

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8
9 Northwest Arctic Borough Chambers
10 Kotzebue, Alaska
11 August 22, 2013
12 9:07 a.m.

13
14
15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16
17 Enoch Shiedt, Chairman
18 Percy Ballot
19 Verne Cleveland
20 Michael Kramer
21 Hannah Loon
22 Calvin Moto
23 Raymond Stoney
24
25
26
27 Regional Council Coordinator, Melinda Burke

28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41

42 Recorded and transcribed by:
43
44 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
45 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
46 Anchorage, AK 99501
47 907-227-5312; sahile@gci.net

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 8/22/2013)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Good morning, all. We start this meeting at 9:07 a.m. this morning. Everyone is here except Mike.

Welcome all.

And we will start with Carl on the rural determination process this morning. Carl, you're up.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And good morning, Council.

This is going to look familiar, but we're going to provide the presentation on the rural determination process for the Council, and then for anybody here in the audience who missed last night's presentation.

Now, as I've mentioned before, this is an on-going process. It started last year. And the Federal Subsistence Board is putting this out to the Councils, putting it out the public, for tribes and ANCSA corporations for their comments on any suggestions that you may have for how to improve the rural determination process, which covers a bit of why we're here.

This began with the secretarial review and continues on to today. The Board is looking to improve a variety of things about how the program operates. And in this case we're looking at how to improve the way that the rural and non-rural determinations are made. And as part of this I'll give you some background on the rural determination process, how it currently works, and the criteria that are used to determine whether or not an area is rural or non-rural. Now, all of the information and steps that I'm providing here you can find online on the OSM website, and there will be some different opportunities even after this presentation if you have any questions, and I'll provide you how to contact, you know, OSM and how you can get more information.

1 Now, as I mentioned, in December 2010
2 the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture
3 directed the Federal Subsistence Board to conduct a
4 review of the process that is used in making rural and
5 non-rural determinations to see if these methods were
6 still relevant and current after 20 years of operating
7 the program. The Federal Subsistence Board is seeking
8 recommendations from all 10 of the Regional Advisory
9 Councils, public input, and input from tribes and ANCSA
10 corporations through the consultation process.

11
12 The Federal Subsistence Board may
13 develop recommendations for how to change this process
14 and then would submit those recommendations to the
15 Secretaries. If the Secretaries do decide to accept
16 some recommendations and make changes, there would be a
17 proposed rule that would be introduced to the public
18 for later comment.

19
20 And a little bit about the framework of
21 what we're talking about here. It all starts with
22 Title VIII of ANILCA, the Alaska National Interest
23 Lands Conservation Act. Title VIII of that law
24 provides the subsistence priority for rural Alaska
25 residents to harvest fish and wildlife on Federal
26 public lands. And those are the keys. Rural
27 residents, subsistence priority, Federal public lands.
28 Only those residents of rural communities are eligible
29 for that subsistence priority, and that's shown in the
30 green areas on the map, so you can see really the
31 extents of the territory we're talking about.

32
33 But in addition to that law passed by
34 Congress, the Federal Subsistence Board and the
35 Secretaries are also bound by a case from the Ninth
36 Circuit Court of Appeals, which discussed further how
37 the word rural is defined. The Ninth Circuit Court of
38 Appeals determined that the word rural refers to a
39 sparsely populated area and is not primarily about the
40 subsistence lifestyle or the use of fish and wildlife
41 by people in that area. The court noted that when it
42 passed ANILCA, Congress did not limit the benefits of
43 that rural priority to residents of areas that are
44 dominated by a subsistence economy. Instead, Congress
45 wrote broadly, giving the statutory priority to all
46 subsistence users residing in rural areas.

47
48 So we're going to go one-by-one over
49 the five criteria: aggregation of communities,
50 population threshold, rural characteristics, the

1 timeline the Board does this process, and then the
2 information sources the Board relies on when counting
3 populations, because there are some specific questions
4 the Board is asking of you and the public as part of
5 this review.

6

7 Now, for the first factor, aggregation
8 of communities. The Board recognizes that communities
9 and areas of Alaska are connected in diverse ways.
10 Regulations require that communities that are
11 economically, socially, and communally integrated to be
12 considered in the aggregate, or grouped together in
13 determining rural and non-rural status.

14

15 These aggregation criteria used by the
16 Board are these three points that I've got on this
17 slide presentation here. First, do 30 percent or more
18 working people commute from one community to another?
19 Second, do these communities share a common high
20 school? And, third, are the communities in proximity
21 and road accessible to one another?

22

23 Now, on the aggregation, or the
24 grouping together of these communities, the Board asks
25 you, are these aggregation criteria useful for
26 determining rural and non-rural status? If they're not
27 useful, then please provide ideas on how to better
28 indicate how communities are integrated for the purpose
29 of determining whether or not they're rural or non-
30 rural.

31

32 And how and when we aggregate is
33 relevant to this next factor, which is population
34 threshold, because one of the starting points in the
35 rural analysis after you aggregate the communities
36 together is we have to count what's that population in
37 that area. And these are the three different
38 population thresholds that the Board currently uses. A
39 community of area -- with an area -- with a population
40 below 2500 will be presumed rural. That means we're
41 just going to assume it's rural unless shown otherwise,
42 and I'll get into the factors that the Board looks at
43 in determining whether or not it's rural when we get
44 into rural characteristics.

45

46 Second, if the population of those
47 aggregated communities is between 2500 and 7,000,
48 there's no presumption. It's not presumed rural; it's
49 not presumed non-rural. And then we really rely on
50 those rural characteristic factors to take a look at

1 whether or not the communities are rural.

2

3 And then, finally, any community/area
4 that has a population of 7,000 or higher will be
5 presumed non-rural, but again we can look at those
6 rural characteristics and determine whether or not it
7 is actually rural. But the assumption will be, the
8 starting point of the assumption will be that it's not
9 rural if that community area exceeds 7,000.

10

11 And again the Board asks you, are these
12 population threshold guidelines useful for determining
13 whether a specific area of Alaska is rural. And if
14 they're not, please provide population sizes to
15 distinguish between rural and non-rural areas and the
16 reasons for the population size you believe more
17 accurately reflects rural and non-rural areas of
18 Alaska. Are there different numbers? Should there be
19 presumptions? Should there not be presumptions? Those
20 will be some of the suggestions that the Board will be
21 looking for.

22

23 Now, I hinted to this next category of
24 criteria that the Board considers, and that is rural
25 characteristics. If we have to get into the issue of
26 questioning whether or not a community's rural, the
27 Board looks beyond just the population threshold and
28 now considers the rural characteristics of the area.
29 Population alone is not an indicator of rural or non-
30 rural status. Other characteristics the Board
31 considers include, but are not limited to the use of
32 fish and wildlife, the economic development and
33 diversity within that community area, the
34 infrastructure, the transportation and then the types
35 of educational institutions that are available within
36 that community area.

37

38 And again the Board asks, are these
39 characteristics useful for determining whether or not a
40 specific area is rural or non-rural? And then if not,
41 please provide other characteristics that you believe
42 better define the difference between rural and non-
43 rural.

44

45 Now, there is -- under the current
46 process there's a timeline. The Board performs its
47 review based on a 10-year census cycle and uses that
48 census information to take a snapshot of the size of
49 these communities. Current regulations state that the
50 population data from the most recent census conducted

1 by the U.S. Census Bureau as updated by the Alaska
2 Department of Labor shall be used in the rural
3 determination process.

4 So that points to the other category of
5 information that the Board is asking you about, and
6 that is information sources. These are the information
7 sources the Board relies on when coming up with those
8 population numbers. Information collected and the
9 reports generated from the census vary between each
10 census cycle, and because of that, data used during the
11 Board's rural determination may vary. Some of the
12 information the Board used in the past no longer is
13 collected by the U.S. Census Bureau.

14
15 And what this talks about, you know,
16 how information will vary from one census to the next,
17 was touched on a little bit in last night's public
18 comments, and that is the idea that, you know,
19 sometimes people were out hunting, they were out
20 visiting other communities. They may be out doing
21 other things as part of a subsistence lifestyle, so
22 you're not going to get a consistent counting in that
23 area perhaps as a result of the way of life in the
24 region.

25
26 So the Board asks you, should the Board
27 still conduct reviews on a 10-year cycle? If so, why?
28 And if not, why not?

29
30 The information sources that are --
31 that the Board is required to follow in the regulations
32 will continue to be the foundation for making these
33 rural determinations, but do you think there are other
34 sources of information the Board should rely on when
35 coming up with these population numbers?

36
37 And then there's the last over-all
38 question that the Board asks you. Taking into account
39 these five different factors -- or different criteria
40 that the Board relies on, is there anything else, any
41 other comments that you have outside of the questions
42 related to those criteria that you have about the rural
43 determination process that could make it more
44 effective?

45
46 Now, you as a Council, you have a lot
47 of resources available to you, starting with your
48 Council coordinator, Melinda. She can aid you in any
49 questions you may have and in facilitating further
50 inquiry about the rural determination process. She can

1 also aid you in making contacts with your communities
2 to get information out to your communities. But these
3 are some resources that are available to everyone. And
4 that is the website for the rural determination
5 materials, which includes this PowerPoint presentation,
6 the Federal Register notice and then a news release
7 that lays out the different questions the Board is
8 asking of the public and of the Councils about the
9 rural determination process.

10

11 You can always inquire via email at
12 subsistence@fws.gov. Feel free to share that with
13 people in your community. And, of course, you know
14 Melinda's email. And then please also feel free to
15 share our toll-free number, 1-800-478-1456 with your
16 communities if people have questions that they may want
17 to ask about the rural determination process. And I'll
18 volunteer myself as a point of contact that people can
19 ask for when they call the toll-free number. They can
20 ask for any Council coordinator who would also be able
21 to help them. And our regulation specialist, Theo
22 Matuskowitz, would also be a person who could be
23 contacted to ask questions about providing comments and
24 input.

25

26 So public testimony is a key part of
27 this process. We are holding evening public meetings
28 in connection with the Council meetings, but also we
29 are soliciting public comments through your own
30 Regional Advisory Council meetings, and then you as
31 Council members can take that public testimony as part
32 of your deliberative process. People can submit their
33 public comments, their written public comments via
34 email at subsistence@fws.gov. They can deliver them to
35 the Council coordinators at any of the meetings, which
36 is also why I volunteered the Council coordinators as a
37 point of contact for that toll-free number, because
38 they are people who you can deliver written comments
39 to. And then, of course, you can hand-deliver or mail
40 to the Region 7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife building, which
41 is at 1011 East Tudor Road in Anchorage, if you happen
42 to be in Anchorage and have time in your schedule to
43 come on by.

44

45 And that is the end of the
46 presentation, and I'll be happy to answer any questions
47 about the materials and what the Board is looking for.
48 Thank you, Council.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,

1 Raymond.

2

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

4

5 I probably have a question and maybe
6 not a question, but one thing that concern not only me,
7 but the entire Northwest Alaska, of course, you know
8 we're very knowledgeable about the non-rural and rural area
9 people. My point is that today and every day that I
10 imagine all of us right here in this room and the
11 Council, our family members are registered in an urban
12 area like Fairbanks or Anchorage. They live there,
13 they are residents. Now, if they wanted to hunt up
14 here to Northwest Alaska, are they considered as urban
15 area people or rural? My point is that can they go out
16 hunting for subsistence purposes on some of these
17 lands, because some of the land is restricted, like the
18 national park, stuff like that, monument, stuff like
19 that. Are they required to hunt in the Game Unit 23
20 even though they are from an urban area?

21

22 I'll give an example. Some of our
23 great leaders, like Willie Hensley, Al Adams, they are
24 registered in Anchorage. They are not required to hunt
25 in this area, because they're not registered here.

26

27 My question is, are they rural area
28 people or rural people when they live in Anchorage or
29 Fairbanks.

30

31 MR. JOHNSON: Well, there's actually a
32 regulation that has several different factors to
33 consider, whether or not somebody is a rural. Where
34 their primary residence is what the key issue here is.
35 And the primary residence determines their rural
36 status. So I would guess just hypothetically, if they
37 were living in Anchorage 11 months out of the year,
38 they'd probably -- that would -- Anchorage would be
39 considered their primary residence, and that would be
40 -- they would be non-rural for purposes of the Federal
41 subsistence priority.

42

43 MR. CLEVELAND: Even if they're Native,
44 right?

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Right, because Title VIII
47 of ANILCA doesn't distinguish between -- it says it's
48 -- the rural subsistence priority applies to both
49 Native and non-Native. So the emphasis in the statute
50 is on whether or not somebody's a rural resident.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: I've got a question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,
4 Verne.

5

6 MR. CLEVELAND: It says about if the
7 villages are connected with roads, and they're still
8 under 2500, is that rural or non-rural? And they're
9 not connected to no other highway, just connected
10 between villages.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: So the starting point is
13 the population that you mention, under 2500. And the
14 presumption would be that it is a rural area. Now,
15 somebody might try to argue, well, you know, even
16 though they're under 2500, they're really not rural
17 because of those five rural characteristics that are
18 mentioned, but the Board would look at it and, you
19 know, look at all of the factors together and determine
20 whether or not it's non-rural.

21

22 You know, an example I can think of for
23 an area that has roads between it, but is still
24 considered rural, is King Salmon and Naknek in the
25 Bristol Bay region. There's a road, even a paved road
26 connecting those two communities, but they're still
27 considered -- it's still considered a rural area.

28

29 So the starting point would be the
30 presumption that it is rural if it's under 2500. and
31 then the other factors would have to really weigh
32 against it be considered rural before it would be
33 deemed non-rural.

34

35 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. I've got another
36 one. And another thing is they're sharing schools,
37 high school, like with Shungnak and Kobuk. Kobuk goes
38 to school to Shungnak for high school. But now they've
39 built a high school, and it's up to 10th grade, too.
40 And they're going to -- and they're planning to build a
41 road between Shungnak and Kobuk. With that area mining
42 district coming up and connecting to Ambler, and a road
43 connecting to Bettles or wherever, I think Bettles,
44 would that be a non-rural or how would that work? And
45 they're connected to a highway. What would -- I mean,
46 we're looking at the future. I mean, what would happen
47 then?

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: Well, that gets really to
50 the heart of the point of this rural determination

1 process review, is, you know, knowing what you as rural
2 residents consider to be rural, and knowing how
3 important it is to be considered rural for that
4 subsistence priority. You know, you want to look at
5 what factors do you think you should recommend to the
6 Board so that minor changes in your communities like
7 that don't take away your rural status. I mean, that's
8 how I would look at it from your perspective. What are
9 the factors that really define rural, and what would
10 you want to recommend to the Board when considering
11 some of these possible changes in the future, and
12 thinking about how that might affect the rural status
13 for those communities.

14

15 MR. CLEVELAND: One more. I met with
16 the Federal Subsistence Board, and I know all these
17 dates here, the subsist, but I was wondering, I look at
18 the Federal Subsistence Board and I say, man, I think
19 they just do their subsisting at Walmart or K-Mart or
20 wherever, Sam's Club. They don't subsist, and how did
21 they get into the Board? I mean, if they don't subsist
22 or anything? That would be my question, how did they
23 get into Federal Subsistence Board and they don't
24 subsist?

25

26 MR. JOHNSON: Well, actually the same
27 Secretarial review that created this review of the
28 rural determination process added two new members to
29 the Board who are rural subsistence users. One of them
30 is Charlie Brower from the North Slope and the other
31 one is Tony Christianson from Southeast. In addition
32 to that, the Chair, Tim Towarak, is also a rural
33 subsistence user. The other five members of the Board
34 are all each the regional heads of the five agencies
35 that manage the Federal subsistence program. So
36 actually there is a rural subsistence voice on the
37 Board.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thanks, Verne.

40

41 Go ahead, Raymond.

42

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

44

45 I would like to see it very clear from
46 the Subsistence Board and the Secretary of the
47 Interior, are they aware of this road that's going to
48 be connected to Northwest Alaska from the Haul Road
49 from Fairbanks to the North Slope? We know that road's
50 going to be built to Northwest Alaska. Again my

1 question is, does the Secretary of Interior and the
2 Federal Subsistence Board aware of this situation
3 that's going to happen in the next five to six years?

4
5 MR. JOHNSON: Actually again as part of
6 the Secretarial review, the Secretaries made it very
7 clear that if there were issues of concern to the
8 Councils, that those issues should be elevated to the
9 Secretaries. And I know that other Regional Advisory
10 Councils as part of their annual report process are
11 reporting on issues like that to the Board. For
12 example, the road to Umiat for the North Slope region,
13 that's an issue they've raised to the Board. And as a
14 part of that Secretarial review, you know, we have a
15 commitment to make sure that that information is also
16 conveyed to the Secretaries as an issue of concern.

17
18 And I believe this Council in the past,
19 I can't remember if you have talked about the road to
20 Ambler in your annual report process, but if you
21 haven't, then your annual report is an excellent way to
22 raise that issue and elevate it to the attention of the
23 Board and the Secretaries.

24
25 MR. STONEY: So the regulations for
26 non-resident people will be notified to all
27 transporters and guides throughout Northwest Alaska?
28 They'll be aware that some restrictions on the Haul
29 Road; is that correct?

30
31 MR. JOHNSON: Well, it would definitely
32 be the obligation of any commercial guide operating
33 anywhere in the state to be aware of what the State and
34 Federal regulations are about hunting restrictions.
35 And I certainly couldn't speak to whether or not
36 they're actually following them, but that's what we
37 have law enforcement and inter-agency cooperation for.

38
39 MR. STONEY: Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.

42
43 Go ahead, Hannah.

44
45 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
46 Carl, whose hands typed these and from where?

47
48 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair.
49 That's actually several hands at the Office of
50 Subsistence Management were involved in typing that.

1 No one particular person.

2

3 MS. LOON: And another thing, were we
4 involved in doing these? I mean, in the beginning when
5 it was first introduced?

6

7 MR. JOHNSON: Well, the -- this rural
8 determination process review came out of the
9 Secretarial review, and was also elevated last year at
10 a May Board meeting when the issue came up again. The
11 content of this PowerPoint presentation essentially
12 comes from a news release and a Federal Register notice
13 that was published that asks nine specific questions.
14 And they basically relate to just what the existing
15 regulations are, the five criteria. So really the
16 starting point was the regulations themselves.

17

18 MS. LOON: I would like to add also
19 that I work in Red Dog as shareholder relations, and I
20 have seen new employees working there over time, and
21 when they have enough money to pay their first month's
22 rent and deposit, they will move their family to
23 Anchorage. And people in our region are very migrating
24 people. They move out to get less stress from the
25 community, like the high cost of living. And that's
26 people move out and move around to other communities or
27 to Kotzebue for employment reasons. People move
28 around, and I really -- like I said yesterday, I have
29 looked -- like to have local communities and our
30 villages to voice out their opinions on, number 1,
31 aggregation and timeline.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
38 Hannah.

39

40 Go ahead, Verne.

41

42 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. Raymond asked
43 earlier about rural and non-resident, and if you're not
44 a resident and you live in Anchorage, but you're a NANA
45 shareholder, how would that work? If you're -- you
46 don't live here in our area, but you're a NANA
47 shareholder, how would that be then? I mean, how would
48 that work? Because I work with NANA Trespass and are
49 they going to bust my daughter because she lives in
50 Palmer, and she don't live in our area, you know, and

1 she comes up here to hunt. Man, that's going to be
2 hard. What do we do? What are we going to say to
3 them?

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: Well, Verne, that's an
6 excellent question, because I think it really helps us
7 to focus about what we're talking about here.

8

9 The rural subsistence priority under
10 Title VIII of ANILCA exists when there's a shortage and
11 we're determining who gets access to the resource.
12 Generally speaking, anybody can hunt just about
13 anywhere in Alaska under State regulations, no matter
14 where they live. But what we're talking about here is
15 when we get into a conservation concern, for example,
16 and the
17 Board is going to make a decision to restrict hunting
18 in an area that's on Federal public lands. Then they
19 will enact that rural subsistence priority and close
20 hunting to everybody except Federally-qualified
21 subsistence users.

22

23 So in the case of hunting on NANA land,
24 which is private land, and is governed by the State
25 regulations, that rural subsistence priority would not
26 affect anybody hunting under State regulations on NANA
27 land. So it wouldn't matter whether or not they live
28 in Anchorage or Kotzebue.

29

30 MR. CLEVELAND: That was my next
31 question about Kotzebue. Because Kotzebue's -- that's
32 what, over 2500 people? Would that be non-rural or
33 rural?

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Well, if Kotzebue is over
36 2500, but less than 7,000, it fits into that neutral
37 zone of it's -- there's no presumption either way,
38 whether it's rural or non-rural. And then we'd look at
39 those five rural characteristics to determine whether
40 or not it's rural. Use of fish and wildlife,
41 infrastructure, economic opportunity, transportation
42 and educational institutions.

43

44 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. I go up the
45 river quite a bit, and I know whose boat is who. I
46 say, oh those are Kotzebue people, and they're from
47 Noorvik, you know, as you ride along. But you see
48 someone that's out of the ordinary, you have to stop
49 and say, hey, these are non-rural people, you know, and
50 we have to stop them from hunting on our NANA land.

1 And that's my job. But, boy, it's going to be
2 difficult.

3
4 I mean, if you're hunting on State
5 land, and you're right on the boundary of Federal
6 land, and say, hey just move your caribou over a couple
7 feet and you'll be fine, you know. But it don't work
8 that way. And the system is made to bust or react or,
9 you know, it's the way the law or the system is being
10 written. And we've got to abide by the rules. I mean,
11 everybody got to have hunting license or boat
12 registrations and all that.

13
14 And the Coast Guard is here, are
15 stationed here, and, by golly, they're going to be
16 busting a lot of people without no boat registrations,
17 no nothing, no four-wheeler registration, stuff like
18 that. Fuel system's going to be shut down because of
19 not applicable for everything, you know, and we're
20 going to be in a lot of hurt if we don't start cleaning
21 up our act now, then later on it won't be hurting us
22 down the road. But we've got to make this aware to our
23 people, like that one guy commented yesterday, that
24 we're Natives. We don't need no license. We don't
25 need anything. That's substance of some people when
26 you run into them out there. They say, hey, I don't
27 need no license. I lived here all my life. I think we
28 need to educate our people more on what we're trying to
29 do to help them out.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne, and
34 to make you feel better, that's where I came up with
35 the numbers yesterday, and it was recommended in other
36 places that the rural, 2500 to 7,000 is on the neutral
37 zone means we're still considered rural, that we could
38 harvest our caribou, our resources that are out there.
39 That's why we need to change the numbers, from the
40 population level are really important. But the idea --
41 Bethel is right in that area, and I got a call from
42 Bethel to say you need to mention us. That's why I
43 mentioned it yesterday. I was asked to mention that
44 they are real close of being non-rural, and they're so
45 close together. And you guys are mentioning if there's
46 a road connection, yet they're not connected to the
47 main road system.

48
49 The more you understand it, the more
50 it's getting scary that -- I'll use Red Dog, Kivalina

1 and Noatak together. I'm basically raised at Noatak,
2 and I understand what going, and I will tell you that
3 eventually to make things easier, I'm pretty sure
4 there's going to be a road from the Haul Road, from the
5 port to Noatak to ease the cost of fuel. The same
6 thing with Kivalina. Yet the people at Red Dog are not
7 supposed to hunt and yet they try to do it, and they
8 say, (in Inupiaq), and they shouldn't be doing it. And
9 that's a consideration that's got to be considered.

10

11 And I know others want to talk, but I
12 have a question. When you take input from rest of the
13 10 other Councils, on your draft, what you get from the
14 other Councils, including ours, what's the timeline for
15 us to comment and to see what they say with ours,
16 because eventually it's going to be down to one. But
17 Alaska's so large, I think it shouldn't be down to one.
18 I think it should be, you know, in each -- it's own
19 district, like I always say, and it should be
20 considered that, and if it is, we should be on our
21 district and how long is the timeline going to be? You
22 got an idea?

23

24 Before I continue on, I've got more
25 other questions I would like to ask, but after you get
26 your draft together. I know we've got until about
27 November 1 deadline on this here before you put your
28 draft together. And after that, how long do we have?

29

30 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
31 currently the November 1 is the public comment
32 deadline. And then after that, all of the comments
33 will be gathered and presented to the Federal
34 Subsistence Board in its April meeting next year. And
35 then at that point in time, the Board will just be
36 hearing those recommendations. After that will be the
37 additional process where the Board would then be
38 drafting any recommended changes that it would have,
39 and then present them to the Secretaries. So this is
40 just kind of the beginning stage.

41

42 But what you just said to me, the
43 things of another way of kind of kind of looking at
44 suggestions to the Board, it sounds to me that one
45 suggestion would be that you look at aggregation or
46 some of these other factors differently based on the
47 region. And that could be one suggestion you could
48 make that, you know, some regions by their very nature
49 are much more inherently rural than others. And that's
50 what I hear a lot coming from you and also from the

1 public comment last night, and that is there is
2 something particular about the Northwest Arctic region
3 that makes the whole region pretty much rural, and it
4 defines rural. And that to me suggests that there may
5 be a regional way of looking at how rural is defined.
6 That's just, you know, something I just thought of.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, because when
9 you look at it this way, under the unemployment level,
10 if we are connected to the roads, in order for us to
11 have experts to work, if there are 60 jobs open, I
12 would guarantee you for them to keep that system open,
13 they will have experts, certified people, and most of
14 those in a village are not certified. They will fill
15 it with 30 people, and there will be opening for only
16 30, and yet they could fill it from different villages
17 and hardly hire from that town because they're not
18 certified. And all of a sudden they're non-rural. And
19 people that are making hardship and not making it, how
20 are they going to survive if they can't harvest the
21 animals and resources that are there for them.

22
23 These things have got to be considered
24 heavily, because when somebody's registered to an IRA
25 and that's the way I feel, even if they live in
26 Anchorage, if they're registered to a different town,
27 if the resources are plentiful, they should be able to
28 harvest without being considered non-rural, because the
29 culture is so important that they have to preserve it
30 for the future. They should not be stopped. I don't
31 like people to stop my people from doing what they've
32 been doing for years, because it's our culture.

33
34 I lived in Anchorage for years, yet
35 when the salmon is coming here, not the salmon coming
36 in Anchorage, I started craving for fresh salmon,
37 because I was raised here. And I start -- when they
38 started to come in, I started to crave, I want to eat
39 fresh salmon. And when the berries are come, even the
40 berries are over-ripe in Anchorage, I started craving
41 for berries here in Kotzebue, because I was raised
42 here. See, the system is -- it's still in our system.
43 It's hard for us to change our culture, because it is
44 in us already. The same thing with the caribou. When
45 they start coming, even my wife mentioned, it will be
46 nice to eat nice fresh caribou. She just said that the
47 other day. You know, things like this, it's in our
48 system that we will crave before they come just because
49 we were raised without refrigerators, raised without
50 freezer. Whatever resources come, that's what we eat.

1 And we can't change for it. That's why it's important
2 for us.

3

4 One of the important things, we need to
5 change these numbers heavily, and probably look at the
6 unemployment level. And the more they mention it,
7 because eventually we all are going to be connected by
8 the road. And maybe if we are registered to the IRA,
9 we shouldn't worry about the non-rural status, because
10 under our village level we are rural, and we live off
11 the land. And that's kind of hard for me to swallow
12 later if I understand it. And I see you have to
13 process what's going on on the determine act here. I
14 hope when this in -- because I still would like to see
15 these numbers change heavily, and this process, you
16 know, go on, because I don't want to see any village
17 turned to non-rural, including Kotzebue. We're right
18 in that neutral level.

19

20 But I tell you, Verne, you could arrest
21 me first, because I'm going to go get my caribou. I'll
22 take you on. I'll take NANA on. Because I want to
23 live on caribou. We're on that level.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. JOHNSON: And, Mr. Chair, I'll just
28 respond. So to kind of frame again to help the Council
29 conduct its business on this issue, you know, there's
30 the population threshold suggestion which you made --
31 that was made last night that the Council could make,
32 but also then under the five current rural
33 characteristics that the Board looks at, you could
34 suggest adding other characteristics to that. You've
35 mentioned already availability for local employment as
36 a rural characteristic. I've also heard you and Council
37 Member Hannah suggest that the spiritual and cultural
38 importance of fish and wildlife also as another
39 additional possible suggestion for a rural
40 characteristic to consider.

41

42 So that's kind of helping to -- to help
43 you and the Council frame how you can make specific
44 recommendations to the Board.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

47

48 Go ahead, Raymond.

49

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

1 You know, that's several times now I've
2 brought this up. I'll bring it up again. Like I said
3 earlier, a lot of our family members live in an urban
4 area like Anchorage or Fairbanks or elsewhere. They
5 live there just for to make a living and work.
6 However, my purpose for this situation, for several
7 years now I brought that up, that these people that
8 live in an urban area, they should have the same
9 priority as we have up here in Northwest Alaska, not
10 only to Northwest Alaska, for the entire 10 reasons.
11 That's a lot of people that live in urban areas. So,
12 Mr. Chairman, I think we should make a recommendations
13 from this group saying that our people that live in an
14 urban area should have the same priority as we have in
15 Northwest Alaska. We should make that strong
16 recommendations in that letter which you're drafting.

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.

19
20 Calvin had his hand up first, Mike.
21 Okay. You'll be next.

22
23 MR. MOTO: Yeah. Calvin Moto, Deering.

24
25 What I was yesterday -- last night when
26 we heard that one gentleman about getting rid of the
27 Federal stuff, you know, I remember when the Federals
28 finally decided that they wanted input from when ANILCA
29 started. The Federal created IRAs, but the IRAs at
30 that time didn't have much voice on hunting and stuff
31 like that.

32
33 So when you talk about subsistence,
34 you've got to remember the true definition I think of
35 subsistence is survival. If we didn't have
36 subsistence, then we wouldn't have survived; I wouldn't
37 have been here. He wouldn't have been here now.
38 Because our ancestors, even your ancestors at one time
39 had to subsist to survive.

40
41 So when they start talking about
42 regulations for parks and Gates and stuff like that,
43 they were confused, because how come they have
44 regulations like that now? I remember we used to be
45 able to just go out there on the Seward Peninsula
46 anywhere and hunt with dog team. Now we can't hunt
47 like that. We have to park our dog team or our
48 snowmachine and walk to get -- we can't go on the Park
49 Service with our mechanical things. And these are
50 regulations that some of our people, especially the

1 elder people, have a hard time swallowing. So what we
2 have to think about, now only what's going on, but we
3 have to think about how it used to be.

4

5 And these are -- when I was a teenager,
6 I hunted a lot. I could tell you every place where we
7 could find geese and whatever you need to find. I had
8 to stay home for years to hunt, because my dad had -- I
9 had about eight brothers, and now I have 12, you know,
10 but I had to stay. I was the oldest, so I had to stay
11 home and hunt for us, for the people, because my dad
12 had to work.

13

14 But this is something about hunting, to
15 us it was subsistence, you know, subsistence hunting.
16 And we have a hard time understanding sometimes when
17 the regulations come out, how you -- if you go on a
18 lake or a river on the park or something, you had to
19 shut your motor off, and things like that. It's
20 something that -- we used to do that all the time.

21

22 But in the 30s and 40s we never had
23 mechanical engines. We sailed or poled. So in order
24 for us -- when we did subsistence at that time, if we
25 went to some place to hunt, we take the whole family.
26 Everything goes in the boat, dogs and all, and we'd
27 stay out for a week or something. This is how we used
28 to hunt, and this is how we used to gather food. We
29 take the whole family at that time. We used to have to
30 pole or use sails.

31

32 I remember a time when we were down
33 talking about subsistence in Anchorage. Some lady says
34 if you have such a hard time up there, why don't you
35 move to our community. I told them, yeah, if you are
36 running for office, you'd really want us, but after you
37 make office, I go ask for something and you say, who
38 are you? That's what I told her. And I said, you'll
39 think about us when you're running for office, but once
40 you get in, you forget about us.

41

42 But subsistence, we talked about it at
43 that time. We spent three months in 1982 or '83 trying
44 to get our subsistence laws input into the State. When
45 we finally got it in, then a year or two later it got
46 struck out. Rural preference.

47

48 So what this guy was talking about
49 yesterday is when the Federal had control of all
50 species like polar bears and stuff like that, we saw a

1 whole influx of big game hunters. There used to be
2 polar bears in our area one time. Now you're lucky if
3 you see one or two. So this is what he were -- I think
4 this is what he were trying -- why he was saying, get
5 rid of Federal. He don't want Federal. But these are
6 things you have to think about, you know.

7

8 I just thought I'd bring that up.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

11

12 Go ahead, Mike.

13

14 MR. KRAMER: You know, speaking to the
15 Ambler Road project, you know, everybody's looking into
16 the future, you know, and having their heads up high
17 for jobs in the Ambler road project. You know, I think
18 they really need to look at the impact that the Red Dog
19 road has on our caribou herd, you know. They just did
20 photographs this summer on their caribou herd, and
21 they've estimated that it's dropped a little bit more.

22

23 You know, that Ambler road project
24 comes in, we might as well kiss our caribou good-bye.
25 They're going to be a thing of the past. You know,
26 that will be the second horizontal road in the State of
27 Alaska. Red Dog is the first. That's going to have
28 such a dramatic impact on our communities and the
29 communities south of us. You know, it's going to have
30 a big impact on us, but everybody's smiling, money,
31 money, money. You need to think of the future, you
32 know. It's all about subsistence, but when people
33 start thinking about money over subsistence, you know,
34 and jobs, they need to look at -- you know, they need
35 to look at other routes of being able to get that
36 mineral out of Ambler. You know, whether they build a
37 road from Ambler to our coast -- you know, they're
38 supposed to be starting a deep water port somewhere
39 here near Kotzebue, out by Cape Blossom somewhere.

40

41 You know, we need to look at the
42 possibilities of trying to keep our game management
43 unit, our communities rural. If we want that rural
44 preference, well, we better darn keep it.

45

46 You know, it's a big decision. If
47 Ambler wants to be part of Fairbanks, well, go right on
48 ahead, you know. But the rest of us, if we want to
49 remain rural, we should not be connected to that road.
50 Because I know once Ambler's connected to Fairbanks,

1 everybody's going to say, we want to be connected, too.
2 Well, your rural preference just went, you know, down a
3 few notches.

4
5 So I think we need to always look at
6 the impact that, you know, that these -- that moving on
7 into the future for bigger and better things, it's
8 going to hurt us in the end.

9
10 If you look in this room, look at this
11 board, I'm the youngest guy here. There is nobody else
12 younger than I am in this room. I'm still might -- I
13 might still be here in 20 years. Who else is going to
14 be on this board? I sure don't know, but I know I'm
15 going to be like one of these guys. I'm going to be --
16 I'll be an elder in here. And, you know, that's why I
17 push and I strive for our future generations to be
18 here. I see the young lad back there, and, you know,
19 she's here enjoying the meeting, and she's probably
20 listening and learning a lot. And, you know, I enjoy
21 seeing our youth learn. And why, you know, that we can
22 have a shadow that comes with every villager that comes
23 here. Every board member that comes here from the
24 villages, they should have a shadow from their school
25 district to come here with them, to learn.

26
27 You know, our caribou herd is dropping.
28 I guarantee you within the next two years we're going
29 to be limited. You know, we need to look at the
30 possibilities of conserving and preserving our caribou
31 herd. You know, our moose herd, I hear it's doing so-
32 so. Our bears are getting outrageous, you know.
33 They're getting crazy. There's getting too many of
34 them. We always need to look at the impacts, you know.

35
36
37 Speaking of, you know, this rural
38 preference thing, and the people living in Anchorage
39 and Kenai or wherever, you know, if they get the big
40 picture that they could start limiting other people
41 from other game management units, holy smokes, they're
42 going to. But they look at it as a tourism, you know,
43 they look at it as tourism. They want to take a few
44 dollars out of our pockets every time we go down there,
45 whether it be going to Kenai to go fishing, you know,
46 we've got to get a king salmon tag. We've got to get a
47 fishing license. Whenever we go down to Homer for
48 halibut or Clam Gulch for clams. You know, whether we
49 go to Fairbanks for salmon, you know. It could be
50 anything. If they start limiting us like we're limiting

1 them, eventually we're going to be stuck in this little
2 tiny game management unit of 23, and that's all we're
3 going to be subjected to. So, you know, that's why we
4 need to keep this place rural as best as we can. You
5 know, whether they take our advice or whether OSM or
6 other, you know, entities or other agencies wants to do
7 an impact survey as to how much it will impact our
8 caribou herd as the Red Dog Mine has, you know, it's
9 going to come.

10

11 You know, a long time ago my father
12 told me, he said a long time ago the Park Service set
13 foot in Kotzebue. They said they weren't going to
14 bother anybody. They were just going to be present.
15 They were going to do studies. They were going to
16 study the plant life, you know. And he told me,
17 eventually they are going to take a little at a time.
18 A little at a time. And, you know, this was way back
19 in the day, and, you know, thank God that we have these
20 -- the subsistence committee to be able to hold back,
21 you know, hold back what we have -- you know, hold what
22 we have and what we could continue to have.

23

24 You know, I mean, I envy the Park
25 Service. I love hearing about their studies. I not
26 only hunt these animals, I learn about them, and I
27 think everybody should be able to regardless, whether
28 they're, you know, high schoolers, elders, you know,
29 middle-aged people. You know, I think everybody should
30 go out there and learn about these animals. I've
31 helped Brad Shults do a lot of studies. MuskoX,
32 wolverine, you know, moose. I enjoy learning about our
33 animals, and I think that our leads should be able to
34 take a large, huge part of what we do here.

35

36 And, you know, why we don't have people
37 here, youth here, other than the young lady in the back
38 -- you know, I encourage that we have more. I mean,
39 I'm surprised our chairs here aren't full of people.
40 And that's why I pushed that our meetings be held on
41 the air on KOTZ radio and our youth to be here. That
42 way they could hear the decisions that we're making,
43 and to prove that we are making a stand to continue our
44 subsistence way of life.

45

46 And that's all I have.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

49

50 We'll have to wrap this up pretty

1 quick. So, Verne, you'll be the last one, because
2 we'll have a chance to recommend and make comments on
3 this through our coordinator here.

4
5 Okay. You want to be after? Verne,
6 make it brief. Okay. Percy and Hannah, we'll it --
7 all make it brief, please.

8
9 MR. CLEVELAND: Okay. Like Raymond
10 wanted the meeting in Kiana, and that would have been
11 good for the people. I've looked, there's no people
12 from Kotzebue in the audience. But if we go to the
13 villages, I'd bet there would be some people from the
14 villages in our meeting, and listening to what we're
15 trying to do. That way they would understand what
16 we're trying to do to our rural areas. They would get
17 an understanding of what we're trying to do. And I
18 would help him in keep trying to push to the villages
19 to have our meetings. It shows the Federal Subsistence
20 Board should try and go into the villages for meeting.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

25
26 Go ahead, Percy.

27
28 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
29 wanted to speak about how this process works for rural
30 determination, and we've been hunting and fishing for
31 10,000 years in this area. And when ANILCA started, we
32 were still hunting, we're still considered rural or
33 they defined us as rural. Now we're still rural.
34 Where Buckland is not ever going to change, but for
35 places like Kotzebue, or Bethel, or somewhere, because
36 of population, or because of roads, it kind of changes
37 things. And so these factors that we have here kind of
38 disturb me sometime, because whether my son goes to
39 Kotzebue or Anchorage and works, you know, he's still
40 enrolled in Buckland as a tribal member, so I consider
41 him he's a rural. He needs to have his food, and his
42 kids needs to have his food. Just because of economic
43 opportunities, they have to go out and go to work. We
44 all kind of knew that.

45
46 But I think within these determination
47 process, we're the ones here in Unit 23 should have
48 some definition or some input on whether we're rural or
49 not. Now, I don't know how things are in Ketchikan or
50 places like Saxman or stuff like that, but I know a lot

1 of them people like their food, and just because
2 they've got a road or something, whose presumption is
3 it, or who determines? My presumption is sometime down
4 the road that just because we have a road to Kotzebue,
5 I'm rural. But did ANILCA decide that? Or do we
6 decide that?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

9

10 Go ahead, Hannah.

11

12 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 (In Inupiaq) We should -- we have
15 lived as providers, subsistence hunters and elders and
16 everybody, and who travels every day when the season
17 comes, it travels all over the state, even to the
18 states. And food travels around. And people -- I'm
19 speaking for the people, for the economically
20 disadvantaged in the villages, like when it comes to 40
21 below, you could see people dragging plastic sleds with
22 5-gallon or 10 gallons. That's how we live out there
23 when it gets cold, trying to live day-to-day, and
24 trying to figure out what's for dinner, you know,
25 trying to feed our kids. Those that have lots will
26 give. And I'm speaking for those that are -- have no
27 boats or snowmachines, but they always manage to go out
28 and help and labor, and in turn they will get a part of
29 the hunt.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,

34 Hannah.

35

36 Our coordinator wrote up with the
37 points we've been talking about the whole morning. And
38 I will suggest that when we talk about, like we were
39 talking about rural determination, we need to keep it
40 in that subject right there. I hate to be like that,
41 but that's the way the meeting process. And it's all
42 important what you're saying, but the time will come,
43 and we need -- and so I'm going to ask her to read the
44 high points that so far that we come up with and we
45 need to draft a letter to OSM by November 1st that come
46 from here with the points we've been coming out with
47 this morning. That way we could for sure -- what you
48 guys are saying will be put in the process, and we will
49 have more time. And if you think of anything else you
50 need to say, get hold of her or me, and I'll -- if you

1 get ahold of me, I'll bring it to her.

2

3 I'll guarantee you, these points right
4 there, I'm going to send it to all the IRA villages,
5 and I will see if I get any input from the villages,
6 because there's nobody here to cover, you know, from
7 the public. And we need to have some kind of input
8 from the other villages, too, that hear what we said on
9 the radio yesterday.

10

11 So I'll ask Melinda would come out with
12 the high points and we will -- she will draft a letter
13 for us that what we come out with.

14

15 MS. BURKE: Yeah. Mr. Chair. A couple
16 of the things that Carl and I had picked out of the
17 discussion included adding spiritual and cultural
18 importance of subsistence as one of the factors that
19 decides rural determination. The population threshold
20 that you had mentioned. Availability of employment.

21

22 I can certainly begin to draft a
23 letter, and I heard from Calvin yesterday that there
24 needs to be time also for the other communities and for
25 the communities that you folks represent as well to
26 review some of these materials that have just become
27 available. I can begin to draft a letter if somebody
28 would like to make a motion directing me to do that. I
29 can begin to draft a letter, and then as you have time
30 to, and I have time to disseminate some of the newly
31 available information such as the question and answer
32 sheet, and this PowerPoint, we can add to that letter,
33 and I can make sure everybody has a chance to review it
34 and approve the draft before it's sent along before the
35 November deadline.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Melinda.

38

39 Go ahead, Raymond.

40

41 MR. STONEY: So then, Mr. Chairman, you
42 stated that you need an approval or motion to draft
43 this letter?

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yes.

46

47 MR. STONEY: Mr. Chairman. I so move.

48

49 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. He put a
50 motion for her to draft a letter for us to approve.

1 MR. CLEVELAND: Second the motion.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's been motioned by
4 Raymond, seconded by Verne.
5
6 MS. LOON: Question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question been
9 called for. All in.....
10
11 MR. CLEVELAND: One question.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Question.
14
15 MR. CLEVELAND: Can I -- when you draft
16 the letter, make sure -- when you draft the letter,
17 make sure we can understand what you're saying and make
18 it to the point, not make it so long that we won't have
19 to write a whole history.
20
21 Thank you.
22
23 MS. BURKE: I'll do my best.
24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. And if she
26 send it to us, I will individually call everyone if you
27 guys get it on the email. If not -- if you didn't get
28 it, I'll fax it to your village IRA, and if you go home
29 -- let's put it this way. Take it to your village when
30 you have IRA meeting. You know what I'm saying? Maybe
31 we'll hear more about it like that, and tell them
32 they're welcome to call me at Maniilaq, and I will call
33 her, and I will put it out like I do.
34
35 Thank you.
36
37 Go ahead, Percy.
38
39 MR. BALLOT: I think she's got our
40 tribal emails and stuff, too.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. I know she
43 have everybody's email, even our tribal. She'll send
44 it out. And what I'm saying is, if we get no response
45 from anyone that opened it, and I would ask her to flag
46 it. And nobody open it, and she said they didn't open
47 it, I will get ahold of your village and say, hey,
48 Percy, you never opened it, can you look at it. Verne,
49 you never opened it, can you -- and there's a way to
50 flag it to where you never read it. I've done that a

1 lot, and I'm not embarrassed to do it with you guys.
2 I'll gladly do it. That way since we're here, we need
3 to do it. We need to work together, and if we're not
4 going to do our share, I would say, don't cry about it.
5 Just, you know, do it. And that's the response I'm
6 getting from the villages. We need to do our thing,
7 and you need to do your thing when you go to the
8 village.

9

10 Go ahead, Calvin. Make it brief, and
11 we'll go on a break.

12

13 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chairman. You need to
14 take a vote.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I'm sorry. We've got
17 to vote on this approval or not since we comment.

18

19 MR. BALLOT: The question's already
20 been called for.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
23 called for. All in favor signify by saying aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Opposed.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: None. Go ahead,
32 Calvin.

33

34 MR. MOTO: The reason I -- I think we
35 need to have more clearer language that we could
36 understand instead of using all those big scientific
37 words you learn from college, you know. And these are
38 things that our people are confused about, because when
39 you come to our village and you start using these big
40 words, they say, what's she talking about, you know.
41 You know, it took our communities a long time to learn,
42 really learn the English language, because we had our
43 own vernacular at that time. Instead of saying who are
44 you, they just say, you who are. You who are, you
45 know. That's the translation from Inupiaq. And
46 they'll say, from come where, and, you know, that's how
47 they used to talk, the elders used to talk long ago.
48 And they say, you who parents, you know. These are --
49 so when you start coming up and talking to our people,
50 they're con -- that's why we had to have translators

1 for a lot of them, so they could understand.

2

3 I think we should have somebody
4 translate on the radio when we have these meetings so
5 the elders who are listening in the villages could
6 understand what the process is about.

7

8 Also another thing, I think we should
9 have one use, find money, budget to have -- we always
10 say we want to get the youths involved. The only way
11 we could get the youths involved is to have a youth sit
12 with us and understand what's going on. We could
13 change every meeting to from another village. That way
14 -- because they have student governments in our
15 villages, so these -- if we're going to get to see
16 shoots go on for generations, we've got to get our
17 youth involved.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thanks,
22 Calvin.

23

24 Go ahead, Melinda.

25

26 MS. BURKE: Yes. Calvin, and one of
27 the -- to address a couple of your concerns, there's
28 been a lot of extra material that we brought, the new
29 material that was available just last week, the
30 question and answer, the PowerPoint. And I brought
31 lots of extra copies to take back to the villages.

32

33 And like Carl indicated earlier, myself
34 and all of our staff are willing to spend time on the
35 phone answering questions, and however it is that we
36 need to help so that this information is relayed to the
37 communities, we're happy to spend time on the phone
38 however we need to.

39

40 And also I've been making a list as the
41 meeting goes on for your 2013 annual report to the
42 Board, and I definitely am going to note down the youth
43 representation again and keep that discussion going.

44

45 So thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
48 Thank you, everyone.

49

50 MS. BURKE: Do you want to take a

1 break?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Pardon?

4

5 MS. BURKE: Do you want to take a break
6 or do you want to move on?

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Carl, you've
9 got -- you don't need aspirin, do you?

10

11 Anyhow, let's go on break now, and
12 we'll continue on and we'll wrap this up. Thank you.

13

14 (Off record)

15

16 (On record)

17

18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. We'll call
19 this meeting back to order, and we will go back to the
20 items from yesterday.

21

22 No. 10.B. I've got to go over this.
23 10.B. was the fisheries monitoring plans that we said
24 we're going to hear from Barrow first and see which way
25 they go. I think what we need to do is just worry
26 about the Selawik proposal and we need to vote on it to
27 approve it, because it's an on-going project. And we
28 need to take no action on the Unalakleet and Beaufort
29 Sea projects, defer to other Region Council items on
30 these proposals.

31

32 So we need a motion for the one for the
33 Selawik Wildlife Refuge, right, to go ahead and
34 approve, because it's an on-going project like I said.

35

36 So the table is now open for a motion
37 to.

38

39 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Hannah.

42

43 MS. LOON: Mr. Chairman. For the
44 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, I make a motion to
45 approve the Selawik -- is it a study? Fisheries plan
46 only and not the others.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,

1 Hannah. And what we need to do is defer I think until
2 we hear from Barrow, see which way they go. Defer to
3 those -- you know, we would.....
4
5 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.
6
7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Seconded by Verne.
8
9 MR. CLEVELAND: Question. Call for the
10 question.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
13 called for. Any comments?
14
15 Go ahead, Percy.
16
17 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, just that I hope
18 they put money in it.
19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. On the Selawik
21 Wildlife Refuge, it's already approved plan, and last
22 year I think we approved how much they were going to
23 do, and that's the reason why they put it as an on-
24 going project. That's why it had no money amount,
25 dollar amount, compared to the others. And the other
26 two they have dollar amount because they've got to be
27 approved to do the project. Okay, Percy?
28
29 Okay. All in favor signify by saying
30 aye.
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.
33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any nays.
35
36 (No opposing votes)
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No. It's all in aye,
39 in favor. Thank you. Thank you all.
40
41 Okay. We will go to No. 11, agency
42 report. OSM, on the budget update.
43
44 MR. CLEVELAND: I thought we had on E,
45 SRC.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.
48
49 MS. BURKE: Verne, we covered the SRC
50 nominations yesterday. We went ahead and covered that

1 with Enoch, and who was the other gentleman?

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Louie Komak and I.
4 Remember, we did that already. And the Council, we did
5 F already yesterday.

6

7 MR. CLEVELAND: (In Inupiaq)

8

9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
10 Carl.

11

12 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 The OSM written updates you can find on
15 Page 89 of your meeting book materials. Since those
16 are all in there, I'm not going to read through them,
17 but I'll offer some highlights.

18

19 And this time the graphics I think is
20 very helpful. If you take a look at the OSM budget by
21 fiscal year, and it's a good representation of what
22 we've been operating under for the last few years, a
23 pretty steady decline. Now, in addition to that normal
24 decline, we've also been subjected to that 6.7 percent
25 cut that all agencies have experienced this year as
26 part of the automatic cuts caused by sequestration.

27

28 We don't know what the budget picture
29 is going to look like for the next fiscal year which
30 starts on the 1st of October, but, you know, consistent
31 with our usual practice, we're going to keep you as
32 updated as possible as to what those budget cuts are
33 and how that -- how we are dealing with them.

34

35 One of the things that has happened as
36 a result of budget cuts that is a specific thing, and
37 that is that OSM has ceased funding support for the
38 State liaison position that is currently held by
39 Jennifer Yuhas.

40

41 But again our priority is, you know,
42 supporting this Council and supporting the other
43 Councils, and travel related to Council business. That
44 is always going to be a priority. Other travel impacts
45 that we've seen already that may -- that will likely
46 continue into the future would be whether or not we can
47 support travel for Council members related to other
48 activities like whether it's attending a Western Arctic
49 Caribou Working Group meeting or, in the Yukon area,
50 attending YRDFA meetings, or other things like that.

1 Staffing update. We gained a new
2 assistant regional director. As you recall, Pete
3 Probasco left OSM back in January, and we now have a
4 new ARD, and that's Gene Peltola, Jr. who for the last
5 five years has been the refuge manager for the Yukon
6 Delta National Wildlife Refuge. And so he just started
7 just two weeks ago. He's brand new. And we've already
8 shared a few things with him to get him up to speed as
9 to what the Councils are doing. And he'll be attending
10 some Council meetings already this fall meeting cycle,
11 and then he'll in the future, you know, rotate around
12 to get to meet all of the Councils.

13

14 We also have some other new additions
15 to the staff. Jeff Brooks, who's a social scientist;
16 he's in the anthropology division. And then also Derek
17 Hildreth who is our new permit specialist. And then,
18 you know, there are some other folks that you're
19 familiar with that we have lost. We've lost Helen
20 Armstrong who was our anthropology division chief, and
21 then Steven Fried who was the fisheries division chief.

22

23 Tribal consultation update. First, the
24 draft tribal consultation implementation guidelines
25 have been reviewed by the Board. The tribal
26 consultation work group has developed the final draft
27 of that, and it's going to be reviewed by the Federal
28 Subsistence Board at its working session next week.
29 So, you know, by your next meeting we'll have a clearer
30 picture of what the new draft -- the implementation
31 guidelines will look like.

32

33 The ANCSA corporation consultation
34 process, drafting those guidelines is still in the
35 works.

36

37 We did have a tribal consultation
38 session just last week on some of the wildlife
39 regulatory proposals, and Jack Lorrigan, who is the
40 Native liaison, has provided me a briefing that I can
41 give to you on how that consultation went. Either I
42 can read it to you or I can provide you a written copy.
43 What's your preference?

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think it would be
46 better if you give us copies. That way we could see
47 them in place and that way we'll have probably a better
48 understanding.

49

50 Thank you.

1 MR. JOHNSON: That sounds great. All
2 right. We'll make sure that happens.

3
4 And the other issue is -- well, there's
5 two other issues really. First, the regulatory cycle
6 update. If you'll recall, at the last meeting cycle,
7 or was it the meeting cycle before? Anyway, the
8 Council had an opportunity to make some recommendations
9 to the Federal Subsistence Board on how to change the
10 regulatory cycle, you know, when the fish and wildlife
11 regulatory year begins, what your meeting windows are
12 for in the fall and the winter, and then also when the
13 Board has its meeting. Now, so far there really wasn't
14 universal agreement from the Councils as to whether or
15 not the fisheries cycles should change, so that has not
16 changed yet, but there have been some specific changes
17 as a result of that process.

18
19 One of them was moving the wildlife
20 Federal Subsistence Board meeting from January to
21 April, because several of the northern Councils
22 expressed concern about, you know, traveling during
23 that time of year. So that's now been moved to April.
24 And as a result, for the wildlife regulatory years, the
25 fall meeting cycle will be expanded into early to mid
26 November as opposed to mid October as it currently
27 sits. So that will give the Councils more opportunity
28 to meet and then not have to meet during, you know,
29 peak subsistence time in the fall.

30
31 But the Board has yet to make a
32 decision concerning how they're going to handle the
33 fisheries wildlife cycle, so they'll be making a
34 decision on that in the future, and we'll let you know
35 about that when it happens.

36
37 The other final update I have for the
38 Council is on the revisions to the memorandum of
39 understanding between the State and the Federal
40 Subsistence Board. As you recall, you had a previous
41 opportunity to provide comments on the draft revised
42 MOU. The Board has heard the comments and the feedback
43 from all of the Regional Advisory Councils, has
44 implemented most, if not all, of the recommendations
45 that the Councils made to change that MOU, but the
46 process right now is stalled in negotiating with the
47 State to accept the final language. So where they're
48 at right now is they're still working on negotiating
49 what that final language will be, and we don't really
50 know for sure at this point in time when and if a final

1 MOU will be agreed to between the State and the Board.

2

3 MS. LOON: What's ISC?

4

5 MR. JOHNSON: InterAgency Staff
6 Committee. So that would be the Staff from the five
7 agencies who provide direct support to their agency
8 Board members.

9

10 And then just for your information, the
11 Native liaison, Jack Lorrigan, is the person who is on
12 the ISC who supports the two rural subsistence users on
13 the Board and also the Chair, Tim Towarak.

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Any questions
16 for Carl.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I do.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
21 Percy.

22

23 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. Tribal
24 consultation guidelines. I was just wondering about
25 you're having consultation with tribes and you're also
26 having ANCSA consultation policy guidelines developed.
27 Does one or the other have precedence over the other or
28 how is that -- how are they related?

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Through the Chair. I can
33 say that the tribal consultation -- between the two of
34 them, the tribal consultation is the only one that is a
35 government-to-government consultation. The ANCSA
36 corporation consultation is not a government-to-
37 government consultation. That was, you know,
38 implemented fairly recently in a statute that was
39 passed by Congress that said that they were to be
40 consulted in the same way, but our current guidelines,
41 it's not a government-to-government for ANCSA, but it
42 is for tribal consultation.

43

44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Does that make the tribal
47 consultation the more -- have more bearing if there's a
48 need -- should bear if there are any issues that we
49 don't agree with with the ANCSA corporations versus the
50 tribe?

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
2 Percy.
3
4 Hannah, you had -- no.
5
6 MS. LOON: No.
7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Okay. Thank
9 you, Carl. Any more questions from the Board here?
10
11 (No comments)
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Carl, thank
14 you.
15
16 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, we'll move on
19 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. B.
20
21 MS. BURKE: LeeAnne gave hers
22 yesterday.
23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Yeah, we heard
25 from LeeAnne yesterday already on this part here, so we
26 need to -- Gates of the Arctic, National Park Service.
27
28 Go ahead, Brad.
29
30 MS. BURKE: Okay. Start over, please.
31 Thank you.
32
33 MS. OKADA: Hi, Mr. Chair and Council
34 members. I'm calling in via teleconference from
35 Fairbanks. My name is Marcy Okada, and I'm the
36 subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
37 National Park and Preserve.
38
39 If you would turn to Page 92 in your
40 meeting book, there's a Gates of the Arctic Park update
41 which I'll quickly go through.
42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.
44
45 MS. OKADA: Okay. So I apologize for
46 the scanty information. Much of the field work is
47 still being conducted for this season for Gates of the
48 Arctic.
49
50 What we do have on the first page is a

1 little explanation on the new approach to monitoring
2 Dall sheep populations, and I'll just quickly highlight
3 some of the information here.

4
5 Josh Schmidt and Kumi Rattenbury of the
6 Arctic Inventory & Monitoring Network currently have a
7 paper out in the Journal of Wildlife Management
8 describing a new method for monitoring Dall sheep. And
9 these new methods are providing better information
10 which are reducing costs as much as 80 percent over
11 past survey approaches.

12
13 The majority of the sheep habitat in
14 the six national park units, those would include Bering
15 Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern
16 National Monument, Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk
17 Valley National Park, and Gates of the Arctic, were
18 surveyed in 2010 and 2011 using this new technique.
19 And so basically this new survey method is a new way to
20 get a rigorous estimate of both abundance and
21 composition of sheep population.

22
23 And there's more information on this
24 topic.

25
26 And additionally I also included that
27 our Gates of the Arctic SRC met in April of this year
28 in Ambler. Current topics of discussion were the road
29 to Umiat and the Ambler Mining District Access
30 Corridor.

31
32 Any questions so far.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Enoch here. I
35 have one question. You said you're doing it the new
36 way. It's probably working, but the results on the
37 final survey, is it making any difference, or we have
38 to start over from the way the new survey is being
39 taking for the satellite tagging?

40
41 MS. OKADA: I think, if I'm
42 understanding you correctly, Mr. Chair, this new survey
43 method shouldn't affect what type of work has been done
44 in the past. So it's just a continual long-term
45 monitoring of the Dall sheep populations.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
48 Okay.

49
50 Anyone have any questions.

1 Go ahead, Hannah.
2
3 MS. LOON: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
4
5 Marcy, on the second paragraph you said
6 -- I mean, it's written estimated population for
7 surveyed park units is currently 26,000 to 27,000
8 individuals. Who are you -- are you referring to
9 sheep?
10
11 Thank you.
12
13 MS. OKADA: Yeah. Through all this
14 information really it's the Dall sheep. And those
15 numbers combine all the six national park units in the
16 Arctic region.
17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thanks,
19 Hannah.
20
21 Go head, Verne.
22
23 MR. CLEVELAND: Verne Cleveland. You
24 talk about Dall sheep. Where do you monitor? I heard
25 right behind -- by Bornite area, there's some sheep,
26 and there haven't been sheep there for 30 years or even
27 more. And now they're seeing sheep right behind the
28 Kobuk Mountains or Hills up there. Are they monitoring
29 this or what's going on?
30
31 MS. OKADA: Unfortunately, Verne, I'm
32 not a sheep ecologist, and I'm pretty much just
33 reporting what work has been done. But I'm not sure
34 who's out in the audience right now from the National
35 Park Service, but if anyone on that and could answer
36 his question.
37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, maybe Brad
39 could answer that. Brad's here, Marcy.
40
41 MR. SHULTS: Hi. Brad Shults with the
42 Park Service.
43
44 I can answer your question. We don't
45 -- the Schwatka's right in that country there, and all
46 that's State land. We don't have transects where we're
47 actually monitoring that far up right by Bornite. So
48 the sheep transects where we're looking for sheep run
49 from out here on the coast all the way up through the
50 upper Noatak drainage the mountains to the south along

1 the -- just south of the border of the preserve,
2 including Gates of the Arctic all the way to the Haul
3 Road. So once you get out into the mountains just to
4 the south in the upper Ambler, Red Stone, that country
5 in there, we're not doing transects, so we haven't
6 looked in there specifically to answer your question.

7
8 MR. CLEVELAND: So if I go up there by
9 boat and I get a sheep, you guys won't even see me,
10 won't even bother me, right?

11
12 MR. SHULTS: I won't notice.

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
17 Verne.

18
19 Go ahead, Raymond.

20
21 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22
23 I've got a very simple question to
24 someone there. I've seen a few sheeps around on the
25 Brooks Range, but my point is that what do we need, a
26 permit, in order to harvest the sheep, considering
27 subsistence permit, or a license, or what -- how do you
28 do that?

29
30 MR. SHULTS: If you guys want to wait,
31 I can have Ken come up here and talk about the
32 regulatory requirements for hunting sheep, because he's
33 well-versed in it and would do a better job of
34 explaining it; if that's okay with you, Raymond? We
35 can answer that.

36
37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

38
39 You're on hold, Ken.

40
41 Yeah, go ahead, Ken.

42
43 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
44 members, Ken Adkisson, National Park Service.

45
46 You really have two options for hunting
47 sheep for subsistence purposes in Unit 23. There's a
48 State subsistence hunt, and that requires a permit from
49 ADF&G, and then you have a Federal option. And it's a
50 little complicated in that currently what's defined as

1 the Delong Mountain hunt area is currently closed to
2 non-subsistence uses for sheep on Federal public lands.
3 Or actually, I'm sorry, it's open. It hasn't been --
4 it was closed originally and has been opened, so you
5 can run concurrently State and Federal hunts in the
6 Delong Mountains. The Baird Mountain hunt area,
7 however, is closed to non-subsistence uses, and so
8 subsistence hunting for sheep in the Baird Mountains
9 hunt area is strictly by Federal permit. And we
10 currently issue those permits through the -- our office
11 in Kotzebue, and you can contact us there.

12

13 We used to -- initially when the hunts
14 first started a few years ago, we actually tried to get
15 out to the villages and issue permits, and there didn't
16 seem to be a whole lot of demand for it and rising
17 transportation costs and restrictions, we basically
18 stopped doing that on a regular basis, so now it's
19 basically call our office in Kotzebue, and we'll handle
20 permit requests through mail. If the demand increases,
21 you know, we'll rethink how we issue permits in some of
22 those villages.

23

24 Does that basically answer your
25 question, or would you like more information?

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
28 Ken.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
33 Percy.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: So how do you get the word
36 out that option is available to the villages? What do
37 you do?

38

39 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Ballot through the
40 Chair. I'm not sure that we're probably doing the best
41 job we could on that at this present point in time.
42 And we should probably try to get out more information
43 like on the radio and stuff just prior to the hunt
44 area, and we're really not doing that. But that's
45 definitely something I think we would look at.

46

47 In the past most of the demand was
48 coming from, and largely still continues to come from
49 Kotzebue, with some demand from Noatak.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
2 Ken.
3
4 Go ahead, Verne.
5
6 MR. CLEVELAND: So how many permits are
7 you allowed per year? Or how many can you give permits
8 out to? How many people can you give permits to?
9
10 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Cleveland, through
11 the Chair. Actually there's no restriction on the
12 number of permits. If you're Federally-eligible, you
13 can get a permit. The hunt and the harvest is managed
14 through quotas in the hunt areas. And when those
15 quotas are reached, the hunt is closed. So there is no
16 restriction in that sense on the number of permits.
17
18 MR. CLEVELAND: So my nephew asked me,
19 he said he was out hunting and he saw a sheep, and he
20 was wondering whether he should shoot it or not. I
21 said, hey, wait a minute, maybe you get ahold of Fish
22 and Game, see if you can get a permit or something. So
23 we get ahold of who?
24
25 MR. ADKISSON: In your case, or your
26 nephew's case, like if you're from Noorvik and you're
27 hunting in the Bairds, you should get a sheep permit
28 from the National Park Service.
29
30 MR. CLEVELAND: No, this is in
31 Shungnak. Shungnak and Kobuk.
32
33 MR. ADKISSON: If you're going to hunt
34 over in that Schwatka Mountains area that Brad
35 mentioned earlier, you should just get a permit from
36 the State. They actually have a better harvest limit I
37 think right now than we do.
38
39 MR. CLEVELAND: So we just go to the
40 license/permit guy and get a sheep permit, too, or
41 what.....
42
43 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I believe you can
44 do that through your vendor. It would be best -- if
45 you any questions on that State hunt, then the best
46 thing to do would be to check with ADF&G in Kotzebue,
47 but I believe you can get a permit for that hunt
48 through the license vendor in your village.
49
50 MR. CLEVELAND: I think the question is

1 right here right now then. Can you answer that
2 question?

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Can I?

5

6 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, you. Can you
7 answer that question?

8

9 MR. ADKISSON: Actually without
10 checking with ADF&G, I can't give you a definitive a
11 definitive answer, but I believe you can get a permit
12 from the State for that hunt via the license vendor,
13 but I would have to do the same thing you would be
14 doing to be absolutely sure, and that would be to check
15 with the State.

16

17 MR. CLEVELAND: (in Inupiaq) Thank
18 you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Ken, Brad, one
21 of you maybe could answer him better by saying is the
22 quota reached yet for this year, and the new quota
23 opening for the next, you know, fiscal year, because I
24 think once it's reached on both the State and the Park
25 Service level, it's automatically closed, right?

26

27 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. That's
28 correct. Marci Johnson could probably tell you exactly
29 how many permits we've issued to date, or close to it.
30 And my understanding is we've had no reported harvest
31 yet. And you'll find the quota listed in the Federal
32 regulation booklet.

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Verne, what they
35 are saying is if they never reached a harvest quota for
36 that year, both Park and under the State, it's still
37 open. So if you go to the State to get a permit, and
38 he could probably get it -- within about how long,
39 Brad? Would anybody know? Within how long? How long
40 does the process take for him to get his permit to
41 harvest sheep? Maybe you need to answer that, too.

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: It wouldn't take very
44 long. Basically what we need is you have to have a
45 current State hunting license and basically it's
46 contact our office, give us the necessary information,
47 we'll complete the permit and mail it out. If the
48 demand's there, we'll look for other ways of trying to
49 issue permits that could get maybe -- if we could work
50 with an IRA or something, we might be able to actually

1 issue some permits right in a village and make the
2 process a little easier. But right now we're just
3 issuing them out of our office, and it doesn't take
4 long.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Does that
7 answer you, Verne?

8
9 MR. CLEVELAND: No, but.....

10
11 MR. ADKISSON: And the quota is 21 for
12 the Bairds, and that's up to 6 of which can be ewes,
13 and 15 rams. The rams actually could go to the full --
14 no. It's 15 and 6 for a total of 21.

15
16 MR. CLEVELAND: The reason I brought
17 this up, I haven't seen sheep in my lifetime in that
18 area, because I hunt in that area. Now they're coming
19 back. And there was -- we counted eight as of two
20 weeks ago. And I said, hey, wait a minute, guys, just
21 let them grow, just shoot off maybe one or two males,
22 but not the females. So I don't know what's happening
23 now. I know they're, of course, hunting now with
24 fourwheelers up there, because the mine, Bornite Mine
25 is closed. So see what happens. I don't know what's
26 going to happen. I'm supposed to go up to Bornite 5
27 for trespass. I don't know when that will happen.

28
29 So, see, that's why I would like to
30 have these village meetings. That way they would get
31 to know what we're doing or what we're trying to do
32 here. They would get a better understanding. Some of
33 them, you give them a book, they ain't going to read
34 it, you know. If they hear it by word, I think they'd
35 maybe get a good understanding of it.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

40
41 Go ahead, Hannah.

42
43 MS. LOON: If you turn to Page 118 on
44 the State regulations, you could get three sheep by
45 permit from the Schwatka Mountains, and get your
46 license, for Unit 23. And one ram, full curl. That's
47 what I have here.

48
49 Like Verne say, we don't read the -- we
50 don't.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Hannah.
4
5 Okay. Anyone else?
6
7 (No comments)
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: If not, thanks.
10
11 Go ahead, Brad and Marcy, do you have
12 anything else?
13
14 MS. OKADA: I mentioned weather and
15 climate. The weather summary didn't make it into your
16 meeting book, but there should be a handout at your
17 meeting. There's four weather and climate stations in
18 Gates of the Arctic that's continually collecting data
19 for that area.
20
21 And then also included in your booklet
22 between Pages 94 and 103, there's an Arctic Network and
23 Inventory Monitoring newsletter, and also a sheet that
24 shows what field activities were occurring this past
25 summer.
26
27 But what I would quickly like to refer
28 to is a document on the Ambler Mining District right-
29 of-way, and I'm not sure if it made it into your
30 meeting books, because I'm not seeing it on line in
31 your meeting book, so I'm not sure what page to refer
32 you to. It's National Park Service document for Gates
33 of the Arctic and the top of it says Ambler Mining
34 District right-of-way.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I don't see it here.
37
38 MS. OKADA: Okay.
39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What? Okay. They've
41 got it out in a handout on the table they said.
42
43 MS. OKADA: Okay. Does everyone have a
44 copy?
45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Melinda's getting
47 copies for us.
48
49 MS. OKADA: Okay.
50

1 MS. BURKE: Okay. I'm handing them out
2 now, Marcy, go ahead.

3
4 MS. OKADA: Okay. Thanks. So this
5 document covers information on the Ambler Mining
6 District right-of-way that would go through the
7 southern preserve unit of Gates of the Arctic, what we
8 also call the Kobuk Boot Unit, because it's shaped like
9 a boot.

10
11 And I'm sure the majority of you
12 already know the history, but in ANILCA, Section
13 .201(4)(b) it states that should the need arise for a
14 right-of-way to be permitted through the Kobuk River
15 Unit of Gates, it will be granted. And in this case
16 there's a need for surface transportation to access the
17 Amble Mining District.

18
19 So Gates of the Arctic has started to
20 consult with the tribes from our southern resident zone
21 communities for Gates, and we're trying to gain
22 information in order to make a more informed decision
23 regarding what would be the most desirable route
24 through the Kobuk Boot as well as the terms and
25 conditions of a potential right-of-way through the
26 Boot.

27
28 And there's a map on Page 2 just kind
29 of indicating the general area that the corridor could
30 potentially go through.

31
32 So what I would like to highlight is
33 the latest update on what Gates of the Arctic is doing
34 in regards to the Ambler Mining District right-of-way.
35 Gates of the Arctic has three current research projects
36 in the Kobuk River area which will provide information
37 on archaeology, bears and wolves, and natural
38 soundscapes. Additional research will be conducted on
39 water resources and fisheries resources within the next
40 year. The Park Service is planning to do community
41 visits to talk about important traditional cultural
42 resources in the Kobuk River area.

43
44 This research data will help inform
45 Park managers about impacts of this road. And we're
46 talking just basically between a 14 to maybe 22-mile
47 corridor through the Kobuk Boot.

48
49 Gates of the Arctic has already
50 permitted some State-sponsored research activities to

1 occur in the Park and the Preserve that's collecting
2 information on resources which may be impacted by the
3 road. Such projects include snow surveys, fisheries
4 surveys, wetlands, and vegetation surveys, hydraulic
5 and hydrologic surveys within the Kobuk and Reed Rivers
6 ecosystems, as well as cultural resource reconnaissance
7 surveys. And I do believe DOWL has hired two local
8 people from Shungnak to accompany their researches on
9 some of these helicopter surveys.

10

11 And then we're also working -- Park
12 Service is also working with the Federal Highway
13 Administration to identify additional information
14 needed make an informed decision on a preferred road
15 corridor through the Preserve. The Federal Highway
16 Administration will be the agent for the Secretary of
17 Transportation when it comes to evaluating a corridor
18 through the Kobuk River area. And the Federal Highway
19 Administration will also provide extensive technical
20 expertise on road design.

21

22 So this is about a four-page document,
23 and I'm not going to go through all of it. It does
24 mention who some of the key organizations are who are
25 involved in this project.

26

27 And we have started doing tribal
28 consultation with the communities of Kobuk, Ambler,
29 Shungnak, Bettles, Evansville, Alatna, Allakaket, and
30 these are all communities that are resident zone
31 communities for Gates of the Arctic.

32

33 And if anyone has any questions, I know
34 I moved through this pretty quickly, I'm willing to
35 answer any questions.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Marcy, for us to
38 be heard, we need to go to the Secretary of
39 Transportation for the Federal Highway Administration?

40

41 MS. OKADA: Well, Federal Highways
42 would be -- to the Secretary of Transportation, but
43 Park Service communicates with the Secretary of
44 Interior, so when it comes to the final decision on an
45 agreed upon route, the Secretaries of Interior and
46 Transportation will make that decision jointly.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

49

50 Go ahead, Mike.

1 MR. KRAMER: You know, this whole thing
2 about this Ambler Road project, you know, it's going to
3 really impact our region. It's going to impact our
4 subsistence way of life.

5
6 You know, they've done some study on
7 the Red Dog road. I haven't heard too much. I don't
8 understand why they're even not here. They should be
9 here. And also the people running this Ambler road
10 project, you know, they need to work closely with all
11 communities, because it's not only them that's going to
12 be impacted, it's the rest of us. You know, their
13 absence, you know, should be their loss. You know,
14 without them being here and being able to help us and
15 guide us through this thing, you know, I think we
16 should be able to have the right to shut them down for
17 that process.

18
19 You know, there's other ways. I mean,
20 if they had the Ambler road project from Ambler to
21 Kotzebue's deep water port, you know, that's going to
22 save the communities in this region, you know. The
23 cost of fuel is going to go down, because we have a
24 deep water port. The cost of groceries are going to go
25 down, because we have a deep water port. And it will
26 be able to run later. The only thing is the Ambler
27 Mining District would have to provide a storage
28 building for those minerals, you know. And that deep
29 water port would require, you know, a port authority,
30 police. They have to have a fire department out there.
31 You know, it will benefit the region by minimizing the
32 impact to the remainder of the villages.

33
34 That's why I push so hard for OSM to
35 have a statewide subsistence meeting. That way we
36 could all listen to what we have to think about that,
37 and the Federal Board also gets to hear what we have to
38 say about that. But, you know, with budget restraints
39 and all this other stuff that pushes us not to be able
40 to have that. You know, I'm pretty sure Tanana, you
41 know, all those other villages down there are going to
42 be impacted by Unalakleet, Nome, you know, about this
43 road, you know, all will be -- it's going to have a
44 dramatic impact on our subsistence way of life.
45 Everybody's looking for improvement, but we need to
46 understand that it's going to affect our ability to be
47 rural. That's why we need to ensure that we have a
48 minimal impact on our region and our resources, you
49 know, for the future.

50

1 That's all I have to say.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

4

5 And my concern about this here is if a
6 road is ever built to Ambler Mining District, it's
7 going to affect all of us, because just like the Haul
8 Road to Prudhoe. The State said they would never open
9 it, yet when the 20 years is up, they open it and
10 anybody could go through that road. And that's impact
11 us. And if they do that, they're going to open land
12 permit for the outside world to get land under BLM or
13 somebody to say, I will homestead, and they'll start
14 having people, and we're going to get impacted if the
15 road is opened from the outside world that way. And
16 that's going to be my concern, because if there's
17 anything happen in the road, some kind of spill, some
18 kind of disaster, there goes our sheefish, there goes
19 our whitefish that drains from Kobuk all the way to
20 Kotzebue will affect us. If you really think about it,
21 it's scary.

22

23 I understand saying they want a road
24 built, because of the minerals need to be taken out,
25 but the long-term effect like Michael said is going to
26 affect us on the long run as the Native people. We're
27 going to be hurting. And if the numbers go up, we're
28 going to be all non-rural so fast that it's going to
29 hurt us, because we will all be connected through
30 roads.

31

32 Yeah, go ahead, Percy.

33

34 Oh, Verne, I'm sorry. That was Verne.

35

36 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. Not only that on
37 the road system that opens up, if it opens up. There's
38 options. I know there's options upriver, like what
39 Mike said. They would like to build a road from up
40 there to here, from upriver.
41 They're all mixed up. And I went to some people, and
42 they didn't know which way to go. It was kind of out
43 of balance. They weren't able to build the road here,
44 but there's surveys going on towards Bettles. And the
45 option is -- they don't know. They're all mixed up.
46 They'd rather go to Fairbanks where it's cheaper for
47 food and stuff, but it's all mixed up.

48

49 On the other hand, if they build that
50 road, to keep the dust down, what are they going to put

1 on the road to keep the dust down? That's what I'm
2 afraid of. What kind of material to keep the dust
3 down, what are they going to put on it. And that
4 thing's going to flow right into our creeks, to the
5 rivers. Like you said, there's animals. They're all
6 going to -- right there. We're going to lose our
7 subsistence way of life. It's going to go. We're no
8 longer subsistence hunters. We'll be rural cowboys
9 like the rest of them rural guys, you know, urban
10 cowboys. We'll be the same thing. We ain't going to
11 be rural no more. We're not going to be subsistence.
12 No more Federal subsistence. We probably won't even
13 exist no more.

14

15 So we've got to push these stuff, to
16 make ourselves heard what's going on. It might be the
17 good, the bad, and the ugly. It's going to happen, no
18 matter what. If you don't say nothing, they won't hear
19 you. If you say something, they'll hear you, but if
20 you don't say anything, that means a yes.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

25

26 Go ahead, Mike.

27

28 MR. KRAMER: You know, the last time
29 that the guy was here from the Ambler Mining District,
30 he said that the approximate cost for the road from
31 Ambler to the Haul Road was approximately \$700 million.
32 And he said that if they could find \$700 million of
33 private funds, then it would be a private road, but the
34 fact was is that it had to go through a park, and then
35 it had to go through some NANA lands. You know, they
36 need to think of this day and age where money just
37 doesn't grow on trees.

38

39 You know, they need to find a cost-
40 effective route that will save money, you know, for
41 other organizations. And I think the most cost-
42 effective route is from Ambler to Kotzebue's deep water
43 port, to which some of that funding can help build the
44 deep water port. It could help build roads to the
45 communities. That way fuel can be delivered there at a
46 lower cost, to which the prices of fuel and the cost of
47 living in the villages will go down, you know. That
48 way it benefits and it also helps our communities to
49 remain rural.

50

1 You know, we need to start thinking
2 about our future, because, you know, mistakes don't
3 come cheap. We'll all pay for it, and we'll all pay
4 dearly for it, and so will our kids and our grandkids
5 and our great grandkids, because of our mistakes. We
6 need to think of 100 years from now, and, you know, we
7 need to start thinking of preserving our wildlife and
8 our lands and continually keeping them that way. You
9 know, that's why the studies that Brad Shults and Marci
10 and all these other people do to continually monitor
11 our animals and their health and what, it kind of
12 impacts our land as on these animals. We need to start
13 -- we need to open up a whole new book of worms and
14 start having a statewide meeting. That way we all get
15 to have a say in what goes on in this state and in each
16 district.

17
18 That's all I've got. Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

21
22 Go ahead, Percy.

23
24 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
25 think that, well, whether Ambler wants the road over
26 that way, or while that's in the process, or whether
27 Kotzebue wants one over that way, while I see these two
28 going on, I don't see anything regarding health, what
29 kind of effects it might have regarding the health of
30 -- like asbestos. I've heard that they have deposits
31 there. They're going to put pilings or whatever they
32 call them, every 10 miles of gravel, gravel pit, but I
33 don't see any EPA involvement in regard to this, the
34 project. So I'm just wondering is anybody aware that
35 EPA's involved or there's studies regarding dust
36 particles or stuff that might affect the people long
37 term should this road be built.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I don't think
40 I could answer that EPA's involved or not. I don't
41 know if Brad could or Marcy could. But I don't
42 think.....

43
44 MS. OKADA: Yeah, I don't have an
45 answer to that question.

46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Carl.

48
49 MR. JOHNSON: While I can't answer
50 whether or not the EPA is currently involved, I can

1 tell you that any standard part of any environmental
2 impact assessment or impact study that would happen as
3 part of the planning for such a road would involve
4 what's called a health impact assessment. So that
5 would be a part of that environmental impact study
6 process.

7

8 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Wouldn't that then
9 -- before they go and do that, they would have
10 information sharing or whatever these things might be
11 happen is the health or this kind of activity, what is
12 bad and what is good regarding -- like asbestos I keep
13 hearing about, that stuff up in that area, you know,
14 what kind of short-term or long-term or what kind of
15 particles regarding -- you know, you have certain ways
16 of protecting yourself, like in Red Dog where they have
17 masks or whatever. Or what is bad and what is good,
18 that they would be informed about the choice before
19 they build the road.

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

22

23 Go ahead, Hannah.

24

25 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26

27 About the roads and the impacts, I
28 worry, everybody would worry in the quiet villages
29 unconnected to anywhere that just plane coming and go
30 out. I would be -- they would worry about the
31 population of caribou. There were times in Selawik
32 where we went without caribou for a long time, to a
33 point we have to depend on our neighbors to send us.
34 And in my, in everybody's thinking, we don't want our
35 cultural and social impacts to us. You know, it's nice
36 to have houses and it's nice to have all those things,
37 but seriously consider the cultural and social and
38 impacts that will be on our people.
39 We will set them up to freeze, you know, when they're
40 going to out, and it's a long ways. Some of them will
41 freeze on the way, and drown, and all those things, so
42 it will also set us up on our health and safety,
43 wellbeing.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Carl.

48 You wanted to answer Percy. Sorry about that.

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: That's quite all right.

1 There are several things I'm hearing that the Council
2 believes should be considered as part of any planning
3 for a road. And I wanted to remind the Council that
4 even before there's an environmental impact statement,
5 there's what's called a scoping period, and that's when
6 the lead agency in the project puts a call out to the
7 public and asks the public if there are certain things
8 that they should be considering, the agency should be
9 considering when it does that environmental impact
10 statement. So that's called the scoping period. And
11 you as the Council with the assistance of your Council
12 coordinator can make a public comment as a Council
13 during that scoping period on things that you think
14 that the agencies should be considering when they do
15 that environmental impact statement. And then even
16 after the draft environmental impact statement comes
17 out, you'll also have an opportunity to review and
18 comment on that to see whether or not they missed some
19 information, or they got some stuff wrong, or whether
20 they should be considering more information before they
21 do the final statement. So you do have an opportunity
22 to, you know, directly voice your concerns and make
23 suggestions as to what should be considered during the
24 planning for anything like this road project.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you.
29 And a thought came to me. If we are opposing this as
30 individuals, I think what we need to do is try to make
31 them study certain things and see what's out there
32 before the road happens, and that way we could have
33 something after the road happens. I think it would be
34 real strong that, okay, this is what we had before the
35 road, and this is what's going to happen after the
36 road. We could probably ask them to do that.

37

38 And I hear you guys. Frankly
39 everybody's getting worried. They don't really want
40 the road in the long run.

41

42 So someone had their hand up earlier.

43

44 Go ahead, Calvin.

45

46 MR. MOTO: Yeah. One of the things
47 that we got to consider, too, is if the road is okayed
48 and all that, I know for a fact that the DOT and them
49 are thinking about building a road from the Haul Road
50 to Nome. It's going to cost something like three-

1 point-something billion dollars. And they would -- one
2 of the benefits of that if there's a lot of natural gas
3 in our areas, it would open. Right now the oil
4 companies are reluctant to give us natural gas, because
5 if they have stations, they can't drive to them and
6 monitor them, you know. But this is one benefit.

7

8 But the other down side is our
9 subsistence hunting and trapping, you know, how is it
10 going to affect us.

11

12 But I feel that the way things are
13 going now, eventually, it won't be in my time, but they
14 will have a road from -- in fact, in 1954 they tried
15 three, four times to build a road from Nome to
16 Fairbanks, but every spring they wash out, you know.

17

18 So these are things that I thought I'd
19 bring up, because our subsistence wa of life, the way
20 they're building the road, the caribou would have to go
21 over, and they'd have to make sure that they have a
22 corridor to come to our areas, and I think it will be
23 kind of hard to monitor that. With the decline of
24 caribou now, how much will it affect the herd.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Thank you,
29 Calvin.

30

31 Any respond to him, Carl.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No. Okay.

36

37 Go ahead, Mike.

38

39 MR. KRAMER: Just going through this
40 pamphlet, I -- you know, I see a lot of things, and I
41 just brought it up to Hannah and Mr. Cleveland over
42 here. It says, who is involved in the Ambler Mining
43 District access project, you know. And the one thing
44 that they stated when they were here, that if they went
45 under Federal funds, it would be an open road. Anybody
46 could travel on that open road. I mean, guides,
47 transporters, you name it, is going to have access to
48 that road. That's why they said if they went through
49 State funding, then it would be a private road. And
50 right down here it says Federal Highway Administration.

1 You know, that's already a sign that it's going to be a
2 wide open road, and that's going to ruin -- that's
3 going to ruin our ability to be rural.

4

5 And I think what needs to happen is a
6 letter needs to be written to these organizations,
7 Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority;
8 DOWL Engineers, I believe that has something to do with
9 NANA maybe; National Park Service, Gates of the Arctic,
10 they're already here, you know; Federal Highway
11 Administration, never seen any of them here listening
12 to our concern; and NANA, DOYON; State of Alaska,
13 Bureau of Land Management.

14

15 You know, we don't have anybody here
16 from NANA, you know, that's pretty sweet that, you
17 know, they should be present at something that involves
18 their shareholders and the people in the NANA region.
19 They should be here, you know, to be able to explain to
20 us, you know, and look at options to benefit the people
21 for subsistence and cost of living. They need to be
22 present. This is a serious issue here, and it will
23 determine our ability to be rural and be urban, and
24 it's going to impact our region so bad, all for the
25 mighty dollar. You know, I'd prefer caribou meat over
26 the mighty dollar.

27

28 You know, are there any important
29 traditional places in that area of the park which might
30 be impacted by the road? Oh, yeah.

31

32 My brother works for the borough here,
33 and he does subsistence mapping. You know, I sure hope
34 he gets out there, you know, and does some subsistence
35 mapping for this road project, something that can
36 benefit the people of this region.

37

38 You know, what do you think impacts of
39 the road would be on natural resources of the area?
40 There will be dramatic impacts. Dramatic impacts.
41 It's going to be scary to see, you know.

42

43 I think a letter needs to be written to
44 these organizations for them to start attending our
45 meetings and start reassuring that, you know, we start
46 looking at different options other than the road from
47 Fairbanks to Ambler.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.
2
3 Go ahead, Raymond.
4
5 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6
7 This Haul Road is very concern to all
8 of us. I'll say one thing right now, which I know that
9 some of our local partners, they're very top supporters
10 of this road. Very powerful organizations. I think,
11 Mr. Chairman, that sometime we should invite these
12 organizations and tell us and show us their plan of how
13 to deal with that road.
14
15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.
16 Yeah, I think you're right. Maybe we need to draft a
17 letter to NANA and any other organization we might have
18 that something to say about the road. I think what you
19 need to do is put it in a motion. That way we could do
20 it and the letter will come from here, from this Board
21 here under motion. So do you want to make that a
22 motion that we write a letter to the organizations that
23 have something to do with it. You want to put it on
24 motion.
25
26 Go ahead, Verne.
27
28 MR. CLEVELAND: I make a motion.
29
30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: You make the motion
31 to write a letter.
32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: Make a motion to write
34 a letter.
35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: To invite like NANA
37 to be here.
38
39 MR. CLEVELAND: NANA, DOT, AIDEA, and
40 National Park Service, NANA, DOWL, all of them guys.
41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Doyon, NANA,
43 BLM. It's listed.
44
45 MS. BURKE: I made a list that Mike
46 went over.
47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You made a
49 list, all of them. It's in there. Okay. We will
50 write a letter to them to be invited and say what

1 impacts, you know, what they think of it, so he put it
2 under motion.

3

4 MR. CLEVELAND: And, okay, we're on
5 question. I sit on the Western Arctic.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: It's not on the
8 question yet. We need a second.

9

10 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. Somebody got to
11 second that motion.

12

13 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. Mike seconds the
14 motion.

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.

17

18 MS. LOON: Question.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: The question's been
21 called for.

22

23 Go ahead, Verne.

24

25 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, I sit on the
26 Western Working Group, Caribou Herd, as vice chair.
27 And we're very concerned about this. And all the
28 entities, they show up at our meeting, and maybe we can
29 get the chair or vice chair and some of these rural
30 RACs to go to our meeting, but everybody shows up in
31 our meeting. DOT, all them guys, they're there in our
32 meeting.

33

34 And there was a very loud noise coming
35 in from Anaktuvuk. They didn't like this road. They
36 don't want this road. And there's some boys that call
37 themselves the Brook Ridge Boys, and they're fighting.
38 They're coming out of Bettles are I think, I believe.
39 And they're fighting against this road. Not only that,
40 Allakaket, Alatna. I hear some guy, Paul Simon I think
41 it was, he's from Allakaket, and he didn't want this
42 road. Nobody wants the road, because it affects the
43 caribou. The one guy said, you didn't see caribou 20
44 years in Allakaket, and they used to come right near
45 town. He said he haven't seen anything for at least 20
46 years. Nothing near or around them.

47

48 So there's a big impact, and it's
49 statewide right now. So we attend, at least someone
50 from the RAC's there, or Regional Advisory Council from

1 statewide attends. Or even the Federal Subsistence
2 Board meeting that would be -- not just one guy, maybe
3 two, three guys to attend the Federal Subsistence Board
4 and how much impact this road is going to happen to us
5 subsistence hunters, and talk about that rural and non-
6 rural issues. That would be our best time to nail them
7 right there.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

12

13 So far, Marcy -- okay. Sorry, we need
14 to vote on this motion that it was seconded by -- and
15 there was a question. So all in favor of this letter
16 signify by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any opposed.

21

22 (No opposing votes)

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: None opposed so,
25 Melinda, you'll write a letter and we will look at it
26 under draft and it will go to everyone here until that
27 we it will sign. Thank you.

28

29 So back to Marcy. Do you have any
30 response to what you hear so far, yes or no?

31

32 MS. OKADA: (Indiscernible) a study to
33 occur and then Carl's response as far as an
34 environmental impact study. It was also written in
35 ANILCA that should a right-of-way go through Gates of
36 the Arctic, an environmental impact statement would not
37 be necessary, but in its place we are to prepare an
38 environmental and economic analysis instead. So that
39 was also included in ANILCA. We don't have to create
40 an EIS for this project through Gates.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

43

44 Okay. On this subject, anyone else.
45 Brad, do you have anything.

46

47 MR. SHULTS: I do have some information
48 for you. Of course, it's up to you. We can keep it
49 brief, if Marcy's done.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Are you done,
2 Marcy.
3
4 MS. OKADA: (Indiscernible), Mr. Chair.
5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think it's back to
7 the sheep, right?
8
9 MR. SHULTS: Well, I can make it brief.
10 I've got a couple of things if you'd like me to
11 continue.
12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead.
14
15 MR. SHULTS: Okay. First, I want to
16 recognize we have other Park Service employees here
17 that can answer questions. We have Ken Adkisson, Marci
18 Johnson, Samantha Shaeffer, Willie Goodwin, and Dan
19 Stevenson. So this is your time, so feel free to call
20 them up and ask any questions you'd like.
21
22 I would just before you leave the road
23 thing, not to belabor it, there was a study recently
24 done, and I think it was by the EPA, and they did look
25 at asbestos dust in the gravel in Ambler actually. And
26 I ran across that and read it about a month ago, and I
27 will try to dredge it up and email it to the
28 coordinator. So that did in fact happen. It was
29 pretty interesting. It's somewhat technical. But I
30 will dredge that up for you.
31
32 I provided you with some documents
33 yesterday, just a brief report on the wildlife work
34 that we've been doing in the area. The Arctic Network
35 Monitoring Program Newsletter, which has a variety of
36 topics. Some ptarmigan research that's being done by
37 the University of Alaska Fairbanks, which is just
38 interesting. And I always like to provide you with the
39 Parks latest issue of Park Science, which is mostly
40 about Southwest Alaska, but may have things of interest
41 to you.
42
43 In the wildlife one I wanted to draw
44 your attention to two research projects that are
45 ongoing that are sponsored and paid for by the Park
46 Service. One is a TEK project in Noatak with caribou.
47 Willie Goodwin's been the liaison for that work.
48 That's ongoing. It's on Page 10. It's being conducted
49 by the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a graduate
50 student.

1 And also we're looking at doing a
2 similar study that was done by BLM in the Squirrel,
3 looking at sport hunting aspects in Noatak National
4 Preserve. That's ongoing, too.

5
6 I'd be happy to answer any questions
7 about those.

8
9 So I really didn't have any more than
10 that. Like I said, if you have specific questions,
11 we're happy to answer them. This is your time.

12
13 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. What was that?
14 CCAKE or CKR? What is that acronym?

15
16 MR. SHULTS: TEK? Traditional
17 ecological knowledge. That one. Was that what you're
18 asking? Yeah. Sorry, I probably mumbled it.

19
20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, Percy, that's
21 the one he mentioned. Okay. Thanks.

22
23 Go ahead, Verne.

24
25 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, that asbestos has
26 been going on for 25 years in Ambler. We shut down
27 everything in Ambler, not to build nothing. No build
28 roads, no working on runways. We've been shut down for
29 20, 20-some years. Now they lifted it up. The
30 Governor went up there and lifted it up, because their
31 houses are getting old, and because of asbestos from
32 Ambler to Shungnak. Asbestos. And they're going to
33 build 10 new homes, a new runway, everything else will
34 be built up there as of next summer.

35
36 But on the other hand, on your handout,
37 and which one you're aware, under your contact, but I
38 didn't know where you were at.

39
40 But it's an impact, that asbestos. You
41 go to Ambler. I wish some of you guys would go to
42 Ambler. If you guys do go to Ambler, look at their
43 kettles, their tea kettles, or their hot water kettle
44 on the stove, and see how thick the water is inside
45 their kettles. Inside. Just come by and look at it.
46 There's a white rim all the way inside their kettles.
47 That's asbestos. I don't know how they managed to live
48 this long, or what does asbestos impact on their food,
49 what they live off the land or anything, but that's a
50 good one to bring up. That's another issue to bring

1 up. I don't know how much of an impact it would be to
2 human. I would like to ask someone to look into it.
3 It's been going on for years. And I lived in Ambler
4 before, but I'm still alive. Everything's okay.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
9 Verne. Amazing what the body could resist.

10
11 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, and your
14 respond -- I would say the water and sewer in the
15 villages, and one of them, when we did at Noatak, they
16 were so rich in iron and a lot of those minerals, where
17 you boil, will have a film, and it will eventually
18 build up if you don't clean your kettle and stuff like
19 that. And these are -- I'm not trying to put that's
20 what's happening, but actually that's what it is.

21
22 So I think what you could do, Verne, is
23 you want to find out what's in the kettle. You could
24 probably try to have your IRA find a grant to see
25 what's in the kettle. And that way you could be
26 answered and it might ease you. Or if there's a
27 concern, health concern, that will start it.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 Go ahead, Percy.

32
33 MR. BALLOT: I was just thinking we
34 need to get a guy from Ambler or Shungnak on this
35 Board. We can nominate two, right from one of the
36 village?

37
38 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: To sit on the
39 advisory -- I don't if we could nominate, but I know we
40 could recommend somebody from Ambler or Shungnak to
41 apply and fill out an application. And I think that's
42 what we've got to do. We could ask someone from up the
43 river from Ambler area, upper Kobuk, same thing with
44 Noatak. There's a couple -- be with Noatak and
45 Kivalina, too. I like to see variety of this Board sit
46 for the Northwest Alaska, someone Noatak, Upper Kobuk,
47 Selawik, Shungnak, Ambler, Deering, you know, Buckland,
48 in that area, that way we could all be covered. So
49 that way it eventually won't all come from Kotzebue.

50

1 So, yeah, we could ask someone. So if
2 you have anyone in mind, call them and tell them.
3 We'll send them an application, Percy.

4
5 Go ahead, Verne.

6
7 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah, there's advisory
8 committees, like the Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk, Selawik,
9 Buckland. There's advisory, Fish and Game Advisory, or
10 what do they call them? Council? They haven't had
11 meetings for a while, but that would be good to invite
12 them in our meeting like this, Fish and Game Advisory
13 Council. There's Lower Kobuk -- I can't even remember.
14 Upper Kobuk. At Kivalina and Noatak. That would be
15 good to invite them into our meeting like this.

16
17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.

18
19 Any response, Brad, to that. No.

20
21 MR. SHULTS: No, they're the Fish and
22 Game Advisory Committees. That's what they're called.
23 Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So for all this
26 Council members, if you have anyone you think that
27 might be able to fill out an application, hand them
28 one. Help them fill it out, and they'll be considered
29 for the to sit on this Board here. We have a couple of
30 seats open right now. And mine's going to come up, you
31 know, for renewal. And so we all have a chance, and I
32 wish someone from each area would fill out -- or more
33 than to fill out to be, because it's declining like
34 they said.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 Go ahead.

39
40 MS. BURKE: And I'll be sure to be
41 sending a stack of application packets to all of the
42 communities in the region. I'll be physically putting
43 them in the mail when I get back to the office, so let
44 our regional folks know that they're going to be
45 coming. I'll be sending them to the IRAs and to the
46 different traditional Councils. And if there's other
47 suggestions, please let me know, and I'll be putting
48 them in the mail myself.

49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Any more

1 questions for the Park Service.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Marcy, are you out
6 there? Do you have any response to any of this. Or
7 are we going to move on.

8

9 MS. OKADA: I'm still here. And we do
10 have two representatives, one from Ambler and one from
11 Shungnak on our Gates of the Arctic SRC currently.

12

13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Thank
14 you, Brad.

15

16 So I'm going to ask you Board members.
17 I know it's close to lunch time, and we have BLM,
18 Department of Fish and Game, and Native organizations.
19 You got any idea how long it's going to take? What I'm
20 really going to ask you, you guys want to continue, go
21 on lunch break and come back, or finish off and done
22 for the evening? So far I'm getting how many of them
23 say they're hungry, so I think we would reconvene at
24 1:30 for lunch, and I'll turn it back to Carl.

25

26 Go ahead, Carl.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: I just wanted to clarify
29 one thing on the record for the Council. Marcy
30 indicate that ANILCA had an exemption for any road that
31 might go through the Preserve Unit in Gates of the
32 Arctic, that it wouldn't have to undergo for that part
33 an environmental impact statement. But that would just
34 be one part of the road. The whole road would be
35 considered as one project, and if there were any
36 Federal action, which means any Federal dollars, any
37 Federal permits like Corps of Engineers for wetlands
38 filling and dredging, or any other Federal
39 authorizations like any other rights of way through
40 Federal land, the National Environmental Policy Act
41 would require -- for a project that size, the likely
42 result would be an environmental impact statement.
43 Despite that, you know, exemption for the Preserve Unit
44 in Gates of the Arctic, it's likely that there still
45 would be one for the whole project.

46

47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Since you
48 brought it up, maybe I could give you this question.
49 So if one organization that has authority to stop this
50 project, if they oppose it due to one thing or the

1 other, can it stop and be forgotten, or will it be -- I
2 mean, Congress, I know they'll override it not matter
3 what happens, but I've got a strong feeling they want
4 that road no matter what we say. So if one
5 organization, like I say, if they say no, or could they
6 delay it longer?

7
8 MR. JOHNSON: Well, in reality, the
9 Federal law that requires environmental impact
10 statements is just a procedural law. It just requires
11 agencies to follow steps when they take action or
12 authorize action. So it would really be up to the
13 agency itself to decide that they're not going to
14 authorize the activity.

15
16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead,
17 Raymond.

18
19 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20
21 I've got a little bit of different
22 subject right there about these organization reports.
23 I'd like to see the State of Alaska give us a report on
24 the population of this caribou herd after lunch. If
25 there's somebody from the Department of Fish and Game
26 will do that first after lunch.

27
28 MS. BURKE: Yeah. Mr. Stoney, through
29 the Chair. I did talk with Jim Dau, the area
30 biologist, and he said he'd be able to come down and
31 give you guys a report.

32
33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So the State will
34 come after BLM.

35
36 So everybody right now want to go to
37 lunch I guess, except Calvin will stay. He's raising
38 his hand to stay.

39
40 MS. BURKE: He can help me start
41 writing my letters.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah.

44
45 MR. MOTO: Before we can break for
46 lunch, I've got to go before (indiscernible - mic off).

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Let's go to
49 lunch and we'll reconvene at 1:15.

50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you all.
6 I'll open this meeting back to order. It's 1:28 in the
7 afternoon.

8

9 So we requested Jim to be here, so he
10 will be after BLM update. And it's going to be Kelly
11 Edgar that's going to -- on BLM.

12

13 Oh, you wanted to go first, Jim? Okay.
14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. BURKE: Dan Sharp, are you going to
17 be covering that BLM update handout.

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Nobody's there.
22 Nobody's there from BLM.

23

24 Jim, if you're willing to come up now.

25

26 Do we need to amend that?

27

28 MS. BURKE: No, it's okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Go ahead, Jim.
31 They wanted to hear about the number for the caribou
32 update what you just done. I think you just came back
33 from your aerial count, right? Okay. Thank you. Jim.

34

35 MR. DAU: Thanks, Attamuk. Jim Dau,
36 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

37

38 I don't have a big, long prepared
39 speech, but I can give you a little bit of an update on
40 what's happened in the last year, year and a half with
41 the Western Arctic Herd.

42

43 Probably the biggest news is we got the
44 herd photographed last July. We actually shot the herd
45 twice. We did it on July 7th, and there were lots of
46 showers in the area, but the caribou were really
47 aggregated well. I was delighted to get them done, and
48 if we'd have walked away then I'd have been a very
49 happy camper. It was even better the next day. Those
50 showers had moved out, it was severe clear. We've

1 never, ever been able to photograph the entire Western
2 Arctic Herd twice in one year. This year we did one
3 day apart in basically the same area. So I'm pretty
4 excited that we'll learn a lot more about how good our
5 photo census technique is by having two duplicate, you
6 know, back-to-back day censuses.

7
8 So it would be really nice if I could
9 have an estimate by the time the Board of Game meets
10 here in January. I'm not sure we can do that. I'm
11 going to try, but right now it's a long shot. I'm
12 hoping if we can't have a number or an estimate by
13 January, that we'll have one by March or April at the
14 latest.

15
16 And if anybody's got questions on any
17 of this stuff, you can see there's not some big smooth
18 presentation here, raise your hand, interrupt. You
19 won't mess me up at all. It can't get any worse than
20 this. So questions.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Jim, maybe do
23 it for everybody, I just have two questions for you.
24 The other one is how does the numbers look compared to
25 the other years? And the other one is, did they pass
26 Howard Pass, out of Anaktuvuk heading, you know, to our
27 direction? How does it look right now. Because I get
28 a call from Noatak saying, where's the caribou, you
29 know, and I tell, I can't answer it until I ask you.
30 So I think what -- and I will call them back and tell
31 them whatever you tell me, and how does it look right
32 now, because it's close to our hunting season, within,
33 you know, a couple weeks, and we'll be starting. And
34 now I know it was cold the other day, maybe that will
35 trigger it, maybe not. Maybe the weather's fooling us
36 again. We don't know. So the first question is this,
37 how does the caribou look from the numbers before from
38 when you do your aerial survey.

39
40 MR. DAU: Okay. Well, it's really hard
41 for me, even as far along as I've been doing this, it's
42 really hard for me to look down and say, oh, the herd's
43 down, the herd's up. I can't tell when I'm looking at,
44 you know, 300,000 caribou underneath me. It all
45 depends on how tight the aggregations are, and they
46 were really, really tight this year.

47
48 We did two censuses, and we took just
49 over 300 photographs. That's with two censuses. To
50 put that in comparison, back in I think 2003 we did one

1 census, and we came off the North Slope with over 1100
2 photographs. So we've done twice as much work, we shot
3 the herd twice, with one-fourth as many photographs.
4 So you can tell that the aggregations were really,
5 really tight this summer. And it's hard for me to
6 estimate.

7
8 But what I can tell you is this last
9 winter, you guys all know this as well as I do, we had
10 probably the least amount of snow that I can remember
11 in the last 25 years. It was a really easy winter for
12 caribou, and that's reflected in our mortality
13 estimate. Our mortality estimate's down around 15
14 percent right now. That's for the year we're in right
15 now.

16
17 The previous year was a tough year on
18 caribou. We had more snow. It's I think the highest
19 mortality rate that we've recorded since I've been
20 around. Right now it's sitting at 32 percent, so more
21 than double what it was this year.

22
23 So if we just look at those two numbers
24 and compare those to trends that we've seen in calf
25 survival, it seems like the numbers should be down this
26 year at the end of this census. So I don't see any way
27 how this herd could have gone up, but I'm not going to
28 stick my neck out and say it's down by X percent,
29 because I don't know.

30
31 So not using, you know, my look out the
32 window technique or anything, or, you know, how it
33 looks, but just looking at recruitment in relation to
34 adult cow mortality, I think the number should be
35 lower. And I think it's going to continue the trend
36 that we've seen since 2003. I don't see any big
37 change.

38
39 Now, it was really interesting, you
40 know, you've heard me say I think last year -- people
41 ask, well, how come the numbers are going down? What's
42 going on? And you've heard me say, well, I think these
43 midwinter thawing events with ice has just been really
44 hard on caribou. We've had several years where our
45 mortality has maybe not been 30 percent, but it's been
46 well over 20 percent. And those have coincided with
47 these icing events.

48
49 Since then, we've heard lots of people
50 -- you know, brown bear numbers are up. Lots and lots

1 of wolves. We went around the round table at the
2 working group meeting the last two years. Every single
3 representative talks about high numbers of wolves, high
4 numbers of bears. Not this last winter, but the winter
5 before we saw dozens of caribou kills from wolves when
6 we were out riding around on snowmachines. I saw the
7 same thing from the air when I was flying.

8
9 I don't think predators started this
10 decline down. I don't think hunting precipitated the
11 decline. I think it was weather that started things,
12 but as caribou go down and predators go up, I think you
13 know, predators may be having more of an effect now
14 than they did 5, 10, 20 years ago. But I don't have
15 data on predator numbers.

16
17 I don't have data on exact causes of
18 death, so, you know, I'm giving you, you know, what I
19 see and what I think is going on, but it's not data
20 driven. I've got to be clear there.

21
22 Now, this last winter you heard me say,
23 gosh, it's, you know, pretty low snow, you know, and
24 very little mortality. If this was being driven by
25 wolves, just by wolves, mortality should have been high
26 again this year regardless of snow conditions, and it's
27 something I thought about a lot. I think there were --
28 I know I saw more wolves last winter than I saw the
29 winter before.

30
31 So I don't know everything that's going
32 on. I don't know -- again, I don't have good data on
33 causes of mortality. But I'm still convinced that
34 predators are having a role. And I wonder, you know,
35 if in these tough years with lots of snow, caribou in
36 bad condition, wolves have such an easy time killing
37 caribou. We looked at lots and lots of carcasses where
38 the caribou was half eaten and then wolves go on. It's
39 easier to just kill another one to eat that frozen one
40 we killed yesterday.

41
42 And last year and this summer when I
43 was out picking up jaws, you'd find a caribou kill, you
44 find the top of the skull, you find the hooves, you
45 find the teeth row. Man, everything else was gone. I
46 think in a light snow year, you know, from the kills I
47 saw, wolves were having a tough time, you know,
48 catching them, and they were eating every scrap.

49
50 So, anyway, that's kind of what I know

1 right now. I hope I have something better for you
2 without all this, you know, kind of wandering around, I
3 think this, I think that. I hope I have a number for
4 you, you know, by January, but if not, it will be next
5 spring.

6
7 Your next question about what's going
8 on right now, you know, are caribou starting to move.
9 I flew up to Howard Pass Sunday, and from Kotzebue to
10 Howard Pass I did not see a caribou. Zero. Not a one.
11 When we got to Howard Pass, we started seeing widely
12 scattered groups of bulls and they're just spread out.
13 They're not even really groups. It's just areas that
14 hold caribou. And some cows and calves for sure, but
15 it was all the way that far north and east before I saw
16 anything, you know, on this side of the mountains.

17
18 Now, looking at the satellite collars,
19 there are caribou spread on the North Slope and through
20 the mountains from roughly the Kivalina River all the
21 way to Howard Pass, and all the way up to Atqasuk. But
22 the only place where they dip slowly below the crest of
23 the mountains is around Howard Pass.

24
25 And I think I saw the first, you know,
26 kind of traces of movement south and west. That's the
27 way everybody seemed to be going. We spent the day up
28 there just watching caribou. Everything was driving
29 that way really slowly. It was 52 degrees, it was
30 blowing about 30 knots. It was cold on the ridge tops.
31 And even so, you know, we're up there in our jackets
32 with our hoods up, you look at the caribou, they're
33 still shaking their heads, they're still stomping their
34 feet. The bugs are still getting them. And I don't
35 expect to see any real concerted southerly movement
36 until those bugs back off a little bit. We just need
37 some cold weather, you know. You guys know that as
38 well as I do. That's what gets them going. But I
39 think it's going to be, you know, a while before people
40 down here have much of a chance to get caribou.

41
42 The last thing I'll say is the caribou
43 I looked at last weekend, they were nice and fat. Real
44 fat. They looked in great shape.

45
46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Did you taste any?

47
48 MR. DAU: Pardon me?

49
50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Did you taste any?

1 MR. DAU: Sadly, no. No, it was.....
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay, Jim. Yeah.
4 Thanks. So what you're telling us is that you won't
5 know the results until this winter.
6
7 MR. DAU: Right. And the one.....
8
9 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Well, thank you. And
10 they're still up north right now, pretty far up north.
11
12 MR. DAU: They're still up north.
13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Due to the weather.
15 We know the weather have lots to do with it.
16
17 MR. DAU: And the other thing I'll say
18 is, you know, right now the last official count was
19 324,000 caribou. That was 2011. They've been going
20 down about 4 to 6 percent a year since 2003. I don't
21 see any big change from that. But as far as we know
22 right now, when people call me and say, how big's the
23 herd, you know, what's the status. The last official
24 count, 324,000 caribou, and it's slowly declining.
25
26 I can say a little bit about calving
27 last summer and spring recruitment. Recruitment wasn't
28 terribly bad, it wasn't terribly good. We had fairly
29 good survival last winter. You'd expect that with a
30 low mortality rate and light snow. Calving was nothing
31 to write home about, but we've seen it, you know,
32 worse. It was 63 calves per 100 cows.
33
34 The one unusual thing is last spring
35 there was -- even though we had very little snow,
36 caribou were really late moving north, and we had the
37 southernmost distribution during calving that I've seen
38 in my time here. The core area actually dipped south
39 of the Brooks Range. But it's not that snow was
40 slowing them up. There was no snow to slow them up.
41 They just didn't start moving. They were real late.
42 And I think it's because it was such a cold, cold
43 spring. They just didn't start.
44
45 That's all I have.
46
47 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
48 Jim.
49
50 Anyone have a question for Jim. You

1 guys heard him, he won't know the numbers until later
2 on this winter, and the caribou are late.

3

4 Go ahead, Calvin.

5

6 MR. MOTO: Yeah. Mr. Dau, on these
7 caribou, how many did you aerial survey? How many
8 thousands did you say?

9

10 MR. DAU: In July of 2011, that's the
11 last time we photographed the herd. It was 324,000
12 caribou in this herd. So the Western Arctic Herd, as
13 far as I know, it's the biggest herd in North America
14 right now. Those big, big Canadian herds that got up,
15 you know, 500, 800,000 caribou, they have really gone
16 through the basement. Some of those things are less
17 than 20,000 caribou now, those big, big Canadian herds.
18 And so as far as I know, I think the Western Arctic
19 herd is the biggest herd in North America. It's still
20 almost twice as big as the Porcupine Herd. So it's
21 going down, but the good news is, there's still lots of
22 caribou, and, you know, we haven't restricted
23 regulations at all.

24

25 MR. MOTO: How much decrease do you
26 think predators are doing? I know last winter the bear
27 didn't hibernate until late, and we have influx of
28 wolves, you know. We have wolves come into our village
29 sometimes. So do they -- how many do you figure that
30 the wolf might have got, or you don't have any idea?

31

32 MR. DAU: Well, I wish I could tell you
33 for sure, but, you know, the honest answer is we just
34 don't know for sure. For the last six or seven year,
35 I've been putting in a lot more effort trying to figure
36 out what's killing the collared caribou. I go out
37 every year now and pick collars up off of bone piles.
38 And we've really put in a lot of effort trying to
39 figure out, you know, is it a predator? If it's a
40 predator, is it a wolf, is it a bear, is it a
41 wolverine? My counterpart in Fairbanks, Lincoln
42 Parrett, he's been doing the same thing on the
43 Teshekpuk Herd.

44

45 And unfortunately, you know, we've only
46 got -- I try and end every year with 100 functional
47 collars on living caribou. And so I start every hear
48 with about 140 or 150, but you're only losing, you
49 know, 30, 35 caribou a year maybe. And so there's some
50 of those you don't get to for months, you just flat

1 don't know what killed them. You know something
2 scavenged them, but I can't answer your question for
3 sure, Calvin, but it looks like -- of the ones where I
4 have determined cause of death, it looks like wolves
5 are killing three or four times as many caribou as
6 bears are. And there's a small percentage that are not
7 dying of predators, they're dying of something else.
8 Disease or accidents.

9

10 MR. MOTO: Did the harvest quota go
11 down, or is it still stable?

12

13 MR. DAU: Harvest levels, Nikki's going
14 to talk about that in just a minute, so I won't try and
15 answer that for you. I'll defer to Nikki. But the
16 quotas, we don't have any quota at all. We've got a
17 year-round season on bulls. We've only got a six-week
18 closure on cows. So there's no upper limit to -- we
19 don't limit harvest at all right now, and we're not
20 going to do that for a while until we see lower numbers
21 or a steeper decline with the decline.

22

23 MR. MOTO: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Before you go on,
26 Nikki, let my ask first of the Board members.

27

28 Anyone else have a question for Jim.

29

30 Go ahead, Mike.

31

32 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. Was Red Dog going
33 to do any kind of study as to whether the road has any
34 impact on the caribou herd? I mean, the last, you
35 know, thing you showed us last year was that it was
36 beginning to have an impact on our caribou herd. And,
37 you know, the secondary story is that Ambler road
38 project. I think the Red Dog road should be, you know,
39 a stepping stone as to prove as to whether it is
40 affecting our caribou herd. You know, their migration
41 southward. I know, you know, up there in the hatchery
42 area, you don't see a caribou at all. You know, the
43 Aggie area, that place is pretty much dried up. People
44 that go up hunting over there, they pretty much just
45 boating around.

46

47 I think it does have an impact on our
48 caribou herd because of the fact of the road. And I
49 think Red Dog needs to start opening up their doors to
50 start doing a study as to seeing if there's a

1 possibility they could shut down the road for, you
2 know, a couple weeks just to see if it did make an
3 impact, or if it did make it easier for them to cross
4 the road, and, you know, for easier passing. I mean, I
5 think Red Dog needs to step up and start, you know,
6 doing some studies to, you know, help out the
7 community, because they are in our game management
8 unit, so I think they need to make a higher effort in
9 providing us with some information on that.

10

11 Thanks.

12

13 MR. DAU: Yeah. I don't know that Red
14 Dog's going to do any studies. They don't really have
15 staff up there to really start projects on their own.
16 I know when I talked to Red Dog, they were the first
17 entity that I showed those movement maps to, there
18 wasn't a single guy there that denied them or said this
19 was -- you know, this is -- you're cooking the books or
20 anything like that. They all looked at each other and
21 said, boy, what was different in 2011 than it was in
22 2010 or '9.

23

24 You know, what I've seen with just --
25 and all I've done is just map movements. We've got
26 some guys that are way smarter than I am that are
27 modeling movements in relation to the road, using
28 basion (ph) statistics and simulations and this and
29 that, and I just reviewed a summary of that yesterday.
30 So there are people certainly looking at the satellite
31 collar data we've got, more than what I've done. What
32 I showed you was just a bunch of maps. Basically I'm
33 just showing you raw data in a map form that people can
34 understand.

35

36 But what I started to say was the Red
37 Dog folks, they looked at each other, what's different
38 and what could we possibly do to minimize that?
39 Because you look at the maps, you don't need high-
40 powered stats to see that in some years that road does
41 affect the migration.

42

43 Now, what my headquarters always points
44 out to me is, well, you know, sure, you know, there's a
45 delay, but there's never been demonstrated any kind of
46 a population level effect of roads. And I guess
47 technically they're right. I don't think there's any
48 paper published saying there's a road and now there's
49 no caribou, that roads and caribou are not mutually
50 exclusive.

1 But I think there's an awful lot of
2 people that are thinking about the Ambler road.
3 There's another proposed road to Umiat that would
4 affect Anaktuvuk Pass possibly. It would affect
5 another herd. You know, we've been looking at caribou
6 movements for the Central Arctic Herd around Prudhoe
7 Bay for, geez, going back to the 80s. That's what I
8 did my master's work on. So I think it's got a lot of
9 attention.

10
11 And the one thing that's a little
12 different here is that the impacts are not just on
13 caribou. They're on hunters. They're on people from
14 Noatak and Kotzebue and the camps and Kivalina and all
15 that. So, you know, impacts can't be measured just in
16 terms of days of delay or miles traveled or body counts
17 or anything like that. You have to look at opportunity
18 for hunters, too, and we're doing that.

19
20 But, you know, it is incredibly
21 complicated to analyze caribou movements. These things
22 -- when you look at caribou movements away from a road,
23 the goll-darned things are, you know, going here and
24 reversing, and it's not real straight forward. So it's
25 taking time, but, boy, we've got some really, really
26 sharp biometricians that are working on it.

27
28 And I think Red Dog, to their credit,
29 is very interested in finding out ways that they can
30 minimize their impact on this herd.

31
32 And the last thing I'll say is, you
33 know, really what got me looking at the Red Dog road
34 movement stuff had nothing to do with Red Dog. That
35 mine, that road is there. It's not going away. I
36 think those guys are doing what they can to minimize
37 things.

38
39 But my total interest in this was about
40 the road to Ambler, because originally they were
41 talking about not just a road to Ambler, they were
42 talking about a road to Ambler, then a road to a deep
43 water port, either Cape Blossom or Portside or down by
44 Elim, and that's a real different ball game than just a
45 road to Ambler, is simply a road to Red Dog. If you
46 drive a road from the Haul Road all the way out to the
47 ocean, those caribou are going to have to cross that
48 road multiple times per year if they're going to get
49 down to where they're wintering now and where they're
50 summering. So that's really what my interest was, was

1 trying to get an idea of what does this new road really
2 mean for caribou and for users.

3

4 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Jim.

5

6 Go ahead, Verne.

7

8 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. Jim, we talked

9 about in our

10 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group as to slow
11 down the drill and blast in August/September was it?
12 To try and see if they could slow that down, the drill
13 and blasting. Maybe that is affecting caribou. If you
14 worked in Red Dog before and you use that -- the drill
15 and making loud noise, and then you blast it, and
16 there's blast 20 times a day. Did you talk to Red Dog
17 about drill and blasting on caribou migration?

18

19 MR. DAU: No, not specifically. When I
20 went to Red Dog, it wasn't for me to talk about ways to
21 reduce things. The first thing I wanted to just get
22 across to them is this movement, these maps. These
23 guys were completely unaware that the road in some
24 years, not every year -- some years those caribou cross
25 that road just fine. They don't have problems. And
26 that's what makes this thing so complicated, that not
27 every year is like 2011 where we had probably 40, 50,
28 60,000 caribou hit the road and go back to Point Hope.
29 The average delay was 44 days. But other years those
30 caribou have walked down to that road and walked across
31 it like it's, you know, a line in the sand.

32

33 But, no, Verne, I didn't talk to them
34 about, you know, what can we do, you know, convoying
35 groups of trucks instead of sending single trucks down,
36 you know, two or three per hour. I think there's a lot
37 of things that they could possibly do, but we just
38 haven't gotten that far, you know. I think before we
39 get into things like that, we're going to want to see
40 what these biometricians come up with, because they'll
41 do a lot better job than I will in terms of defining
42 zones of impact, you know, how far out do these things
43 really start responding to the road.

44

45 What I see in my maps is I think a lot
46 of these caribou don't ever respond to the road. They
47 respond to caribou that have already bounced off the
48 road. That's the whole thing about the leaders. You
49 can't mess with the leaders, and I think we're seeing
50 that with Red Dog. But again that makes it

1 complicated.

2

3

4 So I think those discussions are
5 probably going to happen, and I think they should
6 certainly happen with regard -- you know, if they
7 decide to build this Ambler road, you know, we need to
8 think about that, you know, before they put the first
9 gravel on the tundra, but it's not happened yet.

9

10 MR. CLEVELAND: I know it would cost a
11 lot if we shut down Red Dog for August/September like
12 they shut down the Bornite Monday because of us, the
13 subsistence committee wanted it shut down early because
14 of caribou migration. And I wonder if we can do that
15 to Red Dog. Because we don't have no subsistence
16 committees from Kotzebue and Kiana, Noorvik. They
17 don't go to Red Dog for subsistence committee meetings.
18 It affects us, too. They've got committees from
19 Kivalina and Noatak, but nothing from the Kobuk or even
20 from Kotz. And I think we ought to really deeply look
21 into that for the migration, because what Mike said
22 here, they haven't seen no caribou here in the Noatak
23 for quite a while. But we've got to do something to at
24 least get the migration route back to where they were,
25 but I think that would be impossible. You know that.

26

27 MR. DAU: Yeah. I don't know. But I
28 do think Red Dog from everything I've seen over the
29 last 20, 25 years, Red Dog has been very receptive to
30 trying to minimize their impact. They've supported all
31 of our work, you know, even when it could have gone
32 against them. So I think you'll find some receptive
33 ears at Red Dog. It's just what they bump up against
34 in terms of, you know, the ability to store their
35 product up at the mine instead of taking it down. I
36 don't know how long they can run that mine without
37 running the trucks. I just don't know.

38

39 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. And how far was
40 that pass you were talking about? How far did you go?

41

42 MR. DAU: The Howard Pass is directly
43 north of Ambler. From here it's probably, oh, 150
44 miles. So it's quite a ways. It's just south of the
45 Upper Colville River. That's what's on the North
46 Slope. That's a big river you might recognize the name
47 of. And it's between the Upper Colville and the Upper
48 Noatak River to kind of put it in perspective for you.
49 It's well west of Anaktuvuk.

50

1 MR. CLEVELAND: So you missed that 20
2 that passed Noatak about five days ago.
3
4 MR. DAU: I didn't see those 20, no.
5 Sorry.
6
7 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. Right below
8 Noatak there's -- I heard a bunch just crossed.
9 Someone just told me that during breakfast. 20 or 30
10 crossed.
11
12 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
13 Verne.
14
15 Raymond, you have a question.
16
17 MR. STONEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I have
18 a very simple question to Jim.
19
20 As we all know that number of years now
21 you've been collaring caribou at Onion Portage. So are
22 you going to do it again this year, right?
23
24 MR. DAU: Right. We will. Yeah, the
25 9th through the 16th. The two schools are Unalakleet
26 and Nome. Those are the schools that will come. And
27 we've got a total of 33 collars to put out. That's
28 what we'll do this year. I think it will be about --
29 we'll probably do about 8 bulls, 8 or 10 bulls, and the
30 rest will be cows. We're weighing calves, too. We'll
31 collect blood like we have in the past. We're not
32 killing any caribou. We don't bring that up this year
33 to do the health assessment. So it's just putting
34 collars out, working with the schools, collecting
35 blood.
36
37 MR. STONEY: So you'll have some
38 students from some place again this year that work with
39 you.
40
41 MR. DAU: Yeah. Unalakleet will bring
42 up six or eight students, and then they'll go back, and
43 Nome will bring up six or eight students, yeah.
44
45 MR. STONEY: Okay. Yeah.
46
47 MR. DAU: There are two schools that,
48 you know, they're within the range of the herd.
49 Neither one of those schools has ever come up and done
50 it before. We're really trying to get every school in

1 the range of the Western Arctic Herd there at least
2 once, and I was pretty excited that we're getting two
3 brand new schools this year.

4

5 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Jim.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Go ahead,
8 Percy.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Jim. When you said
11 the effect of Red Dog only happens to those nearest,
12 but this happened to Buckland, because it brings a lot
13 more attention to our area from other hunters other
14 than Kotzebue or Noatak. We've had them from Point
15 Hope, Huslia, Unalakleet, just from areas there used to
16 be in the past. So there's some kind of effect on
17 that.

18

19 The other thing is our meetings only
20 twice a year. And I don't know if you're the -- I
21 think we should have more information from Department
22 of Fish and Game when we have these meetings, because I
23 just hear this is a verbal report again, and I trust
24 you, I think, for the truth or things that you do, but
25 I'm pretty sure ADF have more to share with us. I
26 don't know what their take is on, you know, why they
27 think their idea of customary trade or rural
28 determination are good for them or why they would want
29 to change something. I think there's more they could
30 share with us, and at some point in time whoever has to
31 share that stuff with us should be shared or
32 communicating their ideas. I know you give us a
33 regional report, but statewide are more, I think we
34 should be hearing more. I know you do studies with the
35 kids in Ambler and other things that are going on, but
36 I don't hear the picture of what the State of Alaska is
37 doing regarding subsistence. We have to live by this
38 book, and we're surrounded by State lands, so I'm
39 pretty sure they have more to share with us at some
40 point in time.

41

42 MR. DAU: Yeah. I think all of us on
43 the State side, we're sensitive, we don't want to come
44 to a Federal meeting and try to make it into a State
45 meeting. So, you know, I'm glad to come and talk to
46 you guys as much as we possibly can. A lot of you guys
47 hear what I've got to say and see the graphs and
48 everything either at the working group meetings or at
49 the advisory committee meetings. And so, you know, we
50 do everything we can to try and get the word out, and

1 to the villages especially, but, you know, I could come
2 here and talk to you guys about caribou for two days
3 and you wouldn't talk about anything else. That would
4 be easy.

5
6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

7
8 Go ahead, Hannah.

9
10 MS. LOON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11
12 Thank you, Jim, for all your good
13 information. We certainly will look for numbers in
14 April and March on caribou.

15
16 How many times now this Council body
17 ask about Red Dog. I think we should send a letter to
18 Red Dog stating that they should at least listen to our
19 teleconferences and be ready to answer questions about
20 issues of caribou migration.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Hannah, for your
25 information, when they have the Western Arctic Caribou
26 Herd meeting, they usually have someone there, right,
27 Jim? They did last year I thought.

28
29 MR. DAU: Well, I don't think Red Dog
30 specifically had somebody there, but DNR was there to,
31 you know, kind of represent mining interests, not just
32 Red Dog, but, you know, like the people that want to
33 develop Bornite and all those other places. They were
34 certainly there at the meeting.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then I stand
37 corrected. Thank you.

38
39 Okay. Jim, you're done.

40
41 Nikki, we're going to talk about the
42 surveys for Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Go ahead.

43
44 MS. BRAEM: For the record, my name is
45 Nikki Braem, and I work for Division of Subsistence at
46 Fish and Game. Let me move this way a little bit. I'm
47 not used to talking in a mic like you guys are.

48
49 We had quite an ambitious research
50 effort last year. We're just starting to get our

1 results back, so I'm going to try to just do a quick
2 summary of what we did, and hopefully at the next
3 meeting I can come back with some handouts with the
4 actual results from our studies.

5
6 So to start with we did comprehensive
7 subsistence studies in four communities in this region
8 last year. We went to Noorvik, and we went to Ambler,
9 Kobuk, and Shungnak. And when I say comprehensive
10 subsistence survey, I mean we ask you about everything,
11 not just caribou. Every kind of fish, every kind of
12 bird. And we don't do these types of studies very
13 often, because they're kind of exhausting for us and
14 for the people we talk to.

15
16 So it was time for us to go to Noorvik.
17 I don't think we've ever been in Noorvik doing a
18 comprehensive study. And a couple of those Upper Kobuk
19 communities we had never done that type of study ever
20 in the history of the division. So it was pretty
21 exciting to get up there.

22
23 In addition to doing those
24 comprehensive studies, we went to Noatak and Kiana for
25 part of our -- well, it's a four-year study on
26 subsistence fisheries. Just focusing on fish. And
27 that's a little different project than we did in the
28 past. It's actually an OSM funded project, and
29 basically in addition to finding out -- kind of working
30 on, you know, getting an idea of what people are
31 harvesting and how much, we're doing interviews with
32 knowledgeable people both about how it's done and about
33 what was affecting the harvest that year, so we can
34 understand our numbers a little better. More than just
35 saying X number of, you know, dead whitefish, what was
36 driving harvest?

37
38 And the really interesting thing, the
39 fisheries perspective was, when we sat here last year,
40 and at virtually every meeting I went to associated
41 with subsistence last year, people talked about that
42 record-breaking rain and how it affected everybody's
43 fishing. And I heard that down at Nome, because it
44 rained just about as much down there for two months.
45 And we heard it loud and clear from every community we
46 went to last year, that the rain, how it interfered
47 with the ability to fish, the ability to dry fish. So
48 our results from the first year will reflect this
49 really weird season everybody had.

50 And the nice thing is, that was our

1 first year of going out and doing this fish project.
2 And so we're going to go out again this year and again
3 another year. And so we're going to have three years
4 in a row where we go and see what's going on with
5 fisheries. So hopefully we can see how it varies
6 between a normal year and a really poor year.

7
8 And another nice aspect of the project
9 is that part of the project is going out and being out
10 there while people are fishing, not just sitting, you
11 know, there in January talking about fishing, but going
12 out while people are doing it and document what they do
13 and how they do it, so we can better talk about
14 subsistence basically.

15
16 And so I'm hoping to go to Noatak maybe
17 this fall, maybe Kiana. They're part of our project in
18 that project.

19
20 In year 2 we will be going to Selawik,
21 because we got permission from Selawik. They want to
22 be involved in the project. And with Kivalina, their
23 IRA was going to take it up at this next meeting they
24 were having, so I expect to hear from Kivalina soon.

25
26 The good news is I think we have the
27 funding to extend this project to Buckland, and I'm
28 going to send a letter to Deering, too. I just haven't
29 gotten that letter out yet, to see if Deering wants to
30 participate in the fisheries project for years 2 and 3.
31 So I'm actually pretty excited about the fisheries
32 project.

33
34 The other thing we did last year is we
35 did a caribou survey in Kotzebue for the first time in,
36 well, I don't know, Jim, a really long time. So we
37 came here in May and we did a random survey of 25
38 percent of Kotzebue households. And we just are
39 getting data back now.

40
41 So I've told you about all this
42 research we have done, and I don't have any results for
43 you, but we're just getting to the results right now.
44 So hopefully by the winter meeting I can have something
45 on paper instead of just talking at you about the
46 results for an hour.

47
48 This year we are, in addition project,
49 I'm not sure which community we'll do a caribou survey
50 in this year. That hasn't been set yet. It's likely

1 one we haven't gotten to in a while.

2

3 Other than that, if you have any
4 questions, I'm happy to answer them.

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Calvin.

7

8 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I was wondering, I
9 know you'll do monitoring and tagging of caribou. Of
10 those tagged, how many went to -- do you have an idea
11 around the Seward Peninsula and how many went south
12 some place else? Were you able to monitor them through
13 the radio tags?

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead, Jim.

16

17 MS. BRAEM: Mr. Moto. This is a
18 question that Mr. Dau can answer better than I.

19

20 MR. DAU: Yeah, Calvin, it really
21 varies from year to year. Last year there was a fairly
22 small proportion of the herd over in the Nulato Hills,
23 so just barely east of the Seward Peninsula. They were
24 in the upper south fork of the Buckland River. Percy
25 knows all that. But most of the herd by far was down
26 in -- you know, on the Seward Peninsula proper,
27 probably 80 percent. 75, 80 percent of the herd was on
28 the Seward Peninsula based on the collars.

29

30 MR. MOTO: The reason I was wondering
31 is we had some high school students help monitor one
32 time, and they were wondering which way they went, you
33 know.

34

35 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
36 Thank you, Jim.

37

38 Okay. Nikki, I have a question.....

39

40 MR. BALLOT: Jim. Just for Calvin's
41 thing, I think Jim would be good to have a little
42 follow up when you do things like that in the regions
43 or wherever on the work they did and the monitoring and
44 sharing of that information, like he said, where the
45 caribou go and stuff like that.

46

47 MR. DAU: Yeah, what we've done --
48 that's Meghan Nedwick, she's our education specialist,
49 so she works with the schools. Like she's sending them
50 all the information now to tell them, you know, what's

1 coming at Onion Portage.

2

3 But really a lot of her work, she
4 doesn't go to Onion Portage with us. We try and
5 minimize the number of folks up there. But afterwards
6 she works with all those schools, and not just in that
7 year. If a school comes even two years ago and they've
8 got a teacher that's interested, you know, we'll give
9 them, you know, caribou data so they can follow the
10 movements. They can learn math, they can learn mapping
11 skills. There's a lot of things that Meghan does with
12 them as follow up after Onion Portage, which is really
13 a lot better than what I used to do 20, 25 years ago
14 when I started this. You know, I didn't have time to
15 do all that. I wasn't an education person, but
16 Meghan's really doing a great job following up with the
17 students.

18

19 And again at the working group
20 meetings, Verne's heard this, you know, Raymond's heard
21 this, Attamuk, she gets up and always gives a big
22 presentation about all the things that she's done
23 educationwise, so to try and fill you guys in on, you
24 know, what's being done with the students.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

27

28 Now I'll defer this question to Nikki.
29 I know you did comprehensive survey. I've got nothing
30 about that, but that's going to be done in one village,
31 and if you do it, it takes about three years to do one
32 village, three to four years on the comprehensive to
33 finally finalize the report. And my question is this.
34 By the time you get back to that village, that could be
35 12 years later. How are you going to compare data with
36 the survey you did? Because -- I'm not trying to say
37 -- but me and Susan used to do caribou surveys in the
38 villages, and they were pretty frequent until I left
39 Maniilaq for about four or five years. That's why they
40 haven't been done for a while. And I would like to see
41 it done in a village, not every so often, but three
42 villages per year on the caribou that's being taken,
43 because if they keep declining at this rate, pretty
44 soon they're going to try to limit our take. And what
45 good is that data if we haven't seen the survey in 12
46 years. And so you need to revisit, and don't worry --
47 and just go ahead and in Kotzebue do it. I've got no
48 problem with that. But in the villagers where they
49 depend a lot on caribou, the surveys need to be done at
50 more frequent years. Because I will challenge your

1 numbers if they say they're going to decline our take.
2 What numbers are you going to use, because we need to
3 see how many numbers people are taking. They need to
4 survey on the caribou.

5
6 And I will tell you right now, you need
7 to increase and step it up and increase the years
8 instead of once every so many years on your
9 comprehensive. I know it done everything, that's to
10 save money. But before we used to do house-to-house.
11 Now, if you're changing it to stat, that's a completely
12 different thing. It would be hard for me to swallow if
13 you change the data from our house-to-house survey. We
14 went to every house, and now you're doing it under
15 stats. That's a completely different thing. The
16 reason why I say that, when BLM for moose was having --
17 they were saying at one time they had high numbers at
18 Squirrel River. We proved it with ETO (ph) that there
19 was a lot less numbers in there for moose. Under stats
20 they were way up, yet when they did aerial survey, they
21 were down by a good two-thirds. See, that's why I have
22 a problem with stats, because it's a guessing game.
23 Pretty soon it will get good, but if they keep using it
24 year after year, but when it's new, I have a question
25 about that.

26
27 So you need to step up and make a
28 change and do three, four village per year. That way
29 we could see it, because I know the caribou were
30 getting scarce, the average is really going to go down.
31 But I don't want to see the reduction where we could
32 take only three a year. Maybe two a year. Maybe five
33 a year. When we average out -- when Susan and I were
34 doing it, we were averaging out per family 14 per year.
35 That's what I'm saying here. That's why I'm coming at
36 this level, because I need to have better numbers than
37 that to make me happy. And I need to.

38
39 MS. BRAEM: In response, and one thing
40 I didn't note, which might be useful, we only did
41 Kotzebue last year, but the previous year, two year --
42 the previous years we actually did six communities each
43 year. We just focused on Kotzebue last year. And it's
44 my expectation -- you know, prior to that, we'd been
45 doing three per year like you'd like. I would have
46 liked to have been doing more than three. I think six
47 is good. I'd like to do more than six, you know. So
48 it's certainly at least my goal to get back to doing
49 more caribou studies per year. And I think this coming
50 year we'll have an opportunity to do -- we'll

1 definitely do more than just one.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
4 Because I hate to see the people take a reduction in
5 take. and we need numbers to back us up how much we've
6 been taking. Thank you.

7

8 Go ahead, Verne.

9

10 MR. CLEVELAND: And when you do the
11 surveys, just don't say that you're trying to harass
12 people or anything. Because you work for the Fish and
13 Game, some people get a different, you know, they get a
14 different feeling and say, hey, Fish and Game's here
15 and they're going to try and get us in trouble. And,
16 no, just talk to them and tell them, hey, we're just
17 here doing counts. That way they won't get a
18 different, you know, feeling.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.
23 Thank you, Jim. Thank you, Nikki.

24

25 Go ahead, Jim.

26

27 MR. DAU: I've got just one last thing
28 for Fish and Game. This is supposed to be a Fish and
29 Game agency report. This is not caribou, but just it's
30 a personnel change. Charlotte Westing went to Cordova
31 back in May. She was the AB. She followed me. So
32 she's gone. And Brandon Saito was going to take her
33 job. You guys all know him, he's worked for Fish and
34 Wildlife a long time. A real good guy. He'll start
35 working for us on September 3rd, so he'll be the new
36 AB, and at the next meeting I'm sure he'll be up here
37 for the State, too. I just wanted to let you know.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thanks, Jim.
40 Just don't retire on us like the others. Okay. Thank
41 you.

42

43 And I think we're going to go to the
44 BLM, and someone on the phone is going to call in.

45

46 MR. SHARP: (Mic not on)

47

48 MS. BURKE: (Indiscernible) under the
49 agency report.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Erlich, you're
2 going to do it? Okay. Thank you.

3
4 MR. ERLICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Councilors. My name is John Erlich. I work with the
6 Bureau of Land Management, and I'm a natural resources
7 program coordinator. I'm working out of the Kotzebue
8 field station here in Kotzebue.

9
10 I'm going to be reading a prepared
11 report prepared by my supervisors out of Fairbanks, the
12 Central Yukon field office, and I'll be talking about a
13 number of programs that the Bureau has.

14
15 The first will be recreation. The BLM
16 has a total of seven hunting guides permitted in Guide
17 Use Area 23-06. these guides hunt BLM-managed lands in
18 the Squirrel River. Two guides reported use on BLM
19 lands in 2012. A total of 22 clients were reported.
20 Species reported taken were 12 caribou, 2 moose, and 3
21 grizzly. The BLM has no requests for new permits for
22 guides within the Northwest Arctic region. Two guides
23 are permitted in Guide Use Area 23-01. Additional
24 commercial hunting activity this fall is in Guide Use
25 Area 23-04 where there's two guides, and 23-5 where
26 there's three guides, and 23-07 where there's one
27 guide.

28
29 Since 2009 all transporters taking
30 clients into BLM-managed lands in the Squirrel River
31 are required to have a BLM permit. We issued four
32 permits to transporters in 2012. One permittee
33 reported no use during the fall hunting season; the
34 other three permittees reported a combined total of 28
35 clients, which is down from 59 clients last year,
36 transported to BLM lands in the Squirrel River. All
37 transporters to the Squirrel River will also have to
38 renew their permits for 2013. There are a total of
39 five permitted transporters this year with the addition
40 of two new companies: Juneau Air and Arctic
41 Backcountry Flying Service.

42
43 In June of 2013 the Sierra Club
44 conducted a seven-day trip into the Squirrel River
45 watershed called wildflowers, birds, and botanical
46 illustrations in the Brooks Range. There were 10
47 participants and 2 trip leaders in this arctic study
48 camp. Transportation to the site was with air
49 transporter. Day hikes were conducted from a base camp
50 where studies included forest border, dry ridge

1 fellfield, braided river flats, and wet tundra marsh
2 habitats. Leave no trace camping and travel principles
3 were used by the group.

4
5 The next program is our fisheries
6 program. The fisheries biologist that does most of the
7 work for the BLM in this area is Dave Parker, and he
8 reports that in the Kivalina River, due to
9 sequestration, funding to finish the Kivalina Dolly
10 Varden habitat was not available. but aerial surveys
11 of the Dollies and fall chum present in the upper river
12 will be flown between August 15 and August 23.
13 Hopefully project funding will be available next year
14 to complete the spawning habitat study.

15
16 With respect to the Squirrel River
17 area, in support of the Squirrel River Special
18 Recreation Management Area Plan, fisheries work will
19 continue from August 15 to August 23 in the upper
20 Squirrel River classifying stream channel habitat,
21 assessing fish presence and distribution, and making
22 observations on the effects of four-wheeler usage in
23 the drainage. Water quality data and stream channel
24 classification survey work will focus on Timber Creek
25 and also the headwaters of the mainstream of the
26 Squirrel River. A project completion report will be
27 produced this winter and should be available in time
28 for the Northwest Arctic RAC meeting in spring of 2014.
29 Please feel free to contact Dave Parker with any fish
30 related issues in the Upper Squirrel or the Kivalina
31 River systems.

32
33 Our mining program reports no new
34 mining activity on BLM lands this year in this area.

35
36 And with respect to our realty program,
37 the BLM is working at permitting the Terra project,
38 which is an effort to bring broadband or microwave
39 internet service to the area. It's called the Terra
40 Phase III project. This project encompasses five
41 communication site towers to be installed by Unicom/GCI
42 with three sites being on BLM lands within the Central
43 Yukon field office. The remaining two sites are on
44 areas managed by the Anchorage field office. This
45 right-of-way us being worked on by Tom Sparks in the
46 BLM's Nome office. This is Phase III of a four-phase
47 project. BLM issued the right-of-way grants for this
48 project in July 2013.

49
50 Another communications related project

1 has to do with Clem Mountain, about seven miles west of
2 Buckland. The BLM will issue a right-of-way renewal to
3 the Federal Aviation Administration for a remote
4 communication outlet site on top of Clem Mountain.

5
6 We also have some wildlife programs. A
7 number of biologists that work at studying wildlife.
8 One is Erin Julianus. She joined the Central Yukon
9 field office in June 2013. She's one of our new
10 biologists.

11
12 All of the BLM Western Arctic Caribou
13 Herd winter habitat long-term monitoring transects in
14 the Nulato Hills and eastern Seward Peninsula have been
15 revisited as of July 2013. Data analysis and reporting
16 on detectable changes in habitat are planned for 2014.
17 And my understanding here is that folks were going down
18 and studying the winter range each and south of
19 Buckland down into the Nulato Hills, looking at the
20 vegetation communities.

21
22 The BLM is also working towards a
23 Western Arctic Caribou Winter Range Habitat Management
24 Plan. Public and interagency scoping has been
25 completed and the BLM is working on the conceptual
26 development for the plan.

27
28 The Yukon Lowlands-Kuskokwim Mountains-
29 Lime Hills rapid ecological assessment is in progress.
30 This product will help land managers to identify and
31 answer key resources management questions.

32
33 The BLM continues to be active in the
34 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and will
35 provide funding, coordination, and logistical support
36 for the December 2013 meetings.

37
38 BLM contributed to the Alaska
39 Department of Fish and Game Lower Noatak moose survey
40 in Unit 24-A, and was also invited to participate in
41 the annual collaring work at Onion Portage this year.
42 I think we understood that it was going to happen
43 between September 9 and 16. The BLM also contributes
44 to getting students to participate with the work that's
45 done in Onion Portage.

46
47 And the BLM also continues to work on
48 the Squirrel River Management Plan. The plan will
49 incorporate alternatives that will address user
50 conflicts in the Squirrel River special recreation

1 management area.

2

3

4 We have a somewhat new law -- new to
5 the Bureau law enforcement ranger. His name is Seth
6 McMillan. He joined our office as a ranger in January
7 of 2013. He can be contacted at -- he has a number
8 listed in Fairbanks. If anyone would like that, I'd be
9 happy to give it out.

9

10

11 Our archaeology program. Our
12 archaeologist up here, Bill Hedman, reports that during
13 the 2013 field season, BLM archaeologists teamed with
14 the National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, BIA, and
15 the Bering Straits Native Corporation to conduct
16 inventory and salvage excavation on the western Seward
17 Peninsula in response to widespread archeological site
18 looting in that region. While aerial survey took place
19 along the coast between Nome and Cape Espenberg,
20 excavation work was undertaken on the U.S. Coast Guard
21 withdrawal at Cape Spencer. Preliminary results
22 indicate that nearly 100 percent of the known village
23 sites between Feather River and the Village of Wales
24 have been impacted by looting, many severely. Limited
25 survey of the Kotzebue region identified that site
26 impacts were limited to sites located on Alaska Native
27 allotments. The BLM will continue to work with
28 interested parties in the region to promote site
29 stewardship and preservation in rural Alaska.

29

30

31 And in July the Central Yukon field
32 office archaeologists conducted helicopter survey and
33 site investigations on BLM-managed lands on the Baldwin
34 Peninsula, Selawik Lake, Kauk River, Mangoak River, and
35 the Selawik Hills. Work resulted in the identification
36 of several historic and prehistoric sites, including
37 two reindeer cams, a historic village site, and a
38 number of prehistoric costal overlook sites. A single
39 artifact, an obsidian microblade, was collected from
40 the Choris Peninsula. This artifact will be analyzed
41 with X-ray defraction equipment to determine the source
42 of the obsidian. While much of the obsidian found in
43 northwestern Alaska comes from the Indian River
44 country, other specimens have been sourced to Siberia.
45 Knowing the origins of this artifact will tell us
46 something of the movement of goods and people in the
47 region during prehistoric times.

47

48

49 And analysis and write-up continues on
50 the Raven Bluff material. Artifacts from this
51 excavation are currently housed at the University of

1 Alaska Museum in Fairbanks. The faunal assemblage,
2 dominated by caribou bone, is being analyzed by the
3 University of Alaska -- University of Illinois Urbana-
4 Champaign. No further work at the Raven Bluff site is
5 currently planned.

6
7 As far as planning, BLM will be
8 starting development of a resource management plan with
9 an associated environmental impact statement for the
10 Central Yukon planning area in the coming months. When
11 finalized, the plan will provide future direction for
12 approximately 16 million acres of BLM-administered land
13 in central and northern Alaska, including the Dalton
14 Highway corridor, BLM-managed lands in the central
15 Yukon River watershed, the eastern Nulato Hills, and
16 the Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Study
17 area. We will be holding public meetings in the region
18 to get public comment on issues in the planning area.
19 Once meetings are scheduled, we will publish them
20 through the BLM website and local media. If you would
21 like to be on the mailing list, please provide your
22 name and address to Jeannie Cole or to me, and I'll
23 pass it on to her.

24
25 And then lastly the Bureau has been
26 able to make a contribution this year to the Kotzebue
27 IRA Sisolik youth camp. We're hopefully going to be
28 able to do the same this year with Buckland. And I
29 think it sounds like the folks in the Bureau, as
30 funding is available, really want to try to get youth
31 involved in outdoor activities, whether they're
32 cultural or outdoor skills and stuff like that. That's
33 the sort of thing that the Bureau is excited about
34 right now. So I think they would like to even look at
35 the prospect of doing similar sorts of things with
36 other communities.

37
38 Thank you. That's all I have.

39
40 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John.

41
42 Any questions. Go ahead, Raymond.

43
44 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

45
46 Mr. Erlich, we all know, all of us
47 here, probably all of us know that for every year
48 hunting seasonally at the Squirrel has been a pretty
49 popular place, you know, for the outfitters that comes
50 up to northwest Alaska, and do most of the hunters

1 then. They've got a number of clients in fact at the
2 Squirrel. So my question would be that I know that you
3 do have a law enforcement officer that's stationed in
4 Fairbanks, so are they planning to be around the
5 Squirrel, the law enforcement, for the hunting season?
6

7 MR. ERLICH: Thank you. I'm glad you
8 brought that up. I've been with the Bureau for four
9 years, and during the previous three seasons what our
10 office has done was we've ordered on loan a ranger from
11 the Lower 48. And so the last three years they came
12 up. They didn't know Alaska fish and game laws; they
13 didn't know the area; they didn't have experience out
14 here.
15

16 But what's different about this year is
17 that we've hired, our office, our Central Yukon field
18 office, has recruited its own law enforcement ranger.
19 His name is Seth McMillan. He's worked for a number of
20 years I understand up on the North Slope with the Park
21 Service so he's got experience up this way. And he
22 also has an airplane. He's a pilot.
23

24 I don't know when he could be coming
25 up. It's likely that if I ever do find out that he's
26 coming up beforehand, it would probably be on short
27 notice. But there is a good likelihood that we'll be
28 getting another ranger on loan; hopefully it will be
29 one of the others that have come up, and that that
30 ranger will be doing whatever -- in addition to
31 whatever Seth is doing up here, we hope to have another
32 ranger on loan for this season. So, yeah, hopefully we
33 can at least with the loan ranger we could probably
34 spend more time out on the Squirrel if we need to do
35 that this year.
36

37 MR. STONEY: Okay. One final question.
38 I don't know who would answer this question what I'm
39 about to ask. Of course, we know that a number of
40 years now, two or three years, that somebody always
41 hired a private investigator, that's in Game Unit 23.
42 I wonder if you can answer that question now. Are
43 there going to be investigator in this area this
44 hunting season? I know the State was involved with it;
45 I don't know about BLM though.
46

47 MR. ERLICH: I've been in on some of
48 the discussions that the Bureau's had along with other
49 Federal and State agencies, and also local agencies
50 like the Borough, through like the Unit 23 Working

1 Group, you know, which tries to address user conflicts
2 and stuff like that.

3

4 I'm sorry, would you repeat the
5 question? I'm sorry.

6

7 MR. STONEY: I imagine maybe the State
8 would answer that question, because I know they hired
9 somebody, you know, to do some investigation on some of
10 the hunting areas about a couple years now. Maybe
11 State could answer that question if they get to that.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Erlich.

14

15 MR. ERLICH: Yeah, I'm sorry, I have
16 been in on discussions where folks have talked about an
17 investigator coming up again, but that really would be
18 a State employee. And my understanding is I think they
19 are planning on having someone up here like Lee Stroud,
20 if it's not Lee Stroud, come up again to do the kind of
21 work he's been doing the last several years. Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, John.

24

25 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
28 Percy.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: Thank you, John, for your
31 report. Did you say Buckland had funded for the
32 culture camp, too, this year or last year? Or
33 considered?

34

35 MR. ERLICH: Yeah. Right now I've just
36 had a couple of contacts with the tribal administrators
37 in Buckland, and what I'm hoping to be doing soon is to
38 be looking at seeing how to arrange to make the
39 contribution, that we talked with the administration
40 before, that we talked with the IRA Council there about
41 that effort before as well. It turns out that we
42 didn't get funding to Buckland last year, but we are
43 hoping to get funding to them this year.

44

45 MR. BALLOT: Okay. That's all simply
46 because I wanted to clarify. We did have 5,000 but we
47 knew where it came from now. So we were wondering if
48 it's from you or from the Borough or from BLM.

49

50 My other question to follow up on that

1 is that these studies that were done by the Central
2 Yukon field office, I hope we will get reports. I see
3 they found something up in Choris and stuff like that
4 of what was found within our region at some point in
5 time from those folks.

6

7 MR. ERLICH: Right. I'll certainly
8 bring that to the Fairbanks office. Thank you.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: The other one is our
11 concern for Buckland, it's good to know that they're
12 going to put up that transmitter again there, whatever.
13 But our concern is where does Granite Mountain fall in
14 in regard to BLM-managed lands? I see we're right on
15 the border, but we have concerns about the mining there
16 for years and years, because of the color of the water
17 and things like, but yet we never hear no reports on
18 how their mining process is going up there. We know
19 that there's some differences in the color if you go
20 between the works, that there's something happening.
21 We don't know or hear no reports whether the mining
22 processes that are used. I think DEC has a process
23 when you mine, but we never hear no reports. We've
24 asked for more, but nobody comes to us. So are we on
25 Unit 23D, or is it 22B. But that river there goes
26 right into the Buckland River, so it has some effect to
27 our area.

28

29 And the year before we had concern with
30 a transporter, a guide or so that was hunting that had
31 a license that was on Unit 22, but he was hunting on
32 Unit 23. So we'll have concerns about things like that
33 on BLM lands. So I know working with the state trooper
34 here, some guy named Eric, and we worked pretty good
35 with Kawerak, because that was an issue with them, too.

36

37

38 I guess I hope that we'll get to hear
39 something about the Granite Mountain mining.

40

41 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead.

42

43 MR. ERLICH: Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead.

46

47 MR. ERLICH: Thank you. Right. If I
48 can, what I'd like to do is to look into that more.
49 And if this is a concern also coming out of, you know,
50 the community of Buckland, too, we can get -- I can

1 report back what I learn before the next RAC meeting by
2 getting ahold of folks at the government offices in
3 Buckland if that sounds like an appropriate thing to
4 do. But I can look into that.

5
6 And we do have a geologist that's
7 assigned to our field office who can talk at this if it
8 turns out that BLM does have an interest there.

9
10 MR. BALLOT: Okay. That sounds good.

11
12 We'd also -- I don't know if we have
13 any guides who do the BLM-managed lands going up the
14 Buckland River, but I know there was some before, but I
15 didn't see nothing in this report.

16
17 MR. ERLICH: Okay. We do have one
18 guide. We have had one guide have a permit in the area
19 between Buckland and Deering. HE was a guide that
20 lived in Koyuk. But I haven't heard that he's made
21 much use of that site recently. And this year, for
22 example, I haven't paid a visit to the site.

23
24 And as far as the activity in the Upper
25 Buckland River, the last few hunting seasons I've been
26 getting more and more calls about people having
27 questions and sometimes concerns about what's going on
28 in some of the upper reaches of the Buckland River.
29 And so we've made more of an effort to try to make
30 overflights down that way. And I think we're going to
31 continue to do that.

32
33 We did -- at other times we pointed out
34 at community meetings and stuff that when it comes to
35 transporters, it's only in the Squirrel River, on BLM-
36 managed lands in the Squirrel River. That's the only
37 place that transporters are required to get permits to
38 take people to BLM lands. Elsewhere they're not
39 required to get permits. So to the extent that they're
40 bringing -- that it's transporter activity, transporter
41 clients to the Buckland area, right now we don't have a
42 way to get really good information other than try to
43 get perhaps a presence on the ground and make
44 observations ourselves, or to hear from it from folks,
45 you know, in Buckland area.

46
47 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I have just
48 one more. Does BLM or whoever like people on that
49 obsidian or whatever it was in our area. Are they
50 going to retrieve or bring it back? Just where does

1 that go? Is there a museum or BLM thing, do we get to
2 hear anything on it?

3

4 MR. ERLICH: Yeah, that's something I'm
5 certainly going to bring up to our archaeologist, Bill
6 Hedman. I know that at other meetings with other
7 public lands that folks have expressed a really strong
8 desire that artifacts and items that are taken from
9 this area eventually come back and be made available
10 also so that our -- so young people up here can also
11 study them. Not just young people, all of us really.
12 And so I'll make sure that I, you know, make your
13 sentiments about this known to archaeologists. I'll
14 see if I can invite them up here perhaps at a future
15 meeting, or even the next RAC meeting.

16

17 MR. BALLOT: Okay. I've got a picture
18 of this, it look like this, I was going to share it
19 with -- I'm going to get some shares (mic off).

20

21 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Anything else,
22 Percy.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No. Okay. Thanks,
27 John, for the report. Yeah, thanks.

28

29 Go ahead. Someone had a question.

30

31 Go ahead, Verne.

32

33 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. You mentioned
34 about cultural camps. Do you have funding or what's
35 the contact number? Because they started one in
36 Noorvik about a week, week and a half ago, and they're
37 low on funding. How do we get some funding?

38

39 MR. ERLICH: Okay. One way to get a
40 contact is to get ahold of me here in Kotzebue. 442-
41 3430. It's in the phone book, it's under U.S., United
42 States, or whatever. But if you like, I could also
43 call up to Noorvik and talk to folks up there if you
44 have any suggestions as to who would be a good person
45 to talk to. I could talk to you after the meeting.

46

47 But as far as the funding, sometimes
48 funding is known well in advance, because it's program
49 funds, but other times there will be money available
50 that a manager might be able to find or comes through

1 some other means that can be applied to stuff like this
2 as well. So it's not a really -- there's always reason
3 for optimism on stuff like this. So I'd look forward
4 to talking to somebody from Noorvik.

5
6 MR. CLEVELAND: IRA office, Noorvik,
7 they're running the elders camp, which is -- the kids
8 are excited about it, so we need more funding. I'm
9 glad to hear that.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
14 John.

15
16 Okay. We're down to 11.F., Native
17 organizations, and we don't have anyone from the
18 organizations. And she's going to check on the phone
19 again if there's anyone there on line.

20
21 MS. BURKE: Do we have any tribes or
22 communities that joined us on the phone who would like
23 to make any comments or reports at this time.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you. If
28 not, we will go to number 12, future meeting dates, and
29 the calendar will be.....

30
31 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair, on Page 104 is
32 the winter meeting dates. We'll need to reconfirm the
33 winter meeting dates that you folks have already
34 previously chosen, which are February 18 through 19,
35 2014. And I'm handing out a blank calendar. This will
36 be the first Council, since we're first out of the
37 gate, we'll be able to go ahead and pick our dates
38 first for fall 2014. And I'm handing out that calendar
39 now that wasn't printed in the book. So if the Council
40 wants to take a minute and look over the fall 2014
41 window meeting calendar, we'll need a motion reconfirm
42 the old dates and to pick dates for the fall.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So what you're saying
45 is it's going -- the 17th's going to be a holiday, and
46 you're going to travel that day to come here for the
47 18th meeting?

48
49 MS. BURKE: Of course I will.

50

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. You guys want
2 to look at the dates for your winter meeting in
3 February. Going to take a minute to look at it. We
4 could take a short break if you guys want to do that.

5
6 MS. BURKE: Five minutes?

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Five minutes it is.

9
10 (Off record)

11
12 (On record)

13
14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Back to order.
15 We will worry about the August and October meeting. So
16 for that, what days you guys are going to pick, in
17 October or September. And I heard it would be better
18 about it freezes. It usually freeze about the first
19 time first week in October. Depends on global warming
20 since sometimes it's later. So on those days, I'm open
21 on the first week of October 6th on out. So which days
22 do you think you guys are going to want in October.

23
24 MR. CLEVELAND: October 6th usually be
25 elections in our area. The first Monday, so that would
26 be elections should happen around in that area.

27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So in order for
29 things to calm down, maybe we could pick Wednesday and
30 Thursday. Anybody got any objections to that. 8 and
31 9. Or do you want to do it a week later?

32
33 MR. CLEVELAND: It's up to whatever
34 these guys think. I'll go along with them, but
35 whatever you guys pick, that's find with me, but as
36 long as it's October when all the hunting season slow
37 down and everything else, and freezing up. So that
38 would be a good idea.

39
40 MS. LOON: I like October 8 and 9.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Anyone got an idea
43 when is AFN going to happen at Fairbanks this year? I
44 think it's in October right about.....

45
46 MR. CLEVELAND: October 17.

47
48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: 17?

49
50 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. 18, 19, 20, 21,

1 somewhere around that week.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So it's going to --
4 AFN will be October 18, 19, 20, 21. So then I could
5 live with October 8 and 9.

6

7 MR. BALLOT: I have a question. What's
8 going on with -- I thought you say the window open
9 August -- is August not good, or September?

10

11 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Probably for a lot of
12 us it would be hard to pick in September. That's about
13 when for the first two, three weeks, we're hunting
14 caribou heavily. And some people will be working. So
15 maybe we'd be better off to wait right about when it
16 freeze up, when we're at a standstill. Right around
17 October 8 and 9 we're getting -- we're about the stand
18 still time. And if we put October 8 and 9, we could
19 push for Kiana meeting. We could try again. They
20 could say they got no money, which they always do, but
21 I tell you one thing, a couple of those administrators
22 are not hired yet. If they delay hiring them for
23 another month, maybe we'll have enough meeting and move
24 the budget around. I know how to move budget around.
25 They could ask me to move it, because if I don't have
26 an administrator that's not working for two, three
27 months, we might have enough money to have a meeting at
28 Kiana.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: 8 and 9 is good.

31

32 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So 8 and 9 is good.

33

34 MR. BALLOT: I move for Kiana.

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So 8 and 9 is
37 proposed.

38

39 MR. BALLOT: Move to have 8 and 9 in
40 Kiana.

41

42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Let's put it
43 this way. So far, any objections to 8 and 9.

44

45 MR. MOTO: Second.

46

47 MR. BALLOT: We moved. It was a
48 motion.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: October 8 and 9. Any

1 questions on this here.

2

3 MR. CLEVELAND: Yea. And would that be
4 our winter meeting or.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Fall meeting.

7

8 MS. BURKE: That would be the fall
9 meeting, and the winter dates were picked last year.
10 So the dates that you see in the book are the ones --
11 unless there's any objections, those will be the dates
12 that stand, in Kotzebue February 18th and 19th, 2014.

13

14 MR. CLEVELAND: Oh, you're talking
15 about 2014. Okay. Okay. Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Any questions
18 on it.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MR. CLEVELAND: Call for question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Call for question.
25 Okay. All in favor of October 8 and 9 signify by
26 saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Any objection.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: No objections. So
35 it's October 8 and 9, 2013.

36

37 MS. BURKE: 2014.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: 2014, I'm sorry.
40 2014.

41

42 Okay. I think we have one more item on
43 our agenda and we're done for the day.

44

45 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Council
46 members. In the falltime is when we pick the items for
47 your annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board.
48 On Page 9 of your of your books there's a guidance on
49 the annual reports.

50

1 And one of the items that I wrote down
2 from the discussions at this meeting is it sounded like
3 you folks would like to transmit your concerns about
4 the road to Ambler, and so I have that in my notes as a
5 possible 2013 annual report item to the Board. If the
6 Council would like to take a couple of minutes, I'd be
7 happy to take down any other concerns that you'd like
8 to see transmitted on the annual report.

9
10 On Page 11 is the letter that you wrote
11 last year. The three items were the requested meeting
12 in Kiana, one day Council meetings, and the Council
13 terms and youth involvement.

14
15 So we'll be choosing items at this
16 meeting, and I will draft the letter and we'll also
17 reconfirm them at the winter meeting. So if there's
18 any other items that the Council would like me to
19 include or discuss for the annual report, I'd be happy
20 to take them down now.

21
22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
23 Raymond.

24
25 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

26
27 I don't know, I've got to the point
28 where that Kiana was mentioned two times in a row, you
29 know, for our meeting. So right now, Mr. Ballot and
30 Chairman, I have no plan of no kind to give
31 recommendation to meeting in Kiana, because I'm not
32 prepared for it, because when this happen, like this
33 here, we were so honored to have that meeting and host
34 a meeting in Kiana, when it fail, it wasn't me, it was
35 the people that wanted it in Kiana, was very unhappy.
36 So right now, Mr. Chairman, I'm not prepared to say
37 Kiana.

38
39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So, Raymond.....

40
41 MR. STONEY: Unless I talk to the city
42 council and IRA.

43
44 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So when is your next
45 meeting with the city council and the IRA going to
46 happen at Kiana? Maybe you could have an answer for us
47 by then. Do you know when they're going to have
48 meeting at Kiana, IRA and the city?

49
50 MR. STONEY: Yeah. So, Mr. Chairman,

1 that maybe the coordinator could write a letter again
2 to Kiana what they say, because they were unhappy when
3 it failed two times in a row. It's not my judgment,
4 it's them. So it would be nice if you'd write a letter
5 and ask them, see if they could, you know, accommodate
6 a meeting in Kiana.

7
8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. So then you're
9 going to ask our coordinator to write a letter to
10 request we have a meeting at Kiana maybe again. And we
11 could keep it open. If they say no, we could have it
12 at Kotzebue, but if Kiana say, yes, we could try at
13 Kiana again. Let's put it that way. Do you want to
14 try it like that.

15
16 MR. STONEY: One thing is like this,
17 that you would have to come back to your office in
18 Anchorage and then notify your Staff. What I wanted to
19 see it 100 percent it's been taken care of to meet in
20 Kiana; otherwise, you know, we would never know what
21 your Staff would say. You can ask the Board or Board
22 Chair or whoever it is.

23
24 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

25
26 MS. BURKE: What we can do, Mr. Stoney,
27 is I would definitely be happy to send a follow-up
28 letter to the June 21st letter where we wrote to the
29 traditional council and to the city explaining why we
30 were pulling the meeting into Kotzebue. And I'd be
31 happy to follow up with additional correspondence and
32 work with you and the community to make my cost
33 analysis as strong as possible so we can try to plan
34 that meeting. And I'll be happy to keep communicating
35 with you closely regarding that. And if it doesn't
36 work out, we can definitely plan for Kotzebue as an
37 alternative.

38
39 MR. STONEY: Okay.

40
41 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

42
43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, go ahead,
44 Percy.

45
46 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I'm just thinking
47 that I hope we're not going to be getting our hopes up
48 again. Like Raymond say, I'd rather that we secure and
49 get our answer before we say we're going to meet in
50 Kiana, and send them anything until we hear whether

1 we're going to have it and then we make that offer to
2 them.

3

4 MS. BURKE: Yeah, Percy. Mr. Chair.
5 It's really difficult with -- you know, it always comes
6 up that the budget is tough, and so we work as hard as
7 we can to accommodate these requests, and I know that
8 Kiana's been wishing for quite a while to hold the
9 meeting there. Unfortunately it all depends on how the
10 numbers work out. And we do seek approval from our
11 leadership there in the office, and I think working
12 with Mr. Stoney and working with the community to try
13 to make it as cost-effective as possible, we'll
14 definitely be happy to try again and explain that it's
15 not a guarantee unfortunately. It will be another
16 attempt. I mean, I'll try my best.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: I have another thing. I
19 know you're trying to make it happen, and I hope your
20 boss try to make it happen, too.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah. Okay. Thank
23 you, Percy.

24

25 Go ahead, Verne.

26

27 MR. CLEVELAND: Yeah. I also brought
28 it up in Noorvik IRA Council that they were having a
29 meeting in Kiana, and that was two, three months before
30 this meeting, and then it canceled, and I had to go
31 back to the IRA council and tell them that it was
32 canceled. So they were planning to go up there with
33 boats and that would have been close, you know. So if
34 we had a meeting in Kiana, I think we'd have more
35 participation.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Maybe we could
40 recommend to Melinda that before she write a letter to
41 Kiana she could get with her supervisor to see if we
42 have enough money. We all want to have the meeting at
43 Kiana, because we owe them one now. I feel like that.
44 So if she could find out and make it for sure, she
45 could write the letter. And here comes the boss.

46

47 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, Mr. Chair, I am not
48 the boss. I am Melinda's boss and that's as far as it
49 goes.

50

1 You know, my experience in the past
2 with doing -- you know, we have done in the last couple
3 years some meetings in non-hub communities. And if the
4 numbers on the costs are close, then one thing that
5 really helps to push it over the line to make it
6 successful is if, you know, we can demonstrate to
7 leadership that there is strong support from the
8 community, that there's a lot of interest from the
9 community and that it would really have a lot of extra
10 benefit for that community to have the meeting there.

11
12 So I think in order for Melinda to
13 submit a successful package to the ARD, the assistant
14 regional director, for his approval, will be to have a
15 lot of coordination first with Kiana and a lot of
16 dialogue, and have everything figured out, how much the
17 costs would be, where everybody would stay, lodging,
18 all that kind of stuff, and then present it. And that
19 would be the best way to do it rather than first
20 checking the budget and then talking to Kiana. Because
21 when it's more than just dollars, it's, you know, the
22 interest and the passion in the community to have the
23 meeting there, that's just as important as how much the
24 cost would be.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Then let's put
27 it this way. If we want to have our meeting at Kiana,
28 there's no hotel in Kiana. So we're going to house
29 them in probably the school, the IRA building, and the
30 city building, and it's not going to cost you that much
31 compared to the hotel. And here in Kotzebue it's \$200
32 a night. And in Kiana it would probably cost you 50
33 per person, if they charge you from the IRA building
34 and the city building to stay there, or at the school.
35 You could add those numbers, what it cost you to stay
36 at the hotel here versus Kiana. The figures might
37 change a little bit. I used to work on my budget when
38 I used to be in maintenance. That's why -- you could
39 always skim them around, and you could always find a
40 way. So that might be a way, if you would see this
41 cost for here in Kotzebue, the cost for Kiana,
42 including fare, might be about real close to breaking
43 out even. Think about it. So let's play with numbers.
44 And before we get to Kiana, let's play with numbers.

45
46 And all of a sudden I've got so many
47 hands, I should be quiet.

48
49 Go ahead, Calvin.
50

1 MR. MOTO: One thing that I like about
2 Kiana is some of us have relatives there we could stay
3 with them and maybe provide them a little bit of
4 monetary. I know when I go there, I usually stay with
5 some of my relatives there. And I have some friends
6 that always tell me, how come you don't stay with me.
7 So these are some things that, you know, we get what
8 the cost of hotel is here, and what the cost would be
9 to stay in a village like Kiana, I think you would save
10 a few hundred dollars you know. And this is something
11 I thought I'd bring up.

12
13 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you.

14
15 Go ahead, Hannah, you had your hand up
16 first.

17
18 You'll be next, Percy.

19
20 MS. LOON: In Kiana Lacy Air have those
21 old dromax (ph) housing that they bought from several
22 of them, and they have three or four bedrooms and bunks
23 and a kitchen with stove, refrigerator and even washing
24 machines for the outsiders.

25
26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you,
27 Hannah.

28
29 Go ahead, Percy.

30
31 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chairman.
32 They've got places probably all hooked up already, so I
33 just want to mention also that Alaska government fares
34 and you give them enough time and they'll get some
35 pretty good discounts on the fares. Bering Air has two
36 planes, you can get some pretty good round trip
37 tickets. Or ERA that can save you half the cost of
38 flying over and back. If you're on Club 49, you get
39 another good discount. Or stuff like that. So there
40 is around in there, we pretty much that we can have it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Percy.

43
44 Go ahead, Raymond.

45
46 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 This is my final last comment about Kiana meeting.

48
49 I know it's been quite some times now
50 that I invited the city and IRA, there was two times

1 failure. My point is, now if it failed again, let's
2 just quit. Let's just go to Anchorage if Kiana fails.
3 Think about the cost of that, going to Anchorage.

4

5 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.

6

7 Back to Calvin.

8

9 MR. MOTO: I have another thing about
10 lodging I want to bring up. I'm a former chef. If you
11 bring the food, I'll cook it for you. I can cook it.

12

13 (Laughter)

14

15 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Your place is
16 cooking?

17

18 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: See the results.
21 It's there. It's good.

22

23 MR. MOTO: I did a lot of banquet work
24 in the region for NANA and different organizations
25 here. Sometimes we fed 1500 people. I just bring
26 myself and two of my kitchen, you know. I know I could
27 find help to cook if you need. If we bring the food, I
28 could cook. If you want oyster Rockefeller or lobster
29 Newberg or whatever. Bring it by.

30

31 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Yeah. Thank
32 you.

33

34 And now last request for the Board
35 here. We need to go for annual report to the Chair
36 from here. Is there any other items you guys think of
37 besides the one she mentioned earlier, road to Ambler
38 concerns. I think the other one is the road crossing,
39 you know, caribou crossing the road at Red Dog, because
40 they get -- they always give their report about that
41 for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
42 meeting, and they always give that one. And so maybe
43 we could request that they give a report for here.

44

45 And anything else you guys could think
46 of, or Melinda, you could think of that we need to put
47 on this final report to the Chair that comes from this
48 group here.

49

50 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, Mr. Chair. And then

1 we can reaffirm the Kiana meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, she's going to
4 try to find out and see -- before she get to Kiana,
5 she's going to see if she have enough money to get
6 there. That way there wouldn't be another let down or
7 put down, however you put it.

8

9 Yeah, go ahead, Melinda.

10

11 MS. BURKE: What I'll do, Percy and
12 Raymond, is we'll list the dates that you've chosen for
13 the October 2014 meeting. We'll list the dates for
14 now, and just leave the location to be announced. That
15 way we're not putting anything officially down on paper
16 if everybody's comfortable with that.

17

18 MR. BALLOT: It is. I just wanted to
19 add one more thing is what Raymond said. If we can't
20 have it over there, instead of Kotzebue, we have it in
21 Anchorage, because there's only one, two, three, four,
22 five of us, plus a couple here from Kotzebue that would
23 have to go down.

24

25 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.

26 Thank you.

27

28 Go ahead, Raymond.

29

30 MR. STONEY: Okay. And my final
31 comment on this Kiana stuff. You know, if you see the
32 numbers of the air carriers, you will decide, because
33 you will need at least three, current air, maybe four.
34 That's about like \$12,000 if you had to fly on a
35 charter.

36

37 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Michael.

38

39 MR. KRAMER: I know the Park Service
40 and Fish and Wildlife got all those nice airplanes over
41 there sitting in that hanger. If Brad could fly me
42 there. Looks like me and Brad will be the only ones
43 staying at their high school with a whole basketball
44 court to ourself.

45

46 I think if any agency is willing to
47 pitch in and help, I think you know, to make it work,
48 I'm all for it.

49

50 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

1 Thank you.

2

3 Now back to the annual report that we
4 need to put in.

5

6 Go ahead, Verne.

7

8 MR. CLEVELAND: How about putting down
9 no fly zone during migration of caribou for commercial
10 planes or any other planes, flying low in the migration
11 route of the caribou. To fly at least, what was it,
12 5,000 feet?

13

14 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think it's 300
15 feet. Somebody correct me if I'm wrong. I think it's
16 300 feet.

17

18 MR. CLEVELAND: 500 feet?

19

20 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: I think it's 500
21 feet. I think we would have to get with FAA on this
22 one here to get them flying at certain feet level,
23 because once they give their flight plan, I think they
24 pretty much could fly what they want, but we were
25 recommending that they no fly less than certain feet
26 from up the air, because when I work with migratory
27 birds, we ask them, the commuters not to fly lower,
28 because when they were -- it was seen in the villages
29 when the commuters were flying low and birds got
30 scared, they were, you know, putting the eggs, and they
31 were cracking the eggs, and maybe we could go at that
32 route.

33

34 Go ahead, Carl. Maybe you could answer
35 it better.

36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly, Mr. Chair.
38 I'll predict for you if this is in the annual report,
39 the response from the Board would begin with the
40 following words. This issue is beyond the authority of
41 the Federal Subsistence Board. And the response would
42 give you a recommendation to send a letter to the FAA
43 and provide you contact information as to who to talk
44 to.

45

46 So you could either put that in your
47 annual report or just skip that part and just have
48 Melinda write a letter to the FAA, or to work with
49 whatever their process is for making suggested changes
50 on flight patterns during the migration periods.

1 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, I hear you
2 completely, Verne. Flying low does disturb a lot the
3 people at the ground big time. Big time. It makes a
4 big difference.

5
6 MR. CLEVELAND: I think we've got that
7 with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. I
8 think there is a no fly zone on the Kobuk River, over
9 500 feet. You've got to fly south of the right going
10 back and forth commercial or start up services. I
11 think they talked with the FAA. I think that's what it
12 is. I'm pretty sure. Jim should have been here. He
13 would answer it. Or Wendy. Come on, going to back me.

14
15
16 MR. MOTO: One thing -- oh, here he
17 comes. I'd like to make a statement before you.

18
19 I know that in 1980s, middle 1980s
20 Deering, Buckland and NANA lost 16,000 reindeer. So
21 the increase of the caribou went like that, you know.
22 16,000 all of a sudden. So now that it has leveled off
23 now so I was thinking, I was going to ask Jim about
24 that, how much of that decrease -- I'm trying to (mic
25 off).....

26
27 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
28 I know from my experience of working for social
29 security for 17 years, I have worked with FAA trying to
30 find out a certain altitude when you're out in the
31 field, fly with aircraft. You're not required to fly
32 within -- lower than 500 feet. That's an FAA law.

33
34 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. And I just
35 called Jim and his answer to me was this, that at the
36 Refuges, they've got one for 2,000 feet. And the other
37 places they've got no real control over, but when you
38 could fly and land. And I know this is a loophole.
39 And there's a big hole where I'm not hunting caribou,
40 I'm fishing, they fly low anytime they wanted. And
41 I've approached them before, and they use that for an
42 excuse. And that they used they're fishing, and they
43 will have rods in their plane, because when they were
44 at Kelly I approached a couple of those planes, and
45 they said -- and I know legally that when they're
46 fishing, they could fly low. They don't worry about
47 the caribou, yet we're on the ground and we were at the
48 ground. And it's one of those things.

49
50 Maybe a proposal would have to come

1 from here to try to put a no fly zone, but I know for a
2 fact we have to go through FAA on this one here. The
3 refuges have their own. And the rest, the State and
4 the Park Service lands.

5
6 So, Brad, correct me if I'm wrong, but
7 that's what Jim told me.

8
9 MR. SHULTS: Well, you're correct on a
10 lot of points. The FAA regulates air space in the
11 United States, so anything that deals with aircraft and
12 air space is dealt with by the FAA.

13
14 The 2,000-foot thing that Jim tells you
15 is a recommendation. It's not in Federal Aviation
16 regulation. It's for parks and refuges and special
17 wildlife areas across the state. It's Federal lands.
18 And it's only a recommendation. It's not a legal
19 requirement for pilots. They can still fly below 2,000
20 feet.

21
22 The 500-foot is a Federal Aviation
23 regulation, and it -- not to get too technical, but
24 there's two different parts that people operate under.
25 Raymond knows this. Part 91 and Part 135. And it's
26 500 feet from any structures or people.

27
28 But at any other time, if there aren't
29 structures and people around, you can operate at any
30 altitude you would like in a certain air space as long
31 as you have an adequate altitude to deal with an
32 emergency, which means essentially you can fly at any
33 altitude you want as long as people and structures
34 aren't around.

35
36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Yeah, that's why I
37 said there's so many loopholes in it. There's so many
38 ways they could say they're flying at a certain because
39 of this and that. And that's why I say we need to have
40 a proposal probably come from here to say we need to
41 make a change. We're not going to do it right away.
42 Because I looked into this when it was requested by
43 Maniilaq quite a few years back. And I learned that we
44 have to go through the FAA.

45
46 If you guys wanted me to, I could try
47 to look into it again through Maniilaq. I'll have to
48 get the Board approval, and one of them is sitting
49 here, and to see if I could revisit and try again to
50 make a change. I know it might not happen, but at

1 least let's put it this way. Somebody from the Board
2 here will try.

3

4 Go ahead, Melinda.

5

6 MS. BURKE: Thank you, Mr. -- oh, are
7 we -- I'm sorry, are we done with that discussion
8 about.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Are we done
11 with this altitude flying. Because I think she's ready
12 to leave the building.

13

14 Go ahead, Verne.

15

16 MR. CLEVELAND: Can we write a letter
17 to President Obama about this? I make a motion that
18 you write a letter.

19

20 No more. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

23

24 Go ahead, Melinda.

25

26 MS. BURKE: Yes, Mr. Chair. I just
27 want to remind the Council, on Page 9 -- and we don't
28 have to list out all of the annual report concerns
29 today. On Page 9 there's the guidance on the report,
30 and it specifies that the issues -- the Board will
31 respond when -- you know, on issues that are within
32 their authority. We'll be looking at this, the report,
33 and finalizing it in the winter meeting. So we still
34 have lots of time. There's a lot of information that
35 you folks will be disseminating to your communities,
36 and that I'll be disseminating to the other villages as
37 well regarding the rural issue. And so there's still a
38 lot of time to gather concerns from your communities
39 and from the region for this report.

40

41 So if things come up between the
42 meeting cycle, definitely send them to me, and we'll
43 finalize this report and work on it in the winter
44 meeting.

45

46 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Verne.

47

48 MR. CLEVELAND: I got one now. Some
49 hunters reported that some Fish and Wildlife were, it's
50 a float plane, while they were moving, that they landed

1 right in front of them and tried to stop them. Is that
2 harassment? The guy was on a boat and the guy with a
3 float plane landed directly right in front of him, and
4 just stopped the hunter. And he had everything. He
5 had license, hunting, and didn't know what the problem
6 was. That shouldn't be happening either on floats or
7 on skis. On snowmachines they did that, too, to a
8 couple of people.

9

10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So you're saying the
11 Fish and Game did that? Or somebody from the Park
12 Service or what?

13

14 MR. CLEVELAND: Someone with a blue and
15 white plane. Fish and Game. They stopped -- they
16 busted some guys on snowmachines. They landed in front
17 of them and made a bust. The guys had to pay a fine.

18

19 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I haven't
20 heard about that one. Okay. Thanks, Verne.

21

22 Okay. Now we're into 13, the favorite
23 number of every -- go ahead, Percy.

24

25 MR. BALLOT: I have just a real quick
26 one. I know, but regarding the fisheries. Are we
27 going to have some kind of discussion -- I know we're
28 going -- we had another maritime or have another
29 maritime activity, you know, and how does that affect
30 our fish, and deep fishing, we want to look at
31 something.

32

33 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: What kind of
34 activities are you -- see, I'm trying to understand
35 your question on activity. What activity are you.....

36

37 MR. BALLOT: I thought they were
38 opening up a corridor or a place, corridor that they'll
39 be going to the Bering Sea, because of all that oil and
40 gas stuff that's going on in the future or that's
41 happening now.

42

43 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Oh, you mean the one
44 out in the marine lines?

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. I know a
49 little bit about it, but not much. And a lot of them
50 are imposing it, and a few industries are supporting

1 it. And it's really hard for me to answer it, because
2 I'm scared to answer it the wrong way, because that
3 meeting I attended to with the ice seals, and the one
4 that happened, and one of the -- with the Coast Guard,
5 the ice seals oppose it. The committee. And
6 especially for northwest Alaska and Nome, because
7 there's so much activity there.

8

9 I'll give you an example. Last year a
10 cruiseliner came into Kotzebue and anchored out there,
11 and they had small little boats, and those boats were
12 hauling about 60 clients. There were two of them.
13 They're 120. Even Alaska Airlines had to get an extra
14 plane just to get the people out. They got the people
15 out, and they got replaced. And cruise line, the
16 clients were by Crowley, and I act stupid, and I say,
17 hey, you guys coming, what you guys doing? And you
18 know how some people like to talk. Oh, we're going to
19 do this and we're going to have more cruise ships out
20 there next year, so the activity due to the ice
21 conditions, saying they're going to go to Barrow. I
22 don't know how far you wanted me to answer it, and I
23 got a big concern about the brown water waste from
24 cruise ships.

25

26 I'll tell you why I say that, because I
27 stopped the city from dumping waste out here, because
28 they didn't do it right. And our fish, thinking of it
29 as food, they ate it and a couple of ladies, they let
30 their children put net and they get sheefish and they
31 get tom cod. And when they were cornered, they end up
32 smelling like waste.

33

34 But, Percy, you remember, one of my
35 report to Maniilaq that a lot of fish die on eight-inch
36 hole. I had 34 dead fish of herring, smelt, tom cod,
37 flounder, and bullheads. Eight-inch hole. Walter was
38 working for us, Walter Gregg, and me and him make over
39 30 holes. Every hold we made had dead fish. It's
40 scary. I'm not trying to scare you, but the truth is
41 we made a hole right in front of here, across the bay,
42 we went to Little Noatak, all the way up there. That's
43 scary.

44

45 That's why I have a problem of brown
46 waste dumping. But we are not the regulating
47 committee. We need to work with EPA that could
48 regulate that waste dumping out there. And I would
49 like to stop it. And I didn't want to come out with
50 it, but I wrote a letter to the Coast Guard through

1 Maniilaq that we need to do something about it, and I
2 got a present (ph) from people, these are ways for us
3 to make money. Yes. I don't mind if they come in, but
4 there certain requirements they should do under
5 standards where they won't hurt our ocean out there, to
6 make it short and sweet. It is scary.

7
8 And so let's get to -- I hope that
9 answered you. And we need to get to the closing
10 comments. And I will use just what I said to that.

11
12 And so anybody got any objections that
13 we should go to the closing comments so we could end
14 this meeting.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: So for your closing
19 comments, I will start it with Percy about your closing
20 comments.

21
22 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, that's fine. I
23 think it's not an agenda item or something to share,
24 what's going on out there with running light (ph),
25 because our fish, everything I talk to a group about
26 everything and we communicate are here, what been
27 happening out there at some point in time.

28
29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. Thank you.

30
31 Go ahead, Calvin.

32
33 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman. My closing
34 comments is the fact that what's kept quiet for a few
35 years is there has some crude oil spill up by Chukchi,
36 and they have it over 1,000, almost 2,000 gallons. But
37 they still haven't cleaned up most of it up there.

38
39 Also, in August of year before there
40 was a tanker with diesel by Diomedea where they lost
41 something like 400,000 gallons of diesel. And they
42 couldn't get to it, because of the inclement weather.
43 It took them five days. But one of the good things
44 about it is that the diesel evaporated, but it went
45 from almost to Wales, and it stopped by Cape Espenberg.
46 If it had been crude, it would have went around into
47 Lane River and Goodhope Bay I'm pretty sure. And a lot
48 of things would have been gone. Where our wild birds
49 like geese, crazendim (ph), they go there to lay eggs
50 and grow their young. I think that we have to really

1 watch out for this offshore oil drilling.

2

3 And our concerns is the fact that they
4 said, well, they're able to control in Cook Inlet and
5 Beaufort Sea. But they forgot to tell us, and I know
6 for a fact, that the Chukchi Sea, the Arctic Ocean sea,
7 and the Bering Sea has a nine-mile current, whereas
8 Cook Inlet and Beaufort Sea have a five-mile current.
9 Just think if they had a massive oil spill up where
10 they drill and they couldn't get to it. And I think I
11 saw -- I told when they come down, you know, where Cape
12 Krusenstern and Cape Espenberg, it's like a funnel.
13 The crude oil would come always in the spring. When
14 the ice come from up north, a lot of them wind up in
15 Kotzebue Sound, and they go out. This is what would
16 happen if we had oil spill. It would go into the
17 Kotzebue Sound for sure if they couldn't get to it.

18

19 So according to that one workshop we
20 had, they wanted the people to find out, inventory what
21 they could use to fight oil spill, loaders or whatever,
22 and train people. We haven't come to that point yet of
23 training people how to do oil spill. ^This is
24 something I thought I'd bring out. I served on another
25 where we had a workshop for three, four days a couple
26 years ago I remember with Coast Guard. And we talked
27 about it for a long time, and how the spill them, just
28 think, five days to get to it.

29

30 This something I want to bring out.

31

32 Also I'm happy to hear the fact that
33 we've not been changed allocation of caribou. It's
34 still the same.

35

36 And that's all I have to say. Thank
37 you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

40

41 Go ahead, Verne.

42

43 MR. CLEVELAND: I want to thank the
44 agency for a good meeting. Melinda, thank you for
45 showing up in, what, three days. I think three days.

46

47 You talked about the Northwest Passage
48 opening. You're going to see a lot more ships out
49 here. Enoch, if you could stop the global warming,
50 I'll back you up.

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Verne.
4
5 Go ahead, Hannah.
6
7 MS. LOON: Yeah. Thank you, Staff and
8 agencies for your good report. Thank you very much.
9
10 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thanks, Hannah.
11
12 Go ahead, Mike.
13
14 MR. KRAMER: Yeah. I'd like to thank
15 all the agencies for all their reports. It would be
16 good that, you know, the next time we convene at a
17 meeting again, I hope that, you know, we have
18 representatives from the Ambler road project, and NANA,
19 and, you know, all the other organizations that are
20 trying to do that, to be able to hear our side of the
21 story, and be able to consider us in the decisionmaking
22 of that road to which will benefit the people in a lot
23 of ways. In positive ways, not negative ways.
24
25 Other than that, that's all I have, and
26 it's always a pleasure being here. Thank you.
27
28 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Mike.
29
30 Go ahead, Raymond.
31
32 MR. STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
33
34 First of all I'd like to thank our
35 coordinator here. She's done a good job to organize
36 this meeting here in Kotzebue. Plus Mr. Johnson, and
37 the staff, you know. I was very pleased of your
38 reporting to us. You know, it's very honor to me.
39
40 Thirdly, that the broadcast here, KOTZ,
41 of the local people, was very amazing how much they saw
42 last night. They were pleased of our statement what we
43 made concerning subsistence in Kotzebue. They just
44 loved it. I hope that on the next meeting now is going
45 to be heard practically most of the meeting, it would
46 be nice.
47
48 Thirdly, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask
49 the coordinator that somebody from the Federal
50 Subsistence Board should attend our meetings. It don't

1 have to be the Chair or whoever that is. It could be
2 any member of the Federal Subsistence Board, you know,
3 attend our meetings.

4

5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6

7 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Raymond.

8

9 Now for my comments. I would like to
10 thank the agencies, Park Service, BLM, Noatak Preserve,
11 Selawik Wildlife Refuge, the Bering Land Bridge.
12 Reports well done. Thank you all.

13

14 Okay. And I would like to -- I waited
15 to bring this up. This satellite, I caught personally
16 in my net this summer when I was at Sisolik, it was put
17 on a trout and see how big it is, and the trout was
18 dragging it. And it was put by the back fin, and the
19 wires were exposed like this. It's like they're going
20 to put in electrical tape, and they just twist it. I
21 had to get wire cutters to get it off the fish. And
22 that trout is an average sized trout. And this is big
23 and it was dragging it. It's not in the body, it was
24 outside, by -- done from Fairbanks UAF, Andrew Shults,
25 University of Fairbanks, Alaska. And I got the number
26 and I call him. And he wanted it. And I was upset
27 personally, why the way you tag it in a trout. And I
28 put this one in my boat, and my wife asked me, what you
29 going to do with it? I say, I'm going to put this
30 trout, this tag, this satellite, on my boat. I got it
31 in Sisolik, and I'm going to run to Kotzebue, and I'm
32 going to run to Noatak camp. And if I go home, I'm
33 going to buy more gas and I'm going to go to Aduruk
34 (ph). That way I could have him wondering what's going
35 on with this trout? It's going all over all of a
36 sudden.

37

38 That's how upset I was. You think
39 about it. And my wife, you can't do that. I said,
40 yes, I could. She's small and she's tougher than me,
41 so she took it from me. I had it in my boat. That's
42 how upset I was.

43

44 So these things, if you agencies are
45 going to put any satellites, please, this was dragging
46 like this. Right out side the trunk, by the fin, that
47 middle fin in the back. Okay.

48

49 Now the other one I have, I want Ken to
50 hear this. Me and my wife went to berry picking at

1 Sisolik, and the lady saw us with a Honda. She
2 stopped, oh, boy Attamuk, I want to talk to you. She
3 said she saw a muskox, female, having her muskox.
4 Somehow the muskox mother died, and bears were eating
5 it, yet the bears never eat the baby. That was just
6 this summer within three weeks ago. I went there, I
7 wanted to get a sample, but that baby that was being
8 born, that little baby muskox was already dead and I
9 couldn't get samples, it was too decomposed. I went
10 back to our camp, I got gloves and I get my sampling
11 bottles and I couldn't get samples, it was too
12 decomposed, because she said it happened earlier. And
13 I went there, and I tell you, that's scary, Ken, when
14 bears will not eat the young. The baby. And that's
15 scary. And I would like to know -- I know you can't
16 answer it, because there's no samples, you know, taken.
17

18 And the other one I'm going to
19 recommend, is that the next time we're going to have a
20 meeting, we Board members need to read our packets
21 better so we could be more informed. Otherwise this is
22 a well-run meeting. And I appreciate for your guys to
23 put up with me. I'm trying my best to work for you
24 guys, and I will. Everybody know I'm like that. I
25 will work, because I'm the one that live off the
26 subsistence probably more than anybody else here. I
27 live off the land pretty much. And I'm proud of it,
28 because I'm proud of who I am and what I am. I'm a
29 Native through and through. j

30
31 And I will end it at that and think
32 you, guys, and thank you, Melinda, for putting up with
33 me so much. Together we're learning. I'm new as the
34 Chair, second time, and you're new. so we're trying.
35 Hopefully it will run smoother.

36
37 Thank you all.

38
39 Go ahead, Percy.

40
41 MR. BALLOT: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I just
42 want to say I'm your people, you know. I'm one of your
43 people.

44
45 I just want to congratulate Melinda on
46 your -- I guess you're married how long now, Melinda
47 Burke? And have all of you give our regards to
48 congratulate Gene Peltola on his becoming an assistant
49 guy. He used to work around here years and years ago.
50 And also give our regard to Michelle and Helen. And

1 thank you all for coming. It's been very informative.

2

3 Even though I'm a little late, I'm not
4 going to apologize, but I do have a responsibility at
5 home, too, that I couldn't get out of, and even I
6 didn't hear, I think I got enough that I think we're
7 pretty happy with what we've come out of.

8

9 MR. MOTO: One last thing I would like
10 to say, thanks to the miles all the people that came
11 from different agencies.

12

13 I also want to announce the fact that
14 on October 20 we're having an elders/youth conference
15 in Fairbanks. And I think this would be a good time
16 for somebody from the organization to, if you want more
17 testimony, I think if you have a conference with some
18 of the people, have a meeting with some of the people,
19 you'll get more information from the people that are
20 there. We have two or three days of elders/youth
21 conference, and then we stay in there for the AFN. But
22 I think this would be a good opportunity for you to
23 think about if you have Staff there to have a meeting
24 with the elders and youth, and find out what they think
25 of this customary, traditions.

26

27 Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you, Calvin.

30

31 Now anyone in the audience who would
32 like closing comments.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Go ahead, Melinda.

37

38 MS. BURKE: Mr. Chair. Thank you very
39 much, Council, Staff, everyone that's attended,
40 everyone that's helped us prepare for this meeting.
41 It's my second time being here with you folks, and
42 we're still learning to communicate with each other.
43 And I really appreciate, I wanted to let you know all
44 of the folks in your communities who helped me relay
45 information to you. Calvin and I often have trouble on
46 the phone with the phone lines. And like you to
47 express your thanks to the Staffs at the traditional
48 councils, the cities for helping me to track you folks
49 down when I need to get ahold of you and pass along
50 information. So thank you so much, and I look forward

1 to the next meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Anyone
4 else from the audience.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Okay. If not, anyone
9 on the phone that would like to have closing comments.

10

11 MS. BURKE: Anyone on the phone like to
12 give any closing comments before we adjourn.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Silence is golden.
17 Thank you.

18

19 Okay. Now do we have a motion to
20 adjourn this meeting.

21

22 MS. LOON: (Makes motion - mic off)

23

24 MR. CLEVELAND: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN SHIEDT: Thank you. Okay.
27 Thank you all.

28

29 (Off record)

30

31 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 131 through 250 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 22nd day of August 2013, beginning at the hour of 9:07 o'clock a.m. at Kotzebue, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of September 2013.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/14