48
49 My closing comments are going to be kind
50 of centered on what I think is going on with some issues.

1 As Ray's probably aware, I just spoke to Representative
2 Joule the other day, and the difference in how he's
3 handling the transport issue is to refer it to the
4 Commercial Services Board chairman to work directly with
5 the Resources Committee of the House and the Senate. I
6 don't know exactly where that's yet, but you have to
7 remember also that sessions are two years long. This is
8 the first half of I forget which one, 9th or 40-
9 something. So if nothing gets to the Resources Committee
10 this time, then it's probably expected that next year it
11 might, it will happen. Compared to how Reggie,
12 Representative Joule done it before, and that is to have
13 co-sponsors sign onto his proposed legislation, which
14 essentially with a short session really has an
15 opportunity to get shot down fairly quickly if there's an
16 objection by any other House member. And I imagine that
17 on the Senate side it would be the same.

18

19 We also have probably the last Caribou
20 Conflict Working Group in May. I think it's

21

22 MS. AYRES: May 6th.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: May 6th. And it's
25 going to be minus a couple of members. Cliff Judkins is
26 going to be having back surgery and won't be here, as
27 well as another member, I can't remember exactly who.

28

29 But I think, you know, not to be a
30 glutton for punishment or nothing, but I think in terms
31 of what this groups accomplished, it's probably up for
32 discussion some times, but I think the big pluses have
33 been the exchange of information that have been made
34 available related to working with transporter instead of
35 ignoring them and hoping they'll go away, which isn't
36 going to happen tomorrow as far as I know.

37

38 And then in consideration of Mike's
39 earlier remarks, you know, I think the comparison between
40 the Commercial Services Board and transporters is that
41 the Commercial Services Board actually has a code of
42 conduct imbued in their regulations as to how they
43 behave; whereas the transporters have none whatsoever
44 that I'm aware of. And I think that that's why the
45 expectation that at some point the transporters will be
46 included into the Commercial Service Board jurisdiction
47 so that there will be handle on how those people operate.
48 And it's been kind of an interesting meeting to see how
49 complex it actually is if you don't figure out, you know,
50 how complex it is already.

1 And it's not a simple to deal with. The
2 title may sound simple, but the inner workings of that
3 group I think have been such that it's been not quite an
4 eye opener for those that have dealt with it a long time,
5 but I think for those that have not appreciated the
6 jurisdictional complexities, as well as the authoritative
7 jurisdictions I think have come to the brilliant
8 conclusion that, you know, it's a very complex scenario
9 for a seemingly very simple problem.

10

11 But I think beyond that, I think there's
12 some expectation that we may see some regulatory
13 authorities come finally to include the transporters in
14 the realm of fish and game users on a commercial level,
15 no different perhaps than the Commercial Services Board
16 and their jurisdiction. So hopefully we'll get there
17 soon.

18

19 And I would like to also let the
20 professional people know that your input into this
21 working body is extremely appreciated. And at any point
22 if there's some seeking of support for what you're doing,
23 just let us know, and we'll try to do it as a matter of
24 in exchange for your professional information and what we
25 want to do in terms of partnering up with traditional
26 knowledge. And you've been doing a great job in getting
27 there. And I just want you to know it's much
28 appreciated.

29

30 And thanks also to Walter for all his
31 work, and as the previous Chair, I know it's not an easy
32 job sometimes, but I think the difference now is that if
33 there's an opportunity for exchange with agencies as a
34 member of this body, is to let me know and we'll do by
35 one means or another authorizations to have
36 representation broadened. Not just the Chair, myself,
37 but to have you members know that if there's an
38 opportunity for you to represent our body, we'd
39 appreciate that as well.

40

41 So with that, I think that that's about
42 it for the closing comments at least that I have.

43

44 And I would ask what's the wish of the
45 group for the next agenda item.

46

47 MR. BALLOT: I move to adjourn.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: Is there any
50 objection.

1 MR. SAMPSON: I object.
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MR. KARMUN: Second.
6
7 MR. SHIEDT: Second.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SCHAEFFER: All right. Well,
10 thank you very much.
11
12 We certainly appreciate your
13 participation.
14
15 (Off record)
16
17 (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 131 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 18th day of March 2011, 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 27th day of March 2011.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14