

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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5

PUBLIC MEETING

6

7

Kotzebue, Alaska

8

September 2, 2009

9

9:00 o'clock a.m.

10

11

12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

13

14 Walter Sampson, Chairman

15 Virgil Adams

16 Percy Ballot

17 Victor Karmun

18 Austin Swan

19

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22 Regional Council Coordinator, Barbara Armstrong

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 9/2/2009)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: (In Inupiaq).

MR. SWAN: Good morning. Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MR. SWAN: Victor Karmun.

MR. KARMUN: Yeah.

MR. SWAN: Walter Sampson.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Present.

MR. SWAN: Enoch Schiedt, he called in
and is excused. Virgil Adams.

MR. ADAMS: Here.

MR. SWAN: Austin Swan, here. Mr.
Chairman, we have a quorum.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: (In Inupiaq). Are
you going to be able to type up all we say?

REPORTER: No.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Because that's how
it's going to be conducted, we'll do it in Eskimo.

REPORTER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well.

REPORTER: Nobody made me aware of
that.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So I was just
teasing you.

REPORTER: I know.

(Laughter)

1 REPORTER: But I'll write that in.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But actually I think
4 it's something we need to think about down the road
5 especially when we have some elders that might want to
6 participate. Yup'ik's do it all the time, there's no
7 reason why we can't conduct our business in our
8 language as well, too.
9
10 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy.
13
14 MR. BALLOT: Can we find out what these
15 seats are for, the vacant seats?
16
17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes, go ahead.
20
21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We have four vacant
22 seats on the Northwest Arctic Council that we need to
23 fill for anyone who lives that lives on the Northwest
24 Arctic region, those seats are open for anyone to apply
25 for this time around. Mr. Adams will be getting one,
26 an application to fill out.
27
28 Thank you. Good morning.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Where is that on the
31 agenda?
32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's on the roll
34 call sheet, Page 3. He's asking about the four vacant
35 seats.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, okay.
38
39 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And then -- you have
40 a lot of open vacant seats for Northwest Arctic.....
41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
43
44 MS. B. ARMSTRONG:and that's what
45 he was just questioning.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.
2
3 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Willie.
6
7 REPORTER: Willie, come on up.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. GOODWIN: We did go through the
12 process and we're awaiting the appointments of the
13 nominations that were made.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Okay, so
16 there has been some nominations that has been submitted
17 and we're in the process for waiting for the
18 appointments.
19
20 Any questions.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing or seeing
25 none we'll move ahead with our meeting.
26
27 Again, I want to welcome all of you for
28 coming to our Regional Advisory Council meeting. This
29 is certainly an integral part of the process in the
30 Federal system. And just like the way the State system
31 is set up, the State has its State Advisory Council
32 within their regions, or throughout the state. And
33 this is part of a process that we go through which we
34 have an integral relationship with the Federal Board.
35 And remember any proposals that get submitted go
36 through the process and we either support or don't
37 support those proposals that are being submitted to the
38 Federal system. And on top of that, if we disagree
39 with the Federal Board then we can go to the Federal
40 Board meetings to voice some of the issues, some of the
41 concerns that we may have in disagreeing with some of
42 the issues that we may have.
43
44 But I think that tool is in place and
45 we ought to utilize that tool if we have issues, which
46 we do, certainly we need to bring those to the table.
47
48 You have an agenda before you. Is
49 there any changes to the agenda?
50

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Would
2 you go to No. 3 and have everyone.....
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
5
6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Have introductions,
7 please.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.
10
11 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And we'll go through
14 the process of introducing ourselves, and we'll start
15 with the man with the black hat in the back there.
16
17 MR. JACK: (In Native)
18
19 The name's Carl Jack. I work for the
20 Office of Subsistence Management.
21
22 What I said before was it's a pleasure
23 to be here, to be able to join the group in discussing
24 issues.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.
27
28 MS. JOHNSON: Good morning. I'm Marcy
29 Johnson, biologist for the National Park Service here
30 in Kotzebue.
31
32 MS. HYER: I'm Karen Hyer. I'm the
33 statistician with the Office of Subsistence Management.
34
35 MS. BROWN: Good morning. I'm Coleen
36 Brown, Cole, a new wildlife biologist with Office of
37 Subsistence Management and I look forward to working
38 with this Council.
39
40 Thank you.
41
42 MS. WESTING: Hi. I'm Charolette
43 Westing. I work for the Department of Fish and Game.
44 I'm the biologist -- the area biologist stationed here
45 in town.
46
47 MR. PAPPAS: George Pappas, Department
48 of Fish and Game, Subsistence Liaison Team out of
49 Anchorage.
50

1 MR. PARKER: I'm Dave Parker. I'm a
2 fish biologist with BLM out of Fairbanks.
3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Dan Stevenson.
5 National Park Service here in Kotzebue.
6
7 MR. ERLICH: John Erlich. Bureau of
8 Land Management, Kotzebue Field Station.
9
10 MS. AYRES: LeeAnne Ayres with the
11 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge based here in
12 Kotzebue.
13
14 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran. Biologist for
15 the Selawick National Wildlife Refuge in Kotzebue.
16
17 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson. National
18 Park Service based in Nome.
19
20 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. Sandy
21 Rabinowitch. National Park Service, and Inter-Agency
22 Staff Committee to the Federal Board.
23
24 MS. WILKINSON: (In Native)
25
26 My name is Ann Wilkinson. I work with
27 OSM.
28
29 MR. GOODWIN: (In Inupiaq)
30
31 I'm Willie Goodwin. I work for the
32 Park Service here in Kotzebue.
33
34 MR. PANGONIYI: Caleb Pangoniyi,
35 Kotzebue.
36
37 MR. HELFRICH: Good morning. George
38 Helfrich with the National Park Service here in
39 Kotzebue.
40
41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Barb Armstrong.
42 Coordinator for Northwest Arctic. Good morning.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And you.....
45
46 REPORTER: My name's Tina, and I'm the
47 court reporter for the Council. Thank you.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And we do have a new
50 person that just walked in.

1 REPORTER: Oh, yeah, Brad, go ahead.
2
3 MR. SHULTZ: Good morning. Brad
4 Shultz. National Park Service.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Anyone else.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very
11 much. Thank you, Barbara, for that. And, again, we
12 want to welcome all of you. I apologize to, to the
13 lady, when she asked when I first walked in, whether I
14 was Walter or -- and I told her my name was Carl, I
15 tease -- I tease Carl a lot so I heard he brought his
16 guitar so after the meeting we're going to have the
17 agencies do their dancing, and we'll watch.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MR. JACK: (In Native)
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is there any changes
24 to the agenda.
25
26 Barbara.
27
28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. I have
29 one addition under No. 10.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
32
33 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That will be to
34 confirm the Northwest Arctic proposals on muskox
35 wildlife closures. That's an addition.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is there a number to
38 that?
39
40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You would have to
41 add that under No. 10, please.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
44
45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Confirm Northwest
46 Arctic proposals on muskox, those are wildlife
47 closures.
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
50

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And I think Ann will
2 be here to speak on that.
3
4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, good. Any
5 other changes.
6
7 REPORTER: Walter.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.
10
11 REPORTER: Could you turn your mic on,
12 please.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.
15
16 REPORTER: Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is there any other
19 changes to the agenda.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing or seeing
24 none, what's the wish of the.....
25
26 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.
29
30 MR. BALLOT: I move to approve the
31 agenda as amended.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to
34 adopt the agenda as revised. Is there a second.
35
36 MR. SWAN: Second.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been seconded.
39
40 Discussion on the motion.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 MR. BALLOT: Question.
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question's been
47 called for. All of those in favor of the motion
48 signify by saying aye.
49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed, same
2 sign.
3
4 (No opposing votes)
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The motion carries.
7 You should have a copy of the minutes from April 3,
8 2009. Is there any corrections to the minutes of the
9 last meeting.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What's the wish of
14 the Council.
15
16 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I move for
17 approval.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to
20 adopt April 3, 2009 minutes. Is there a second.
21
22 MR. SWAN: Second.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been seconded.
25 Discussion on the motion.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 MR. BALLOT: Question.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question's been
32 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify
33 by saying aye.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed, same
38 sign.
39
40 (No opposing votes)
41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries. Do
43 we have any village concerns. Sandy Rabinowitch, do we
44 have any village concerns from Anchorage?
45
46 MR. RABINOWITCH: No, sir.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, okay.
49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.
2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We already had the
4 Northwest Arctic -- North Slope meeting.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
7
8 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And the
9 representative from Point Hope, Mr. Ray Koonuk, will be
10 joining you at your winter meeting.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, okay.
13
14 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: He's right in the
15 corner, the borderline of both regions and he wanted to
16 be involved with you guys here, too, and the same with
17 the North Slope, so he's been given permission to join
18 you at your winter meeting.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
21
22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Let me ask
25 the membership here, and maybe the agencies; what would
26 be a good process to get some of the communities
27 involved in some of the issues that this body acts on?
28 I think we ought to put a mechanism in place to -- for
29 some of either the Staff members or some of the Board
30 members, or whatever it may be, to travel to some of
31 these villages to try to get some of the views of some
32 of the villages at their level.
33
34 The reason why I'm asking is that, too
35 often, we act on issues that have -- that are very
36 integral parts of their life. We deal with -- really
37 the way of their life as a community. Any time we
38 either support a proposal or vote against a proposal,
39 one way or another that has an impact on the way of
40 life of people at the village level, and that's why I'm
41 asking if there's a way to deal with the issue. I
42 think as far as a part of an extension of a public
43 process, that'd be an ideal thing to at least make a
44 trip to some of these villages to have some discussions
45 on some of the issues.
46
47 Barb.
48
49 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, Mr. Chair,
50 years back we did that.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
2
3 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: We were in contact
4 with IRA offices and trying to get input on each
5 proposal that was out there, especially if there's --
6 if it went to a certain region.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: But we didn't get
11 any responses.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
14
15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And I would talk to
16 the IRA offices back then, too, and then I couldn't get
17 any responses back on how they felt about the proposal,
18 because understanding the Federal process at the time
19 was not good either.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
22
23 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And if you want and
24 want to request it, I could try that again.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, thanks,
27 Barbara. The other reason why I ask that is the system
28 that our regions live in is a system that's sometimes
29 intimidating to some of the local folks within the
30 region.
31
32 First of all they might not know the
33 process of addressing some of the issues.
34
35 Secondly, they'd like to voice some of
36 their concerns on some of the issues. If we cannot
37 provide a process in place to hear them, basically all
38 we're doing sometimes is rubberstamping somebody else's
39 recommendations. Sometimes that recommendation comes
40 from the Federal system or the State system, and more
41 than likely we'll rubberstamp that. And I think if we
42 could find a way to deal with that issue, to bring
43 those issues out to the rest of the region and get some
44 input through that process, it'd be an ideal thing to
45 do.
46
47 I know the only system that I know that
48 really has the input system is the Fish and Wildlife
49 system. But I'm not saying that the Park Service don't
50 or the BLM don't. But I think in order for us to deal

1 with the issues that we have to deal with then we have
2 to set up a system to get their input into that
3 process.

4

5 MR. ERLICH: Mr. Chairman. I was at a
6 meeting in Kiana yesterday and there was elders in
7 attendance.....

8

9 REPORTER: Can you come on up here to
10 this microphone please.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do you have a
13 roaming mic?

14

15 REPORTER: No.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can you bring a
18 roaming mic the next time you come up?

19

20 REPORTER: I'll check into it.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Please.

23

24 MR. ERLICH: I was in Kiana yesterday
25 for a meeting with the BLM and there was some elders
26 that attended the meeting and one of the elders there
27 pointed out that he felt that it was more effective if
28 agencies would also, when they're in the villages, talk
29 to people on a one on one basis.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

32

33 MR. ERLICH:and them go to their
34 homes and stuff because he felt that a lot of people
35 aren't comfortable in talking in open meeting formats.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

38

39 MR. ERLICH: I just thought I'd pass
40 that on.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

43

44 MR. ERLICH: Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If there's a way we
47 can set up a process that'd be an ideal thing. I mean
48 all they have to do is just let Barbara or the agency
49 office know here that they'd like to talk to someone.
50 And then you're not going to talk to a lot of people in

1 that way. A lot of folks will openly open up but
2 there's also some people that would like to voice some
3 of their concerns and publicly some of these folks
4 don't like to raise some of the issues publicly. So I
5 think John has a good point there if we could find a
6 way to deal with that.

7

8 Rabinowitch.

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: This adds to what
11 Barbara said. When this program used to go to the
12 smaller communities, the other thing we used to do, the
13 program we used to do was be in contact with the school
14 in that community, let them know we were coming,
15 encourage them to bring classes to these meetings, to
16 your meetings.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. RABINOWITCH: And this was done all
21 around the state and some schools were interested and
22 some weren't. But I always thought that was a very
23 good idea to offer opportunity to youth particularly,
24 you know, high school, you know your young leaders that
25 are coming up.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah.

28

29 MR. RABINOWITCH: I always thought that
30 that was a very good thing to do.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Randy
33 [sic]. Two things there, one, first of all, if we
34 should allow that to happen somebody has to take the
35 responsibility in taking these individuals into these
36 meetings.

37

38 And, secondly, if we allow students to
39 participate and through the process, which is good,
40 that occurs within the Borough. We do have students
41 that -- student representatives at the Assembly
42 meetings, right at the Assembly meeting participating
43 through a process. If we could set a similar type of
44 process that'd be an ideal thing because those students
45 are our future leaders for this region.

46

47 The other part is that we need to find
48 a process and a way to get the message to folks at the
49 rural level. Too often we act on issues, really,
50 without consulting people. I know Barb had attempted

1 to do that through the tribal entity. Sometimes some
2 of the input that comes in basically comes from an
3 administrative level. I think in order to open up to
4 the rest of the region we need to set up a system that
5 would allow for that to happen.

6

7 If we have issues that pertain to
8 proposals that have an impact on their way of life, we
9 ought to bring those things out to the communities.

10

11 Sending information is one thing.
12 Sometimes when you and I get information sent from
13 someone else more than likely we'll set it aside and
14 not really look at it in detail and review it. People
15 at the village level don't know what the heck we're
16 sending them. It's intimidating to receive a piece of
17 document that gives you a bunch of numbers and statutes
18 on it and says this is what it is and this is how
19 things are going to be. We need to find a way to get
20 the message out to explain to people so they can have a
21 better understanding and that way the communication
22 network certainly would be much better than what's been
23 in the past.

24

25 So I think we need to find a way to
26 work with the agencies here to deal with that.

27

28 Ann.

29

30 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman. Ann
31 Wilkinson with OSM. And I would like to recommend that
32 you write a formal letter to the Board.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

35

36 MS. WILKINSON:and explain your
37 concerns to them. That way they will know the
38 situation clearly. And I understand the situation that
39 you're in.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

42

43 MS. WILKINSON:with not getting
44 as much local involvement as you would like.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

47

48 MS. WILKINSON:and certainly
49 that's the whole crux of this program is getting people
50 who actually -- actually subsistence people.....

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
2
3 MS. WILKINSON:to participate.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
6
7 MS. WILKINSON: And another thing that
8 we need to do that would be helpful for this region is
9 to be able to fill the Council and have good geographic
10 diversity represented on the Council.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
13
14 MS. WILKINSON: There's four vacant
15 seats, that means there's four communities that don't
16 have anybody close by that they can talk to about these
17 things or that can explain these things to them.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
20
21 MS. WILKINSON: So we're trying to get
22 more word out, you know, to let people know that this
23 is something they can do.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh-huh.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And certainly we
28 would encourage the Council too, if you know someone in
29 a community that would be a good Council member.....
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
32
33 MS. WILKINSON:please encourage
34 them. That's all I had to say.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Let me ask you, Ann,
37 do we have to -- is it necessary for us to go to the
38 Federal Board to ask Federal Board to ask for this or
39 can we put the -- ask for the admin to put that into
40 the budget as part of a public process extension?
41
42 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman. Council
43 members. I'm suggesting a letter to the Board because
44 then it brings it up to the highest level.....
45
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
47
48 MS. WILKINSON:to their
49 attention.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's no problem.
2
3 MS. WILKINSON: Then they will
4 direct.....
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
7
8 MS. WILKINSON:the.....
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
11
12 MS. WILKINSON:OSM -- the
13 administration, okay.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, that's no
16 problem, that can be done, we also CC a letter to Pat
17 Pourchot who is the representative for the Interior.
18 So we certainly will and can do that.
19
20 Yes -- boy, this is frustrating, too,
21 everytime public want to speak you have to come up to
22 the table, it's.....
23
24 MS. AYRES: Thank you. I guess I.....
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Turn your mic on.
27
28 MS. AYRES: This is LeeAnne Ayres with
29 Fish and Wildlife, the Selawik Refuge. I guess one
30 idea that I have that I'd like to ask to try is for the
31 Council members to identify maybe one or two issues
32 that you would like to have more information presented
33 from the community perspective at your next meeting,
34 and then we, as agencies, when we are out doing work in
35 the communities or in any of our meetings we can kind
36 of focus on some of those things too, kind of try some
37 new systems of trying to get that community input on
38 issues.
39
40 I guess the one thing that comes to
41 mind that is kind of -- one I think we're already
42 doing, that maybe if we can come up with a way of
43 formalizing it for the Council is like with the
44 fisheries proposals, of kind of, you know, we're
45 talking to folks about those projects and as the agency
46 we're very interested in knowing whether they support
47 the use and what their ideas are for either
48 modification from the design or the objectives.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

1 MS. AYRES: And if there is some way we
2 could kind of make that so that information gets back
3 to you as a Council.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

6
7 MS. AYRES:it would be just
8 something that we could try between now and the next
9 meeting.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. That is a
12 good suggestion, LeeAnne. But I think that's the wrong
13 approach that we're taking.

14
15 I think that the question we ought to
16 bring out to the communities, is, what is it that, you,
17 as a community need to know that we can provide for you
18 as a Regional Advisory Council or as an agency, what is
19 it that we're not doing that we should to provide you
20 that information with. Get their input into that.
21 Then we can go back and say, okay, this is what we were
22 told that they would like as far as information is
23 concerned and then we can go from there.

24
25 MS. AYRES: Okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Further
28 discussion on the issue.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor, do you have
33 anything.

34
35 MR. KARMUN: Not right now.

36
37 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy.

40
41 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. We've
42 been concern about the muskox hunting. We had
43 discussions last week and it came to our attention
44 that, you know, Buckland/Deering have 16 allowed
45 through the State hunt, and last year we only got
46 three, all the 13 others were -- the reason we were --
47 we're always waiting for the winter hunt because I
48 talked to some of the hunters and asked them why
49 they're not getting the muskoxen, they said they like
50 to get them during the winter because of rutting or

1 something. And so we wanted to see about putting into
2 place about -- I think the State is going to allow for
3 four now for winter but I think we wanted to get more
4 than that, something like six or seven or something.
5 Or we're thinking about trying to go back to the
6 Federal hunt if that keeps up.

7

8 So we just wanted to bring that to your
9 attention that we're concerned about the amount of
10 muskox that are going away.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. I think
13 that would be an ideal thing for a discussion once a
14 proposal has been put together. If the community
15 feels that they are -- there is a need for take at the
16 community level then a proposal ought to be put
17 together to do that, and, based on the information --
18 the biological information and other information then
19 that determination certainly can be made to look at and
20 increasing the take of muskox if that's what the issue
21 is. Then if it's such that it is necessary to increase
22 the take then certainly this body can look at in
23 supporting or objecting to it based on information that
24 we get. So I think a process that is in place, Percy,
25 can be used to take increase if that's what the
26 community needs are.

27

28 So we do have -- we have some experts
29 in place, Ken can certainly can help out on putting
30 together proposals if that's what it is.

31

32 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ken.

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: Would you like a quick
37 update.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON:as to this
42 discussion?

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah. I
45 think we're down to village concerns anyway and that's
46 what he's raising so.....

47

48 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Council
49 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. You
50 know, we're very aware of the problem. For example,

1 Fred Tocktoo was in the villages earlier this year
2 issuing Federal muskoxen permits and he heard that very
3 thing again from several of the hunters, how the hunt
4 closed early.

5
6 ADF&G has the authority and will be
7 implementing this hunt year a way to split the harvest
8 up between the fall hunt and the winter hunt. You'll
9 recall that at the last meeting you endorsed a proposal
10 and it was actually submitted on behalf of Walter as
11 the Chair to formalize the fall and winter seasons in
12 the Federal hunt. The whole objective of both the
13 State program right now and the Federal Program is to
14 make sure there are animals available for that winter
15 hunt. If that doesn't do it or it shows that there's
16 even a larger demand for that, you know, we'll just go
17 down the process and try to adjust that and if that
18 doesn't do it, you know, it may be down the road, we
19 have to come back and think about something like a
20 community harvest limit or something but, you know,
21 we're very aware of the problem, and both the State and
22 the Federal systems are trying to address that
23 beginning this hunt year and then the Federal
24 regulatory process, the following year, we'll see how
25 it works. But we're willing to work with the
26 communities, you know, and try to make it work.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Let me ask you, Ken,
29 the issue in regards to the State of Alaska if, maybe
30 he can even answer it -- if the State of Alaska is not
31 in compliance with ANILCA, and, yet we're dealing with
32 Federal hunts, then what is the State of Alaska doing
33 trying to manage these critters if they're not in
34 compliance with ANILCA?

35
36 MR. ADKISSON: Well, you know, I think
37 they could maybe answer that, too, if they felt like
38 it. But I mean the State does have a subsistence
39 portion of its laws and regulations and, you know, they
40 are charged with providing for a subsistence and
41 basically as you all know now what happened was, we
42 went from a combined hunt and there's always been a
43 combined harvest quota ever since the State got in the
44 game where we share an overall harvest quota, in this
45 case as you mentioned 16. The State was under a Tier
46 II system and you know how complicated that was having
47 to fill out applications in advance, having them scored
48 and then, you know, an uncertainty whether you got a
49 permit or not. Beginning last year the State went to a
50 Tier I system, which is much easier as far as getting

1 permits go. They're available throughout the hunt year
2 and you just go get one. It's like a giant
3 registration system.

4
5 The downside of that Tier I system is,
6 is anyone who's a resident of Alaska can get one. So
7 you can live in Fairbanks, you can live in, you know,
8 Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, you can get a Tier I muskox
9 permit.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

12
13 MR. ADKISSON: What happened, I think,
14 as Charolette laid out the harvest results from last
15 year, having the availability of the permits and ease
16 of getting them I think actually worked to Buckland
17 and Deering's advantage and their overall harvest, I
18 think, actually rose a little bit. The problem was you
19 had the people from outside the area adding to that
20 harvest in sufficient numbers that it resulted in
21 reaching the quotas way early in the season and it had
22 to close, which is why we're now working on, you know,
23 pushing animals into the winter hunt to make sure that
24 those people who take advantage -- who like to hunt in
25 the winter get an opportunity to do so.

26
27 You also know that it's a lot easier to
28 get an animal closer to home than it is to travel
29 longer distances. And the Federal lands are out there,
30 for the most part, in longer distances. So, you know,
31 hunting off the State and corporation lands, Native
32 lands, is a lot easier for many of the communities.
33 So, you know, there's a real need, I think, for us to
34 work together, the State and the Federal systems.

35
36 And like I said from the beginning of
37 the muskox hunt, you know, as long as that's working to
38 help meet your needs, that's fine. If that cooperation
39 and stuff isn't working, you always have the option of
40 going back to the Board and, you know, pushing for more
41 emphasis on the Federal side. But, you know, we went
42 there, we did that and it wasn't working. Even when we
43 had the Federal hunt, only a Federal hunt, it was so
44 hard to get to the Federal lands, that harvest -- after
45 the initial hunt harvests were low and even the
46 allowable harvest quotas were hardly ever being
47 reached.

48
49 So, you know, it's a work in progress.
50 And right now I think locally, the State and the

1 Federal systems are working to try to make the hunt
2 work better for you and we'll see how this year turns
3 out.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Ken.

6

7 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: I think what might be good
12 for us to see is when you say Buckland/Deering hunt
13 what success, I think we should see the numbers over
14 the years because when we get only three this last
15 year, that's not -- I've seen us getting more than that
16 in the better hunt and everything. So what I'm saying
17 is we're not getting as much as we used to, or that's
18 what the hunters are telling me. So that's the concern
19 we have.

20

21 When you open up on July 24th, I've
22 been told by some of the guys that if it was an early
23 hunt, earlier in July, I think towards August it's real
24 warm for them to get the meat. So that's one of the
25 things that was discussed, is the timing of the summer
26 hunt, or fall hunt or whatever you're going to call it.
27 But I guess there's still a concern now and I think
28 we're going to have more discussions about it.

29

30 Getting three is not quite enough, like
31 we did before.

32

33 I mean that's just the numbers I've
34 been hearing. We didn't know -- we only got three last
35 year, so for this year already gotten three and they're
36 not from Buckland and Deering, so that kind of stuff
37 needs to be shared with these two villages.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other -- go
40 ahead.

41

42 MR. ADKISSON: One other comment, I
43 guess, just to kind of up date it or lay the course for
44 future work.

45

46 You mentioned the idea of hunting
47 earlier, that sort of thing, proposal, has been kicked
48 around among a number of villages and that's the kind
49 of thing normally that we run through the Muskoxen
50 Cooperator's Group. And as you probably know the

1 seasons have been lengthened over the years but the
2 beginning of the season, largely, was determined as a
3 trade-off to protect the younger calves and give them
4 time with their numbers, and the trade-off was losing,
5 you know, any cows down the road that were carrying
6 calves. So, you know, with the population it might be
7 really possible to adjust the season and open it up.

8
9 One of the things you do, of course,
10 with early seasons, earlier in the summer, is run maybe
11 a higher risk of meat lossage because, you know, you
12 really got to get the animals, you got to clean them
13 up, they're so well insulated that if you don't get to
14 them right away, you know, they're going to start
15 rotting from the inside out.

16
17 But I think those are some of the
18 things that we could bring up at the cooperators and
19 it'd be a perfect question to bring before the group.

20
21 And as you know, even though the
22 cooperators try to develop by consensus, everything
23 that comes out of it doesn't have to be a one size fits
24 all for the whole area, that's why we've got it broken
25 up into hunt areas and recognize that sometimes there
26 are differences.

27
28 Usually what will happen is the group
29 will endorse something for one area providing it came
30 from that area and it's what they want, but then the
31 whole group then can get behind it. Sort of like a
32 proposal coming from a village here that you folks
33 might think's good and endorse it, you know, as a
34 group.

35
36 I don't think we're going to be doing
37 the cooperators meeting this summer, it's possible
38 depending upon what comes out in the State proposals.
39 We may have to put one together before the Board of
40 Game meets in November. Other than that, we'll
41 probably wait until next year until we get the most up
42 to date count information and go from there. So I'm
43 pretty sure probably in 2010 sometime, or 2011 we'll be
44 doing a cooperators meeting, probably the summer of
45 2010 after we've got the most recent count.

46
47 MR. BALLOT: Okay, Ken, I understand
48 that. I'm on the cooperators -- I've been involved
49 since Day 1. I bring this stuff out to you from the
50 hunter's perspective.

1 MR. ADKISSON: Excellent, yeah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Percy.
4 We have an individual here that has raised their hand.

5

6 MS. WESTING: Good morning, Mr. Chair
7 and everyone. I am Charolette Westing. I am the
8 biologist here in Kotzebue with the Department of Fish
9 and Game.

10

11 I just wanted to respond a little bit
12 to Percy's concerns. We spoke a little bit about this
13 last week at the Advisory Committee meeting. Of the 16
14 muskox that were harvested last year in the RX106 hunt,
15 which is a registration hunt down in Unit 23 southwest,
16 of the 16 that were taken, two were taken from hunters
17 that are outside, that don't live in the NANA region
18 basically. Of the remaining 14, I believe six of those
19 were Kotzebue based hunters, and then the remaining
20 live in the NANA region and not in Kotzebue. Three of
21 those muskox were taken by one family and I don't think
22 that the people in Buckland and Deering consider that
23 family as living there. So I think that that's not --
24 that those three aren't being included in Percy's total
25 of how many were taken by Buckland and Deering
26 residents. But by my tally eight of the muskox that
27 were taken were taken from hunters that live in the
28 NANA region and are out -- communities other than
29 Kotzebue.

30

31 So from our perspective the first year
32 of the hunt went pretty well as far as meeting the
33 needs of what its intent is, which is basically to
34 provide an opportunity for people that live in Unit 23
35 and to meet the requirements that the State has kind of
36 set up for us in the Tier I system, which is what that
37 muskox hunt is managed in now.

38

39 So we're trying to respond to concerns
40 of hunters in Buckland and Deering as far as how to
41 make that hunt work for them in the best way. We got
42 feedback last year that they would really appreciate to
43 have an opportunity for cows and that people felt
44 pressure to go hunting early and do it in the fall for
45 animals that they weren't as interested in because of
46 the fear that someone else would get that muskox first,
47 and so they were feeling this pressure from other
48 hunters and that was making them hunt in a time that
49 they didn't think was ideal and for animals that they
50 didn't think was ideal. So to address that Ken and I

1 worked a lot together to figure out a way to conduct
2 this hunt as a split quota. So basically what that
3 means is instead of just having all 16 muskox on the
4 table through the whole season, we're basically going
5 to harvest up to 12 before the end of the year. So if
6 we got to 12 next, we would stop, we'd take a break,
7 and then we'd reopen the season in January for the
8 remaining four, and then those could be cows, and
9 people could use snowmachines to get those.

10

11 Right now the hunt is going much slower
12 than it did last year. So far only three animals have
13 been taken. Last year we were at, I believe, eight at
14 this same time. So I think everybody has kind of
15 calmed down a little bit about this hunt, and it's
16 going through its course much more slowly, and that's
17 going to work to the favor of the people who live down
18 there and the people who want to take cows and want to
19 take animals later in the season.

20

21 As far as taking animals earlier in the
22 season, the portion of the season that's open in August
23 and through December is only for bulls anyways. So I
24 don't, personally, have as many concerns about, you
25 know, cows and calves getting enough time together
26 because we're targeting bulls. I think Ken's points
27 about meat concerns are valid, but I'm definitely open
28 to considering the idea of tweaking the dates of the
29 season. Obviously those considerations work very well
30 when they come from the Muskox Cooperator's Group and
31 we can have as much consistency as possible in how we
32 do our hunts. And it would also likely have to go
33 through the Board of Game process, but I'm not positive
34 about that and we may have missed the boat for this
35 cycle as far as tweaking those dates. But we're always
36 open to considering them.

37

38 I appreciate your feedback. I
39 appreciate the feedback that I got about how to split
40 manage that quota and how people wanted to have more of
41 an opportunity for cows, tried to incorporate that in
42 what we're doing and I will continue to do that.

43

44 MR. BALLOT: Thank you.

45

46 MS. WESTING: If anyone has any other
47 questions I'm happy to answer them otherwise I'll
48 continue.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I do have a question

1 the issue regards to new information. What do you
2 provide -- what kind of information do you provide
3 personally into -- in public meetings or public
4 settings to the communities of Buckland and Deering in
5 regards to the hunt?

6
7 MS. WESTING: Well, I guess the most
8 work that I do is with vendors down there. We work
9 with the Deering IRA and Ron Moto and Delbert Thomas.
10 And they are the people who are selling licenses to
11 people and issuing tags. I try to keep a real open
12 line of communication with those folks.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

15
16 MS. WESTING:and to distribute
17 information to them but it definitely is an area where
18 I'd like to be able to spend more time and I'm open for
19 feedback as far as how to do that better.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The only bad part
22 about that is that in the event that there is
23 overharvest of these critters or there's a dying of
24 these critters in one area, sometimes they will blame
25 those people for not providing the adequate
26 information.

27
28 As an agency that is part of your
29 responsibility, as I understand it, just like the
30 Federal agency, so therefore that information ought to
31 be provided to them from the agency, not through a
32 vendor. Vendor don't have no slightest biological
33 sense in their heads to try to provide those things.
34 But as an agency, an agency being responsible for these
35 critters then that ought to be your charge to provide
36 that information to the communities, so that way you
37 can have an open dialogue with these folks so they can
38 understand exactly what should be taken and how those
39 things will be taken. People can have a better
40 understanding rather than hearing it secondhand from
41 someone else who might not be able to answer questions
42 to begin with anyway.....

43
44 MS. WESTING: Right.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:so.

47
48 MS. WESTING: I'd say that when I talk
49 about using our vendors, that's kind of the more formal
50 -- formal way that the information is distributed, but

1 I would say that Jim Dau has a lot of local contacts,
2 I'm developing more and more local contacts, and that's
3 the biggest way that I think that we distribute
4 information in those areas, is just by personal
5 relationships that we're building with people or that
6 Jim has built over the last 20 years, where he picks up
7 the phone and says, how are things going, what are you
8 seeing down there.; this is how things are going with
9 us and doing that on a personal level, too.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, good, thank
12 you, very much.

13

14 Any other village concerns that you'd like to
15 concern.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Anyone.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: From the village of
24 Kotzebue, Victor Karmun.

25

26 MR. KARMUN: Not right now, thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any
29 other village concerns.

30

31 MR. ADAMS: Yep, I do, in our village,
32 Noatak. We have -- well, first I'd like to say our --
33 a good report about our trout and salmon, they came in
34 abundance and we harvested quite a bit of it.

35

36 This year, getting all our salmon and
37 now days everybody's putting their harvest outside of
38 their homes, you know, so people won't come and take --
39 in the back, you know, 20 years we'd all have racks in
40 the river, it'd be a good place for them to drive,
41 however -- and then these kids now days would come and
42 take what they want and sell them and stuff like that,
43 and now it's -- everybody's taking their salmon out
44 next to their homes and drying them there. We have a
45 concern, this last week we had three bear sightings in
46 one night taking salmon right there in the village,
47 walking through the streets, going place to place.
48 There are a couple guys that shot bears right there on
49 the back porches of a couple houses. And it's becoming
50 a big concern to -- because our school is quite a ways

1 and early in the morning the kids got to walk a long
2 ways up to the school.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

5

6 MR. ADAMS:and that's becoming a
7 hazard for our children now, this time of the year.
8 And caribou is just starting to come and the people
9 will be doing the same thing with the caribou, is
10 drying meat outside the house and that attracts bears.
11 And right now we have bear sightings just everywhere on
12 the river and they're digging into boats right now in
13 our boat harbor and pulling out gas lines, throwing gas
14 cans around and it's a big issue right now in our
15 village.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Let me ask the State
18 in regards to the process of some immediate issues and
19 how you take care of these things when it gets to the
20 point of, what do you call, in defense of life and
21 property, or can you give us a quick spiel in regards
22 to what these folks can do to handle the issues.

23

24 MS. WESTING: I spoke with Alvin
25 earlier this week, I believe it was Alvin, about this
26 question. And first of all I really appreciate people
27 keeping us in the loop about what's going on in their
28 communities, if they're having problems. We definitely
29 want to help out as much as we can.

30

31 Bears definitely want to be in town,
32 especially when there's yummy stuff around, and that's
33 just kind of the way that bears are. Obviously the
34 best way -- we obviously support hazing bears if you
35 can and keeping them away from an area, keeping it as
36 clean as possibly, but obviously when there are fish
37 drying and meat drying that can be difficult. So since
38 the bear season is currently open, there are a couple
39 different options that people have.

40

41 First of all I'll say that if a bear --
42 if someone feels that a bear is damaging their property
43 or threatening their life, they are within their rights
44 to take the bear, they don't have to have a hunting
45 license. The thing that does need to happen is the
46 State does need to get the hide and the skull from that
47 bear, and that can just be sent to Fish and Game,
48 freight collect, we'll fill out the paperwork with you,
49 and then it's done, that's it. The meat from that
50 bear, if you take a bear for defense of life and

1 property, we call it a DLP bear, it can be used by the
2 community if there are people that are interested in
3 it.

4
5 The other options available are to just
6 take one with -- in the general hunting season. If
7 someone wants to shoot a bear, they can just take the
8 bear. Again, we can seal it and that -- if we seal it,
9 they can keep the hide, whoever can keep the hide, if
10 they want the hide, the meat, again, can be used. If
11 it's taken in defense of life and property, technically
12 the State gets the hide and the skull and so -- but if
13 someone in the community wants to take the bear has a
14 hunting license, they can take the bear, they can keep
15 the skull and the hide, we just need to seal it.

16
17 The third option is to be use the RB700
18 hunt, which is a registration hunt. Paula Mills and
19 Janet Mills have permits to issue in Noatak and the
20 different communities -- the other different
21 communities also have vendors that can issue an RB700
22 permit. Basically what that permit does is it allows
23 someone to take a bear without the requirement of
24 getting the hide and the skull sealed, they can just
25 take it for the meat, and not mess with the hide and
26 the skull at all. And so that permit can be issued as
27 well.

28
29 So those are your options as far as
30 shooting the bear.

31
32 Defense of life and property, or just
33 to take it in the general hunting season.

34
35 Obviously the safety of the people in
36 our communities is very important and we don't put up
37 any roadblocks, you know, towards -- for people to be
38 safe.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. I guess
41 the best thing that the community of Noatak can do for
42 -- at least for some of those that hunt is to go to the
43 State and get an RB700 hunt license so that way you
44 can take that bear to where you can keep what's been
45 taken.

46
47 MS. WESTING: Yep, that's fine. I'll
48 also mention that electric fences are a real successful
49 way down in Bristol Bay, where I was previously, that
50 people have used to protect their fish racks and to

1 deter bears from learning that fish racks or meat racks
2 are a good place to get food. So, you know, I'll bring
3 that up just as a kind of deterrent, especially if we
4 see changes happening over time that are going to make
5 this more and more of an issue with people putting the
6 racks closer to their houses, or whatever. Electric
7 fences are good for that, you know, rubber bullets are
8 also another good deterrent and cracker shells. But if
9 bears are getting -- if bears are getting food, they're
10 going to keep coming back. So, you know, what may
11 ultimately need to happen is the bear needs to die, so
12 you got lots of options if that's the way it needs to
13 go.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Virgil.
16 Remember energy costs are high in this region and
17 there's no way you could expect people to put up an
18 electric fence around their racks or around their
19 homes.

20
21 MS. WESTING: Right.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: When the price of
24 fuel is at \$11 a gallon, then it becomes a commodity
25 that is precious to everyone that is really taking the
26 rest of their resources -- for that, other than
27 something else.

28
29 MS. WESTING: And I realize that,
30 too.....

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

33
34 MS. WESTING:I mean living here I
35 know about fuel prices as well. But the good thing is
36 that I've used electric fences before that run off of
37 solar panel and they work great, so, you know, I just
38 thought I'd throw that out there as some other ways to
39 -- but I recognize.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Maybe the State of
42 Alaska can buy a bunch of solar panels that you could
43 lease out or whatever. I mean those are pricey
44 materials that we're talking about. What you provided
45 to us is good. But that very information that you
46 provide to us also needs to be provided to the
47 community so people can understand exactly that very
48 process that they can go through to dealing with some
49 of these issues. So if you, as a State, can provide
50 that to them that's good.

1 Now, if it was in Fairbanks or
2 Anchorage or elsewhere, you provide those type of
3 information in the public setting and there's no reason
4 why a community cannot get that same information that
5 you provide elsewhere. Remember, they're part of the
6 State system, they're part of the public, just like
7 elsewhere, so if you can provide that same information
8 to them, like would be a little bit easier for them to
9 dealing with those -- with the problems, so I encourage
10 the State, if you can, work with the Federal system,
11 coordinate an effort to hold a village meeting to
12 provide information, general information, that's
13 something that people would love to find out about and
14 know about.

15
16 MS. WESTING: Okay.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

19
20 MS. WESTING: We're happy to -- we like
21 to provide as much education as we can.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

24
25 MS. WESTING: Most of what we do is
26 like when Alvin sent me an email.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

29
30 MS. WESTING:and said, hey, what
31 do I do and I spoke with him about it. So, again, most
32 of it happens on a personal level, but I agree
33 education is always a good thing and we're happy to
34 engage in that.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thanks. Good. Any
37 other village concerns.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You want to take a
42 quick five or 10 minute break -- yeah, we'll take a few
43 minute break.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (On record)

48
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We'll reconvene at
50 this time.

1 Any other village concerns.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

8

9 MR. SWAN: I just had one. We had a
10 State employee come in with license vendor information,
11 to Kivalina. As you all know whoever sells licenses
12 and tags gets paid a very minimal sum. I think that is
13 the biggest reason nobody wants to take on that little
14 job -- or that big job, however you want to consider
15 it. And I think it's about time the State maybe
16 consider raising the pay for that village vendor. You
17 might get some good results.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think you got a
20 good point there. It's just like DMV. DMV has the
21 same thing, you know, it's something that the State of
22 Alaska needs to look at, even the Federal government,
23 if that's what they're required to do. The State of
24 Alaska, I think you need to take that as a suggestion
25 to your chief and consider that.

26

27 With that, we do have a guy from the
28 State that has some information in regards to taking
29 care of bear problems.

30

31 MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair. George Pappas,
32 Department of Fish and Game.

33

34 Your idea of securing a funding source
35 for providing electric fences to reduce negative
36 bear/human interactions is a great one. On the Kenai
37 Peninsula the Safari Club International invests tens of
38 thousands of dollars in bear proof dumpsters, fillet
39 tables, bear proof trash cans, what have you, to reduce
40 defense of life and properties, to reduce problems at
41 the source of why the bears are coming in town to cause
42 problems. So I will contact Safari Club International
43 folks and have them contact local.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

46

47 MR. PAPPAS:the wildlife Staff to
48 see if there is funding available. Sometimes they have
49 a split funding, what have you, because they do make
50 self-contained solar panel electric setups that are

1 less than \$200 and that might save a couple dozen bears
2 lives down the line.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

5

6 MR. PAPPAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Thank you.

9 No other village concerns we'll move on.

10

11 As far as the Chair's report is
12 concerned, we do not have any proposals for discussion.
13 And I think at some point -- I know we didn't have an
14 annual report either so we need to work on putting
15 together our annual report and I encourage you
16 community representatives to work with your communities
17 in regards to putting together some proposals that we
18 can consider for next meeting.

19

20 So with that that's all I have in
21 regards to the Chair's report.

22

23 Annual report issue, Barb.

24

25 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thanks, Mr. Chair.

26 I have so far -- we're going to do an annual report
27 this year, for 2009.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good.

30

31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG:annual report,
32 and so far this morning I've heard this brown bear and
33 muskox.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

36

37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: And if you have any
38 more issues that you need to bring up, please, let me
39 know or talk to people and if there's any more issues
40 other than brown bear and muskox please let me know.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any
45 questions for Barb.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very
50 much, Barb. Any questions for Barbara.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing and seeing
4 none we'll move ahead to our Fisheries Resource
5 Monitoring Program. What are we looking at in time?

6

7 MS. HYER: How long?

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

10

11 MS. HYER: 10 minutes, maybe.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, good, thanks.
14 State your name and who you represent for the record.

15

16 MS. HYER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,
17 and Council members. I'm Karen Hyer with the Office of
18 Subsistence Management. I'm going to talk to you today
19 about our Draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

20

21 So if you turn to Page 9, the text for
22 this begins on Page 9.

23

24 And during our fall Council meetings we
25 talked about the priority information needs for the
26 northern area and those priority information needs
27 followed with our call for proposals, and now I'm
28 bringing you the draft proposals, or actually
29 investigation plans that have been submitted for our
30 future resource.

31

32 I passed out a new table to you that
33 was to replace Table 1 on Page 16, and if you'd turn
34 there -- if you'd pull that out, you'll see on Page 16
35 or Table 1, a list of projects that have been completed
36 through the Resource Monitoring Program. The Resource
37 Monitoring Program has been active since 2000, and
38 here, currently, to date, we have completed 12 projects
39 in this area.

40

41 And if you look at Page 2 -- or excuse
42 me, if you look at Table 2 on Page 17 you can see that
43 this is a list of projects that are currently under way
44 and we have one project currently under way, which is
45 research on Kobuk River sheefish spawning and run
46 timing. And that was put under North Slope in this
47 table, which is an error, that's actually in your area
48 here, and that's work that's happening on the Kobuk
49 River.

50

1 So if you go to Page 19, at the top of
2 the page under recommendations for funding, you'll see
3 the 12 projects that were submitted for funding through
4 this program for this year.

5
6 And the first one at the Unalakleet
7 River, chinook salmon assessment, and that project
8 proposes constructing a floating weir to monitoring the
9 escapement of chinook salmon on the Unalakleet River.
10 And in addition to monitoring the escapement it will
11 collect age, sex and length information, to evaluate
12 the quality and the quantity of the escapement and the
13 information from that project will assist in-season and
14 post-season management of that stock.

15
16 The second one is 10-151. That project
17 proposes estimating the current level of subsistence
18 use and documenting local knowledge for non-salmon and
19 using key informant interviews to collect contextual
20 information and also collecting climate change
21 information, which is a big issue up here and
22 interviewing local fishers to see how that has changed
23 over time. And the communities that are proposed for
24 surveying are Shishmaref, Wales, Stebbins and Teller.

25
26 The next one 10-152 is directly related
27 to climate change, which is a big issue with Fish and
28 Wildlife Service currently. And that one will document
29 local observations in the Noatak, Selawik and
30 Unalakleet villages, and it will document the effects
31 by interviews, of changes on subsistence fisheries and
32 then also how they are managed and hopefully provide
33 suggestions for the in-season managers about possibly
34 future management.

35
36 Then the next one 10-104, Selawik Lake
37 and Hotham Inlet inconnu genetic analysis. The Kobuk
38 and Selawik inconnu support a winter fishery down in
39 Hotham Inlet and Selawik Lake, and it's a mixed stock
40 fishery. And currently the managers do not have the
41 knowledge of the proportions that those two stocks
42 contribute to the overall harvest. So this will look
43 at harvest from that subsistence fishery and do a
44 genetic analysis so we'll be able to tell how much of
45 that fishery is attributed to the Kobuk stock and how
46 much is attributed to the Selawik stock.

47
48 And finally the last project is the
49 Selawik Drainage inconnu winter movement patterns. And
50 this one, again, works with the same mixed stocks, and

1 it's going to implant acoustic transmitters to explore
2 the winter distribution and movement patterns and
3 hopefully identify habitat requirements of the inconnu
4 and provide in-season and post-season managers with
5 more information for, again, managing that fishery.

6

7 So those are the five projects that are
8 in our Draft Resource Monitoring Plan and I can take
9 any questions you have.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions from the
12 body.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The issue regard to
17 study plan, how do you plan to implement that, do you
18 plan to work with the school, do you plan to work with
19 local folks or how do you plan to dealing with the
20 issue in regards to the studies?

21

22 MS. HYER: Well, each study has a
23 different group of people working in it and all our
24 studies are cooperation -- most of them are cooperation
25 between State and Federal agencies with a local
26 component, and the two -- the last two in the Selawik
27 involve both the Kotzebue IRA and there was one other
28 -- and you can look, if you look at the top -- starting
29 on Page 21 there's a brief description of each project,
30 and you'll see the investigators and the other
31 investigator on those was the village of Kotzebue and
32 Selawik -- the village of Selawik actually was on that
33 particular one but they are listed there. All the
34 projects are cooperative. Our most successful projects
35 are cooperative and they always have a local component,
36 that's part of our requirement.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: One of the issues
43 that sometimes often gets put -- set aside, is the
44 issue in regards to because it's not biology, it's not
45 science, is the issue in regards to local knowledge.

46

47 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And I think that is
50 one of the issues that always have been a problem in

1 the past. I don't know how the agencies will be
2 looking at in regards to taking in the local knowledge
3 in regards to the source of the critters there. I mean
4 people know when to go fishing for these critters, they
5 know where they spawn, they know when to take the
6 stuff, that's why I raise that issue.

7

8 MS. HYER: And I have just a comment to
9 address that. Both the -- the second and third project
10 are both related to local knowledge, and they're both
11 incorporating local knowledge and hoping to incorporate
12 that knowledge to help managers.

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

15

16 MS. HYER: And then the fourth and
17 fifth projects actually are working with the IRAs to
18 use the local knowledge to simply know where to
19 actually get the fish.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good.

22

23 MS. HYER: And so that's a really
24 important component in these studies.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, good. Any
27 questions.

28

29 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I was just
30 wondering, Mr. Chairman, how they pick these places
31 that they study? I've been around and I've never seen
32 any fishery studies or anything around the
33 Buckland/Deering area or anything. I know that small
34 sheefish this time of the year, they're out by the
35 island, I know, but if there's any studies that were
36 done around the island, what there is over there, how
37 much is over there or things like that. I was just
38 wondering about the process for these -- all these
39 things I've seen -- there's studies about the Selawik
40 and stuff and we should know pretty well what's going
41 on there, I'm just wondering about the other places.

42

43 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
44 members. On Page 11 you will see the evaluation
45 process for the proposals. The purpose of the
46 Fisheries Monitoring Program is to provide information
47 to Federal managers. And one of the challenges of this
48 area is the Federal lands, and everything has to be
49 connected somehow to Federal jurisdiction because we're
50 providing information to Federal fisheries managers.

1 So I do believe both of those two places that you
2 mentioned are under State jurisdiction and so they
3 would not be eligible for this particular program.

4

5 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

8

9 MR. BALLOT: I'm thinking how many
10 Federal lands up by Buckland and Deering?

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: BLM.

13

14 MS. HYER: I think most of that.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think a lot of it
17 is BLM and State.

18

19 MS. HYER: Yes, Mr. Council -- Mr.
20 Chairman and Council members, that's true. And BLM
21 land is not conveyed and that is not applicable to our
22 program, and there's a history behind that that I am
23 not familiar with.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can you enlighten
26 me, I guess, what the hell is -- excuse me -- what is
27 that fish that you're describing, inconnu or.....

28

29 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. It's
30 sheefish. And I use that term because that's the term
31 the investigator's used in their proposals, but we call
32 it sheefish.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, if you would,
35 maybe in parenthesis, put sheefish on the side.

36

37 MS. HYER: Absolutely.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I mean I know it as
40 sheefish all my life and I was wondering what the heck
41 kind of fish is that, is that stub-nosed whitefish or
42 what.

43

44 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. In the future
45 I can easily do that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

48

49 MS. HYER: That would actually make it
50 easier for me also.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any
2 other questions.

3
4 MR. BALLOT: Well, I mentioned small
5 sheefish, so do they tag the fish around there too, the
6 sheefish up in Selawik, have they ever -- has that ever
7 been done, because we get small sheefish and different
8 kinds of whitefish that comes up this way from our area
9 so there's got to be some kind of connection there?

10
11 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council
12 members. There has been quite a bit of work done on
13 Selawik sheefish and Kobuk sheefish also and there's
14 still a lot to be known about those two stocks.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Any other
17 questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hearing and seeing
22 none, thank you very much for your report.

23
24 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

27
28 MS. HYER: There is one thing, I -- if
29 there is no discussion, I would ask for a
30 recommendation from the Council on these.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

33
34 MS. HYER: Whether they support the
35 funding of these projects or not.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think it's
38 certainly crucially important to know what those stocks
39 are, what they might do in the future just for the sake
40 of making sure that as far as fisheries are concerned
41 that the abundance of fish are continued to stay in
42 place, we need to make sure that there's some kind of
43 studies that can be initiated to do exactly what you
44 just discussed.

45
46 So I think with that, what's the wish
47 of the body.

48
49 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.
2
3 MR. SWAN: I think we should go ahead
4 and recommend this or accept it or whatever.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
7
8 MS. HYER: Uh-huh.
9
10 MR. SWAN: To recommend to support.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.
13
14 MR. BALLOT: Second.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, there's a
17 motion and a second to support the studies of what's
18 been presented.
19
20 Discussion on the motion.
21
22 MR. BALLOT: What's inconnu or
23 what.....
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's sheefish.
26
27 MR. BALLOT: Sheefish?
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Not hefish,
32 sheefish.
33
34 (Laughter)
35
36 MR. BALLOT: Question.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been
39 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify
40 by saying aye.
41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed, same
45 sign.
46
47 (No opposing votes)
48
49 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.
50 Thank you, very much.

1 MS. HYER: Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Call for proposal
4 changes, 2010/12 subsistence wildlife regulations.
5
6 MS. WILKINSON: Me?
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ann, yep.
9
10 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman. Council
11 members. This is the time of year when -- well, no it
12 isn't, we're a little out of synch here. There was
13 some complications last summer when we were publishing
14 the final rule for the wildlife proposals and so we had
15 to extend the open period for accepting proposals. So
16 we're still accepting wildlife proposals until November
17 5th. If anyone has proposals they want to submit, they
18 can still do that. I was thinking of Mr. Ballot. But
19 also we're asking that the Council's affirm any
20 proposals that they submitted previously.
21
22 And this Council submitted one proposal
23 regarding muskoxen in Unit 23 and that proposal, it
24 would have changed the language from one bull by
25 Federal permit or State Tier I subsistence
26 registration, or one muskox by Federal permit or State
27 Tier I subsistence registration so you changed it
28 slightly, but still, you know, the wording's slight but
29 it's a significant change. So we didn't know if you
30 still wanted to go with that proposal or not.
31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What page is.....
33
34 MS. WILKINSON: It isn't included in
35 your book. I have a copy of it here if you want to
36 look at it.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Would you like --
39 let's take a quick step down and make a quick copy of
40 at least the first -- or do you have copies?
41
42 MR. RABINOWITCH: I have one more.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. If we could
45 use that for Barbara to make a quick copy we can do
46 that, Ann.
47
48 Barb, please.
49
50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We can have a step
2 down.....
3
4 REPORTER: Walter.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:and mean while,
7 while she's doing that.....
8
9 REPORTER: Walter.
10
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Okay, thank
12 you.
13
14 REPORTER: Thank you.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We're going to take
17 a quick step down to get a copy of a proposal copied so
18 we can have a good discussion on that, so we'll step
19 down for that portion of the issue.
20
21 (Pause)
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess you all
24 understand the issue in regards to submitting
25 proposals. When can we start submitting proposals?
26
27 MS. WILKINSON: For wildlife?
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: To protect ourselves
30 as people, we're getting to a point of on a decline,
31 too, as far as -- no, I'm just teasing.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I'm just teasing
36 you.
37
38 Do you have anything besides the --
39 this proposal?
40
41 MS. WILKINSON: We can just look at the
42 revised schedule.
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
45
46 MS. WILKINSON: When we went to the two
47 year schedule to do fisheries one year and wildlife the
48 next, was a great plan but then all there were all
49 these things that came up so this year's our first year
50 to be focused on having one Board meeting a year but

1 instead we're having a January meeting. The Board,
2 January 12th through 14th, and at that time they will
3 deliberate on the subpart B -- Section 19 special
4 actions language that we're going to talk about in a
5 minute, and also the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan
6 that you all just acted on.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

9

10 MS. WILKINSON: And the wildlife
11 closures.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

14

15 MS. WILKINSON: Those three things
16 they're going to do at that meeting.

17

18 Then May 18th they're going to meet to
19 act on any wildlife proposals that came up, that were
20 submitted. And so far we have quite a number of them
21 so it'll be a big meeting.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The issue in regards
24 to the cycle system that's been changed.

25

26 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Two years for
29 fisheries, did you say.....

30

31 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:and one year
34 for wildlife, how much of a problem has it created when
35 it went to that cycle system? I mean the issue in
36 regards to some of the problems that might be raised,
37 are those handled through an emergency basis or how are
38 those handled?

39

40 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, sir. We have had
41 a number of special actions come up, more than normal,
42 of course. And those have been dealt with as they come
43 to us on a case by case basis, yes.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Any
46 questions for Ann.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Ann.

1 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Then the next
2 thing we could do is the.....
3
4 REPORTER: Ann, could you.....
5
6 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, sorry. If you'd
7 like to we can go to the bear claw working group
8 summary.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
11
12 MS. WILKINSON: And that's on Page 34
13 in your books.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 34.
16
17 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.
18
19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Bear claw working
20 group.
21
22 MS. WILKINSON: I won't read to you the
23 whole briefing, but we'll just go over things and if
24 you have questions I'll be available.
25
26 If you can remember, the Board met in
27 April and May of 2008 and they took up a proposal then
28 from the State, Department of Fish and Game, regarding
29 creating handicrafts from brown bear parts and they
30 decided to defer that proposal. The Department of Fish
31 and Game said that they would make a working group to
32 look at the entire issue and bring their
33 recommendations back. So that has been done. The
34 working group has had two meetings so far. The first
35 meeting they just clarified the intent of the group and
36 they developed a charge for the group which was to
37 develop methods to recommend to the Federal Subsistence
38 Board and the Board of Game, methods for tracking the
39 sale of brown bear parts that have been made into
40 handicrafts. And they need something that's
41 enforceable, and culturally sensitive and commensurate
42 with the need to provide conservation.
43
44 And all the Councils were provided a
45 status briefing at the last round of meetings. In June
46 of 2009 there was a teleconference to discuss, again,
47 the working group, to discuss this issue.
48
49 Now, when the working group was formed,
50 the Board directed that the Councils would be

1 specifically targeted to have representation on this
2 working group. And all of the Councils, but one, and
3 that's Western Interior, has agreed to have
4 representatives on this working group.

5
6 So the working group is going to meet
7 again, sometime later this fall, in a face to face
8 meeting. When they met last time the Council members
9 had a lot of questions and concerns that they brought
10 forward and they asked the Staff to do research, and
11 that has been done and so they can bring that
12 information to the meeting this fall and hopefully
13 address some of those concerns. And then once the
14 working group comes up with whatever comment or
15 recommendation they want to make to the Board, that
16 will come before the Councils again. You'll get a full
17 status report and you'll hear what this working group
18 recommended. And the Councils, then, will have
19 opportunity to make their recommendation on the subject
20 and then it will go to the Board. And because this is
21 a method and means.....

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Issue.

24
25 MS. WILKINSON:issue then the
26 Council's recommendations will have deference. So it's
27 very significant for the Council's to comment on this
28 if it involves them at all but as I said, Western
29 Interior doesn't want to be included.

30
31 So that's basically the briefing I have
32 for you today.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: On the bears.....

35
36 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: On the bear claw
39 working group summary.

40
41 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I know Barbara has
44 emailed me quite a bit in regards to the information.
45 Because of time and my schedule that I wasn't able to
46 make those meetings, you know, being involved with --
47 or wearing many hats sometimes it gets a little
48 difficult to try to go from one meeting to another.

49
50 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But, hopefully,
2 things will slow down a little bit, that if I can get a
3 schedule in regards to when.....

4
5 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:that next
8 meeting might occur I certainly would be interested in
9 going to that meeting because of the importance of --
10 or the issue is important to all of us within this
11 region, especially to those that do a lot of handicraft
12 stuff.

13
14 MS. WILKINSON: Right.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So any questions.

17
18 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. If you're
19 not able to make it, make sure that either the vice
20 Chair or whoever down the line can, somebody from this
21 Council be there.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Percy. I
24 certainly will work on that, and I indicated, Barbara,
25 that you've emailed me a lot in regards to the
26 information on the working group issue in regards to
27 bear claw and because of my constraints in regards to
28 scheduling I've been unable to -- I certainly will
29 provide Barbara in regards to my schedule and see if we
30 can get someone to attend this meeting in the future.

31
32 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Are we done -- any
35 other questions in regards to bear claw.

36
37 MR. SWAN: Is there really a very real
38 issue with illegal sale of bear claws and items made
39 from bears that go international or what?

40
41 MS. WILKINSON: I will just say before
42 I hand -- this is Coleen Brown and she's a new wildlife
43 biologist with our office and there does seem to a
44 large illegal use of bear parts and primarily is with
45 the Asian market. But there are, you know, a large
46 number of bears being taken. And the whole point of
47 this project is to insure that these bears that are
48 being poached are clearly separated from the bears that
49 subsistence people take. So that the wildlife
50 enforcement officers and people who may purchase any

1 handicrafts made from bears can clearly say these are
2 legally taken bears, you know, and not a problem,
3 there's no illegal take. But, yes, there is a
4 worldwide concern.

5

6 MR. SWAN: Is that concerning only bear
7 claws or other parts of the bear?

8

9 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair and Council
10 members. I'm Coleen Brown with Office of Subsistence
11 Management and I'm also on the working group here for
12 brown bear claw handicrafts and we have met -- the
13 State and Federal members parts of the working group
14 have met in response to the Council member
15 representative questions at the last meeting to address
16 is there a real concern in Alaska.

17

18 Currently our law enforcement, U.S.
19 Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement and the State
20 of Alaska are the only two law enforcement agencies
21 that have reported on this issue, and for those two law
22 enforcement agencies there have been 150 cases where it
23 has either been singularly brown bear claws that have
24 been taken or their paws or their gall bladders, which
25 is more of the Asian market. So within the past 10
26 years, if you average that out, 15 bears have been
27 poached and we have information that we'll be bringing
28 to the representatives at our next meeting to show
29 this, where these individuals -- definitely there are
30 bears that are just having their claws taken. So our
31 concern is we want to protect the subsistence user and
32 also protect the resource. Because, although brown
33 bears are doing well in Alaska and Canada, in the rest
34 of the world they are threatened, and so our concern is
35 to make sure that we protect the subsistence user and
36 the person who is making the handicraft so that they
37 can show that this was a legally harvested bear, and
38 separate themselves from the other issues that are
39 going on. So that's what we're trying to -- at our
40 first meeting there wasn't an awareness of what the
41 illegal market was, and so the Council members tasked
42 us with finding that information out and we came back
43 with bits and pieces, like I said, those two agencies
44 have reported, but within just those two agencies
45 there's a lot that we previously did not know.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions
48 for the two.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: So you might have some

1 numbers on like subsistence hunters that got this many
2 in the state of Alaska, legal hunts besides illegal
3 hunt numbers?

4
5 MS. BROWN: Yes, sir, we do. I know
6 that it was provided by Chuck Ardizzone in the
7 pamphlets that have gone out, I can look that up for
8 you and find that out for you. But we did put that
9 within the packet of the materials that we have
10 assembled to look at what the numbers are in
11 subsistence users and how many individuals will be
12 making handicrafts and we want to make sure that we
13 come up with something that is non-burdensome but, yet,
14 relevant to your protection and also recognize
15 globally. And there are methods already in place for
16 that. It's called CITES, which is the Convention on
17 the International Trade of Endangered Species, brown
18 bears and black bears are recognized globally under
19 this treaty and so it's one way that we are proposing
20 that we address this in order to protect the resource
21 and the user.

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Hearing
28 and seeing none, we'll move back to the proposal on the
29 muskox issue on harvest season change.

30
31 Ann.

32
33 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Mr.
34 Chairman. Like I said we just want to affirm that this
35 proposal is still what you want to have go forward.

36
37 There was some discussion earlier, you
38 know, either the community of Buckland may wish to put
39 in some different proposal or you might want to amend
40 this one, but we want to be sure that this represents
41 still what you want to have go before the Board.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So presently the way
44 the regulation is written is that the season of take is
45 August 1 through December 31, and this proposal is to
46 make that change from that date to January 1 to March
47 15th -- no?

48
49 MS. WILKINSON: No.
50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, okay. Ken.
2
3 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Ken
4 Adkisson, National Park Service.
5
6 No, the current regulation is August 1
7 to March 15th, just one long season.
8
9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, that first
10 date then.
11
12 MR. ADKISSON: And the bottom one is
13 the way the new regulation would read, which breaks the
14 season into.....
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Okay.
17
18 MR. ADKISSON:a fall, August.....
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, yeah. Yeah.
21
22 MR. ADKISSON:and then we'll
23 allocate the harvest between those two.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So basically
26 the two seasons -- or the change is from August 1 -
27 March 15th, the first season would be August 1 through
28 December 31, and the second hunt would occur from
29 January 1 to March 15th. The question is, if you don't
30 have any problems in regards to the date changes, would
31 you support what is being proposed in making a change
32 of season?
33
34 MR. BALLOT: It's open to say you could
35 change the August -- the August 1 date to maybe July,
36 or do we need to bring that to our Muskox
37 Cooperative.....
38
39 MS. WILKINSON: Yeah, you could.....
40
41 MR. BALLOT:group?
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ken.
44
45 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. Council
46 members. Ken Adkisson. The way it would actually work
47 in practice, remember this is a jointly shared quota.
48 There are 16 animals that's shared between the State
49 and the Federal system, and the way it would basically
50 work is, you know, the season would open August 1 and

1 essentially we're allocating 12 animals theoretically
2 into that first season. And if those 12 animals are
3 gone, and remember they have to be all bulls and that
4 up until December 31st, if those 12 animals are gone in
5 the first several months of the season that fall season
6 closes, and the remainder of the animals then, you
7 know, the four, would be available in the winter hunt
8 and it would be basically it could be either a bull or
9 a cow. And if the allocation isn't met in the fall
10 hunt those animals would carry over into the winter
11 hunt, and you'd only still need one permit, you
12 wouldn't have to get two different permits, your
13 original permit -- so you could pick up a permit at the
14 beginning of the season and that would be good
15 throughout both the actual hunt periods.

16
17 And if that doesn't work, if -- if, you
18 know, we're consistently hitting that eight right out
19 of the gate and as you've heard from Charolette this
20 morning, it seems to be slower this year; if we're
21 hitting that, you know, we can come back and say, okay,
22 maybe we got to allocate more animals in there. And
23 the other test of it will be is if people are actually
24 getting out there with snowmachines and taking those
25 winter animals, and if they are, and they're, you know,
26 consistently bringing in those four I think it's
27 appropriate for you folks to come back and say; see
28 we're demonstrating this need. We need more animals in
29 the winter hunt. And I can pretty much guarantee you,
30 you'll get more animals in the hunt, you know. One of
31 the problems we've had is consistently, though, you
32 know, the population's grown, the harvest quota's have
33 gone up and we're not meeting the quotas frankly and
34 that's just feeding the State, you know, the Board of
35 Game's desire to make that, quote, surplus, available
36 to everybody else.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So basically
39 what he's telling us then, Percy, is that if we agree
40 to this at this time we'll go. If there's an issue in
41 regards to the take of the critters from Buckland or
42 Deering, the best thing to do is to put together a good
43 proposal that would address those changes that would be
44 necessary to fit what your folks' needs are.

45
46 MR. BALLOT: Yes. What I was just
47 going to just ask him is what -- how many Federal
48 catches did we get over the last year?

49
50 MR. ADKISSON: Boy, you know, actually

1 I don't think we had any reported or maybe one out of
2 the -- people.....

3

4 REPORTER: Ken. Ken.

5

6 MR. ADKISSON:people are
7 losing.....

8

9 REPORTER: Ken.

10

11 MR. ADKISSON:I didn't bring that
12 information with me but it was pretty small. I'm
13 thinking it was none to one maybe last year. There was
14 weather and people ran out of gas problems in the
15 winter and it was complicated by a number of things.
16 But historically the Federal harvest has been really
17 fairly low. And, you know, part of that is it's a long
18 distance to Federal lands, and it's, you know, a
19 challenging thing and, you know, if there are other --
20 if there are caribou available people are going to
21 concentrate on that. And, you know, you know what it's
22 like.

23

24 So while we're on this, we might just
25 want to fix up one thing, I was just reading through it
26 and I did note on the first line on the top of Page 3
27 there's a typo, I just want to clean that up.

28

29 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, okay.

30

31 MR. ADKISSON: The subsistence dropped
32 an s.

33

34 MS. WILKINSON: Yes.

35

36 MR. ADKISSON: Cut and paste.

37

38 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ken, can I ask you a
41 question then?

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: Sure.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If it's such that
46 these critters are on a long distance on the Federal
47 lands, that's still within the NANA region, and why are
48 they be managed out of Nome?

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: They're not, they're

1 being managed through the Federal Program.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Why don't you
4 move to Kotzebue.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, eventually you
9 will one way or another, I think.

10

11 MR. ADKISSON: Not without a grade
12 increase.

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Any other questions.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

25

26 MR. KARMUN: Yes, thank you. On that
27 August 1, December 31, 12 bulls only, what's the
28 allocation for the local people or does -- is it mainly
29 open to outside the NANA Region?

30

31 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Karmun, through the
32 Chair. No, it's open to every -- remember it's a State
33 Tier I hunt and a Federal hunt, both. It used to be
34 the number of Federal permits was pretty restricted
35 and, of course, the State permits were fairly
36 restricted under Tier II, now it's wide open, there's
37 theoretically an unlimited number of State permits,
38 there's no reason we need to limit the Federal permits.
39 You can have both a State and Federal permit on you at
40 one time, but the allowable harvest, unless you're
41 hunting under the Federal designated hunter, is still
42 one muskox for the season. So if you fill your tag say
43 under the Federal program, you can't use your State
44 permit and vice versa at that point. And the harvest
45 now isn't 'regulated by permits the way it used to be,
46 it's regulated by the actual harvest measured against
47 the allowable harvest, so basically the thing is almost
48 wide open, which has advantages, but it obviously has
49 disadvantages, and it's closed when we hit the
50 allowable harvest.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Victor.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: So it does allow some of
4 the -- what Charolette mentioned, was the kind of
5 competitive thing about getting in there and getting
6 your animal. And we're not totally eliminating that
7 but we're making sure that there are some animals
8 available for that key winter hunt. And I can tell
9 you, down around Nome on the road system that's been a
10 real problem and right now the early seasons for
11 muskoxen on the Seward Penn and around the Nome area
12 are gone. The State season doesn't open until like
13 January 1 now or something like that, and it's because
14 of that. So, you know, we'll watch it, believe me
15 we'll watch it.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, Victor.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Victor.

22

23 MR. KARMUN: One more question. On
24 that August 1 through December 31, if the quota is not
25 filled, can those animals be transferred to the January
26 1, March 15th hunt?

27

28 MR. ADKISSON: Right. The allowable
29 harvest is 16, and so if they're not taken in the fall,
30 they automatically go into the winter.

31

32 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Next.

35

36 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy.

39

40 MR. BALLOT: Ken, it might be good to
41 have a Federal success or State success numbers from
42 when we first started. While you say we're not getting
43 anything on the Federal side is because we have State
44 now and people are, whoever they are, they're not
45 basically from Buckland that are going out and getting
46 them, that's kind of what we're saying. While it is
47 easier, I think if we had Federal permit quotas or
48 whatever for our villages, even if it's not that many,
49 we would at least have success. They're all getting
50 them out right now because we have to go a long ways,

1 and the State permit, you know, who's going to stop
2 them. What I'm saying is that the people in Buckland
3 and -- and I'm not really speaking for Deering, have --
4 are considering looking at trying to get some quotas
5 for -- just for their hunt -- for their village.

6
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. Go
8 ahead, Ken.

9
10 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Ballot, and, again,
11 through the Chair, Ken Adkisson. You know, I think
12 it's worth watching. Charolette mentioned to you that
13 I think the case of three animals coming -- being taken
14 by one family and, you know, I think, you know, we can
15 watch this and, you know, if something isn't working
16 try to fine tune it and, you know, and the final
17 analysis thought the one fall back ultimate position
18 would be, again, to go back to where we started but --
19 you know, which is almost where the Federal program
20 sucks up the entire harvest and we go back to the, you
21 know, restrictions to the C&T but, you know, we started
22 there and that wasn't really working well and, you
23 know, people had all the animals hanging around
24 especially like in Deering near the community and they
25 couldn't hunt them because it's not Federal land and,
26 you know, so there were real advantages to working a
27 joint hunt. And we just need to keep fine tuning it
28 and it'd be good -- you know, maybe if you could talk
29 with me separately and we'll look into that a little
30 more, that issue, and maybe, you know, try to see what
31 we can build around that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. So there
34 is a clear understanding then in regards to what the
35 changes are in regards to season and the recommendation
36 that is presently on the table:

37
38 To change August 1, March 15 to August
39 1, December 31 as a first season, and as a second
40 season January 1 to March 15th.

41
42 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I move on
43 that.

44
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So there's a
46 motion to support the change. Is there a second.

47
48 MR. SWAN: Second.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been seconded.

1 Discussion on the motion.
2
3 MR. BALLOT: I just bring up this stuff
4 that came up behind, so later on down the line we will
5 probably come to bringing out something that might work
6 a little more for Buckland and Deering.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And that's something
9 that you certainly can work with, with Ken, on putting
10 together a good proposal for the next cycle, if that's
11 what it takes.
12
13 MR. BALLOT: Uh-huh.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion
16 on the motion.
17
18 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Excuse me.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh?
21
22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It's still open
23 until November 5.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
26
27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That you can still
28 send me that proposal.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
31
32 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion.
35
36 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I understand that.
37 I think we're going to -- we're in partnership with the
38 Muskox Cooperatives and we have representatives that
39 are going to be there, even if it's a year from now but
40 I just wanted our hunters wishes to be known, the
41 concerns that were brought out at home.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Further
44 discussion.
45
46 (No comments)
47
48 MR. BALLOT: Question.
49
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question's been

1 called for. All those in favor of the motion signify
2 by saying aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed, same
7 sign.

8

9 (No opposing votes)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.

12 Thank you.

13

14 We'll go down to proposed changes to
15 Section 19 regulations. Ann

16

17 MS. WILKINSON: Well, Mr. Chairman,
18 there were also two wildlife closure reviews that you
19 did last time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

22

23 MS. WILKINSON: And we're asking you to
24 do the same thing, just to verify your recommendation
25 previously and that is there was a closure review done
26 for Unit 23 sheep and the Council recommended that they
27 maintain the current closure based on biological
28 information and analysis.

29

30 And that Unit 23 sheep was south of
31 Rabbit Creek, Kayak Creek and Noatak River west of the
32 Cutler and RedStone Rivers, in that area.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What Page is.....

35

36 MS. BROWN: Page 6.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:Page 6?

39

40 MS. WILKINSON: I'm sorry, I'm sorry,
41 thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Closure
44 review.

45

46 Do we have any other issues in regards
47 to the closure of sheep from Park Service, Willie, do
48 you have any problems with -- go ahead, Ken.

49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman. Council

1 members. Ken Adkisson, Park Service.

2

3 I think this issue got pretty
4 thoroughly discussed at the last meeting and basically
5 we're still not -- the harvest is still not reaching,
6 at least most of the years, well into the subsistence
7 need level that was identified for the -- and what
8 we're talking about there, by the way, is the Baird
9 Mountain hunt, we're still below -- most of the harvest
10 is still, you know, we're still up there in kind of the
11 subsistence need area and the allowable harvest hasn't
12 really exceeded that, I guess, is what I'm saying. So
13 until the allowable harvest gets well into or above the
14 identified subsistence need level, I think it's
15 probably pretty safe keeping the thing closed, but it
16 doesn't hurt to periodically review it.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

19

20 MR. ADKISSON: So I think, you know, I
21 think we're comfortable with maintaining the closure
22 for now.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The issue in this
25 case is in regards to the taking of sheep in Unit 23
26 and description that was given was what the discussions
27 we had at our last meeting, which we supported for the
28 closure, and what Ann is asking to reconfirm that
29 support in regards to supporting the closure of taking
30 of sheep within that area that was described within
31 Unit 23.

32

33 Is there any questions related to that.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Then what is the
38 wish of the membership.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Page 6. Page 6.
43 Our recommendation, remember, the last time was to
44 support the closure and she's trying to ask for -- to
45 confirm that.

46

47 (Pause)

48

49 MR. SWAN: Mr. Chairman.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.
2
3 MR. SWAN: I so move.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion
6 made by Austin to reconfirm the recommendation from our
7 last meeting to maintain the current closure of taking
8 of sheep within Unit 23 within the area described.
9
10 Is there a second.
11
12 MR. ADAMS: I'll second.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been seconded
15 by Virgil. Discussion on the motion.
16
17 (No comments)
18
19 MR. BALLOT: Question.
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been
22 called for. I just lost my train of thought, excuse
23 me.
24
25 MS. WILKINSON: That's okay.
26
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If you support the
28 motion -- I just completely lost my train of thought --
29 all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.
32
33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed, same
34 sign.
35
36 (No opposing votes)
37
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. And I
39 apologize for that.
40
41 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, I'm not getting
44 senile. Go ahead.
45
46 MS. WILKINSON: That's okay.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.
49
50 MS. WILKINSON: There is one other as

1 well and that was for Unit 23 muskox.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

4

5 MS. WILKINSON: And your recommendation
6 is also on Page 6 for that one, too. And you had, at
7 that time, decided to maintain the closure for the same
8 reasons.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And that is -- was
11 that within the same area -- Ken Adkisson, go ahead.
12 Ken can describe that.

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: Yes, Mr. Chair, Council
15 members. No, that's the Buckland, Deering area, that's
16 Unit 23 southwest.

17

18 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

19

20 MR. ADKISSON: And basically the
21 population there has pretty much fluctuated around a
22 central number, it's, you know, maybe growing a little
23 bit but largely stable and as you can see we've had
24 problems with reaching the quota -- I mean we, you
25 know, hit the quota early last year and that's why
26 we're talking about regulatory changes and so until
27 some of those things sort themselves out I can't see
28 rocking the boat really much more.

29

30 And, you know, unless there's a real
31 need, either through growing population or, you know,
32 clear that subsistence needs are being met, my personal
33 recommendation would be to maintain the closure.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Any questions
36 for Ken.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Again, the
41 recommendation that we supported the last time in
42 regards to the take of muskox within Unit 23 southwest,
43 was to maintain current closure.

44

45 Question on the issue.

46

47 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I'll move
48 to reconfirm.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to

1 reconfirm and to maintain the current closure of take
2 of muskox within Unit 23 southwest. Is there a second.

3

4 MR. SWAN: Second.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's been seconded.
7 Discussion on the motion.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Question.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been
14 called for. All those in favor of the motion, signify
15 by saying aye.

16

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed.

20

21 (No opposing votes)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.

24 Ann.

25

26 MS. WILKINSON: Okay, thank you, Mr.
27 Chairman, and Council members, and thank you for making
28 your recommendations so clear on the record.

29

30 Just one more thing, well, actually
31 two. One is the proposed changes to Section 19 in the
32 regulations and that has to do with special actions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Page 36.

35

36 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, Page 36.

37

38 These regulations for special actions
39 have been difficult at times to interpret, and so the
40 primary purpose of this revision is to accommodate the
41 new biannual schedule that we're going to follow and to
42 clarify the Board's process for accepting and
43 addressing special action requests, that's being
44 modified some and to update the public notice
45 requirements also to clarify the Council's
46 participation in this process.

47

48 Changes to Subpart B regulations
49 require the Secretaries signature, they really are not
50 anything that the Council is asked to take action on,

1 however, the Board wants the Councils to have the
2 opportunity to review the proposed rule and they're
3 inviting your comments. They can take comments through
4 December 19th. And the comments on the revisions will
5 be presented to the Federal Board at their January 2010
6 meeting.

7

8 And I would just point out a couple of
9 changes that were the most significant.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What page are you
12 on?

13

14 MS. WILKINSON: On Page 45.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 45.

17

18 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

21

22 MS. WILKINSON: And the one is for the
23 Council's participation, and that's on Page 45 in the
24 left-hand column, almost to the bottom where it says
25 one and two.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

28

29 MS. WILKINSON: It adds in some new
30 language in one, it stipulates that the Council Chair
31 of the affected region can be called upon if the
32 Council is not available. You know if we can time it
33 so that the Council's are going to be meeting and the
34 Council recommendation on the special action can be
35 given, then that's great. But if the timing is not
36 such that the Council will be meeting and an action
37 needs to be taken it gives authority then to just
38 contact the Chair and get their -- consult with them.

39

40 And the other one is on Page 45 in the
41 right-hand column under C, and it changes the language
42 there; instead of saying extenuating circumstances and
43 then describing the list of extenuating circumstances,
44 it just says: The Board may reject a request for
45 either an emergency or temporary special action if the
46 Board concludes that there are no time sensitive
47 circumstances. So that makes it much simpler language
48 and sort of brings it right down to the basics. If
49 there's time to address it in a proposal and it
50 wouldn't have an affect on the conservation of the

1 resource or on the subsistence users, then you put it
2 off for a proposal. If it does need to be acted on
3 right away it can be.

4
5 So that's the primary changes in the
6 language.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What was the
9 recommendation from.....

10
11 REPORTER: Walter. Walter.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:from the other
14 -- what was.....

15
16 REPORTER: Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What was the
19 recommendation from the other Regional Advisory
20 Councils in regards to this?

21
22 MS. WILKINSON: Mr. Chairman. The only
23 other Council that's met so far is North Slope and
24 Barbara was there, she would be able to tell you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Barb.

27
28 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Well, I don't have
29 that information with me here, sir. I'd have to send
30 it to you by email.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Well, what I
33 don't want to do is to work against the other Regional
34 Advisory Councils but if it's such that we do have some
35 time to do that -- but our next meeting won't be until
36 March, right, I mean.....

37
38 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Right.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right, March, but
41 the deadline date for this is pretty quick, if January
42 is going to be the date meeting for the Federal Board.
43 Now, what do we get in return for this, I mean is this
44 good for us or is there some compromises that are being
45 made to this proposal?

46
47 MS. WILKINSON: Well, in my opinion, it
48 seems to me looking at this and I've been looking at
49 special actions for nine years now.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
2
3 MS. WILKINSON: Or more than nine
4 years, that it is a benefit.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
7
8 MS. WILKINSON: Because it gets rid of
9 that list of extenuating circumstances that'd have to
10 be met.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
13
14 MS. WILKINSON: And it just makes it
15 much more clear, that they're only looking at the
16 timing, rather than.....
17
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
19
20 MS. WILKINSON:weather conditions
21 or.....
22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
24
25 MS. WILKINSON:or hunting
26 conditions or whatever.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. So basically
29 it's changing from extenuating circumstances to time
30 sensitive circumstances.....
31
32 MS. WILKINSON: Uh-huh.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:which is
35 basically more -- okay. Do we have any problems or
36 issues, Willie, with -- or George, in regards to what's
37 being proposed?
38
39 MR. GOODWIN: No.
40
41 MR. HELFRICH: No.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. As long as
44 it's not -- no impact on what we're trying to do here.
45 I don't want to circumvent any other things that might
46 be on the table.
47
48 Is there questions in regards to the
49 change here in regards to regulation changes.
50

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is there a clarity
4 that was to be made yet?
5
6 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Percy.
9
10 MR. BALLOT: I was looking at it and I
11 think it's pretty good because it makes the timing
12 faster for a special action and it also gives a --
13 you'll be able to be involved.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
16
17 MR. BALLOT: It's a point that you
18 could share with us.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Mr. Karmun.
21
22 MR. KARMUN: No comments at this time.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No comments. Any
25 other comments.
26
27 (No comments)
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So what's the wish
30 of the members, to support the change.
31
32 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I move in
33 that order.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, there's a
36 motion to support the change on regulations that's been
37 described to us by Ann -- Victor.
38
39 MR. KARMUN: Yeah, I can support this
40 but to me we don't know what the other Regional
41 Councils that already met on what they did with this
42 particular proposal. I'd like to see their comments or
43 suggestions first if possible.
44
45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: But I think one
46 issue that, you know, the issue in regards to that is a
47 timing issue. If the Federal Board is going to be
48 meeting in January, our next meeting won't be until
49 March, so it would lapse over with no recommendation
50 from this body. I think if it's going to be a plus to

1 this region, to all of us, then there's no reason why
2 we can't support that. I mean as far as the changes
3 that are concerned, we're going to participate in the
4 change. And the issue in regards to the changing of
5 wording from extenuating circumstances to time
6 sensitive circumstances certainly is much clearer than
7 that.

8

9 MR. KARMUN: Let's go for it.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You still have a
12 problem with it?

13

14 MR. KARMUN: No.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

17

18 MR. KARMUN: No, let's go for it.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. There's a
21 motion to accept, is there a second.

22

23 MR. ADAMS: Second.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a second by
26 Virgil to support the change on that.

27

28 Further discussion on the motion.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: I am pretty sure they're
31 waiting to see what we do, too.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. BALLOT: Question.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Question has been
40 called for. All those in favor of the motion to
41 support the change, signify by saying aye.

42

43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: All opposed, same
46 sign.

47

48 (No opposing votes)

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Motion carries.

1 Thank you. Ann.

2

3 MS. WILKINSON: Okay. Mr. Chairman.
4 There is one more thing that I would address with you
5 and that is climate change and subsistence management.

6

7 All of us who have been here, almost
8 all -- well, I've been here almost all my life and
9 certainly you know now that things have been changing
10 and you have observations about that. And the Federal
11 Subsistence Management Program has keenly aware of that
12 as well. And what is going to be a recurring theme for
13 us is how can we make management decisions that will
14 still be a benefit to the animals and to the people
15 that depend upon them. So we're going to be looking to
16 you for recommendations that we could use to make some
17 difference.

18

19 You know it's a huge problem.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

22

23 MS. WILKINSON: A huge situation. But
24 we're limited in scope on what we can do about it. So
25 for us it's just how we can help to manage the species
26 that you use. So if you want to discuss that now, you
27 certainly may, but we just wanted to let you know that
28 this is going to be a real part of our management
29 process.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions from the
32 members.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think two things
37 -- well, go ahead Victor.

38

39 MR. KARMUN: To me, the biggest impact
40 will be on marine mammals, in my opinion, and not so
41 much to terrestrial animals. I think they can adapt a
42 lot better to the environment than marine mammals.
43 Although it is going to be a big concern no matter how
44 you look at it.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. I think,
49 two things.

50

1 One, is there's starting to be some
2 good discussions in the region in regards to climate
3 change and what effects it will have, not only to
4 resources, but really to our way of life, for the
5 people in the region and to the communities themselves,
6 especially to some of the communities that are really
7 on a low-lying communities, and if it's true what is
8 being discussed in regards to ice condition and if they
9 should melt, what happens to those communities that are
10 really on a low-lying area, how will they be affected
11 by this. I think it's critical. That's certainly
12 something that we need to participate in, in
13 discussions. I would suggest that what we do is to
14 listen now to some of the issues that will be discussed
15 at public hearings, then we can make the recommendation
16 at hopefully our March meeting if that is the case.

17

18 Barb.

19

20 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Proposed
21 changes to Section 19 regulations is only an
22 informational item at this time.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

25

26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You don't need to
27 take any action on it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

30

31 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You need to review
32 it and send your comments by December 18 or 19.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, sir.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, I think we
39 certainly can look at it and have some good
40 discussions.

41

42 Willie.

43

44 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Willie Goodwin. Maybe you might want to consider one
46 topic I've been talking about for about 15 years and
47 that's the sport season, how it would affect the
48 migration of the caribou as the climate changes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah. Good

1 point.

2

3 Ann, you heard Willie?

4

5 MS. WILKINSON: Yes, I did.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We do have an issue.

8 I think certainly that's something that we need to look

9 at. With the issues in regards to climate changes, the

10 take of resource certainly is something that we need to

11 seriously look at. As weather changes there's a

12 migration of caribou herd, is a good prime example,

13 that we've had some problems as in regards to what it's

14 getting in regards to the sports hunters that are

15 having an affect on the migration of that herd. If

16 hunters should come in early on then that certainly

17 deflects the migration pattern of the herd, which means

18 for the communities and Kotzebue as well as Kiana and

19 Noorvik, Selawik and Buckland area, certainly gets

20 impacted because when the migration pattern changes,

21 that are being forced by humans, then they change to

22 migrate further east, which means to the folks in

23 Kotzebue, Noorvik and Kiana, they go further east to do

24 their hunting.

25

26 Whereas, the sports hunting groups have

27 better access to these areas to where they can get to

28 the critters, there is a problem with that. And not

29 only that, I think wanton waste is certainly something

30 that needs to be looked at. Because you can go out to

31 the airlines today and talk to them, a lot of horns

32 going out, but hardly any meat coming through. When

33 you have a guide that's being regulated by the State

34 but, yet, on the other hand you have transporters that

35 are not being regulated, that are basically having an

36 issue with those folks. There's got to be some sort of

37 a regulation somewhere that can control that industry.

38 And it's something that we all need to look at and

39 finding an answer to that. With climate change,

40 certainly it's going to be even more affected as

41 critters change their routing possibly.

42

43 So I think this is going to be a

44 continued discussion. It's not a quick fix. It has to

45 be discussed at the community level, and the

46 appropriate agencies will work on making, hopefully,

47 recommendations for changes on the take of and hunt of

48 these critters down the road. But it has to certainly

49 be addressed, you know, plans has to be put together.

50 If those plans are going to be put together then we

1 have to involve the -- those folks that are being
2 impacted by the very problem. For too long and too
3 often we've had plans put together by agencies which
4 don't work. Maybe they work for the first year, but
5 the following year they don't. But I think for those
6 future discussion on these very issues is certainly
7 something that we all need to work together and I think
8 probably the best way to address this is, is to provide
9 and educate people in regards to what climate change is
10 and what the forecast may be and what can happen to the
11 resources with this climate change issue being -- or
12 the changes that are forthcoming and how it can impact
13 all of us.

14

15 As far as management is concerned,
16 recommendations then can be made from those discussions
17 through the public process, through this process and
18 our recommendations can then go to the Federal Advisory
19 -- to the Board.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: Okay.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I don't know how
24 much -- how else we can describe the process in regards
25 to proposed changes in regards to the issue, not unless
26 somebody has a better process to go through to talk
27 about.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Further discussion
32 on the climate change and subsistence management issue.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead, Ann, do
37 you have anything else.

38

39 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, Mr.
40 Chairman. It's been a pleasure to be here and to meet
41 with you. It's good for me to see faces with people
42 whose names I see on paper, so I appreciate that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good.

45

46 MS. WILKINSON: You, I know already.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

49

50 MS. WILKINSON: But, yes, I appreciate

1 what you said about the climate change and the need for
2 making.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

5

6 MS. WILKINSON:regulations and
7 for programs that suit the people.

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

10

11 MS. WILKINSON: This is something that
12 we're just starting to get geared up on.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

15

16 MS. WILKINSON:and so we'll work
17 it out, we'll all work together and we'll work it out.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

20

21 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you, again.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, it's something
24 that we certainly need to look at because it's critical
25 to all of us. When change is happening then people
26 have to be part of that change.

27

28 Thank you, very much.

29

30 MS. WILKINSON: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We have next on the
33 agenda, the Department of Interior's position on
34 compensation for Council members.

35

36 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes, go ahead, Barb.

39

40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That is only
41 informational. So if you just read that information
42 and that's it on there.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, good.

45

46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, thanks.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Then we'll go to the
49 National Park Service. National Parks. George
50 Helfrich, subsistence uses of horns, antlers, bones and

1 plants.

2

3 We'll go through George's presentation
4 and then we'll break for lunch then.

5

6 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. Members
7 of the Council. My name is George Helfrich, I'm an
8 employee of the National Park Service and I live and
9 work here in Kotzebue. Also from the National Park
10 Service Marcy Johnson is here. Marcy is a biologist
11 with us and she's been the National Park Service lead
12 on a muskoxen population dynamic study. The USGS, that
13 is the United States Geological Survey and the Wildlife
14 Conservation Society have also been participating in
15 that study and it looks at the muskoxen populations in
16 Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Bering
17 Landbridge National Preserve. I believe the Council
18 members may be interested in hearing more about the
19 study given the discussion about muskoxen today. Brad
20 Shultz is here. Brad is our senior wildlife biologist
21 and he is prepared to discuss any wildlife issues that
22 you all are interested in, particularly sheep, again,
23 that's something that you all have been discussing
24 earlier in the meeting. Willie Goodwin is here, our
25 community liaison and advisor. Sandy Rabinowitch is
26 here and Sandy is going to be the one who is going to
27 talk about the subsistence use of horns, antlers, bones
28 and plants and the environmental assessment that we're
29 doing that may lead to a change in regulations. Ken
30 Adkisson is, of course, here, our subsistence program
31 manager. And Dan Stevenson is here, Dan is our acting
32 chief ranger, and he'd be prepared to talk about any
33 protection issues you all are interested in.

34

35 However, before we get to the substance
36 of the National Park Service's presentation to the
37 Council members, I would like to recognize a National
38 Park Service employee who has given a lot of his time
39 and thought and his service to the Regional Advisory
40 Council. And this award comes from all the agencies
41 who are involved with the RAC.

42

43 If I may, as I said this comes from all
44 the agencies who are involved with the Regional
45 Advisory Councils, and it goes to Willie Goodwin.

46

47 I'd like to recognize Willie as a
48 valuable member of the Federal Subsistence Board's
49 Program. And, of course, the goal of the program is to
50 provide ANILCA, Title VIII priorities to Alaska rural

1 residents. Willie has served on three Federal
2 Subsistence Board panels, and the task of the panels is
3 to review numerous candidate's resumes for service on
4 the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Councils.
5 Willie has invested many hours in this task over the
6 past three years. Willie's lifelong experience in the
7 region makes him particularly well-suited to this task.
8 He uses his knowledge of the land, fish, wildlife and
9 most importantly people of the region to the benefit of
10 the Board's program and to the benefit of the National
11 Park Service.

12
13 So, Willie, on behalf of all the
14 agencies, thank you, very much.

15
16 (Applause)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I heard in there,
19 Willie, that says bonus in there, so.....

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:I don't know
24 what that bonus is so.....

25
26 MR. GOODWIN: 500 bucks.

27
28 (Laughter)

29
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, check's in the
31 mail.

32
33 (Laughter)

34
35 MR. BALLOT: A little vacation package.

36
37 MR. GOODWIN: I got direct deposit,

38 George.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: First of all I want
43 to thank you -- go ahead, Willie.

44
45 MR. GOODWIN: First of all it's been an
46 interesting three years, let me put it that way and I
47 enjoy working there, even if it's just to keep an eye
48 on them.

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, George.

2

3 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you very much,
4 Willie.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very
7 much, Willie.

8

9 (Applause)

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We certainly have --
12 you know, deserve a recognition. You know, Willie,
13 I've worked for -- when I first started for NANA, and
14 over years certainly has been a mentor. He has been a
15 Native resident of this region, Willie understands
16 firsthand in regards to the understanding of way of
17 life. Based on that, he certainly voices out issues
18 that pertains to the impacts and effects that the
19 agencies take us through sometimes. There's times, I
20 know, that Willie has put himself on the firing line by
21 publicly making statements and he will, I know,
22 continue to work on trying to find a better -- a
23 process for the agencies to work through. I know he
24 certainly has made a dent on the agency to where he
25 encourages the process that we participate in and
26 through the process of how the Federal system is set
27 up.

28

29 You know the issue in regards to how
30 the system is set up is the past, where the Federal
31 agencies do their thing in regards to planning and I
32 know Willie pounded that very process to where we quit
33 reacting to those things, with the issue in regards to
34 we want to participate in those things, because it has
35 an impact on the way of life of the residents of this
36 region.

37

38 And based on that I'm thankful that you
39 were able to get the recognition, Willie. And I
40 thought I really heard the bonus somewhere in there,
41 but maybe I was hearing things.

42

43 (Laughter)

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So with that,
46 George.

47

48 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
49 Since the environmental assessment for subsistence use
50 of horns, antlers, bones and plants is a specified

1 agenda item, if I may suggest Sandy could talk to the
2 Council about that.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I certainly would
5 want to hear that. I certainly would like to take a
6 taste of what that subsistence horn is. Sandy can you
7 talk to us what we can get and how we can use that?

8

9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I can't teach
10 you anything about horns or antlers because you all
11 know more about them than I do but I can tell you what
12 the Park Service is talking about here.

13

14 So in your book it's on Page 48 and
15 there's kind of a big black bar at the top and it looks
16 like this, and I'll just summarize for you what this is
17 all about.

18

19 So this started because the Gates of
20 the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission and the
21 Eastern Interior Regional Council made requests to the
22 Park Service basically asking the Park Service to
23 liberalize regulations, just make the Park Service
24 regulations more liberalized. And the crux of this is
25 that it's technically not legal to go into a National
26 Park area and if you see a horn or an antler to simply
27 pick it up and take it home, it's against the rules, as
28 the rules are currently written. If you hunt an animal
29 you can, of course, take the horns and antlers home,
30 that's perfectly fine. But if it's naturally shed or
31 maybe a hunter left it there, you know, just discarded,
32 technically you're not supposed to do that. So that's
33 why this request was made.

34

35 And then the Gates of the Arctic
36 Subsistence Resource Commission also wanted to be able
37 to collect plants and for all of these, the horns and
38 antlers and the plants, the goal is then to turn them
39 into a handicraft, which obviously has been long
40 traditionally done in this region with birch bark, for
41 example, with plants. And I'll come back to that in a
42 moment.

43

44 So that's why we're doing this.

45

46 The Park Service has brought this topic
47 to the Kobuk Valley SRC and the Cape Krusenstern SRC,
48 we've had it on the agenda the last couple of meetings,
49 and I'm also well aware of the problems in the past in
50 the region about, you know, selling of antlers to the

1 Asian markets and all and so we're certainly aware of
2 the issues and concerns that you all have had in the
3 region here.

4
5 So where this takes us is we're working
6 on an environmental assessment, it will not be a big
7 thick document, hopefully it will be a pretty trim
8 little document. We're hoping to get it out and you
9 would have a chance to see it at your next meeting in
10 the wintertime, and that's our goal right now. And
11 what that would do would explain three different ways
12 that we think the Park Service can go at liberalizing
13 these regulations, or the three choices, and get your
14 comments on them.

15
16 And the one exception, and this is a
17 good time for me to say this, the one exception is that
18 back in the early '80s, as I'm sure some of you would
19 remember, the issue about collecting birch bark was
20 brought up and the Park Service heard that at the time,
21 this is like 1980, 1981 and actually made it legal for
22 people in the Gates of the Arctic Preserve and in the
23 Kobuk Valley Park, sort of the upper Kobuk Valley area
24 River, you know, the watershed, to collect birch bark
25 and actually other plants, though I think birch bark is
26 the main one that people collect and then make baskets
27 and various things that people have always done and
28 continue to do, and so that is legal, and so this
29 liberalization we're talking about is kind of like what
30 was already approved 20 years ago but just for those
31 two Park areas. So this is statewide, for all of the
32 National Park areas in the state we're talking about.

33
34 So the changes in this region would be
35 for say the Noatak area, Cape Krusenstern area, some of
36 Bering Landbridge down near Buckland and Deering would
37 be areas that could be affected, the regulations would
38 be made more liberalized.

39
40 So if you go one more page, to Page 49,
41 there's a number one, two, three on there and we're
42 starting off identifying three possible approaches.

43
44 One is no action, and that would be to
45 reject these requests and just leave things the way
46 they are.

47
48 The second would be an unlimited
49 collection. We would basically change the regulations
50 in a way that they would say these things that were

1 prohibited are now allowed. You go from no to yes.

2

3 The third option is what we've tagged,
4 managed collection and it'd be very similar to number
5 2, except that we would write a bunch of words that
6 would essentially delegate to George over here, the
7 superintendent, the local superintendent, so we'd do
8 this at each place around the state where we have Park
9 superintendents, and we would delegate to the
10 superintendents the authority to fine tune collection
11 in your region. So your region might have some
12 concerns that other regions don't, George can work with
13 people in the region and particularly the Subsistence
14 Resource Commissions that you're familiar with, and
15 work out what kind of fine tuning you want, because you
16 might want something a little different than maybe they
17 want it down in Yakutat, because of your regional
18 differences. And that's what that's all about.

19

20 What comes with it is some more
21 discussion, possibly the use of permits, and things
22 like that, so there's some cost of being able to do
23 things differently in different regions. And the
24 discussion really is, do those costs equal the benefits
25 you think you would get, and that's what the discussion
26 needs to be.

27

28 Then if you flip the next page, and
29 there's a big chart, it kind of fills the whole page,
30 this is simply trying to demonstrate which animals with
31 horns and antlers are found in which National Park
32 areas, so wherever there's an X in the box means that
33 we think that that animal is found in that area, or has
34 been found in that area, so it's just sort of
35 information. But if there's something on here that's
36 either missing or wrong, we'd certainly love to know
37 that.

38

39 And then the last page, Page 51, is
40 just all the contact information, who's working on this
41 and all our phone numbers and emails and so for your
42 area we have Ken Adkisson's name and phone number down
43 here several times. My name's up at the top, and you
44 can reach me any time just like Ken.

45

46 And that's really it. We'll be back
47 hopefully in the winter meeting with a draft document,
48 hopefully we can get it in the mail to you by about the
49 first of February is the goal we're working on, and
50 then we can more formally take comments. We'll also

1 have draft regulatory language. That actually gets a
2 little more complicated than you always wished it did,
3 but we're working on that currently and we are going to
4 try to make it as simple as we can but I'm not sure how
5 well we'll succeed at keeping it simple, we're trying,
6 but it's a challenge.

7

8 So that's it, Mr. Chairman, if you have
9 questions I'm happy to answer them.

10

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Questions for Sandy.

11

(No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The issue in regards
14 to liberalizing the use of these things, I think you
15 need to look at two factors here.

16

17 One is really the way of life. People
18 back then didn't have any metal to eat with, no forks
19 and knives to eat with, no china plates to eat with and
20 that's basically -- in a sense that's what they
21 utilized, birch bark as well as wood as plates to eat
22 from. If I told you today to put a regulation that
23 says, Sandy, you no longer will eat with a fork, what
24 would you do, what would you say, you would have an out
25 roar and say what the heck are you doing to me, that's
26 my way of life. That, exactly would be your response.
27 And that is exactly what this is, is basically telling
28 people you no longer should live that way.

29

30 And there's also some issues in regards
31 to take antlers. My god if that's what it is, go take
32 a look at Kiana sometimes during late fall, the guy
33 that collects vans of -- van load of horns for sale.
34 Go question the guy. That goes out on a barge but,
35 yet, the impacts on the utilization of resources by
36 local folks versus who's making profit out of that
37 source, so there's two different things.

38

39 But I think certainly we will need to
40 participate in regards to looking at what alternatives
41 might be more than three alternatives by the time we
42 get done with the issues. So it's something that we
43 want to participate in making sure that the concerns
44 are raised -- recommendations that might come from the
45 communities are considered as part of -- as an
46 alternative. So I think it's important that we do
47 participate in those things.

48

49

1 Any comments on the issue of
2 subsistence use of horns, antlers, bones and plants.
3
4 (No comments)
5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.
7
8 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay, thank you.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Let's take a
11 lunch break, and we'll go to BLM at 1:00 o'clock.
12 George.
13
14 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. May I
15 have a few more minutes after the lunch break.....
16
17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
18
19 MR. HELFRICH:because I've got
20 just a couple.....
21
22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yep, yep, okay.
23
24 MR. HELFRICH:other topics.
25
26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, I thought it was
27 done so that's why I said let's take a lunch break.
28
29 MR. HELFRICH: Uh-huh.
30
31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We could do it after
32 lunch.
33
34 MR. HELFRICH: Okay, thank you.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Lunch break.
37
38 (Off record)
39
40 (On record)
41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I will call the
43 Regional Advisory Council meeting to order again. We
44 will continue our discussion. I know George has some
45 presentations that he wanted to additionally give, so
46 at this time -- I don't know, where's George?
47
48 MR. GOODWIN: He's in Nome, I think.
49
50 (Laughter)

1 MS. ARMSTRONG: He's not here.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We're on Indian
4 time. Indian time is always on time.
5
6 Okay. We'll go down to BLM. Thank
7 you. State your name.
8
9 MR. PARKER: Hello, Mr. Chairman. My
10 name is Dave Parker. And committee members. I'm a
11 fish biologist from BLM.
12
13 We've got a couple things that are
14 important, mainly the hirings that we've done. You
15 folks, a lot of you know John Erlich, and he's been
16 hired here in own to staff our Kotzebue office. And I
17 don't know if John's here. I don't -- there he is.
18 Yeah, he's over there. And we've got a new Kyle Joly
19 here. We've got Erica Craig has been hired as a
20 wildlife biologist. She'll be doing, oh, well, the
21 moose surveys and such, and just all the various
22 wildlife things these BLM'ers do.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You say she had a
25 wild life?
26
27 MR. PARKER: Probably. Yeah. I'm not
28 exactly sure though.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I thought I
31 understood you that way.
32
33 MR. PARKER: A wildlife biologist, yes.
34
35 MS. CRAIG: Don't go into any stories.
36
37 MR. PARKER: Okay. No stories. You
38 know, I know that this is a fisheries meetings. Yep?
39
40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Excuse me a
41 minute. Have to.....
42
43 MR. PARKER: But BLM, you know, we
44 don't manage any subsistence fisheries on our public
45 lands. What I do as part of my job, I'm mainly a
46 habitat biologist, and what we do, we're looking at
47 habitat on these BLM-managed public lands, and that's
48 why we've been out in Kivalina the last three years,
49 doing some work there.
50

1 But I want to keep the lines of
2 communication open with you folks, and I would like to
3 know when you've got concerns about habitat degradation
4 that you see going on, or that you fear is going to
5 happen, if there's a -- you know, it's some kind of
6 public action that's going to happen on the lands
7 you're concerned about, I'd really like to know about
8 that. You know, if you've got issues, we want to know
9 what they are kind of thing.

10
11 I'd like to give a fisheries summary
12 here if I could, and then Erica will go ahead and give
13 the other work that BLM's been doing this summer.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Please.

16
17 MR. PARKER: So as I mentioned, we've
18 been out in Kivalina the last three summers, and what
19 we've been looking at are the Dolly Varden or the trout
20 as you call them. We've been looking at the spawning
21 habitat, trying to map that, showing where the
22 important areas are. I know that you folks know where
23 those areas are. We're trying to figure them out, you
24 know, and map that so that we can protect them for --
25 if there is future development in the area.

26
27 What we're thinking is that, you know,
28 with the oil and gas leases being sold off shore, the
29 coal up to the north, you know, a likely scenario would
30 be a road coming through that country to hook up with
31 the Red Dog Road. And so we're trying to collect
32 baseline data to show what the habitat is now in an
33 undisturbed state.

34
35 So that's what we've been doing out
36 there. We're doing habitat surveys, walking the
37 streams, taking measurements, water chemistry and such.

38
39 Also, in cooperation with the Fish and
40 Wildlife Service we've been collecting genetic fin
41 clips from the fish. As I'm sure you know, there's
42 essentially to runs of fish, one kind of in the late
43 July, early August spawners, and then late August
44 spawners. And so we've looked at the different areas
45 the fish are in.

46
47 We've tried to extend the anadromous
48 stream catalog further upstream. This year we actually
49 were able to extend that 14 miles further up, so that
50 will add some protections with the Title 16 permits

1 that are required to do any work in anadromous streams.

2

3 We did collect fin clips from 100 fish.
4 They will be compared. We're going to go back next
5 year one more time and get the late run fish so we can
6 compare the early run and late run fish just to see if
7 they're different populations of fish is mainly what
8 we're doing there.

9

10 And that's pretty much it from the
11 fisheries side of it, the work we've been doing out
12 there. And after Erica gets through with the summary
13 of the other work BLM's been doing, if you have any
14 other questions, we'd be glad to answer them.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can you sort of give
17 us a rough estimate on an annual basis what the numbers
18 might be?

19

20 MR. PARKER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. You
21 know, again we're -- our focus is on the habitat, but
22 we try to do aerial surveys and count the fish. We've
23 found it's pretty difficult counting these trout,
24 because they're in the faster water. We'll see them,
25 the ones that are in the pools, and count them, but
26 then we did a snorkel survey, put on the dry suits and
27 floated down and saw a lot more fish that were in the
28 fast water that we couldn't count in the slower water.

29

30
31 So we counted in the main stem -- or
32 not the main stem, but the middle fork Sapumik, is that
33 right? I think that's the name for it, but we counted
34 about 200 fish in this one length, and then we went and
35 floated and within a couple bends of the river, we
36 counted 200 fish. So our aerial survey was very --
37 underestimated how many fish were there.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Did you coordinate that with
40 the State?

41

42 MR. PARKER: I've talked with Fred
43 DiCicco and I've looked at some of his previous counts,
44 and I continue to work with Fred. He's the former Fish
45 and Game biologist. He's retired now, but he's still
46 doing counts out there I believe for the Red Dog Mine,
47 contracts him.

48

49 And so, now we know the Wulik River has
50 more fish in it and bigger fish, and we're kind of -- a

1 question we've been trying to get at is why is that.
2 And last year when we were out there, we saw the low
3 water, really low water, and saw all these fish that
4 were caught in these pools, the post-spawn fish that
5 were coming downstream, caught in pools that
6 essentially turned into ponds. And we're wondering if
7 those fish survived or not, or if they're dying off on
8 these low-water years, and maybe that's what's limiting
9 the numbers in Kivalina.

10

11 What we'd like to do next year when we
12 go out, if there are low water conditions, is put some
13 radio tags in these fish and see if we can find out,
14 you know, at spring breakup time if they're getting out
15 of there, or if they're just -- they're dying, you
16 know, and staying, and that could be one reason the run
17 isn't as big in the Kivalina.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now, as far as
20 tagging is concerned, I guess that would be an ideal
21 thing to do, because you also need to find where these
22 things migrate into other areas. I know they go over
23 on the Chakotka side, down Norton Sound and up the
24 Kobuk, Noatak. So I think it would be an ideal thing to
25 do some tagging.

26

27 MR. PARKER: And I'm talking with --
28 Fred DiCicco has done some work in the past on that.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

31

32 MR. PARKER: And I'm coordinating with
33 him and what his data is.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good.

36

37 MR. PARKER: And I'm kind of expanding
38 on that.

39

40 MR. SWAN: I have one comment. You
41 know, we have several streams along between Kilangnak
42 and Cape Sepping where trout go in to spawn, not only
43 in the Wulik and the Kivalina River. We have one
44 little problem that, and that's the beaver. We've
45 started to get a lot of beaver up in those areas now in
46 both the Wulik and that Kivalina, too. Way upstream.
47 And these animals are creating dams in spawning creeks
48 stemming from those rivers.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I think he's got a

1 good point in regards to beaver. In fact, water
2 quality will go down the drain, too, pretty quick you
3 see a bunch of beaver damming upriver. What do they
4 call that, beaver fever? That's caused by the beavers.

5
6 MR. PARKER: We did see that on the
7 lower fork as what I would call it. There was a beaver
8 dam cross there, and it certainly blocked the movement.
9 That was above where the anadromous catalog lists the
10 fish, but it certainly -- there were a bunch of
11 grayling below the dam, but the Dollies and trout could
12 not get above that certainly.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What do you do in
15 those cases? Do you take out the dam if you can, or
16 what do you do?

17
18 MR. PARKER: Well, again we're just
19 trying to see what's there right now. And if it -- if
20 we thought it was limiting the production of the fish,
21 you know, maybe that would be an option. But, you
22 know, right now we just noted that there's a spot here
23 that, you know, the fish couldn't get past, although
24 again it was above the noted spawning habitat of the
25 trout.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do you know what's
28 good to take care of beaver problem? Get a bucket of
29 seal oil, go dump it on the headwaters and it will take
30 of it.

31
32 MR. SWAN: That will?

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. They don't
35 like the smell of seal oil.

36
37 MS. ARMSTRONG: And if you take the dam
38 out.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah.

41
42 MS. ARMSTRONG: Then they'll come out.
43 Their house has to be -- the water level have to be in
44 a certain range. The water level in the house of the
45 beaver have to be in certain level, and when the water
46 starts getting low in his house, he comes out. And if
47 you wait for about half an hour, he'll be out, and you
48 can get him, too.

49
50 MR. GOODWIN: One at a time.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There you go.
2
3 MR. SWAN: Until recently, within the
4 last five years, we've hardly had any beaver up in our
5 country, Noatak and Kivalina.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: They'll come back.
8 They're coming downriver yet. Yeah.
9
10 MR. PARKER: We saw one coming down
11 that middle fork, it kind of surprised me. Pretty high
12 up there. There was one swimming right down it.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: This was on the
15 Kivalina?
16
17 MR. PARKER: Yeah, on Kivalina. Yep.
18 Yep. Okay. Thank you.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.
25
26 MS. CRAIG: As Dave said, my name is
27 Erica Craig, and I'm the wildlife biologist that's
28 replacing Kyle Joly, and I'll be giving a report of
29 kind of all -- an overview of all the activities that
30 are occurring in BLM that are kind of pertinent to this
31 area. So there are things that I will be telling you
32 about that I won't have specific knowledge of the
33 particular project, so I've included like contact
34 information for you if you have questions for that.
35
36 And I am new. I started this spring,
37 and so there may be questions that I can't answer. I
38 certainly will, if I can't, you know, find out the
39 information and get back to you with it.
40
41 And if you would like, I can give you a
42 copy of these that you can kind of follow along. To
43 sort of save time, I've highlighted kind of the
44 pertinent information, but there's a little bit more
45 information in there. And if there's -- and I'll put
46 extra copies here if anybody wants those later.
47
48 Administratively there are a number of
49 things. The two main things Dave already mentioned,
50 the hiring of John Erlich as the natural resource

1 program coordinator and me as a wildlife biologist.

2

3 And then BLM received American Recovery
4 and Reinvestment Act funds for a project that will mark
5 inter-village trails and 17(b) easements in northwest
6 Alaska, as well as GPS the trails and provide the GPS
7 data to land managers, search and rescue and the
8 general public. And apparently you already have trails
9 marked on State lands and some of the other areas, but
10 BLM has not done this. So this project should be
11 beneficial for trying to complete that trails --
12 marking of the trail system to help people in the
13 wintertimes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: A question for you.

16

17 MS. CRAIG: Yes.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Under the 17(b)
20 easements, the one-acre site locations, that's been --
21 also been placed. If those 17(b) easements and the
22 one-acre site locations have not been used over time,
23 I'm talking 20 years plus, what happens to those? Do
24 those get vacated or they continue to be?

25

26 MS. CRAIG: I'm writing down your
27 question, because I don't know the answer for that.
28 But Tim Hammond is the contact person for that, and so
29 he would be able to give you the information, and his
30 phone number is listed there.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thanks.

33

34 MS. CRAIG: And to just repeat and make
35 sure that I've understood your question, you're
36 wondering about relative to the 17(b) easement if you
37 have one acre sites that haven't been used within the
38 last kind of 20 years, are those going to be included
39 in that?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, actually about
42 30 years now I think since they've been identified.

43

44 MS. CRAIG: Okay. I'll put 20 or 30
45 years. Okay. And I will get back to you, Mr. Sampson,
46 about that or have Tim Hammond call you about that.

47

48 And BLM has also been funded to erect
49 two remote automated weather stations in the Nulato
50 Hills, and these are scheduled to go up in 20 -- this

1 year, this summer. And the purpose of those stations
2 is to help relate weather factors to animal movement
3 patterns or glob -- monitor global climate change to
4 kind of include additional locations across the
5 landscape where we have weather information. And so
6 that we view as something that will be beneficial to
7 being able to kind of track what's happening in the
8 environment.

9

10 And then the central Yukon field office
11 is in the pre-plan phase of the Kobuk/Seward Plan
12 Recreation Management Plan, that's a mouthful,
13 amendment, which is specifically to address the
14 Squirrel River special recreation management area. And
15 the plan is scheduled to be completed in April of 2011.

16

17

18 I won't go over all the information in
19 every one of these. You can read over that at your
20 leisure, but I'll give you the highlights.

21

22 In archaeology you may have, if you've
23 been out, seen helicopters flying around relative to
24 this, and it was in the same area where Dave was doing
25 some of his fish work on the Kivalina. But
26 archaeologists from the BLM central Yukon field office
27 conducted reconnaissance and inventory work in the
28 Kivalina, Wulik and Kukpuk Rivers in July and August of
29 2009. And they found 20 new sites, bringing the three-
30 year total to nearly 60 sites recorded on BLM land
31 along just in that area. And the BLM crew also helped
32 the BIA regional archaeology people with an inventory
33 of a 160 allotment on the middle Wulik River. And they
34 did test excavations at one of these sites on the
35 Kivalina and found that occupation of the site dates
36 back to 10,000, in excess of 10,000 years. So
37 apparently from an archaeological standpoint, this is
38 pretty significant. The only other site like that is
39 at Ivatuk or actually in that area. And Bill Hedman,
40 if you have any questions about that is the contact
41 person. His phone number is listed up at the top.

42

43 And then for wildlife, for the central
44 Yukon, like I said, Kyle Joly's position has been
45 vacant for over a year, and so there hasn't been a
46 great deal of new projects going on in that since I jut
47 came on. But in 2008 we did provide 12 satellite
48 collars to Fish and Game for putting on caribou at
49 Onion Portage to continue and help with this monitoring
50 of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. And I'll be going

1 out there and helping put on new collars here in
2 September. Where Park Service is coming up with 40
3 collars and Fish and Game has 10 additional collars, so
4 we'll be attempting to put out 50 more collars this
5 September.

6
7 And BLM continues to be active in the
8 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, which will
9 be meeting in December. I'll be attending that
10 meeting. And also to partner in the GMU 23 User
11 Conflict Group. I'm just becoming involved with those
12 things as I come on.

13
14 And then we do partner and continue to
15 partner with Federal and State agencies in conducting
16 big game surveys, and I'll be assisting this spring
17 with a geo-spatial population estimation count of moose
18 in the upper Noatak, weather permitting, or wherever it
19 occurs. And also will be working, you know, with other
20 agencies as we monitor wildlife populations.

21
22 In terms of our recreation program, we
23 have no new permits for hunting guides within the
24 northwest region since the last Council meeting. We
25 currently have a total of 10 guides permitted in GMU
26 23. That's two less than what we had in previous
27 years. And there are three guides in the Kauk, Tag,
28 Kivalina and Pik Rivers, and then the other remaining
29 seven guides are in the Squirrel River.

30
31 And this year, this is new, in 2009 all
32 air transporters and air taxi operators taking clients
33 onto BLM-managed lands in the Squirrel River recreation
34 management area, they're going to be required to have a
35 BLM permit. And to date just five applicants have
36 applied or submitted, at least when I left the office,
37 only five applicants had submitted paperwork to be
38 doing that. And this is relative to that trying to
39 make decisions for this plan, because apparently the
40 transporters and operators are an issue or may be one.
41 And then in September of this year, in fact just in a
42 few days, BLM personnel will be going out to monitor
43 guiding operations that are occurring on BLM land in
44 GMU 23.

45
46 And also BLM funded a study in 2008 to
47 gather information to assist the implementation of the
48 benefits based management and to determine the extent
49 of the perceived conflict in the Squirrel River area.
50 Again this is relative to our management plan and pre-

1 plan work. And that was contracted to the University
2 of Alaska Fairbanks. That report is out now, and the
3 contact information, I have the citation listed there
4 for that report. This morning I met with Drew
5 Harrington, the graduate student who worked on this
6 project with Peter Fix, and he gave me his telephone
7 number as a contact if anybody wants a copy of this
8 report. Those of you I think who are on the board,
9 Shelly Jacobson already emailed a copy of it to you,
10 and so you have access to that. But if you need or
11 want a copy, you could contact me, and I could give you
12 Peter's phone number or Drew Harrington's email
13 address.

14

15 And then under mining, again the
16 contact person, Linda Musitano, is listed there. And
17 we only have one mining operation occurring in this
18 region of interest, and that -- and it's not actually a
19 mining operation. It's Zazu Metals, I guess that's how
20 you pronounce it. They're doing exploratory drilling.
21 Apparently they've been doing that in the past. They
22 plan on continuing that through 2011. It occurs on
23 State and Federal mining claims, including some BLM
24 lands. And it's located -- apparently they're camped
25 about 12 miles northwest of the Red Dog Mine.

26

27 Realty actions. Numerous conveyances
28 of land parcels, both large and small have occurred in
29 2008 and 2009 and will continue to be conveyed through
30 2010. I've brought -- our lands person, or realty
31 person gave me copies of maps of recent conveyances
32 that I have here if anybody is interested in seeing
33 that. There's also a list here of an URL or internet
34 address that you can go to to see any of those that
35 have occurred if you don't have access to those maps.
36 And I can leave copy -- those maps with you, if you'd
37 like.

38

39 In addition, and this is not listed on
40 the sheet that I have here, but this morning Geoff
41 Byersdorf from the Alaska field office -- or the
42 Anchorage field office, excuse me, called and said that
43 in addition to these things that we're doing in the
44 central Yukon field office, a very small portion of
45 this Region 8 for the Advisory Council, is made up of
46 the Anchorage field office, and they will be doing some
47 musk oxen surveys, attempting to do a complete musk
48 oxen survey of the Seward Peninsula this spring, and
49 this summer they've been doing range assessments of
50 caribou allotments -- or, excuse me, of reindeer

1 allotments.

2

3 And with that, that's all the
4 information that I have to give you, if you have any
5 questions for me or further questions for Dave, we'd be
6 happy to entertain them.

7

8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.
9 Questions.

10

11 MR. BALLOT: Yes. Welcome to the
12 northwest, Erica.

13

14 MS. CRAIG: Thank you.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering, you
17 said -- is this Roger Delaney the one we would call to
18 find out who these guides are in the Kauk area or.....

19

20 MS. CRAIG: Yes.

21

22 MR. BALLOT: And is that separate from
23 the -- after that done, BLM will be conducting a trip
24 in September?

25

26 MS. CRAIG: No, that's all part of what
27 Roger, our recreation specialist, will be doing. And
28 so he actually will be on that.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: Okay. So that mentions
31 the Kauk River and the Tag River, but what about up
32 Buckland, tributaries up there where there's BLM land?
33 I was just wondering if there's guides up there, too.

34

35 MS. CRAIG: Okay. You would have to
36 ask Roger, but this was the information he gave me, so
37 apparently the way I read it is that is the area that
38 BLM has guides in. Now, there may be guides up in that
39 other area, but this is where we have guides permitted
40 on BLM land. And so you could ask Roger to verify
41 that, but I don't believe that we would -- according to
42 what he gave me, that there are any BLM licensed guides
43 on the Kukpuk River.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: Okay. Oh, that's all
46 right.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thanks. Any other
49 questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: If none, I do have
4 several. First of all, I want to thank you for your
5 report. And secondly -- John, welcome to Kotzebue.
6 Yeah, we know John. I'm glad that he was able to take
7 that position as a resource program coordinator here in
8 Kotzebue. So certainly it's an encouragement to have
9 someone locally and I guarantee that we will work with
10 John on issues.

11

12 MS. CRAIG: Well, we were excited to
13 have him on and really pleased that he wanted the job.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now, as a biologist
16 I'm sure that you're going to have a lot of work ahead
17 of you.

18

19 The issue with regards to 17(b)
20 easement, I've raised under the planning process for
21 your Kobuk/Seward Recreation Plan, what process was
22 used to go through to dealing with that in putting
23 together the plan?

24

25 MS. CRAIG: Well, we're in the process
26 right now of putting together this Squirrel River Plan,
27 so it hasn't been completed yet. We're just beginning
28 that right now.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I guess what I'm
31 asking is the process in regards to the way you're
32 taking the approach. Are you going through scoping
33 with the Community of Kiana, Noorvik, and those areas
34 that utilize the Squirrel?

35

36 MS. CRAIG: Yes. In fact, there was a
37 meeting this morning -- not this morning, yesterday at
38 Kiana relative to this very process. And in fact the
39 people who did this report attended there, and Shelley
40 Jacobson, our field office manager was there as well.
41 And so there certainly will be involvement of local
42 communities. And we invite you to, you know, if you
43 have comments, issues, concerns, to contact our field
44 office. Shelley Jacobson is the manager. You could
45 contact her. You could contact any of us, and we could
46 put you in touch with the appropriate person.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. We all
49 know that the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd was up at
50 its high at 500,000, and to date, as far as information

1 is concerned, the decline has come -- has gone down to
2 at least 300,000. And I know it will continue to
3 decline until something is done here.

4
5 The issue in regards to BLM being
6 active in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working
7 Group, which working group is that?

8
9 MS. CRAIG: I didn't know there was
10 more than one. It's a working group made up of agency
11 people.

12
13 MR. PARKER: Fish and Game.

14
15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is the one that
16 somebody sits on that -- is that.....

17
18 MS. CRAIG: Yeah.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Ken, is that the
21 working group that's -- basically it was made up in
22 Nome?

23
24 MR. ADKISSON: As far as I know that's
25 the Unit 23.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Working Group?

28
29 MR. ADKISSON:conflict group.
30 George could maybe verify that.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, that's not it.
33 This is a different group I think. I think the Unit 23
34 Working Group was the issue that -- or the group that
35 dealt with the user conflict. But I think this one
36 she's referring to is a Western Arctic Caribou Herd
37 Working Group. I think that might be the one that was
38 held first I think in Nome.

39
40 MS. CRAIG: I think that that's
41 correct.

42
43 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, that's the big
44 region wide one, yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

47
48 MS. CRAIG: And in fact we'll be
49 meeting in December, and I think that that is the
50 conflict group -- I think that those are tied together,

1 but the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group is
2 kind of the larger umbrella over those.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Now going
5 down the list with regards to the issue on studying our
6 moose count on the upper Noatak certainly is something
7 that needs to be done, because that stock of moose goes
8 in and over into the Squirrel I think. They migrate in
9 and out upper Noatak and back into the Squirrel area,
10 or the northern portion of the headwaters of Squirrel.

11

12 And the issue in regards to permits for
13 hunting guides, these are just the guides that you're
14 dealing with, not the transporters?

15

16 MS. CRAIG: No, the transporters are
17 separate, and prior to this year we never licensed
18 transporters or issued any permits for them.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I thought.....

21

22 MS. CRAIG: And as part of the
23 Kobuk/Seward plan, it was specified that that is a
24 potential -- that was a concern that was raised by
25 people, and that's why the Squirrel Management Plan,
26 Recreation Management Plan is being written, this
27 amendment separately. And that was one of the
28 suggestions that came out of the production of that
29 plan was to keep track of -- you know, see if they are
30 having an impact in the Squirrel River. And the first
31 step and what they required as part of that was to
32 license them, because if we're not tracking them, we
33 don't really have any idea of what's going on. So that
34 was in compliance with what the Kobuk/Seward plan
35 recommended, was that we would start permitting these
36 so that we had an idea of how many, where they go, how
37 many people they transport, how many -- you know, how
38 much game is taken as a result of that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I can see what
41 you're trying to do, which is good, but you also need
42 to remember not just a plan that will address that, you
43 have ANILCA that you have to make sure that you comply
44 with.

45

46 MS. CRAIG: Oh, absolutely.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And the provisions
49 of ANILCA, that needs to be complied with. If a
50 Federal agency is not complying with ANILCA, then we've

1 got a problem. And I know two years ago that BLM did
2 not have an analysis done on -- an .810 analysis done
3 on the Squirrel, but yet provided permits, pre-analysis
4 of the resource, which is really becoming a problem
5 today. And, yes, we do have guides that are regulated
6 by the State of Alaska. These are the guides that can
7 do this and that based on what the State requirements,
8 or State law says.

9
10 But you also have transporters that are
11 operating within the Squirrel and other areas with
12 really no regulations being enforced. I mean, you go
13 up the Squirrel, in fact, today, right now, and find
14 out, see how many spike camps there are on the
15 Squirrel. Yet BLM is requiring people to use
16 fourwheelers for hunting in those areas. When I was
17 called and asked by resident of Kiana, can I hunt with
18 a fourwheeler up the Squirrel, I said, go for it if BLM
19 is requiring other interest groups to hunt with
20 fourwheelers. People don't have the slightest idea
21 what a hunting -- how hunting is done within the
22 region, but yet are being allowed to use fourwheelers
23 all over the countryside on the Squirrel. There's no
24 reason why the community, residents of Kiana, can't be
25 allowed to go up the Squirrel, to be fourwheeling all
26 over the Squirrel River. So I said, go for it, because
27 if they're required with one interest group, there's no
28 reason why you can't go.

29
30 MS. CRAIG: Okay. What you just stated
31 is something I'm unfamiliar with. To my knowledge BLM
32 is not requiring fourwheelers. In fact as I said, I'm
33 new, so I'm just learning some of the issues, but I
34 know that one of the issues that was brought up that
35 was left from Kyle Joly was whether or not fourwheelers
36 should be allowed by commercial guiding operations, and
37 that it -- so it was a question of whether that should
38 be a permitted activity. And -- but like I said, I
39 will -- what I'll have to do, Mr. Sampson, is go back
40 to the main office and explore with Roger Delaney, who
41 administers those permits. But to my knowledge, that
42 is not a requirement. In fact, it's an issue that had
43 been brought up to me, that that was something we would
44 have to consider whether we would allow. And so I will
45 get back to you on that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, if I were you
48 and still in Kotzebue, I would go take a fly today.
49 Because there is a guide that is permitted to guide
50 within the Squirrel that has three or four fourwheelers

1 that are using for hunting purposes. In fact, the tres
2 -- the protection officer from the State side said,
3 there's no way I can get to one of his camps unless I
4 use a helicopter, because he's using that fourwheeler
5 to build up his camp on the side of a mountain where
6 there's no airstrip by hauling the stuff up to that
7 site to build his camp.

8

9 MS. CRAIG: Do you know the -- excuse
10 me, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, BLM knows who
13 that is.

14

15 MS. CRAIG: Okay. So.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So they have the
18 name of the individual who's a guide that's doing that.
19 There's other potential transporters that are also
20 doing that. So if that is part of the permitted area,
21 then there's no reason why other have to be denied for
22 use of fourwheelers on the Squirrel. I mean, that's
23 why I told guy, when he said, can I fourwheeler up the
24 Squirrel, I said, if BLM's allowing others to
25 fourwheeler for hunting, or go out hunting with
26 fourwheelers, I said go for it. If they cite you, they
27 better cite the others as well. So that is being,
28 certainly being done right now.

29

30 You have transporters that are also --
31 I don't know if any of those folks are being -- are
32 using any fourwheelers, but I think I would be more
33 heavy on looking at the potential of wanton waste from
34 these folks. There's a lot of horns that come through
35 with very little meat coming through, which just is
36 telling me that this meat is being left out there. In
37 order to bring out 1500 pounds of moose meat, you have
38 to have an extra charter to bring that in. If you
39 can't, if you don't have the money, then where do you
40 put it? You leave it out there and bring the horns.
41 And that's where part of the problem is.

42

43 MS. CRAIG: Well, it is illegal to
44 bring out the horns first before any of the -- all of
45 the meat is brought out.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I know it's illegal,
48 but that happens. You hear it over the radio. Go to
49 the radio station, you open the radio. Two weeks from
50 now you'll hear, anybody wanting meat, go out to the

1 airport; go get it. Do you know what you see out
2 there? Green slime meat. And that's what they bring
3 in in black plastic bags. And that's wanton waste. So
4 somebody has to enforce as land managers within their
5 respective land ownership. Part of the problem
6 sometimes is that the next closest village get blamed
7 for this stuff. And what do the protections do? They
8 go right into the village, starting asking, who's doing
9 the wanton waste. That's part of our problem.

10

11 MS. CRAIG: Okay. So your asking for
12 more enforcement or is the.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We will be talking
15 to John on the issue and we will work on hopefully to
16 better that. I just want you to be aware of these
17 things that are happening.

18

19 MS. CRAIG: Yes. And I did read this
20 report which did talk about those issues that are
21 concerns and the issues that you have just brought up,
22 although the fourwheeler one wasn't brought up in
23 there. And it did talk about, you know, the concerns
24 about wanton waste.

25

26 And also it also surveyed hunters who
27 came in and used the transporters, and some of their
28 concerns were that they couldn't get -- you know, they
29 were thinking it might be actually something that would
30 be beneficial here in Kotzebue if someone supplied
31 services to provide the boxes for shipping the meat and
32 maybe even for handling the meat, like freezing it
33 before they can fly it out and that sort of thing.

34

35 And so if -- this was a really
36 beneficial report for me, and might be something that
37 would be something for the residents of Kotzebue to
38 consider that would help that problem of wanton waste.

39

40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, the issue in
41 regards to getting boxes and stuff, that should be the
42 responsibility of the transporters that are dealing
43 with the clients.

44

45 MS. CRAIG: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I mean, there's got
48 to be some sort of an educational process here that
49 needs to be enforced. And if we continue to go with
50 the numbers of transporters transporting hunters out

1 into the field with little meat coming back, down the
2 road we're going to have 200,000 caribou. That's going
3 to be pretty much getting to the point of restricting
4 the real use for the residents of this region, like we
5 did four years ago. A restriction was placed to take
6 one per family, and that is a pretty hefty restrictive
7 requirement there. I mean, when the majority of the
8 residents of this region uses caribou as a basic
9 subsistence for their livelihood through the course of
10 the year. And it really has an impact on a family,
11 especially for a widow who has a family that doesn't
12 have a hunter, have to way to get to the resource. We
13 share with those people, but we also can share very
14 limited amount. Some of the guides that's been
15 required by State law to do certain things, they do
16 their share. Phil Driver does darn good in regards to
17 sharing that meat with some of the communities. He's
18 got local hire to handle that meat, to give that meat
19 away to the local folks. And they're willing to take
20 that good, clean meat, as long as it's clean and
21 edible, not green slime meat that will poison your dog.
22 So it's something that we have to go through in
23 educating our users, as a requirement, education on how
24 to handle meat or something for these folks.

25
26 On top of that, we've got State
27 biologists on an annual basis that go out, clean up
28 mess in the countryside. I mean, if you have 2, 3,000
29 people that are left out there, then you've got a
30 problem with the environmental issue. Where does all
31 the human waste go? Where does the trash go? These
32 are the issues that needs to be dealt with. There's a
33 video that was done two years ago in regards to some of
34 these camps, and it's really not discouraging, but --
35 I'm trying to find a word to describe it, but anyway
36 it's something that shouldn't happen.

37
38 And, remember, we're part of the
39 Federal system. We're BLM. We live here. And we have
40 to live with these things. I mean, that was the
41 purpose of the times when (d)(2) days was happening
42 where this region encouraged the Federal government to
43 create some of these conservation units so we can
44 continue to use these Federal lands for subsistence
45 purposes. But yet when competition came, then it
46 becomes a problem. The allowances of waste happen more
47 than conservation. And it really is a problem today.

48
49 I don't mean to inundate you with all
50 the problems that we have, but these are the facts.

1 You talk to some of these folks. You go out to the
2 airport and go take a look at what type of operations
3 there are. I encourage all the agencies that are
4 sitting in this room, go up to Lockard Point. Get your
5 boat, George, maybe and go up to Lockard Point and go
6 sit for half a day, see how many planes you'd see going
7 back and forth. In some cases you'll see airplanes
8 flying 200 feet, right above water with a load of
9 people. Or people coming back from the field. And
10 these are happening. These are facts. These are
11 things that occur. Sometimes when they do that, people
12 that are waiting for caribou on the Noatak, some of
13 those aircraft flies too low, they deflect the herd.
14 They go back up north, then go east and come down above
15 Kiana, which means for the community members, they have
16 to purchase more gas, more food to go camping above
17 Kiana. At \$6 a gallon, that's the pretty price of
18 fuel.

19
20 That's pretty expensive. So these are
21 some of the facts and issues that certainly needs to be
22 dealt with at the Federal level. I know we've have had
23 discussions with George and if nothing is being done
24 even though there's Federal laws in place that requires
25 somebody to do certain things, then we've got a
26 problem.

27
28 MS. CRAIG: Well, I think one of the
29 things that we are trying to do with permitting the
30 transporters and air taxi operators is to try to
31 address some of those concerns that have been brought
32 up so that we have some idea of this.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. I think we've
35 got a good messenger here in Kotzebue that certainly
36 can relate some of the issues to the regional office.

37
38 MS. CRAIG: Yeah. And they're not
39 unaware of those. That's why you have this study that
40 has just been completed, and that's why we are
41 beginning the permitting process. The permitting
42 process at this point was just to give out these
43 permits to those people already operating, and so that
44 we can get an idea of what's going on. But your idea
45 about the transporters and taxi operators and the
46 guides being the ones that should make sure that there
47 are boxes, you know, for meat and that sort of thing,
48 you know, that's something else that I can bring back
49 to our recreation permitting people as a suggestion as
50 something, if it's not already required.

1 I would like to clarify a point when
2 you said about BLM requiring fourwheelers by these
3 guides. I did not mean to imply that none of the
4 guides are using fourwheelers. We are aware that some
5 of them are using fourwheelers. We're not requiring
6 that. And whether to continue to permit that is, you
7 know, one of the things that -- or when new guides
8 request a permit, that is -- it's certainly not a
9 requirement, and it's something that we're looking at
10 very hard.

11
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Well, what's
13 going to happen is that, you know, Myumeruk (ph) and
14 the preserve is not very far from -- adjacent to some
15 of these guides site location. They're going to go
16 right into the preserve. George Helfrich's not going
17 to know when they go in. And there's no way they're
18 going to prove who went in if you have, you know,
19 certain people that will be doing that. In fact, if
20 somebody asked, going up the Aggie River to go hunting,
21 I said, more power to you. Go for it. if they're
22 allowing others to go to some of these areas, go for
23 it. I mean, I'm not saying violate the law. They're
24 already violating the law anyway.

25
26 MS. CRAIG: Okay. I will, you know,
27 talk to.....

28
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I didn't mean to
30 inundate you with all the problems. I mean, you're
31 new, but I really felt that, you know, somebody with a
32 good background and knowledge of what's happening with
33 BLM lands should have been here instead of somebody
34 coming to take what we're giving you today.

35
36 MS. CRAIG: Well, I will certainly talk
37 to our enforcement officer about that if there are
38 areas that are closed for fourwheeler use, and there
39 definitely are impacts that fourwheeler use can have on
40 the land, and.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, we've got.....

43
44 MS. CRAIG: And we consider that
45 when.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We now have John to
48 work with, so hopefully John will have an airplane to
49 go flying with, a helicopter to go cruise with. No. I
50 think that it's important, it's got to be a joint

1 thing. It has to be. You know, only one agency can't
2 deal with the very issues. There has to be
3 partnerships in addressing these very issues. It's
4 been happening for too long, impacts are great and
5 they're going to continue to even worsen down the road
6 if we don't address these things.

7

8 So thank you very much.

9

10 MS. CRAIG: Okay. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

13

14 MR. PARKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
15 and members. Appreciate your time.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you. We'll go
18 to Department of Fish and Game.

19

20 MS. WESTING: Well, good afternoon, Mr.
21 Chair and the rest of the Council. Again my name is
22 Charlotte Westing. I'm the area biologist here in
23 Kotzebue, working for the Department of Fish and Game.

24

25

26 Some of you may be wondering where Jim
27 Dau is, I know he's the familiar fact that you're all
28 used to working with. And Jim Dau is still very much
29 around. As many of you know, we've done a little
30 rearranging with positions and duties at the Department
31 of Fish and Game, so now Jim is pretty much completely
32 focusing on caribou. He's the caribou research
33 biologist, and I'm the area biologist that addressing
34 all other species.

35

36 So I just want to give you a brief
37 little update about what we've been up to and what we
38 have planned for the future, and I'll try to be pretty
39 quick, because I know there's a lot of other
40 information that you're all looking to cover.

41

42 On Monday we're going to deploy a crew
43 that has representatives from multiple agencies, so
44 Fish and Game, BLM, Park Service and Fish and Wildlife
45 Service, we're going to go up to Onion Portage to do
46 our annual caribou collaring project. You're all very
47 familiar with this. We use those radio collars that
48 are deployed during that time at Onion Portage to --
49 basically they're a sample of the herd that we then get
50 information from throughout the year. Examples of

1 information that we get are short yearling counts; we
2 get information about calving, calving success; and
3 then also we use the information from those collars in
4 our photo census.

5
6 As Walter mentioned a little bit ago,
7 our last photo census in 2007 showed that the herd had
8 dropped from its previous high of 490,000 to about
9 377,000. And our previous plan, or what we had been on
10 was to photo census the herd every three years, but
11 when that decline was detected, we bumped that schedule
12 forward and did it this summer. We did it in 2009, so
13 two years following that census. And we were very
14 pleased with the way that everything went down with
15 that photo census. We had good weather, the caribou
16 really bunched up. We had great collar concentration,
17 and we feel like we got good photographs. So Don
18 Williams who works with us and lives in Ambler will be
19 counting those photographs over the winter, and we hope
20 to have an estimate on the herd size sometime in the
21 spring. We kind of hoped that we could get that
22 information before the Board of Game meeting, but it is
23 unlikely just with fall schedules and all the different
24 things that have to come into play before those
25 photographs can be counted. But we look forward to
26 getting those results.

27
28 And that's about all I'll say about
29 caribou, unless there are questions I could attempt to
30 answer, but again Jim is still the more appropriate
31 person to talk to about caribou issues. And
32 unfortunately he's stuck in Fairbanks today. He's been
33 trying to take the State Cub back here and hopefully
34 he'll be able to arrive today or tomorrow.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for
37 Charlotte in regards to reinbou [sic].

38
39 MR. ADAMS: Yep, I've got one. Do you
40 have a copy of your migration route of your collared
41 caribou?

42
43 MS. WHITING: Your question was about
44 information about where they're migrating?

45
46 MR. ADAMS: Yeah. I've seen a page one
47 time with the collared caribou.

48
49 MS. WHITING: Uh-huh. We do generate
50 maps for in-house use to find the animals, to then get

1 the information that we need. And there is some
2 availability of those maps to the public. It's
3 primarily only available to the reindeer herders,
4 because they've really asked for that information so
5 they can take preventative measures to make sure the
6 reindeer don't run off with the caribou when the
7 caribou are around. But there really isn't general
8 access to those maps, because if individuals can access
9 it, that means Joe Schmoe from wherever else can access
10 it, too. And we want those collars to be used for, you
11 know, information to help us do what's best for the
12 herd, and not, you know, for individuals for hunting or
13 whatever other purposes they might be for. But the
14 information is there, but we try to control how it's
15 distributed

16

17 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's why I
18 referred to not just to caribou, it's reinbou, because
19 the reindeers mixed within the Northwest Arctic Herd.

20

21 MS. WESTING: Okay. So the.....

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. So the
24 photo census was done out of -- in the park?

25

26 MS. WHITING: We do the photo census
27 when the caribou population is really tightly
28 concentrated. We call it during the post-calving
29 aggregation period, and so we know that 100 percent of
30 the caribou aren't there, but we use those radio
31 collars to try to account for everybody, and we feel
32 like it really -- it's a minimum count, and we feel
33 like it does pretty good at encompassing, you know, the
34 bulk of the caribou. We do find occasionally collars
35 here and there. We do photographs those groups that
36 are outside of the main wad of caribou that's up in the
37 post-calving area, but we add additional collars and
38 the groups that are associated with them to that
39 number.

40

41 So the other thing that we have going
42 on this fall, we have two things. One thing is we're
43 going to focus on getting moose composition data. When
44 I say that, I'm referring to age and sex information in
45 the population. So we want to see how many big bulls,
46 how many medium sized bulls, how many small bulls, how
47 many cows and how many calves. And we use that
48 information to try to monitor and make sure there
49 aren't selective pressures over time in certain areas.

50

1 Last year we focused on the Selawik
2 with the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and
3 the National Park Service. This year we hope to
4 collect that information either from the upper Noatak
5 or the northern Seward Peninsula. We're engaging in an
6 attempt every year to collect composition data from at
7 least one area within Unit 23 just to keep a feel on
8 what's going on with our moose populations from not
9 just a population estimate standpoint, but also from
10 the composition of the moose that are out there.

11
12 And we're using kind of a more
13 intensive sampling technique than we have in the past,
14 so we are doing some exploration, Fish and Game and the
15 Park Service, as far as figuring out what's the best
16 way to really get our minds wrapped around what the
17 composition is of these groups of moose.

18
19 So then the other thing we have this
20 fall is in November the Board of Game will be meeting
21 in Nome from I believe the 12th to the 16th, maybe the
22 13th to 16th, and they'll be addressing issues related
23 to wildlife in Unit 23. And so we'll be responding to
24 proposals that are generated by the public and other
25 entities and participating in that process.

26
27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: November?

28
29 MS. WESTING: That's November 13th
30 through the 16th I believe.

31
32 The other thing that we have going on
33 is every year we try to get a population estimate on
34 the Cape Thompson herd of musk ox. This last year we
35 weren't able -- Jim and I weren't able to complete our
36 annual survey. That was due to the crazy weather that
37 we experienced in January and February. I think most
38 of you are aware we had about 14 winter blizzards one
39 after another. And we were able to get a partial
40 survey done, but not a completed one. This year we're
41 going to work really hard to get that information and
42 try to work with the Park Service, since they have
43 existing studies going on in the Cape Thompson
44 population as well.

45
46 So we really want to get an idea of
47 what that population of musk ox in the Camp Thompson
48 area is doing. There's a feeling among biologists that
49 this population may be declining. We want to get a
50 real good count this year, get that figured out and

1 work together to explore whatever, you know, management
2 decisions we may need to make related to that
3 population status.

4
5 Every year we do composition work on
6 those musk -- on the musk ox populations both in the
7 Cape Thompson area, and then also in 23 Southwest, so
8 we're basically going out in late June or August is
9 when it happened this year. And we did the surveys in
10 collaboration with the National Park Service. So we're
11 basically again looking for sex composition of these
12 groups, and then also, you know, how many mature bulls
13 do we have, how many three-year-old bulls do we have,
14 two-year-old bulls, yearlings, calves, et cetera. And
15 that information will also help us to detect selective
16 pressure.

17
18 With the inception of this RX-106, the
19 registration hunt down in the Seward -- in the 23
20 Southwest on the Seward Peninsula, we are to the point
21 where we're actually the quota of animals each year.
22 In the Tier II system, we weren't taking all the
23 animals that were on the quota, so we're going to have
24 to really pay attention and make sure we're not taking
25 too many mature bulls out of that population, and this
26 is one way that we monitor that.

27
28 We're going to do a population census
29 on the Seward Peninsula musk ox. That's a combined
30 effort between the Kotzebue Fish and Game office and
31 the Nome Fish and Game office, and we're going to be
32 doing that I believe in March of 2010. So we'll be
33 getting a complete musk ox census on the Seward
34 Peninsula. And we're actually going to do our
35 composition work immediately following that at the same
36 time and try getting composition information when the
37 musk ox are most visible, when it's showy and they're
38 dark and what they're standing on is white, and we're
39 hoping that that will make it easier to get really good
40 information.

41
42 One other thing that I wanted to
43 mention in reference to our RX-106 hunt, and one thing
44 that I think has lead to -- as I mentioned before, only
45 three animals have been taken so far this year. Last
46 year eight had been taken by this time, and that was
47 half of the quota. On the regulations book, there --
48 one thing that we did is we put in writing what trophy
49 destruction consists of, and I'll just show you. What
50 we were concerned about between both the Kotzebue

1 office of Fish and Game and the Nome office of Fish and
2 Game is that we didn't want these Tier I hunts, these
3 registration musk ox hunts to be used for people to
4 take trophy musk ox under the guise of subsistence.
5 And so in order to kind of head that off at the pass,
6 we solidified our trophy destruction requirement, and
7 that's on Page 33 in your books. So basically before
8 we've always mentioned that trophy destruction would
9 occur if horns left the region, but we never really
10 said what trophy destruction was going to be.

11
12 Well, as you can see by this picture on
13 Page 33, we've defined that pretty solidly. Musk ox
14 horns will be cut at the eye, and the Department
15 retains the tips. And then if that -- so basically
16 this is to serve as a deterrent for people who might
17 want to come from outside the region to harvest a
18 trophy musk ox if they know this is going to happen,
19 that removes a big part of the incentive. And I think
20 that's why the rush for those animals has slowed down
21 quite a bit this year.

22
23 However, as I mentioned, you know, only
24 two people took musk ox last year from our Unit 23
25 Southwest population that were from outside of the NANA
26 region. But we also hope that this will keep people
27 from -- that are maybe from Kotzebue, but are short
28 timers here, you know, technically if they're going to
29 leave Kotzebue and move back to Ohio or whatever, they
30 would not be able to take these horns with them out of
31 the region. So this is supposed to be addressing that.
32 And we think that that might be why there's been a
33 slower take on musk ox with that quota.

34
35 So for moose population estimates, as
36 Erica mentioned, we're going to do a geo-spatial
37 population estimate this year, focusing on the upper
38 Noatak. Hopefully the weather -- that was our intent
39 was to do the upper Noatak this year, but again with
40 all the weather we had, we had some setbacks there,
41 ended up doing 23 Southwest instead. We also call that
42 area the northern Seward Peninsula. So hopefully this
43 year we'll be able to do the upper Noatak. If not,
44 we're talking about the possibility of doing the lower
45 Kobuk since we'll have all the people, and planes, and
46 everything ready to go if Dell Creek is not available
47 to use, we want to have a backup plan.

48
49 For sheep, initially Jim and I thought
50 that we would not be able to help the Park Service do

1 their sheep counts this summer. We thought that our
2 photo census was going to have us all booked up all the
3 way through when they were going to be done with sheep.
4 But luckily, since we were able to wrap up our photo
5 census so early, Jim and I were able to help out with
6 finishing up the sheep surveys that the Park Service
7 was doing the Bairds, and we were happy to be involved
8 with that. It's the first complete census that we've
9 had there in quite some time, so we're looking forward
10 to results and we're happy to work with the Park
11 Service on that project.

12

13 And I guess that's all I have. I'll
14 take any questions.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: So when does rutting start
17 up here like? The rutting of the musk ox?

18

19 MS. WESTING: Oh, usually right around
20 this time, late September -- or late August to mid
21 September most likely.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Rutting?

24

25 MS. WESTING: Rut. Yeah, musk ox rut.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, musk ox. Okay.

28

29 MS. WESTING: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions?

32

33 MR. BALLOT: So it would make sense
34 probably if we ever considered having earlier with the
35 fall hunt than September, because they're already
36 rutting in late September?

37

38 MS. WESTING: So you're wondering if we
39 could entertain starting the season earlier to have
40 more of an opportunity in the fall before they go into
41 rut?

42

43 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I'm just saying does
44 it make sense if we had con -- if we ever considered an
45 earlier hunt versus late September when they already
46 are in the rut. I think in Buckland, we don't want to
47 get them right now already.

48

49 MS. WESTING: Right.

50

1 MR. BALLOT: And then we'll see these
2 other folks that has these permits will be over there,
3 and we'll probably go get them.

4
5 MS. WESTING: Well, I'm hoping that the
6 way -- between this trophy destruction requirement and
7 between the different way that we're splitting out the
8 quota that there will be plenty of opportunity for
9 local folks. I'm hoping that that will make a
10 difference.

11
12 As far as entertaining an earlier
13 season, I definitely would want to talk to Jim and some
14 of the people that have been working with musk ox
15 longer. I'd also want to consult with the cooperators
16 to see what they thought about that. And I think that
17 we have to be careful. The musk ox proposal that you
18 guys were looking at earlier today, the purpose of that
19 proposal was to bring what the State is already doing,
20 and the Feds, to bring our two systems together to make
21 sure that we're mirroring each other. And I think that
22 we would want to make sure that if you adjust the, you
23 know, start date on the Federal hunt that we can also
24 within the same timeline address the State hunt within,
25 you know, the regulatory framework that we're working
26 in. And I believe that that would have to go through
27 the Board of Game in order to adjust that date. So I
28 think, you know, it's real important for users in this
29 region that we make our regulations as simple as
30 possible, because they're already too regulated. And
31 so I would just caution you about that, but if you want
32 to entertain changing the dates, we could -- we should
33 try to do it in such a way that the State and Feds
34 still mirror each other, and they won't have different
35 regulations based on which side of the boundary you're
36 standing on.

37
38 MR. BALLOT: One of the things that I
39 wanted to mention is that our local guys say this isn't
40 working.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Mr. Karmun.

43
44 MR. KARMUN: Yes. I have a question.
45 If an individual that likes to just go with a regular
46 hunt instead of a subsistence hunt, some individuals I
47 know around the region would like to keep the so-called
48 trophy intact. Can they -- can that person have that
49 privilege?

50

1 MS. WESTING: I assume that you're
2 referring to musk ox, correct?

3

4 MR. KARMUN: Yes.

5

6 MS. WESTING: Okay. There is no trophy
7 destruction on horns unless they are leaving this
8 region. So if you wanted to go out and get an RX-106
9 permit and go down to Buckland and Deering and get
10 yourself a musk ox and keep that head, that's fine. We
11 don't have to touch it. It's only if you decide to
12 move to, you know, Kansas or something, and then you
13 leave, technically we would need that head to come to
14 our office so that we could cut the tips off. It's
15 more meant to address people who aren't familiar -- you
16 know, who are coming up with the intent of harvesting a
17 trophy musk ox and then wanting to leave with that
18 head, because there are resident tag fees for
19 harvesting trophy musk ox. This hunt kind of operates
20 outside of that requirement, and so it's supposed to be
21 for subsistence. This trophy destruction requirement
22 is to help make it as such.

23

24 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Don't glue any on
27 your half piece.

28

29 (Laughter)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I'm just teasing.
32 Thank you, if there's no other questions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Lee Ayres. Lee Ann
37 Ayres. What's your Eskimo name?

38

39 MS. AYRES: It's (In Inupiaq). Thank
40 you, Mr. Chair. We're happy to be here, and we realize
41 we're at the end of the agenda, so we intentionally are
42 keeping it brief, but are certainly open for questions
43 on any topics that we can help the Council with.

44

45 I'll like to first just briefly update
46 you on where we are with our comprehensive conservation
47 plan for the Refuge. This is a document that basically
48 guides refuge management on the Selawik Refuge for the
49 next 10 years.

50

1 We've completed our scoping with the
2 local communities, and we've assembled the list of
3 issues and are developing the alternative management
4 actions for those issues. And we plan on having the
5 draft document completed in November, and then we'll be
6 going back out to the communities this winter to review
7 those with them and get their input on what they would
8 like to see the direction go.

9
10 Overwhelmingly the response we've been
11 getting from folks is pretty much for kind of the
12 status quo, no major changes in management direction,
13 but some really good ideas on potential partnerships
14 that we can explore with the communities there in the
15 areas of trail marking facilities and public outreach
16 and working with the communities there.

17
18 Also, there have been some issues that
19 they've liked us to become more involved with in
20 helping them with. And one of those primary ones
21 involves climate change. And Tina Moran, our wildlife
22 biologist will be talking a little bit more about some
23 of the projects that we currently have going on on that
24 topic.

25
26 The next item I'd like to just update
27 folks on is the Western Arctic Herd working group. And
28 I appreciate you kind of mentioning and asking about
29 that group. We are getting a lot of different working
30 groups going so, you know, we don't have any unique
31 names for them. But this group, it's focused just on
32 the Western Arctic Working -- on the Western Arctic
33 Caribou Herd. And it was one that was started in this
34 region back in the mid 90s by Pete Schaefer and the
35 Kotzebue IRA at that time. And it's comprised of about
36 17 -- I think there's 21 actual seated members on it,
37 and none of them are agency people. Agencies all
38 participate and support the group, but the voting
39 members on this group are all made up of subsistence
40 hunters and people who are involved and depend on the
41 caribou herd.

42
43 The reason for this group, and I think
44 one of the reasons it's so successful, and certainly
45 one of the reasons that all of the agencies support it
46 and continue to try and get funding for all the members
47 to meet is that we recognize that this caribou herd
48 kind of expands past all the boundaries of our
49 individual councils, agencies and land units.

50

1 So this group was brought together to
2 basically allow those people who use the herd to have
3 input in on the management of the herd and management
4 direction. And they've actually come up with a
5 cooperative management plan that the agencies have
6 signed off on and use.

7
8 And that group is meeting again this
9 December, and I'm trying to think of the different
10 village representatives. I know some folks from Noatak
11 have been involved, and, Percy, I'm not sure if you've
12 been at any of the meetings in the past, but.....

13
14 MR. BALLOT: I was there when they
15 first started way up with Ron Moto and Roger Clark.

16
17 MS. AYRES: There we go. Okay. But
18 anyway, I really encourage the Council to stay engaged
19 with that group, and if you have issues involving
20 caribou and you want some more input from a larger
21 group or from some of the users, that's certainly
22 something that can always get on their agenda. And
23 right now the chairman of that group is Roy
24 Aschenfelter. And Raymond Stoney was the previous
25 chair. So there are a number of people from this
26 region that are involved in the group and sit on the
27 group. And the agencies are non-voting members on it,
28 so we pretty much primarily provide a support function
29 for it, and then we look toward their advice for
30 guiding our management actions and our research
31 projects and plans for caribou work.

32
33 The next topic I'd like to mention kind
34 of on an agency front is that we also like BLM have --
35 are happy to announce a new member of our staff,
36 Brandon Sato has joined us as a new wildlife biologist
37 to work with Tina Moran in the Refuge. Brandon has
38 previously lived in Kotzebue here, and he's come back
39 from where he's been working as a subsistence biologist
40 at Kodiak. So we look forward to him being on our
41 staff and working on our projects and be presenting
42 some of the results with you at some of your next
43 meetings there.

44
45 And we're kind of sad to announce the
46 departure of one of our staff. Patrick Snow, our
47 assistant refuge manager, is going to be leaving this
48 fall to go back to some old stomping grounds down in
49 Bethel and working with Gene Peltola, the refuge
50 manager there at the Yukon Delta Refuge.

1 The next topic on my hit list is our
2 law enforcement activities this fall. We currently
3 have a law enforcement officer from Kenai up here, Rob
4 Bartow, who is working with us on the Refuge, and also
5 here with Eric Loring, the State wildlife trooper, on
6 law enforcement issues, specifically with wildlife on
7 the ramp here with transporters and guides.

8
9 Our three priorities for law
10 enforcement work this year have been, one, to engage
11 and coordinate with the trespass officers that Raymond
12 Woods is working with in all of the villages through
13 NANA and Purcel Security. We have a lot of issues that
14 involve private land within the Refuge, and with work
15 that is around the peripheral of the Refuge. And one
16 of the things we really want to help be a part of is
17 facilitating communication between people in the
18 community that are having enforcement issues with
19 transporters and guides, and our law enforcement
20 officers, both State and Federal, that are here that
21 can respond to those in the field when they're
22 occurring.

23
24 The other thing that we're working with
25 the State on is to help provide what we call ramp
26 coverage, which basically is instead of trying to
27 contact people in the field at their camps, to try to
28 contact them here at the airport when they're coming
29 and going from their field camps. This has been one
30 way that both the transporters and local folks have
31 felt that we've been able to be a lot more effective in
32 enforcing some of our waste regulations. So we're
33 working with Eric Loring. So if you see the Fish and
34 Wildlife truck driving around, or a vehicle with the
35 emblem on it driving around the airport, it's most
36 likely Rob Bartow doing hunter checks as they land
37 with, you know, their equipment and their gear and
38 their meat from the field here.

39
40 I guess those are my major hit list
41 items, and I'd like to turn it over to Tina Moran to
42 let her brief you on some of the projects we have going
43 on on the Refuge right now.

44
45 MS. MORAN: Thanks, Lee Ann. Just a
46 few handouts. Yeah, let me give that out there. The
47 first couple are some information on the big mud slide,
48 therma karst up on the -- let's see, never mind, I'll
49 give you this one. There you go. It's up in the upper
50 Selawik that we're concerned about. Let me give you

1 that there.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You're concerned
4 about?

5

6 MS. MORAN: We are. Just about the
7 effect of the river and the effect on the resources.
8 The shee.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Concerned, it's
11 Mother Nature's work.

12

13 MS. MORAN: It is Mother Nature's work,
14 but we do want to monitor it to see what the
15 consequences are, especially since there's a main
16 sheefish spawning area 10 miles below. So this year
17 Ben Crosby with Idaho State University started project
18 that's going to be about three -- it's going to take
19 about three years to monitor the consequences of the
20 thaw slump on the river. It's kind of a starter
21 project. He's doing some water quality and kind of
22 looking at the structure of the slump, and then also
23 going to look at some remote sensing pictures to see
24 the consequences, you know, the progression of the
25 slump in the future and possibly look at some other
26 possible areas where something like this could happen.

27

28 And in relation Chris Zimmerman with
29 USGS will be going up there in a few weeks. And he is
30 specifically going to look at the effects of the
31 sedimentation that's coming from the slump and how
32 that's going to effect the sheefish spawning eggs. So
33 that's what's going on on that front.

34

35 We also will be installing a weather
36 station, another RA station similar to BLM up in the
37 Tag Hills right next to the Tag repeater, and that
38 should go up probably in May or June. And also this
39 fall we hope to help Fish and Game and the Park Service
40 and BLM with the moose survey, and hopefully in the
41 spring as well.

42

43 And we also will be doing a beaver
44 survey, a beaver cache survey in the Fish River. So,
45 yeah, this will be the second year that we'll be doing
46 this. And we'll be mapping out the river -- the river
47 dams and caches that we see just north of Selawik all
48 along the Fish River area.

49

50 So that's the immediate projects that

1 are coming up. So anyway that's kind of the hit list,
2 short hit list. What I've given you here is kind of a
3 complete list of what we'll potentially be doing in the
4 next year. And some of these projects are ongoing.

5
6 If you have any questions.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for
9 Tina or for Lee Ann.

10
11 MR. KARMUN: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for
14 Tina or Lee Ann. Mr. Karmun.

15
16 MR. KARMUN: How are you doing with
17 your Asian flu survey.

18
19 MS. MORAN: Thank you for reminding of
20 that one, too. We did the fourth year I think working
21 with migratory birds. We went out in late July and
22 captured about 200 tundra swans from the Buckland area,
23 Kobuk Delta area and the lower Noatak, testing them for
24 avian influenza. We don't have the results yet. We
25 hope to have them in the next month or so. And like I
26 said, this is about I think the fourth year that we've
27 been doing this, and so far, so good, that we haven't
28 had evidence of the H5N1, which is the one they're
29 concerned about. So hopefully we'll have those same
30 results here in the next month or so, but we'll let
31 people know once we do get them.

32
33 MR. KARMUN: Is it still considered a
34 threat or a concern?

35
36 MS. MORAN: It's still a concern. I
37 mean, it's still prevalent in Asia and Europe, and
38 there's still a concern that migrating birds could
39 bring it over to the United States, and, you know, a
40 large portion of the birds come through Alaska, so
41 that's where -- that's why a big force is -- or a lot
42 of effort is put into sampling the birds in Alaska.

43
44 MR. KARMUN: Thank you.

45
46 MS. MORAN: You're welcome.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other.....

49
50 MR. BALLOT: I just was going to thank

1 Tina and them for sharing and putting out the flyers,
2 because, you know, people were wondering what's going
3 on out there, and they see who's out there, and they
4 say that's just Tina, they're not really worried. So
5 thanks for sharing that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's just Tina.

8

9 MS. MORAN: I don't mind hearing that.

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.

12

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I do have -- or, no,
17 I will raise that, you know, after I guess.

18

19 MS. AYRES: Okay. Mr. Chair, may I
20 offer one more handout to the group?

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Go ahead.

23

24 MS. AYRES: Okay. This is -- what I'd
25 like to do is pass out a list of law enforcement
26 contact numbers.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Don't pass out.

29

30 MS. AYRES: I won't pass out.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Provide information.

33

34 MS. AYRES: I'm going to hold my breath
35 until I do. No. One of the things that we're doing is
36 trying to make sure folks have the current phone
37 numbers of folks that are here for law enforcement
38 issues, and we do have a lot of officers that come in
39 that have cell phones. And we also have new trespass
40 officers in some of the villages. So I just --
41 especially for you guys, I just have some numbers there
42 that are the current ones that you can use to report
43 folks to.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.

46

47 MS. AYRES: And I've given that to
48 Abraham and Raymond there, too.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any questions for

1 Lee Ann or for Tina.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you very much.

6

7 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman. Before
8 you go on to new business, could the Park Service have
9 a couple more minutes?

10

11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That I will ask you
12 to do, Mr. Helfrich. You're on the hit list, so that's
13 good.

14

15 MR. HELFRICH: Okay.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: Hit list?

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, Lee Ann was
20 talking about the hit list, so I made a hit list that I
21 wanted to address after the -- going back to the issue
22 on the presentation, Mr. George Helfrich wasn't quite
23 done with his presentation, but we started without him
24 anyway. So we'll come back to George.

25

26 MR. HELFRICH: Is now convenient?

27

28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

29

30 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. Thank you very
31 much. Mr. Chairman. As I said before lunch, Brian
32 Shultz and Marcy Johnson, both wildlife biologists
33 here, have some information about musk oxen and sheep
34 which I think the Council will be interested in. Also,
35 Ken Adkisson, our subsistence program manager is here,
36 and he may have some specific issues that he wants to
37 bring up.

38

39 If I may right now though get the
40 Council's advice on a matter that one of our concession
41 contract holders has brought up to us. And let me put
42 this here so that members of the Council can see it.
43 We are talking about guided sporthunting.

44

45 And currently there are three guides
46 who hold concession contracts to operate inside Noatak
47 National Preserve. Those three guides are Jake
48 Jacobson and Dave Leonard and Phil Driver, and they're
49 the only ones who can bring clients into the Preserve
50 for sporthunting. These guides have concession

1 contracts, and the contracts went into effect on April
2 10th, 2005 and they expire on December 31st, 2014.

3

4 Now, the three contract holders are
5 permitted to bring in 12 hunters per year and so 120
6 hunters over the entire lifetime of their contract. 12
7 hunters per year, 10 year contract, so 120 hunters over
8 the lifetime of the contract.

9

10 And here is what their contract says.
11 The annual client limit shall not exceed 12 hunters.
12 So in any year shall not exceed 12 hunters. This does
13 not include non-hunters.

14

15 Clear so far.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

20

21 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. So here I
22 sketched out the contract period, 2005 to 2014 and you
23 can see every year they bring in 12 clients, 12, 12,
24 12, 12, 12, 12, 12 and so on up to 120.

25

26 Now, one of the contract holders, Jake
27 Jacobson has asked that we change the contract, that we
28 amend the contract, and we had a group of Park Staff
29 look at that but they.....

30

31 REPORTER: George, you're fine but let
32 me put the microphone here if you're going to stand.

33

34 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. We had a group of
35 Park Staff look at doing a contract amendment, but
36 before we wanted to take any action we thought it
37 important to talk to you all.

38

39 So here is a letter that Jake Jacobson
40 of Arctic Rivers asked me to give to you all.

41

42 (Pause)

43

44 MR. HELFRICH: Now, the letter goes on,
45 but I put a check by the critical part and it's about
46 two-thirds of the way through the page.

47

48 It says, it is my request that my
49 concession contract e modified to allow for a, quote,
50 carryover of up to four guest hunter clients in any

1 given year. So what Jake has requested and if the Park
2 Service should approve this, it would apply to the
3 other two concessioners as well, is that he be given
4 some flexibility in the number of clients that he
5 brings in.

6
7 So this is what it would look like. He
8 would be permitted up to 16 hunters per year, so a
9 change from 12 to 16, up to 16 hunters per year and 120
10 in total. So the number of clients in any year could
11 change but the total number of clients would not
12 change.

13
14 So the contract amendment would read
15 something like this:

16
17 The annual client limit shall not
18 exceed 16 hunters, and then the total number of hunters
19 over the lifetime of the contract shall not exceed 120.
20 These numbers do not include non-hunters.

21
22 So to see how this would work, okay,
23 let's start next year, 2010 -- well, okay, in the first
24 few years of his contract Jake has been permitted to
25 bring in 12 clients, so that wouldn't change, but now
26 in the last five years of his contract he could have
27 some flexibility. So let's say that in 2010 he had 16
28 clients, 16 hunters who wanted to come in, he could
29 bring in all 16 and then in 2011 he had 16 clients, he
30 could bring in 2016 [sic] but now he's got to start
31 adjusting his number down so he doesn't exceed that
32 120, so in 2012 he brings in four, and then in 2013 he
33 brings in 14, and in 2014, the last year of the
34 contract he brings in 10, so over the lifetime he is --
35 he only has 120 clients, just like he's currently
36 permitted, but now he has some flexibility to have more
37 in one year and less in another.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We're listening.

40
41 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. So we could use
42 some -- we would appreciate the Council's advice on
43 this, whether you all would have subsistence resource
44 concerns about this flexibility or whether you think it
45 would adverse impacts to local rural residents who are
46 hunting.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: When would you like
49 that to be decided, at the end of your presentation or
50 now?

1 MR. HELFRICH: Well, it would -- of
2 course it's up to the Council, I'm not sure how
3 straightforward this is to you all and how much time
4 you would like to have to discuss it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: First of all, I want
7 to thank you for the presentation in regards to the
8 request that has been made. You all know that we
9 represent certain communities throughout this region.
10 Some of us represent dual communities. Some of us have
11 dual representation right at this table. In order for
12 us to make a decision on a request there is no way I
13 can make that decision today based on the information
14 you just provided. I want to be able to have some
15 discussions with some of the local folks that I
16 represent on this very table.

17
18 MR. HELFRICH: Uh-huh.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: I will not make any
21 decision based on what the agency wants and based on
22 making that decision now, no, I want to be able to have
23 some time, to have some discussions with some of the
24 local folks and get their input into this process. I'm
25 sure Percy and Austin would like to have that very same
26 opportunity to have some discussions with their people
27 to have some discussion, to making sure that we have
28 some questions answered, we want to be able to have you
29 or your representative from the agency to answer
30 questions that we may have on a small group
31 discussion.....

32
33 MR. HELFRICH: Uh-huh.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:or as a
36 community discussion.

37
38 MR. HELFRICH: Okay.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So at this point in
41 time then I will not be able to say, yes, we'll approve
42 that or we'll support that.

43
44 MR. HELFRICH: Okay.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We want to be able
47 to make sure that we be given an opportunity to look at
48 that request.

49
50 MR. HELFRICH: Okay, and that's very

1 fair, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: So, Mr. Chairman, we will
4 look at this and have some discussion, how soon will we
5 need to -- or can we -- or when do we say, yes, yea,
6 no, or whatever.

7

8 MR. HELFRICH: Well, Jake Jacobson, the
9 concessioner, who made this request will start booking
10 clients in January. So if we -- the Council is going
11 to have a March meeting?

12

13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. HELFRICH: How about if we bring it
16 up again at the March meeting.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's fine.

19

20 MR. HELFRICH:would that be fair?

21

22 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That's fair, yeah.

23

24 MR. HELFRICH: Okay. And in the
25 meantime I'll put together something for each Council
26 member that shows this information and will allow
27 Council members to talk it over.....

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

30

31 MR. HELFRICH:with members of
32 their village.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Fine.

35

36 MR. HELFRICH: Okay, thank you very
37 much. And, now, Mr. Chairman, if I may, Brad Shultz
38 and Marcy Johnson have some material on muskox and
39 sheep for you all.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

42

43 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Chairman, again,
44 thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you.

47

48 MR. SHULTZ: Hi, Brad Shultz with the
49 Park Service. I promised Barb I would be brief and so
50 I will be, but I don't, in any way, want to limit any

1 questions or discussion you have.

2

3 I just picked two topics that I thought
4 would be interesting this time around instead of
5 burying you with everything that's going on.

6

7 First maybe we could talk about sheep
8 real quick because it's been awhile since we've
9 revisited that topic in terms of numbers. It's a
10 colored handout with a big map on the front of it. I
11 have some extra copies over there that you can feel
12 free to grab, or George you can hand those out.

13

14 As part of the Park Service Monitoring
15 Plan, which I think you guys have heard presentations
16 on before, we've been counting sheep all the way from
17 the Haul Road to the west cooperative with Fish and
18 Game and other agencies. Traditionally we've been
19 counting in count areas, you see those count areas like
20 over in the Itkillik area, Itkillik River and Gates of
21 the Arctic and in the Baird Mountains, which I think
22 most of you are familiar with. That's the way we've
23 been doing things. It takes a considerable amount of
24 time and it's a lot of country to cover. We're trying
25 something new. If you flip it over and just look on
26 the back, we're trying some line transect surveys, and
27 the advantage to that is it gives us -- we can cover
28 larger areas so we can make an estimation on sheep
29 populations over a much broader geographic area. We
30 just tried that this year. I'm not the lead person on
31 that. We have a biologist in Fairbanks that's leading
32 that charge. But I wanted to give you a picture of
33 what they attempted to do this summer in Gates of
34 Arctic. 316 12 mile transects they were able to do
35 about 308 of those. So we're hoping to expand.....

36

37 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So your transects
38 are 12 miles apart?

39

40 MR. SHULTZ: They're 12 miles long.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 12 miles long.

43

44 MR. SHULTZ: And they're scattered out.
45 You can see how they're kind of scattered out across
46 the landscape. And so it'll essentially use an
47 estimator that will estimate sheep over that broad
48 geographic area. We hope that's how it will work.

49

50 We're going to expand that effort to

1 the west here next summer so we'll be doing the Noatak
2 Preserve. So that's on the burner.

3

4 So that's just to save us time, money
5 and effort and hopefully that will give us broader
6 estimates of sheep abundance as opposed to in these
7 small seven, 800 square mile areas.

8

9 The next page is a picture with the
10 population graph on it. You've seen this graph since
11 1986, we've just been adding to it. The data's been
12 generated by a multitude of agencies that have
13 cooperated in the surveys. Since that crash in '90,
14 '91 we've been slowly climbing out of the hole in the
15 Baird Mountains, and that's a trend that's happened
16 across the state, statewide sheep populations have
17 declined substantially over the last 20 years. We're
18 seeing some gradual growth out of that hole. I put a
19 trend line, which is the blue line on there, that's a
20 running average of every three years, I believe, it
21 might be five, but nonetheless, it shows that the trend
22 has been up since about the mid-90s. We've been
23 growing that population in the Baird Mountains. You'll
24 see the individual points for the surveys. Up until
25 2004, those numbers you see are the actual count, those
26 are the actual numbers of sheep we counted. After 2004
27 those are the numbers of sheep we counted, but they're
28 estimated, there's some proportions of sheep estimated
29 that we didn't actually count the areas, so those are
30 estimates, those aren't actually the number of sheep we
31 viewed through our beaty little eyes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And that black line
34 that's been cut between.....

35

36 REPORTER: Walter. Walter.

37

38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:2003 and.....

39

40 REPORTER: Walter, please, just leave
41 it.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:or 2002 and
44 2004.....

45

46 REPORTER: Walter.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:what is that --
49 okay, thank you.

50

1 MR. SHULTZ: There is no surveys
2 completed during those years, so the blank spot is no
3 surveys.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

6
7 MR. SHULTZ: The only other thing I
8 wanted to point out is, you know, I think the trend is
9 still steady to up and so we're growing slowly. That
10 population probably peaked around 1,100 animals, prior
11 to the bad winters in '90/91. Whether we'll get back
12 there or not I don't really know. But we are climbing
13 out of the hole.

14
15 The 868 this year, I think, is a little
16 bit of double counting there so we actually counted
17 around 700 sheep, I think that estimate's probably a
18 little high but I wanted to give it to you.

19
20 I think the trend is up. So that's the
21 take home message there. And that's given that we've
22 had subsistence hunting there since 1995, so I think
23 it's worked pretty well.

24
25 All right, off of sheep, unless you
26 have any questions.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now, this is on.....

29
30 REPORTER: Walter. Walter.

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:the
33 Western.....

34
35 REPORTER: Walter -- just turn it on
36 and you can leave it on, thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: The sheep count is
39 on the western Baird Mountains.

40
41 MR. SHULTZ: Right.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

44
45 MR. SHULTZ: So it's Myruemaks (ph) all
46 the way over to the.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, this -- the
49 picture you gave us is of Baird Mountain sheep -- okay.
50

1 MR. SHULTZ: Does that make sense.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
4
5 MR. SHULTZ:it's not the best of
6 maps in the world.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, thanks. Any
9 questions for Brad.
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay, go ahead.
14
15 MR. SHULTZ: Okay, real quick, on
16 muskoxen, I've given you one other graph, and I think
17 this is where we actually have a little more concern
18 collectively across the agencies, is the Northwest
19 Coast population from Cape Lisburne down has been
20 pretty steady over the years and you can kind of see it
21 may have peaked out somewhere around 2000/2002,
22 somewhere in there. The only completed surveys were in
23 2007/2008 by the Department of Fish and Game, that's
24 the 347 and 324. We have been doing counts from the
25 Kivalina River south in the last four years, and the
26 thing that's alarming to me somewhat is that 80 percent
27 of the population is typically south of the Kivalina
28 River, Kivalina River south and we count, on average,
29 in '07/08 we only counted 60 muskoxen north of there.
30 And if that average is kind of true, 60 to 100, we only
31 counted 233 on the Kivalina south this year, and even
32 if you added 100 that might get us to 330, 340, that's
33 below, kind of, where the trend line has been. We're
34 having a hard time turning up muskoxen north of the
35 Kivalina, especially in the summers when we've been
36 doing composition counts.
37
38 Now, we know there's groups of muskoxen
39 that have moved to the east and they're actually mixed
40 sex age groups with calves now in the Noatak River, so
41 we know there's some -- a movement out of the area we
42 count. But I think from what we're learning from our
43 research study, which Marcy's going to touch on, I
44 think there's some concern that the recruitment on the
45 northwest coast is not very good, and that population
46 may either be in a slow decline or maybe a rapid
47 decline. But I think that's something to think about
48 here over time. And we'll have more information this
49 spring, hopefully with better numbers from all the way
50 down from Cape Lisburne, we're going to put a huge

1 effort in with the Department to try to get everything
2 north of there counted this winter.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So is Sarge just
5 missing some of them, you think, on the north side?

6

7 MR. SHULTZ: Who?

8

9 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Sarge, he said they
10 can't qualify into.....

11

12 MR. SHULTZ: I'm lost but that's.....

13

14 (Laughter)

15

16 MR. SHULTZ:not unusual for me.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You're lost, that's
19 good.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, what I'm saying
24 is, is that the Cape Thompson area, I thought that used
25 to be an area where the major herd used to be.

26

27 MR. SHULTZ: There used to be groups of
28 25, 35, 40 animals hanging around, right around the air
29 strip there, into the east. And in the past three
30 summers I've spent an inordinate amount of time looking
31 around there and I've turned up one or two.

32

33 The groups that typically have been
34 around Chariot are not there, and I don't know if
35 that's what you're seeing, if you guys are riding up
36 there or not, but we're not seeing them.

37

38 MR. SWAN: Well, you have to realize
39 that Cape Thompson area in the wintertime would be
40 difficult for them because of the snow conditions, you
41 know, especially with reindeer in the winter, that snow
42 turns to ice, you know how the muskox feed, they push
43 that snow away with their heads. And I imagine it
44 would be pretty hard to push away ice covered snow, you
45 know, that might be why they're relocating too.

46

47 MR. SHULTZ: We do know that
48 nutritionally, and we touched on this at the last
49 meeting last spring is that, you know, the cows that we
50 captured and radio-collared up here on the northwest

1 coast are about 20 percent lighter than the cows that
2 we caught on the Seward Peninsula, so nutritionally
3 they're not doing as well.

4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Maybe the ones that
6 used to be around the Cape Thompson area must be dead
7 somewhere if you can't find them.

8
9 MR. SHULTZ: That's what I think.

10
11 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Has there ever been
12 any thought in regards to doing some analysis of how
13 some of those that have ranged around Cape Thompson
14 area?

15
16 MR. SHULTZ: We didn't capture any
17 animals up there so we haven't actually, you know, got
18 any kind of body condition information from them, age,
19 any of that sort of thing.

20
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Is there any thought
22 of doing analysis both as meat and what they might have
23 within their system?

24
25 MR. SHULTZ: Well, you brought that up
26 last spring.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Right.

29
30 MR. SHULTZ:but since then I just
31 talked to Charolette last week or earlier this week
32 about actually we're going to try to deploy some
33 collars up there if we can get it together. I mean we
34 were talking about maybe doing that, to get better
35 movement information up there, because that is a key
36 part of the whole population up there, that's where
37 they came from to start with.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Maybe what you ought
40 to do is even though -- I mean this is still a good
41 area to look at and do an analysis or studies. You
42 maybe ought to maybe catch a bull or a female to see
43 what the meat content might have within them. If it's
44 such that they've been contaminated or if there's any
45 contaminants within their system then that should show
46 that maybe that's why they're moving out of the Cape
47 Thompson area.

48
49 MR. SHULTZ: You know as far as our
50 research project, we're looking at a few things, mostly

1 disease, you know, but we haven't done anything for
2 heavy metals analysis or that sort of thing, but we can
3 certainly consider that. The best place to get a lot
4 of that would be from hunter samples, too, although you
5 wouldn't get any from up there more than likely.

6

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

7

8

9

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disease, you know, but we haven't done anything for heavy metals analysis or that sort of thing, but we can certainly consider that. The best place to get a lot of that would be from hunter samples, too, although you wouldn't get any from up there more than likely.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

MR. SHULTZ: But I'll bring it up with USGS folks.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah, I think it's time that ought to be done, you should be able to catch them and whatever you catch you could always disburse it to some of the folks that -- as long as it's good clean meat and people would be able to take it and you get what you want from it as far as sampling and analysis of blood work and what not.

MR. SHULTZ: Okay. I'm done, thank you.

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay. Next.

MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. My name's Marcy Johnson and I work with Bard for the National Park Service here in Kotzebue. I'll be really brief and just give you a quick update on our research project.

As he mentioned this is a comparative study. We have 32 collars presently. 19 of those are down in the Bering Landbridge National Preserve area, 13 of those are up at the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, up to the Kivalina River. Of those 32 collars, 17 of those are GPS collars, so we had the standard VHF collars, I'm out there every two weeks radiotracking and getting locations on those noting group counts, taking photos, doing calf counts and just checking on their collars and the condition of the animals. And then the GPS collars are recording six locations a day, or up to six a day every four hours, and from those we've gotten already over 9,600 locations this year, since we put out these collars in March. In March of 2008 started the pilot project where they put six collars out, but this last March started the effort on a larger scale and we expect to have all collars removed by no later than 2013, so this is a few year effort. As George mentioned previously, Lane Adams from the USGS down in Anchorage, and Joel

1 Burger from the Wildlife Conservation Society, they're
2 our principal investigators in the project, but we have
3 a lot of others involved with that also.

4
5 So I have a map printed out if anyone's
6 interested during the break to see where some of these
7 locations are showing up with our GPS collared animals.

8
9
10 But that's basically a rundown on our
11 collars that are out there right now that I'm
12 monitoring.

13
14 We've had four mortalities. I'm still
15 waiting to kind of hear the answers on those. I
16 haven't visited there personally, but two of those are
17 suspected possible bear predation. One was actually a
18 fresh carcass. The others were just a collar with a
19 couple bones next to it. So we're lucky to have one
20 carcass that I found in time to be investigated. I
21 hope to find these -- you know, every two weeks they
22 usually disappear in a week so it's nice to have those
23 timed right so we can get a little more information
24 from the mortalities.

25
26 So it's still really early in the
27 project to really say much but as Brad brought up, the
28 animals up north are generally 60 to 70 pounds lighter
29 on average and also the dentition we found was very
30 different, so that was that graphic that I showed you
31 that Joel Burger put together showing the comparison of
32 the dentition on the animals. So we have lots of
33 questions to be pursuing in the next few years.

34
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Now, the issue
36 regards to the six GPS collared, as far as movement is
37 concerned, what's the longest travel that some of these
38 critters had traveled on a daily basis?

39
40 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, on a daily basis.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yes.

43
44 MS. JOHNSON: Oh, I don't know that off
45 hand right now. I know I had one animal that was
46 possibly killed by a bear up in the Cape Krusenstern
47 area that had moved about a little over 12 miles in
48 just a couple days, just all of a sudden where she had
49 been for many months and then she was off on her own
50 and died there. But on a daily basis, I'm not real --

1 I'd have to look at the numbers there.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions
4 for.....
5
6 MR. BALLOT: Do you have a copy of
7 that?
8
9 MS. JOHNSON: I just have these copies
10 here and I have a map here I can show you also.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
13
14 MS. JOHNSON: I'd be happy to.
15
16 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions
17 regards to muskox, the studies that are being done,
18 both on the GPS and collared?
19
20 MS. JOHNSON: And if I may add one
21 thing, a friend in Shishmaref, I've spoken with him
22 about our flight, so as I mentioned I'm radiotracking
23 every two weeks or as time as -- and weather allows.
24 And I'm in contact with him, tell him our tail numbers
25 and when we're flying so he knows when we're in the
26 area so we're real sensitive to, you know, subsistence
27 users out in the region and try to avoid certain areas
28 when we can. But if there's other folks who are
29 interested in when I'm flying, you know, if you live in
30 our study area and you want to know when I'm flying I
31 can send an email before I go out. It's usually the
32 last minute that I know about it but I'd be happy to
33 stay in contact with you.
34
35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Any other questions.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Thank you, very
40 much, Brad.
41
42 New business. Do we have any other new
43 business.
44
45 (No comments)
46
47 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Under new business I
48 would like to -- first of all I would like to thank
49 Barb for providing our information. I know some of you
50 probably didn't get your information on your -- in the

1 mail, I did get mine. Sometimes back -- but what I
2 what I also want to address is information that is
3 being provided to us at this meeting.

4
5 If there is a way we can get this
6 information to Barbara so that she can send that
7 information out to us so we can have a chance to look
8 at that information it'd be a good thing for all of us.
9 There's no way if you ask for me to act on something
10 today that you present at this meeting, there's no way
11 I'm going to act on that very issue. I want to be able
12 to look at the information, ask some questions, have a
13 dialogue with some of the folks that will be impacted
14 by those very things. I want to be able to have that
15 chance to look into that stuff before I can make any
16 decision.

17
18 So if we can, I would like, through the
19 packets that gets mailed, all the information that you
20 will provide to us at this meeting. So for future
21 meetings if you can, please, get it to Barb, so we have
22 a chance to look at what that information might be.

23
24 (In Inupiaq)

25
26 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiaq)

27
28 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: (In Inupiaq)

29
30 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiaq)

31
32 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Next meeting, when
33 is -- what is the recommendation for the next meeting.

34
35 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The first one is for
36 the winter.....

37
38 REPORTER: Barb. Barb.

39
40 MS. B. ARMSTRONG:2010 meeting.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Huh?

43
44 REPORTER: Barb.

45
46 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry. The
47 first one is for the 2010 winter meeting. I forgot to
48 get the current calendar for.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: That would be in

1 March, uh?

2

3

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: That would be
4 beginning February 14th, and I know there's two
5 meetings, do you have a current calendar -- okay. We
6 have North Slope will be meeting in February 16 and 17
7 2010. It has to be outside of North Slope area because
8 I'm also the coordinator for North Slope. Then there's
9 a joint meeting with Eastern and Western Interior
10 February 23, 24 and 25. They need that because they
11 need to discuss the chinook. And that's all there is
12 for the winter 2010.

13

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: So basically we have
14 18/19 or 22 and 26.

15

16

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: You're only allowed
17 two Council meetings per week. And the week of the
18 14th is kind of cut out because I have to be at both of
19 the meetings.

20

21

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

22

23

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Unless you wanted
24 like the 19th, February 19th.

25

26

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: You'd be traveling
27 from North Slope to this meeting.

28

29

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: The North Slope,
30 they might end up having another one day meeting, they
31 just did this just in case.

32

33

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What would be the
34 wish of the members, would 19th February work? I
35 didn't bring my calendar with me, I'd have to take a
36 look at what -- would we want to put the 19th as a
37 tentative date?

38

39

MR. BALLOT: Yes.

40

41

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And maybe as a
42 secondary, to look at 22.

43

44

MS. B. ARMSTRONG: No. There's
45 already.....

46

47

CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: 22.

48

49

MS. B. ARMSTRONG:two Councils

50

1 per week.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Oh, I thought 23,
4 24, 25 was a joint.....

5

6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, there is a
7 joint with Eastern and Western Interior, and then
8 they're trying to cut us down to two meetings per week.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: No, what I'm saying
11 is -- oh, okay, I see.

12

13 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yeah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Who's rule is that?

16

17 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh?

18

19 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Who's rule is that?

20

21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: It came up because
22 we have our Staff moving around and then we have to --
23 some of them are just barely getting into Anchorage and
24 then they turn around and go back to another meeting.
25 We don't have a full Staff yet in the biology
26 department and we need the biologists so if you want to
27 go into the next week, the first week of March.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, let's shoot
30 for the 19th and see what happens.

31

32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay, for the winter
33 meeting.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

36

37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. And you think
38 you want to have it here again or that multipurpose
39 room is going to be done?

40

41 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: George.

42

43 MR. HELFRICH: I think the multipurpose
44 room will be done.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.

47

48 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

49

50 MR. HELFRICH: And, Mr. Chairman, you

1 all would be welcome to have it in the heritage center,
2 I think that's an excellent idea.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Good. Okay.

5

6 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Multipurpose room,
7 February 19th, okay. Now, for the fall 2010. North
8 Slope will be meeting -- they asked for the week
9 before, and that would be February 24 and 25, yeah,
10 February.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: What are you looking
13 at now?

14

15 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I'm looking at the
16 fall 2010.

17

18 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: February or
19 September?

20

21 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Oh, I'm sorry,
22 August -- I'm looking at the.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: August 30th through
25 15th is the.....

26

27 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiaq)

28

29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Can we look at
30 September 1?

31

32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Yes, you may.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: We'll tentatively
35 set September 1 as a RAC, Wednesday.

36

37 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Northwest.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah, Northwest.

40

41 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

44

45 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Same place
46 multipurpose room.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.

49

50 MS. B. ARMSTRONG:if works out.

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah. So if
2 George wanted to kick us out he could kick us out and
3 say go do it somewhere else.
4
5 MR. PARKER: Just a comment, Mr.
6 Chairman.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah.
9
10 MR. PARKER: It's the start of the
11 moose season for a lot of folks and it's not a good
12 time to get everyone out here you might want.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, that's when
15 meeting has to occur, meeting has to occur.
16
17 MR. PARKER: Okay, well, just making
18 that point.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah, thanks.
21
22 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: (In Inupiaq)
23
24 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Hey, Carl, you okay
25 -- oh, okay.
26
27 (In Inupiaq)
28
29 So tentatively those dates we'll look
30 at then.
31
32 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Okay.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: And we did establish
35 a date and place for both meetings. What's the wish --
36 or before we adjourn, I want to thank all of you for
37 coming to participate.
38
39 I want to make sure that we get all the
40 pertinent information, any booklets we may have that
41 needs to be looked at, any information that we need to
42 deal with in regards to some of the studies, please,
43 please get those in so we can have that information.
44
45 With that, what's the wish of the
46 members.
47
48 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I just -- I
49 wish Virgil well, I think he's going to be leaving us,
50 uh?

1 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: Uh-huh.
2
3 MR. BALLOT: This is his last meeting.
4
5 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Well, we'll make a
6 recommendation to get him back.
7
8 MR. BALLOT: You heard it Virgil.
9
10 MS. B. ARMSTRONG: I keep giving him
11 applications.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah, Virgil,
14 yep, you're not going to leave us.
15
16 MR. ADAMS: I'll see what the boss
17 says.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Okay.
22
23 In the event that you don't get
24 interested or your boss says go ahead, we want to thank
25 you for your participation.
26
27 MR. ADAMS; Thank you.
28
29 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: It's critically
30 important, you, as a subsistence user, you know the
31 country, you know what the resources are out there, you
32 know what occurs, you know what the timing and when
33 things are starting to occur. That is a very critical
34 part of information that you need when you go through
35 the process of dealing with some of these issues,
36 especially at the Federal and State level, and your
37 input, certainly, is very important, and we appreciate
38 your time and effort, even though you don't get the
39 biggest compensation that Obama should give you. Maybe
40 George is holding it back so.....
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON:with that I
45 want to thank you for real good service, good public
46 service.
47
48 So what's the wish of the committee.
49
50 (No comments)

1 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: Do you want to sit
2 here and look at each other.

3
4 MR. BALLOT: Okay, I move to adjourn.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SAMPSON: There's a motion to
7 adjourn and this meeting's adjourned.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

