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1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL  
2 ADVISORY COUNCIL

3  
4 ALASKA TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
5 KOTZEBUE, ALASKA  
6 OCTOBER 2, 2003  
7 9:00 A.M.

8  
9

10 Council Members Present:

11

12 Raymond Stoney, Chair

13 Walter Sampson, Member

14 Lillian Johnson, Member

15 Percy Ballot, Sr.

16 Enoch Shiedt, Sr., Alternate

17 Calvin Moto, Member

18

19 Michelle Chivers, Coordinator

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 (Kotzebue, AK - 10/02/03)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good morning. I'll  
8 call the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory  
9 Council to order. It's probably about 9:00 o'clock now.

10

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yep, nine sharp.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Let's go down to item  
14 number 2, roll call. Michelle.

15

16 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Walter Sampson.

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: Here.

19

20 MS. CHIVERS: Raymond Stoney.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Here.

23

24 MS. CHIVERS: Percy Ballot. Lillian

25 Johnson.

26

27 MS. JOHNSON: Here.

28

29 MS. CHIVERS: Calvin Moto.

30

31 MR. MOTO: Here.

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: Enoch Shiedt.

34

35 ATTAMUK: Here. (In Native)

36

37 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. Mr. Chair, we

38 have.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Michelle, about Percy,  
41 can I ask where is he at?

42

43 MS. CHIVERS: Percy stated that he was in  
44 Buckland yesterday, and he may make it in. He wasn't  
45 quite sure if he was going to make it in.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

48

49 MS. CHIVERS: But he thought he would be

50 here, so.....

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1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Lance.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: He thought he would be here  
4 sometime this morning.

5

6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

7

8 ATTAMUK: Yeah, they had real high winds  
9 around that way. We just barely made it to Deering.

10

11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We can make a  
12 quorum?

13

14 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, we have quorum.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you.  
17 Before I go on further, the public is invited to testify  
18 throughout this meeting, so fill out this blue form  
19 that's on the table over here, if you want to testify,  
20 and give it to Michelle, and we'll have you come talk to  
21 us.

22

23 And then lunch. Those of you that want  
24 to have lunch right here, Micelle will be putting out a  
25 name list for lunch. It's \$8 for lunch. So for whoever  
26 wants to have lunch here.

27

28 MS. CHIVERS: And we need to -- they need  
29 to know by 10:00 o'clock, so maybe if we took a break at  
30 9:45 and people can go upstairs and pay or they can give  
31 me the money, and I'll go upstairs and pay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: \$8.

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: \$8.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay. Again  
38 welcome to Northwest Arctic Regional Subsistence Advisory  
39 Council. So we'll start off with the Council member  
40 introductions. I'll start off with me. I'm Raymond  
41 Stoney, I'm from Kiana, chair for Northwest Arctic  
42 Regional Advisory Council.

43

44 ATTAMUK: Attamuk Enoch Shiedt here from  
45 Kotzebue, Maniilaq Service Area.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Walt Sampson, Vice  
48 President of Regional -- NANA Regional Corporation.

49

50 MS. JOHNSON: Lillian Johnson, Ambler.

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1 MR. MOTO: Calvin Moto, Northwest Arctic  
2 Regional Council, Deering, Alaska.

3  
4 REPORTER: My name's Tina. I'm the court  
5 reporter.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Start with Randy.

8  
9 MS. MEYERS: Randy Meyers, Bureau of Land  
10 Management here in Kotzebue.

11  
12 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette, Fish and  
13 Game in Kotzebue.

14  
15 MS. HOPKINS: Julie Hopkins,  
16 Superintendent, Western Arctic National Park Lands,  
17 Kotzebue.

18  
19 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, Subsistence  
20 Program Manager for Western Arctic National Park Lands,  
21 Nome, Alaska.

22  
23 MR. GREGG: Charlie Gregg, State Fish and  
24 Game, Kotzebue.

25  
26 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, Park  
27 Service here Kotzebue.

28  
29 MS. GOTTLIEB: And I'm Judy Gottlieb with  
30 the National Park Service, and Federal Subsistence Board  
31 member.

32  
33 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm Sandy Rabinowitch,  
34 National Park Service, Staff Committee to the Federal  
35 Board.

36  
37 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm Jim Magdanz with Fish  
38 and Game, Subsistence, here in Kotzebue.

39  
40 MR. GANGLEY: Tom Ganglely with the  
41 National Park Service here in Kotzebue.

42  
43 MR. STEVENSON: Dan Stevenson, National  
44 Park Service here in Kotzebue.

45  
46 MR. SHULTS: Brad Shults, wildlife  
47 biologist for the National Park Service.

48  
49 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife  
50 biologist, OSM.

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1 MS. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong, cultural  
2 anthropologist. I'm the anthropologist that supports  
3 this Council from OSM.

4  
5 MS. WHEELER: And I'm Paula Wheeler with  
6 the Fisheries Information Services with OSM. I'm an  
7 anthropologist.

8  
9 MS. MORAN: Tina Moran with the Fish and  
10 Wildlife Service here in Kotzebue.

11  
12 MS. AYRES: Lee Anne Ayres, refuge  
13 manager, Selawik, here in Kotzebue.

14  
15 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. Tim  
16 Jennings. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management  
17 in Anchorage.

18  
19 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council  
20 coordinator for the Northwest Arctic.

21  
22 MR. WHITING: Alex Whiting, Kotzebue IRA,  
23 and Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory, and Kruzenstern SRC.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Welcome to this  
26 very exciting meeting today. It's been a long time,  
27 almost -- how many months now we met? That was in.....

28  
29 MS. CHIVERS: February.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: February, yeah.  
32 Welcome. Again, who wish to testify on the meeting,  
33 there's a blue form to fill out, and give it to Michelle,  
34 and we'll put you on.

35  
36 For the Council members, you know,  
37 there's a new pass out on your agenda, you know, the one  
38 on your regional, it's not accurate, but the last handout  
39 is. It's up-to-date one. Right, Michelle?

40  
41 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, sir. There were just  
42 a couple minor -- a few minor changes to the agenda on  
43 the back side of the page under agency reports. Glenn  
44 Chen from the Staff Committee would not be here, so Sandy  
45 Rabinowitch is going to be giving those reports. And  
46 then the regulatory cycle review is just informational,  
47 so there won't be a report on there, but if anybody has  
48 questions, someone will be here to answer.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

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1 MS. CHIVERS: Those were the changes that  
2 were made.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The Council members  
5 will get a few minutes to go through this agenda, and  
6 we'll call for the approval of the agenda. A motion is  
7 in order to approve the draft agenda.

8  
9 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move for  
10 adoption of the agenda as amended.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Moved by Walter. Is  
13 there a second?

14  
15 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Enoch. Any  
18 discussion.

19  
20 (No discussion)

21  
22 MR. MOTO: Question.

23  
24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question's called.

25  
26 MR. SAMPSON: He called the question.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, Cal called for the  
29 question. All in favor of adopting the draft agenda,  
30 signify by saying aye.

31  
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

35  
36 (No opposing votes.)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You've got your agenda.  
39 Okay. Item number 5, review and adoption of the minutes  
40 of February 26, 2003 meeting, which was held I believe  
41 right here in Kotzebue. On your booklet, that's -- it's  
42 on there, right there on the first page. The minutes of  
43 February 26 meeting.

44  
45 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move for  
46 adoption of the minutes from February 26, 2003.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The motion is to adopt  
49 the minutes of February 26, 2003, by Walter Sampson. Is  
50 there a second?

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1 MR. MOTO: Second.

2

3 MS. JOHNSON: Second.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Cal. Any  
6 discussion on the minutes of February 26th? Any further  
7 discussions. Any corrections or stuff to be changed in  
8 the minutes?

9

10 (No discussion)

11

12 ATTAMUK: Question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been  
15 called by Enoch. All in favor of adopting the minutes of  
16 February 26th, signify by saying aye.

17

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed?

21

22 (No opposing votes.)

23

24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion passes of the  
25 minutes of February 26th, 2003. Item number 6, Council  
26 member reports. Village concerns from Council members.  
27 You'll be the first, Cal.

28

29 MR. MOTO: Well, we have -- one of the  
30 things that we have a real concern over right now is we  
31 -- none of the people in our village got any moose this  
32 year. There's a lot of big game hunters coming in and  
33 killing the moose, and just leaving the moose behind, you  
34 know.

35

36 That's a couple of concerns that the  
37 people gave to me, because they said this is the first  
38 time we never got any moose in our community, and  
39 although we still -- we have quite a few caribou there  
40 and stuff like that, a lot of wild reindeer. But this is  
41 something that we're really concerned with at home. We  
42 never got a chance to really, because they set the --  
43 they changed -- the State changed the ruling on it, to  
44 hunt. It used to be from August 11 'til March 31st or  
45 something like that. Now they told us they closed it  
46 from -- they opened it only from August 1 'til September  
47 15, moose on the State lands. But on the Federal lands  
48 we still could hunt until -- from August 11 until March.  
49 But the problem with that is most of the Federal lands  
50 are quite a ways away from, you know. The only time we

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1 can get to those Federal lands is in the wintertime with  
2 snow, where there's snow. Otherwise we can't get back  
3 there. We -- if we get a moose, we've got to carry it  
4 two, three miles sometimes, you know. But these things  
5 I.....

6  
7                   We had a couple of guys come in and kill  
8 a moose, a hunter, big game hunters, and they just took  
9 the heads, and left the bodies. But they got turned in  
10 and they got stopped when they came here. And Percy was  
11 telling me they had the same problem around Buckland and  
12 Candle.

13  
14                   This year they're having a hard time  
15 getting caribou, because the caribou used to go about two  
16 or three miles up and across. Now they go further, and  
17 it's harder for them to get caribou this fall. In fact,  
18 they got very few caribou in Buckland this year. And so  
19 he told me if he didn't make it, to mention that, so I  
20 thought I would mention that.

21  
22                   And we -- Buckland and Deering work  
23 pretty close together on a lot of issues, so we pass on  
24 information to each other all the time. And which is  
25 good, because, you know, that's how we have to work in  
26 our region together. If we don't, nobody else will speak  
27 up for us, you know. So consequently we having problems  
28 like that, you know.

29  
30                   The Bering Land Bridge where we could  
31 hunt our musk ox, if you have a Federal permit, it's  
32 good, but we could only do it when there's snow. And  
33 although they have this year this time we're reporting  
34 that all the -- most of the musk ox permits were given to  
35 Buckland and Deering as opposed to last year when they  
36 gave to guides, you know. We -- or other areas. We like  
37 to see other people get, too, but, you know, we don't  
38 mind if it's people from the region, but when they come  
39 from out of region and start.....

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

42  
43                   MR. MOTO: .....just getting the -- just  
44 for the trophies, it bothers us.

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Sure.

47  
48                   MR. MOTO: So those are some of the real  
49 issues that we have right now. I hope that we could work  
50 some way through this Council to try to fix that, you

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1 know. I know that if you're one man, sometimes you can't  
2 do it all by yourself. You have to have to have help,  
3 and I'm very aware of that, because I see what, if we  
4 work together, we accomplish more than if just one guy  
5 try to do it. So that's all.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you Cal.  
8 Maybe we get some little information from the State or  
9 the Federal. He just stated that the moose season is  
10 August 1 'til September 15 on the State land, and on the  
11 Federal land it's from August 1 'til March. So there  
12 must be some way where we can combine those two hunting  
13 regulation dates in the Buckland area to one instead of  
14 two things. Anybody got information on the State or  
15 Federal side, you know, to address some of Cal's  
16 statements? Anybody know? So the Federal regulations  
17 says it's from August 1 'til March, and the State is from  
18 August 1 to September 15. So locally for subsistence,  
19 that's -- I think they just combined to one, you know,  
20 that would be my idea. Anybody from the Federal or State  
21 got anything on this? Yeah, go ahead.

22

23 MR. SHULTS: Brad Shults with the Park  
24 Service. I guess I can comment on that, Raymond, I  
25 guess. Are you asking to actually restrict the Federal  
26 season to align it with the State season? Is that what  
27 you want, Calvin?

28

29 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

30

31 MR. SHULTS: To actually restrict it  
32 further? You know, for a Federal.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: There's a chair for you  
35 right there, you can sit, if that would be a lot easier.

36

37 MR. SHULTS: I'm pretty short, I can  
38 actually just sit on the floor. If you look in your book  
39 for 23, the amount of Federal public land there is  
40 limited to BLM in the Buckland country, and then for the  
41 Park Service in Unit 22(E) for the Bering Land Bridge  
42 Preserve, and obviously Calvin knows it's not -- you  
43 know, there's not a lot of Federal public land right  
44 around Deering there. So, you know, you'd have to have  
45 something crafted for 22(E) and then for 23, you know,  
46 we'd have to consult with BLM about realigning the  
47 seasons if that's what you really want. but just so you  
48 know, you know, you're restricting your own opportunity  
49 more, so, before you do that. Jim.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Jim.

2

3 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, Mr. Stoney, Jim  
4 Magdanz with Fish and Game, Subsistence Division. Jim  
5 Dow, the biologist, is over at the school this morning,  
6 but he was planning to come this afternoon, and he could  
7 provide some more background on this.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

10

11 MR. MAGDANZ: The Federal proposal  
12 deadline I believe is October 28th, and so if the Council  
13 or other individuals, organizations, wanted to submit a  
14 proposal to align regulations, there's time to talk about  
15 that and move in that direction. The Board of Game will  
16 be meeting in November to make a decision about the  
17 proposal that would make these restrictions permanent. So  
18 I would just defer at this point to Jim Dow, so.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay.

21

22 MR. MAGDANZ: .....that he could tell you  
23 what the reasoning is behind this proposal.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you. Cal.

26

27 MR. MOTO: One of the real concerns also  
28 is the fact that, you know, they made that decision, and  
29 they only gave us two days notice for to do public  
30 testimony. And people didn't have a chance, because they  
31 tried to tell the people that we've got too many moose,  
32 or the moose population want down, but I know for a fact  
33 that last year our village only got about four maybe,  
34 'cause we -- and they're trying to tell us that there  
35 were over 100 or almost 200 moose in our area. All of a  
36 sudden the population went down, and they kind of trying  
37 to tell us that we were overharvesting, but we never  
38 overharvest.

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walt, do you have  
41 anything?

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: The issue in regards to BLM  
44 realignment, can you expound on that a little bit, see  
45 what -- I'm not catching what.....

46

47 MR. SHULTS: Well, most of the Federal  
48 public on that Unit 23, southwest, a lot of that is BLM  
49 land over on the Buckland.

50

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1 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

2

3 MR. SHULTS: And then you don't get into  
4 National Park Service managed lands until you get over  
5 into 22(E) in the Good Hope, and.....

6

7 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

8

9 MR. SHULTS: .....so, you know, we just  
10 need to consult with BLM about what they also want to do  
11 and how they want to work with us. You know, usually  
12 just talking to Jeannie, that's all I meant.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

15

16 MR. SHULTS: You know, in terms of  
17 individual agencies. But you can certain -- you know,  
18 you guys can submit whatever proposal you'd like, and  
19 we'd work with you to make it work.

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

22

23 MR. SHULTS: That's all I meant, Walter.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch, you've got  
26 something?

27

28 ATTAMUK: No, go ahead and let Jim.....

29

30 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, Mr. Chair, just to  
31 respond to Calvin briefly. I don't think that the  
32 Department believes that local harvest in this area have  
33 changed at all. There's been an increase in nonlocal  
34 hunting in this area, just as the Noatak 10 years ago,  
35 and the Upper Kobuk five years ago. Now we're seeing an  
36 upswing of nonlocal effort in the Buckland drainage. So  
37 I think that's one of the things the Department is  
38 concerned about. And in general moose populations on the  
39 Seward Peninsula and in Northwest -- in Unit 23 have been  
40 trending downward. There's some discussion about just  
41 how far and in which areas these declines have occurred,  
42 but there are I know Jim Dow believes fewer moose in  
43 these areas than there were 10 years ago.

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Got something, Enoch?

46

47 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Just to clarify, yeah.  
48 Jim, he did some flies toward Buckland and Deering,  
49 because we were getting calls from the Villages of  
50 Buckland and Deering that they're not seeing any moose.

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1 So last year, that's why he had that emergency closure.  
2 There was no moose, the count there was real low. And  
3 this was done through the community of Deering and  
4 Buckland. So he did -- Jim called me, and he could  
5 verify it this afternoon that he does have a concern.  
6 It's not only in here. It's all over. Moose are really  
7 declining even in Noatak when I'm watching, and towards  
8 other places where I get calls from.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

11

12 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think we  
13 ought to go through the process of finishing getting the  
14 Council member report, village reports, and then go into  
15 a discussion.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: .....in regards to what we  
20 can do and what we might want to try to do in regards to  
21 trying to correct some of these moose problems.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thanks, Walt.  
24 Thanks, gentlemen. Lillian, I know you're kind of  
25 interested about this meeting, so I'm glad you show up.  
26 Fairbanks is a long ways there.

27

28 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah, it's hard for.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Welcome to this  
31 meeting.

32

33 MS. JOHNSON: .....me to report right  
34 now, because I wasn't home, but I think everybody got  
35 enough huntings and fishing this summer, but the water  
36 was high I keep hearing in talking -- call to one of the  
37 people. And they're all right subsisting right now. The  
38 caribous are fat. They're healthy. But I didn't hear  
39 about moose, but everybody got enough for subsistence  
40 sounds like. Beside that, we got -- I heard a few people  
41 tell me that they're having too many floaters upriver  
42 again, above us. Not too many in Ambler. And planes,  
43 pontoons and wheels. Every time I see those little planes  
44 in September, August, last part of September in  
45 Fairbanks, I always know they're going to upriver where  
46 they get their -- what they want, you know, just to get  
47 the trophies, and that's what they usually do anyway  
48 every year. Can't stop that. And I talked to one  
49 yesterday coming down, and she told me there's too many  
50 camp, fish camps. And nobody talk about it, what is

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1 really there, they don't know where they hunt way  
2 upriver, it's hard to get up there with a boat. And they  
3 don't know how much there -- there must be something else  
4 up there, but nobody go up there. So I think  
5 everything's okay subsistence right now. They're getting  
6 caribou yet. All year round we have caribou in Ambler  
7 though, even above Kobuk, Shagnuk.

8

9                   And I can't say we've got not much moose,  
10 because we got moose, a lot of moose across from us all  
11 year round, even in break time we could see when they  
12 keep coming out and I think they're scared from wolves  
13 and stuff, too, you know, they always come to village and  
14 close by all the time.

15

16                   And I heard there's some sick mooses  
17 somewhere, but we don't know if it's really due to food  
18 in the land or not, or deep snow, hard snow. I don't  
19 know what is that makes some places.

20

21                   But otherwise everything is okay hunting  
22 this fall, this summer, this spring, all over. That's  
23 all I know. And we live in Fair -- I've move for five  
24 months, but anyway I know the area, and my birth and  
25 raised up there. That's all.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Lillian.  
28 Walter.

29

30                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
31 think were listening to some good valid concerns and  
32 issues in regards to resource versus user groups.  
33 Certainly this year has been I think more numbers of  
34 people coming into Unit 23 via transporters, guides or  
35 just being dropped off by private carriers to certain  
36 areas for hunting. I think more specifically to BLM  
37 lands. It's something that we certainly need to look and  
38 try to correct it if that's what it means. And I think  
39 what is being talked about is certainly becoming more  
40 transparent, because -- I say transparent, because you  
41 hear it in the public radios, over public radio station  
42 now. Anyone wanting some meat, come out and get it at  
43 certain areas at the airport. And that should all tell  
44 us that some of that meat is coming in and what's going  
45 on. Horns. And I think with that type of a message, as  
46 managers, as land managers for Federal lands, we need to  
47 be concerned about these things.

48

49                   With State cuts, with Federal cuts, we  
50 all know that our communities are being -- certainly

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1 being hit by cuts, which means that commodity of things  
2 are -- or price are starting to come up. This summer  
3 alone, one of our communities ran out of gas, so they had  
4 to get their gas flown in. \$7 a gallon to buy gas. You  
5 have no choice but to try to find a way to buy gas to  
6 subsist.

7

8                   But yet we have other user groups that  
9 are coming in with finding a better access or finding a  
10 better way of accessing resource. But yet as land  
11 managers, we're just watching it. If we come to a crash,  
12 just watch. The system's going to say, well, we've got a  
13 problem. Noorvik, we're going to have to close you off  
14 from hunting.

15

16                   I think we need to certainly address the  
17 very crux of the issues. We have to put together a  
18 proposal in aligning some of the regs in certain areas.  
19 Park Service lands should be no different than BLM lands.  
20 They're Federal lands. Unless I'm wrong. If one Federal  
21 land is different than the other, I don't know what's the  
22 difference. I know Parks' allowances are different than  
23 BLM lands, however, they're still Federal system.

24

25                   The issue in regards to the very problem  
26 of headless moose being found, and the communities being  
27 pointed at. I'm talking about Buckland. I understand  
28 there's a couple of nice, big racks that were taken out.  
29 A couple moose were found east of Buckland headless.  
30 This summer we had a big Otter that staged out of  
31 Kotzebue, along with that, a Beaver, that were taking  
32 people out, probably five, six, seven people at time.  
33 And some of the areas on the Noatak Flats. The very  
34 trail staking materials that were being used for tent  
35 posts, taking those things out. To me, that's illegal.  
36 Somebody's life depend on these things. But yet we let  
37 these things slide. I think it's time that we start  
38 looking at addressing the very issue, and finding a way  
39 to address those issues. Next year, the following year  
40 is even going to be more -- even worse than what it is.

41

42                   I get involved in search and rescue a  
43 lot, so I do a lot of flying within this region. This  
44 year I happened to fly up the Squirrel. North of the  
45 Squirrel River, up into the hills. A lot of spike camps.  
46 And as far as monitoring is concerned and managing these  
47 things are concerned, I don't know what's being done from  
48 the Federal side. People are really looking at who's  
49 legal and who's not legal. If the requirements are such  
50 in the Federal system, and the regulations and the way

00015

1 they're written, we might as well start enforcing those  
2 things that we propose. If we can't enforce them, we  
3 might as well not even put these into the regulation. I  
4 think we need to become more responsible as managers of  
5 these lands.

6

7           There were some reports right over radio  
8 station. Meat being left outside Alaska Airlines. And  
9 that meat happened to be I guess pretty ripe meat.

10

11           If people are going to be allowed to go  
12 into Federal lands to hunt, we need to tell them, you  
13 hunt, you take the meat with you. You take it home with  
14 you. That's the message we need to get out to the  
15 public. If you're going to come out and hunt that  
16 resource, you bring it with you out of that area instead  
17 of leaving it. When we don't do that, when meat is left  
18 out there, the fingers are pointed at the next closest  
19 community and they're the culprits. In this case,  
20 Buckland was at fault for that moose, because they were  
21 the closest to that wanton waste. Somewhere along the  
22 line we need to send a signal or a message to some of  
23 these folks that handle these things that they need to  
24 become responsible in taking these things out. If the  
25 State system and the Federal system are going to work  
26 together, then they need to work closer together to  
27 address the very problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28

29           CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter, currently,  
30 today there's 61 transporters and guides in Unit 23 only,  
31 that appear in the region, 61 guides and transporters.  
32 And I've talked to some of the land managers how to limit  
33 the guides and transporters up in Unit 23. My response  
34 from the agencies was that the only way we could regulate  
35 and limit the transporters and guides is through our  
36 lawmakers, State legislators. Representative Jewel and  
37 Senator Olson, they could introduce a bill in Juneau and  
38 limit these guides and transporters up in Northwest  
39 Alaska. That was my response.

40

41           MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think if  
42 that's the case, then the Federal system that we have in  
43 place, if it's not being used the way it should, then it  
44 shouldn't be in place. If the Federal system cannot find  
45 a way to regulate these things, then why have a Federal  
46 system? Why have a Federal Board, if the State of Alaska  
47 is going to come out with regulations that says this is  
48 how Legislature is going to work, then we've got a  
49 problem. I think it needs to be addressed at -- this is  
50 resource we're talking about. Sure, people look at --

00016

1 anytime we start dealing with resource, we talk about  
2 people management, and basically that -- what it amounts  
3 to sometimes is people management. But yet the critical  
4 point is that that resource has to be protected somehow.  
5 If we get into a mode of crash or limited resource, the  
6 impact's on the local folks I think. So I think at some  
7 point we need to -- or I should say, we will go through  
8 the process of discussion after our reports here.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Walt. Enoch.

11

12 ATTAMUK: The same problem I hear what  
13 Walt just stated, with the exception I've got a camp  
14 right up the river where most of the transporters and  
15 outfitters fly right over. And I had my boys watch. I  
16 had them up there, four days, nonstop, all day. Morning  
17 'til late, four days. Both planes he mentioned plus few  
18 others. And when they came in, I sent them back the next  
19 day and check the river, aggie, where they're going,  
20 because I'm hearing a lot from Noatak that they're having  
21 problems of these planes disturbing our caribou and  
22 keeping them away from the river, and they're going right  
23 over towards Squirrel River. Right over the pass. I had  
24 my boy go up with a little boat and check it out. I  
25 could hear what Walter is saying, and -- but we're  
26 hearing it from our villages. Some of them hardly get  
27 any caribou because they're being disturbed. The planes.  
28 The caribous won't cross. And by the time they hit that  
29 hill right over little ways from where I've got a camp,  
30 they're on the top, they're less than 200 feet, and  
31 there's caribous readying to cross, and they're scaring  
32 them back on the other side. This is the first time this  
33 year I see caribou migrating north right after Labor Day.  
34 A week after they were here, they started heading back.  
35 Of course, the reason, I don't know, because we're  
36 warming I guess. I mean, this is an issue we have to  
37 work on, or we're going to have another Shungnak incident  
38 again if we don't watch it, because these young ones are  
39 getting tired of it. I had to talk to a few of them.  
40 But arming, purchasing bullets on hand. They're getting  
41 tired of it. It's going to happen. And it's going to  
42 fall to us as nat -- or we as a group here, we can  
43 probably put a slow down to it, look into it. And it's  
44 happening.

45

46 I mean, and also so far the caribou the  
47 people got, pretty much all the hunters were pretty  
48 happy, but still all -- quite a few people never get  
49 caribou. One or two in that. I mean, we can't -- some  
50 of these villages can't survive on one or two caribou.

00017

1 They were different. I mean, they depend a lot on  
2 subsistence.

3

4                   And like Walter state, when they not  
5 fuel. I caught -- just in the Noatak River alone, I had  
6 to take in boats that were scared to go home, because  
7 they got no money to go hunt again tomorrow. So they  
8 overnighted without camping gear, and I take them into my  
9 camp. Constantly. That they can't afford to buy gas,  
10 they can't afford to go back hunt again. And when the  
11 planes are disturbing the caribou, that's where the herd  
12 is at right there. I mean, we feel for them. If you  
13 want to watch it, go to the rivers with us during hunting  
14 season, and you guys will see what we're saying. Maybe  
15 we split the group into drainages, and you guys could see  
16 and talk about this. I mean, I'm getting scared that  
17 something's going to happen again.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Enoch. This  
20 year, you know, the migration of caribou was about like  
21 10 to 14 days late this fall, so when they came, they  
22 came fast. So the reports I get from most of the hunters  
23 is the caribou is real healthy this year. I guess for  
24 one reason why they're so healthy is there was about  
25 10,000 caribou about 50 miles of the Red Dog Mine. They  
26 stayed there all summer. So when they left, they went to  
27 Noatak and the Kilbucks, so they didn't have to walk very  
28 far, and they had a lot of fat in them.

29

30                   A flying experience this fall with NANA,  
31 with our protecting officer, I did quite a bit of flying  
32 in the last couple of weeks. And there was quite a bit  
33 of caribou that was just start to migrate finally, but  
34 last week, you know, they changed their mind just right  
35 now. They turned their heads around all the way from the  
36 Red Dog Mine all the way to Kiana. That's about like 140  
37 miles. They turned around and headed right back directly  
38 north. They've been going -- been traveling along three  
39 days heading back. The reason why, I talked to some of  
40 the elders, which I'm one of them, they said the reason  
41 they're seeing the warm weather some place that's  
42 affective right here today, that's why the caribous  
43 heading north. So right now they're quite a ways back,  
44 but they will come back.

45

46                   And for moose population, in my area, in  
47 Kiana area, up above Kiana, that every day I count almost  
48 like 50 to 60 moose a day every day. A lot of moose,  
49 because it's all in Park land, because nobody allowed to  
50 hunt in that area except for subsistence. Moose health

00018

1 is really also good this year. Real good meat on all the  
2 moose that was harvested.

3

4 Other than that, you know, that the  
5 guides and transporters, it seemed to me like there were  
6 quite a bit more compared to other years that -- because  
7 I seen the applicants on the Northwest Alaska, there was  
8 61 transporters and guides applied for transporting and  
9 guiding in this area. I don't know if they're all active  
10 or not, but there was quite a few aircrafts in the area.  
11 And it turned cold and then all the lakes froze. They  
12 almost got caught in those lakes, but they did -- wise  
13 enough to take off on float plane on those lake, they got  
14 out of there, so -- the minute they got off, the weather  
15 turned around and got warm and rained, so they're not  
16 there any more.

17

18 Any further comments from the Council?

19

20 (No further comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If not, we'll go down  
23 to Chair's report for Federal Subsistence Board meeting,  
24 May 2003. I wasn't able to go to this one in Anchorage,  
25 but I did call Mr. Sampson, Walter Sampson to take my  
26 place, and met with the Federal Board of Game in  
27 Anchorage on May 2003. You got anything on this, Walter?

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you  
30 very much. I had a privilege to going to the Federal  
31 Board meeting in May. And I think certainly this is a  
32 privilege and an honor to sit in, to be part of a process  
33 in regards to having a good dialogue with the Board that  
34 makes a decision that have an impact on the very  
35 livelihood within this Northwest area.

36

37 A good tool that we can use as a RAC to  
38 get to the Board in regards to dealing with proposals, or  
39 any issues that we may have as RAC members, to get the  
40 message to the Federal Board. I think -- I can't  
41 remember what was the proposal, it's been some time back,  
42 that we managed to -- that went through I think, Willie,  
43 that we talked about, the proposal that was introduced  
44 and discussed.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: And I believe that proposal  
49 went through. But I want to encourage all of us as RAC  
50 members, this RAC certainly is a very important tool, to

00019

1 the Federal Board system. They want to listen to our  
2 issues. They want to listen to some of the critical  
3 issues that we may have, because we're up -- basically up  
4 in the front line if you call it that.

5  
6 And in regards to any future meetings,  
7 certainly I want to continue to listen in to some of the  
8 good discussions that the Federal Board may have. And  
9 it's important that we be part of that process. Thank  
10 you very much, Mr. Chairman.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. You  
13 know, that -- you know, once you attend these Federal  
14 Board meetings in Anchorage with all the Board members,  
15 the Federal, it's very interesting and very important for  
16 somebody from this Council, you know, attend like I  
17 assign you to go to that meeting in the spring, and then  
18 met with Mitch. And Mitch is very excellent on Northwest  
19 RAC. Like you said, the tool he uses to present to the  
20 Board and was credited for well done. You have done --  
21 thank you for attending this meeting for us, Walter.

22  
23 Do you guys want to break or just  
24 continue on on the next item?

25  
26 ATTAMUK: Continue.

27  
28 MR. MOTO: You know, since the past that  
29 sometimes you can't make it to some of these meetings,  
30 and where you have -- I feel that maybe at least three  
31 people from our council should be able to go to that,  
32 that way two officers and one member even. That way they  
33 will get the full benefit of -- you know, each one of us  
34 have different ideas on what should be presented to the  
35 Board, and each one of us have valid, you know, on what  
36 should be mentioned to the Board for regulations. That's  
37 the only comment I have to make. So that could maybe to  
38 really.....

39  
40 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

41  
42 MR. MOTO: .....get into that process,  
43 you know.

44  
45 MR. SAMPSON: I'm sorry.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Michelle, would you  
48 bring that up to Tom, see what he thinks about it? Like  
49 Cal's idea is that two of the RAC should attend the  
50 Federal Board meetings, and if you could bring that up

00020

1 somehow. I know it can be very difficult.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: Yeah, I believe that  
4 whenever we have our Board meetings, they allow just one  
5 person to attend.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Just one.

8

9 MS. CHIVERS: It would be the Chair or an  
10 alternate from that Council.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter, you got  
13 anything?

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: No, that's it. I think we  
16 ought to finish that number 7 and get into that 805c  
17 letter.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Yeah. Yeah.

20 Okay.

21

22 ATTAMUK: I don't know which 805c letter  
23 is.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, that -- on seven  
26 -- on your packet, it's the letter 805. Who's got the  
27 information on this, 805. I don't have it here. Oh,  
28 805, I'm.....

29

30 MS. CHIVERS: The 805c.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That letter from.....

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Oh, yeah, it's.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....Mitch, yeah.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: Tab B.

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: First page, Tab B.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's informational,  
45 isn't it?

46

47 MS. CHIVERS: Yeah, that was just an  
48 informational item for.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

00021

1 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: .....the Council to read,  
4 the 805c letter, so they could see what the response was  
5 from the Board, what action the Board took on the  
6 proposals at our last Board meeting.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It did pass,  
9 that proposal for, the 805 letter is concerning funerary,  
10 for big game be used for funeral and stuff like that?

11

12 MS. CHIVERS: The 805c letter is actions  
13 taken on statewide proposals, as well as the one proposal  
14 that was taken out by Thomas Sparks of Nome, which was an  
15 overlap with our region. We didn't have any proposals  
16 for our region.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay. Anything  
19 else on B on 805 letter. You got anything, Walter?

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: No.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay. Item  
24 number 8, call for proposals for change Federal  
25 subsistence wildlife regulations. As you know, the  
26 proposals will be accepted until August 15 to October 24.

27

28

29 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: If I may, there was one  
34 error that was on the wildlife proposal form that was in  
35 the booklet.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

38

39 MS. CHIVERS: If you turn to the back  
40 page where it says call for proposals, we have a mailing  
41 address as well as an e-mail address. And the e-mail  
42 address is incorrect. The e-mail address should  
43 read.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

46

47 MS. CHIVERS: It's on the back side of  
48 that form.

49

50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

00022

1 MS. CHIVERS: The e-mail address should  
2 read subsistence@fws.gov.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: fws, okay. Okay.

5  
6 MS. CHIVERS: It was an error that was  
7 noticed after the proposal was sent out.

8  
9 ATTAMUK: subsistence@gov.net.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. And the call for  
12 proposal, the form.

13  
14 ATTAMUK: (In Native)  
15  
16 (Whispered discussion re e-mail address.)

17  
18 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

21  
22 MS. CHIVERS: Maybe now might be a good  
23 time to find out how many people would like to have lunch  
24 here. They need to know by 10:00.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Actually you can  
27 go ahead and pass around, whoever has lunch here.  
28 Anybody who want to have lunch here that.....

29  
30 MS. JOHNSON: I will.

31  
32 (Off record discussion re lunch)

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We're on item  
35 number 8 call for proposals to change Federal subsistence  
36 wildlife regulations. Have we gotten from the -- there's  
37 nothing from the public about this?

38  
39 MS. CHIVERS: Not at this time.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Then going on to  
42 from the agencies? We're on item number 8, call for  
43 proposals to change Federal subsistence wildlife  
44 regulations. Now, there's no testimony from the public.  
45 Now we go to the agencies to get in on a proposal. Yeah.

46  
47 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, Chuck  
48 Ardizzone, wildlife biologist, Federal Subsistence  
49 Program. We have -- currently we have two proposals for  
50 sheep in Unit 23. I just wanted to brief you on the

00023

1 proposals, to let you know that we had two submitted.  
2 One is from Lance Kramer, who is one of our Council  
3 members, and that would be to change the sheep  
4 regulations basically to remove the destruction of horn  
5 -- destruction of trophy value of the horns, and to allow  
6 a ewe harvest.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: On sheep?

9

10 MR. ARDIZZONE: On sheep. And the second  
11 one is from Paul Atkins, and that's also to remove the  
12 trophy destruction clause of the current regulation.  
13 Those are the two I currently have.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. You guys got the  
16 path on the proposals, right? There's two proposals here  
17 on sheeps.

18

19 ATTAMUK: Are these same or different  
20 than what we've got? The one you just mentioned?  
21 Because I don't see Lance's name here.

22

23 MR. ARDIZZONE: No, those are different  
24 than what I have.

25

26 ATTAMUK: These are different.

27

28 MR. ARDIZZONE: Yes.

29

30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They didn't provide  
31 the copies. They've got them.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We don't have any  
34 copies, no.

35

36 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'll get some copies made  
37 and distributed those to you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

40

41 ATTAMUK: It's hard for me to see in this  
42 in this eye, if I can't see it in front of me here. That  
43 proposal by Lance.

44

45 MR. ARDIZZONE: Let me make some copies,  
46 and then I'll bring them right back down.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. In the meantime,  
49 he's going to give you copies of the proposals. Ready  
50 for this?

00024

1 (Whispered conversation)

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Think we can do  
4 it now? Okay. Thank you.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: It's agency.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: No, we've got a blue  
9 form right here from Ken, and then you may testify.

10

11 MR. ADKISSON: This is on? Okay. Great.  
12 Thanks.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Are you proposing as  
15 public? Is that what.....

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: No, National Park Service,  
18 Agency.

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Agencies. Agencies.

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Okay.

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: Right. No. Kunukts,  
25 National Park Service. I'm basically here under the  
26 section of call for new wildlife proposals from the  
27 agencies. And the National Park Service is proposing two  
28 new regulatory changes for sheep in Unit 23 and 26(A).  
29 And those are the copies that I passed out earlier that  
30 you have. And those are completely different from the  
31 two proposals that probably are in your book that came --  
32 one came from Lance Kramer and one came from Mr. Atkins.  
33 And the Park Service believes that the proposals that  
34 we're submitting will actually address the concerns of  
35 those other two.

36

37 I think the good news is that the sheep  
38 population after all these years has recovered to the  
39 point that it's probably time to look at regulatory  
40 changes. And the changes that we're proposing actually  
41 -- and as I say, I think incorporate the concerns  
42 addressed in the other two, and at the same time provide  
43 a manageable and conservative harvest allowance and  
44 threshold. And they have several significant points I  
45 think that are beneficial to subsistence users. First of  
46 all, they establish new quotas, and we believe that those  
47 quotas are sustainable over a period of years. They also  
48 provide for a ewe harvest, which is the first harvest for  
49 ewes that we've had in some time. And they simplify the  
50 regulations, and establish one long season. And it also

00025

1 does away with the trophy destruction provision that a  
2 lot of people found objectionable and difficult to work  
3 with, and may have created reporting and compliance  
4 problems.

5

6                   The basics of it are, there are the two  
7 proposals. One is for the Bairds, and it will establish  
8 one season, open August 10th, close April 30th. There  
9 will be a slight alignment in that from the current  
10 season, Federal season, that will align it with the  
11 State, but actually it will probably produce a longer  
12 opportunity for hunting say female sheep in the spring.  
13 It will provide for an over-all harvest quota of 30 sheep  
14 in the Bairds. That will be broken down into 15 ewes and  
15 15 full curl or larger rams. Federal public lands will  
16 still remain closed in the Bairds, so the Bairds hunt  
17 will be entirely Federal.

18

19                   And on the materials that I passed out to  
20 you for the Bairds, the first page has the existing  
21 regulation that we're working under now. The new  
22 regulation that we're proposing is on the top of page  
23 two, on the back side of that first sheet. And you can  
24 see it's a lot shorter and a lot simpler, and we think it  
25 will be easier for the users and the managers and  
26 everyone to understand and comply with as well, you know,  
27 being beneficial. And then the rest of the information  
28 on the sheet is the justification and things like that.

29

30                   The Bairds proposal is a little  
31 different, because -- or I should say the DeLongs  
32 proposal is a little different because of the problems  
33 and things associated with the dual management in there  
34 with the State. The key points I think to that is, in  
35 there, is that there will be sport hunting and trophy  
36 hunting, and including probably a drawing hunt under  
37 State management in the DeLongs. And the State currently  
38 has a regulation on the books for sheep in the DeLongs  
39 that they have not been really fully utilizing over the  
40 past several years. And it's my understanding that  
41 beginning this next round or so, that they will be doing  
42 that. And their regulation basically provides for a  
43 subsistence harvest of up to nine sheep, either sex, in  
44 the DeLongs, and anything above that can be allocated to  
45 a drawing hunt. And right now they're operating I  
46 believe under the premise that the allowable harvest is  
47 about 20 animals, so the basic breakdown for the State  
48 would be, and hopefully Jim Dow will be here this  
49 afternoon if you have any questions about that, but the  
50 basic breakdown under the State would be 11 subsistence

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1 sheep and -- or nine subsistence sheep, which is what  
2 they've identified as the subsistence need level in the  
3 DeLongs and 11 drawing permits.

4  
5           Based on four years of research that, you  
6 know, Brad Shults has been involved with, and his  
7 analysis of the thing, and the fact that we've been using  
8 the data collected in the Bairds to apply that also in  
9 the DeLongs to set harvest quotas, the Park Service  
10 believes it's reasonable to -- that we could take up to  
11 30 sheep out of the DeLongs on a consistence basis, and  
12 so the way that the proposal that you've got is tailored  
13 allows the State to run their hunt at the same time that  
14 the Federal system is running a Federal subsistence hunt  
15 in the DeLongs. And the way that we did that was we  
16 basically subtracted out the 20 sheep under the State  
17 system, took the remaining 10 that we think can be  
18 harvested and broke that down into 50/50, five ewes and  
19 five full curl or larger rams for the Federal quota, and  
20 we'll issue Federal permits for that under the proposed  
21 regulation change.

22  
23           So, you know, I think in the DeLongs  
24 anyway, the State gets what they wanted all along, and we  
25 still are carrying out our responsibilities to provide  
26 and ensure a subsistence priority where appropriate. And  
27 we think that these numbers are sustainable over the next  
28 several years, and so don't expect that if they're  
29 adopted to come back every year and have to change them.  
30 It greatly simplifies the regulatory process. And so we  
31 would like to submit these to OSM to inclusion in the  
32 regular process. They would then be given a Staff  
33 analysis and eventually come back to this RAC in its  
34 winter meeting for final comment and so forth, and then  
35 on to the Federal Board for adoption we hope in May. But  
36 this is an opportunity for you to see what we'd like to  
37 propose, and if you identify any problems with it, or  
38 have any concerns with it, we might be able to fix them  
39 right now before we, you know, just turn it over to OSM.

40  
41  
42           And so I guess that's basically the  
43 nutshell on our sheep proposals. If you have any  
44 questions on the biology, Brad's here. And if you have  
45 any other questions, I can try to answer them. Walter.

46  
47           CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter, any questions?

48  
49           MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
50 The issue in regards to number of sheep, I know the issue

00027

1 sometimes back when we get to the point of where it got  
2 critical, where the closures are, the Federal subsistence  
3 hunt was closed. I think this region certainly has  
4 worked in making sure the sheep rebounded, and it's good  
5 to hear that they have.

6  
7 The issue in regards to the existing  
8 reporting of take of sheep, does that seem to be working  
9 pretty good when it's open?

10  
11 MR. ADKISSON: My impression is that the  
12 past have been very, very good, and since we adopted that  
13 trophy destruction the last -- for this go round, it's  
14 been more difficult. It's sort of working. And we could  
15 ask some of the staff up here if you'd like specifics on  
16 it, but I think there's a reluctance to report. There's  
17 a dragging out to the very end. I mean, it just seems  
18 that people are really unhappy with that trophy  
19 destruction provision, and, you know, we fully support I  
20 think, you know, having it go away. We think we'll get  
21 better compliance and better reporting all the way  
22 around.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
25 for Ken from the Council?

26  
27 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to  
28 take a couple minutes. Maybe take a quick little break  
29 and see -- look over.....

30  
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

32  
33 MR. SAMPSON: .....a couple of the things  
34 before I.....

35  
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. You need a  
37 couple minutes?

38  
39 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Let's take a 10-  
42 minute break, you know, be back at 10 after 10.

43  
44 (Off record - 10:00 a.m.)

45  
46 (On record - 10:15 a.m.)

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Let's go. Let's go.

49  
50 (General conversation)

00028

1 (Percy Ballot arrives)

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I'll call the  
4 meeting back to order. We're still on.....

5

6 ATTAMUK: Eight.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: On what now? We're on  
9 item number 8, on the agencies about these two proposals,  
10 and we had Ken still at the mike. Anything else, Ken?

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: No, I think that's it  
13 unless you folks have questions, if the Council has  
14 questions for me.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any questions?

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: Ken, the issue in regards  
19 to alignment or -- do you know what the State's plans are  
20 in regards to their sheep hunts?

21

22 MR. ADKISSON: Basically I think that it  
23 would be fair to say that because of the subsistence  
24 needs level determination, it's going to be some time in  
25 the Bairds before there's ever a State hunt again, and  
26 that we're probably looking at Federal management for a  
27 long time down the road, or until the sheep population,  
28 you know, greatly increases, I think that they've just  
29 kind of backed out of that.

30

31 The DeLongs though is another issue, and  
32 because of the original subsistence need level  
33 determination was about nine, and that's the figure that  
34 they've used to craft the current regulation that they  
35 actually have on the books, and they did that several  
36 years ago. And when they tried to implement that, that  
37 was what precipitated some of the conflicts in the  
38 DeLongs and led to some of the Federal actions. So I  
39 think -- my understanding is, is they have that  
40 regulation on the books. The essence of it is they have  
41 their season which starts August 10th I think, and, I  
42 don't know, I'll have to dig out their reg book to  
43 actually see, but it has two components. There's the  
44 subsistence hunt which is an either sex hunt, and  
45 basically that's up to like nine animals. Anything  
46 that's above that could be allocated to a drawing hunt,  
47 and their original allowable harvest figure that they  
48 were working from was 20 animals, and that was what they  
49 had come up with several years ago. And so what they've  
50 been doing is working with us under a memorandum, a kind

00029

1 of agreement to how the hunt in the DeLongs would work,  
2 and how it would be -- the allowable harvest would be  
3 divided between the State and Federal systems, and  
4 essentially my understanding is at this point that's  
5 really no longer in play, and that they -- the State  
6 intends to go forth with their existing regulation. And  
7 they implemented it this year I think through the  
8 subsistence either sex hunt. They weren't -- they didn't  
9 get their drawing hunt publicized earlier enough to  
10 proceed with the drawing permits, but my understanding is  
11 they fully intend to do that next year.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: So the existing regulation  
14 from the State side then is -- as far as hunts are  
15 concerned is 11 sports and nine subsistence? Is that  
16 what.....

17

18 MR. ADKISSON: Nine subsis -- this for  
19 the DeLongs. If you look in the State book -- if you  
20 look in the State book under sheep, it basically reads  
21 for the Bairds area, it says Unit 23, south of Rabbit  
22 Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the  
23 Cutler and Red Stones, the Baird Mountains, residents and  
24 nonresidents for sheep, there's no open season. And that  
25 is going to stay that way I think for some time on the  
26 State side.

27

28 The issue of concern I guess, or the area  
29 of concern would be the Unit 23, that portion north of  
30 Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek, and the Noatak River, and west  
31 of the Aniak River and the DeLong Mountains, and that is  
32 residents, one sheep by permit, August 10th to April  
33 30th. Nonresidents, it currently says no open season,  
34 but that will change for the next hunt year, and there  
35 will be a drawing permit hunt for up to 11 permits I  
36 believe.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: So would that number then  
39 if they're going to make a change would bring the  
40 existing number that's being introduced for 10 to even a  
41 number then for the State's?

42

43 MR. ADKISSON: Well, what it would do is  
44 -- for a long time now we haven't been able to really get  
45 good count information or anything out of the DeLongs,  
46 and we've been using the information from the Bairds and  
47 applying that to the DeLongs. And so when all of this  
48 started to happen a number of years ago, the biologists  
49 came to us and said, look, we think there's up to 24 full  
50 curl rams or larger out there that could be harvested,

00030

1 and we know things have been closed for a long tie. So  
2 that's what kind of precipitated things. And when the  
3 biologists said that, the State went ahead and tried to  
4 implement their drawing hunt and so forth, and it created  
5 a backlash, and we wound up with the Federal hunt. And  
6 then the issue became in the DeLong's one really of  
7 overharvest and two different systems competing to suck  
8 up the allowable harvest, and so that's what let to that  
9 memo from Wayne Regland that the Federal Subsistence  
10 Board endorsed where we said, okay, look, here's the  
11 deal. We'll divide the harvest in the DeLongs between  
12 the Federal and State systems. If they're at such and  
13 such thresholds, the State can go ahead with some drawing  
14 permits. If they're not at that threshold, the State  
15 won't have a drawing hunt, and they haven't. And if it  
16 drops below that, they'd close maybe everything. And so  
17 that's kind of what we've been working with is that  
18 agreement for the last several years.

19

20                   And so where we're at now is the State is  
21 still left at their 20. Our biologists are telling us  
22 based again on the Bairds information, that we think we  
23 can take up to 30 sheep, and we're still applying that in  
24 the DeLongs. And we have no reason to believe that  
25 that's not an okay way to go, and that the estimates that  
26 you've got in there, or the figures that you've got in  
27 the proposal, we believe are still conservative and  
28 biologically sound, and, you know, are sustainable. And  
29 so for convenience sake as much as anything, the State  
30 said they could take up to 20 out of the DeLongs. We say  
31 we can take up to 30. And so we just basically gave the  
32 State their 20 and we'll take the other 10 to ensure that  
33 there's a bona fide Federal subsistence opportunity. And  
34 based on the existing past -- or recent harvest history  
35 and so forth in the DeLongs, we feel that 10 is adequate  
36 to ensure the subsistence needs are met for sheep out of  
37 the DeLongs. And if history down the road proves us  
38 wrong, and that the harvest needs show, you know, a lot  
39 larger than that, then we're going to have to go back to  
40 the State and talk about adjusting numbers. But this  
41 year, for example, in the fall hunt, I believe we had two  
42 sheep taken out of the Bairds -- or the DeLongs. So.....

43

44                   MR. SAMPSON: So the issue in regards to  
45 the numbers that I raised is -- would be addressed on the  
46 MOA then where if the State of Alaska sees the need to do  
47 an emergency closure, then they can allow that to happen?

48

49                   MR. ADKISSON: Oh, I think that they  
50 would -- I don't think there will be an MOA any more. I

00031

1 think it's all going to go away, and you'll have a State  
2 hunt with its provisions, and because we have not closed  
3 Federal public lands, that State hunt will also work on  
4 the Federal public lands. We'll have a separate Federal  
5 hunt, but we're still looking at how many sheep are  
6 coming out of the Delongs total so that we don't really,  
7 you know, exceed what we think is biologically  
8 reasonable.

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: Now, the issue in regards  
11 to, getting on a fine line here, in regards to managing  
12 sheep and monitoring and enforcing, what is the thinking  
13 of the Park Service to making sure that that sheep or  
14 that resource within those areas are protected? And if  
15 we're going to put a regulation in place, to make sure  
16 that there's some protections, some provisions to protect  
17 that resource. Enforcement certainly is going to be on  
18 top of things I'm sure.

19

20 MR. ADKISSON: Right. We can still build  
21 in as conditions of the permit. For example, the current  
22 permit, you won't find it I don't think in the existing  
23 reg, but there is on the Federal permit a requirement to  
24 call in and report your harvest within 24 hours. And  
25 that's a condition of the permit, and we'll probably keep  
26 provisions like that.....

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: Right.

29

30 MR. ADKISSON: .....in place so that we  
31 can track the harvest, and if we do need to close it.....

32

33 Basically, the way the regulation for the  
34 DeLongs would be on the Federal side is you go get a  
35 permit for a sheep. Okay. And that this is not  
36 including the designated hunter provision, which by the  
37 way, does not go away and stays in the -- on the books.  
38 So a hunter goes out, they take a sheep, either sex, come  
39 back in, report it within the 24 hours, and we just track  
40 the harvest. And in the DeLongs, if we hit five ewes, we  
41 close the ewe hunt. If it hits five full curl rams or  
42 larger, we close that. And I think there's enough slop  
43 in the thing so to speak, enough, you know -- we're  
44 conservative enough that I think if we've missed it by  
45 one or two animals, we're not creating a biological  
46 problem. I think we're out of that, where we need to be  
47 so, you know, really controlling over it to exact  
48 numbers, but I still think we want to, you know, try to  
49 bring the numbers in to where we can get them, and so we  
50 can still keep those provisions.

00032

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

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
4 for Ken before taking action on these two proposals?  
5 Enoch.

6

7 ATTAMUK: Just out of curiosity, on  
8 Delong and Baird, how many sheep is actually when they  
9 made their count versus the last couple of years? Could  
10 we have it?

11

12 MR. ADKISSON: Total numbers of sheep  
13 maybe for.....

14

15 ATTAMUK: Yeah, because I know it doubled  
16 up in the last year, the take. I just.....

17

18 MR. SHULTS: We didn't complete a count  
19 this year, Enoch, but.....

20

21 ATTAMUK: Okay.

22

23 MR. SHULTS: .....but it's been growing  
24 at about a 10 to 15 percent rate annually since about  
25 '95. We've had good lamb production, good recruitment of  
26 those lambs as adults, and it's somewhere hovering over  
27 in the 700 plus range for total sheep in the Bairds, and  
28 in the DeLongs we haven't counted in several years, but  
29 we know that's a little bit lower density sheep  
30 population. But it's widely dispersed, but it's -- no  
31 reason to think that they're not having the same success.

32

33

34 ATTAMUK: Um-hum. I just wanted to know  
35 what the rate of reproduction, that way, you know, it  
36 will probably -- it will look different. Thanks.

37

38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
39 on sheep for Ken? If not, thanks, Ken.

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We've still got  
44 one more individual that wanted to testify on sheep. At  
45 this time we'll call on Alex. On sheep proposals. State  
46 your name and where you're from.

47

48 MR. WHITING: Alex Whiting. Well, it  
49 seems to me like the reason that we had full curl hunt in  
50 the first place was because at the time that was a group

00033

1 of the sheep population that we could harvest without  
2 jeopardizing the potential for the future. And so now if  
3 we're talking about ewes, which on principle, you know, I  
4 fully support a ewe hunt, but I guess what I would say is  
5 that if you're going to have ewe hunt, then you might as  
6 well get rid of the full curl lamb on the other side, and  
7 then have like a 15/15 like Brad suggested, 15 ewes and  
8 15 rams, because, one, I think you're going to run into  
9 problems with people shooting young rams that they  
10 thought were ewes especially in the wintertime, and then  
11 you'll have reporting problems. And, two, I suppose if  
12 it's biologically acceptable to shoot, to take ewes out  
13 of the population, a four-year old ram versus a four-  
14 year-old ewe, it seems to me that that four-year-old ewe  
15 is a lot more valuable to the future of that population  
16 than a four-year-old ram would be.

17

18                   So I guess what I'm saying is that if  
19 you're going to take a biological stance on this deal  
20 here, there's really no reason at all not to have a 15,  
21 or whatever number, any male sheep, and then have any  
22 female sheep I guess. I guess that's all I wanted to say  
23 is that if we're going to use biology for our  
24 decisionmaking, that there really is absolutely no reason  
25 not to do that, not to break it up into just any ram or  
26 any ewe and then have quotas on each group. So I guess  
27 that's my point that I wanted to make.

28

29                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Alex.

30

31                   MR. WHITING: That's it?

32

33                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yep. For the record,  
34 Michelle, that Percy shows up at 10:15.

35

36                   MS. CHIVERS: Yes, I noted that.

37

38                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Welcome.

39

40                   MR. BALLOT: Thank you.

41

42                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Right now we're on item  
43 number eight, you know. As we know, that we opened the  
44 public comments already on this sheep proposal, and then  
45 with agencies. I want to ask the members of the Council  
46 since we already passed public, and we've done agencies,  
47 is the public still legalized to testify, Walter?

48

49                   MR. SAMPSON: I can't see why that can't  
50 occur, Mr. Chairman.

00034

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: I think we.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I'll ask, you're  
6 on the antlers or the sheep itself, you're.....

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Antler.

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll get to you  
11 then. But we've got two different proposals. We'll get  
12 to you just on this one, on the next item. Okay. Any  
13 other agencies got any -- did I see someone a while ago  
14 that wanted to -- about the sheep proposals from other  
15 government agencies, the State? Other than that, and  
16 then, now, you want the input and the support of these  
17 two proposals, Ken, from the council?

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, I think comments or  
20 things, and actually even Alex's comment's appreciated,  
21 and I'm sure that Brad will want to talk to him. The  
22 question of, you know, any age ram that Alex brought up I  
23 think is addressed in the item 10, and there is some  
24 rationale for what was going on with the age structure of  
25 the population, and sort of building in the fact that  
26 there can be some mistakes. And I think Brad felt that  
27 it was still important to keep the full curl ram  
28 provision in there for now, but we can have more  
29 discussions about that, and, you know, I'm sure we will,  
30 especially when it comes time for public comments.

31

32 So the main thing is that I was looking  
33 for support to see that we're on track, and that the RAC  
34 doesn't have any real problems with the proposal at this  
35 point before we submit it to OSM. And as indicated  
36 before, it -- once the proposal goes to OSM, it gets  
37 subjected to a staff analysis and review. Then it's put  
38 into the book. It goes out to the public. The State and  
39 the general public can comment on it. You folks on the  
40 RAC will see it again at your winter meeting, and it can  
41 be fine-tuned, and then can go forth with your  
42 recommendations to the Board in May.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

45

46 MR. ADKISSON: So I'm just trying to work  
47 out any real obvious problems or kinks now and just  
48 wanted you to have an opportunity to see what we were  
49 thinking and hear from us, and we can hear from you, and  
50 if there's anything really significant wrong with the

00035

1 proposal, we can fix it now, and won't have to do it  
2 later.

3

4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay. Thank  
5 you, Ken.

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. From the -- we  
10 don't have any more from agencies before going to the  
11 Regional Council on these two proposals? I know that  
12 Walt had quite a bit of discussion on this, and more from  
13 the Council. And I'll go to the Council now. Walter,  
14 got anything?

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: Are we going to hear from  
17 anybody else in regards to the proposals?

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: On these two sheep  
20 proposals?

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's what I'm asking,  
25 yeah.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: I mean, besides Regional,  
28 before we get into Regional member discussion?

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, we probably could  
31 do that.

32

33 MR. SAMPSON: I mean, don't you have a  
34 blue card, somebody.....

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: .....somebody on the list  
39 there?

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, he's -- Elmer's  
42 got -- he's concerned about the antlers on this proposal,  
43 antlers?

44

45 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yeah, as part of that,  
46 yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

49

50 MR. SAMPSON: That's what I would like to

00036

1 hear, Mr. Chairman.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You want him to do it  
4 now?

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: I'd like to do it before  
7 we get into our discussion, yes.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Okay. We can do  
10 it know.

11

12 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah..

13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Elmer. Elmer  
15 Armstrong from Kotzebue. He's got proposal on -- also on  
16 the sheep.

17

18 MR. ARMSTRONG: My name is Elmer  
19 Armstrong, Sr., to the Board, Chair. I'm with the local  
20 advisory here, fish and game advisory. The reason why  
21 I'd like to speak is because I saw this proposal, and  
22 part of it I think is what I'm going to speak about. I  
23 was a little bit disturbed. My grandson and my son went  
24 sheep hunting about three or four weeks ago. And I  
25 didn't know this, being in the local advisory. My son  
26 said, we have to bring our catch down to Park Service. I  
27 said, for what? He said, they've got to cut a piece off  
28 of one horn. And they didn't go out on a trophy hunt.  
29 They went out to get sheep for subsistence. And those --  
30 part of those two sheeps that they got are in our  
31 freezer. And the -- some of it is in the bear's stomach.  
32 But anyway, I can't -- see, the Park in cutting part of a  
33 horn from a sheep for subsistence use, this is not a  
34 trophy hunt. I think there should be a difference in the  
35 subsistence and trophy hunting, that the Park Service  
36 should have some kind of a regulation. If it's a  
37 subsistence hunt, then they should leave that head along,  
38 because my two boys are young. My grandson, we took care  
39 of him since he was -- until he was able to go to the  
40 Army. He just came back from the Army about six months  
41 ago. And I thought this was great. But he brought his  
42 head down to the Park Service and they cut four inches  
43 off of his horns. And right now I'm looking for strong  
44 glue to glue that horn back in place, even though that  
45 there's four inches missing off of it. And this is a  
46 subsistence hunt. I wanted to mount these two heads so  
47 that they would remember that these were the first two  
48 sheep that they ever got in their life.

49

50 And the thing that I want to speak about,

00037

1 this is not our native culture way of cutting a piece of  
2 horn off of a sheep that was caught for subsistence.  
3 This is not our culture. Native culture. And I think  
4 that should be recognized. And I strongly believe that  
5 we always want to follow our native culture from our  
6 ancestors. Our ancestors never, never did take part of  
7 somebody else's kill, whether it's horns or not. Since  
8 this was not a trophy hunt, I was a little bit disturbed,  
9 and I would like to see the Subsistence Board to let the  
10 Park Service make some changes if there need changes to  
11 be made. That they should not take any piece of that  
12 sheep if it's a subsistence hunt, except to report it.  
13 That -- report the catch. Thank you very much.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Elmer. If  
16 there's any questions for Elmer from any of the Council  
17 members? Thank you, Elmer.

18

19 Okay. We're done to, excuse me, C, from  
20 the Regional Council. Anybody got anything on these two  
21 proposals on sheep from the Council? And he wanted  
22 action on these two. Walter.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, after looking  
25 at the proposals, we before you two different proposals  
26 from the agency in regards to the DeLong and Baird  
27 Mountain proposal, as well as a public proposal that was  
28 submitted. I think the two proposals that are being  
29 submitted by the Federal -- by the agency is something  
30 that I certainly would support, because that -- these two  
31 proposals also cover the public's proposal.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: So based on what's been  
36 covered, Mr. Chairman, I would move to support the agency  
37 proposal, which would read for the DeLong Mountain  
38 harvest limits, Unit 23, north of Rabbit Creek, Kyak  
39 Creek, and Noatak River and west of Aniak River, DeLong  
40 Mountains, one sheep by Federal registration permit.  
41 Rams must be full curl or larger, and the total allowable  
42 harvest of rams is five, total allowable harvest of ewes  
43 is five, the total harvest of sheep is 10.

44

45 MS. CHIVERS: At this point, this is just  
46 going over proposals that are being submitted, and so we  
47 don't need to make motions for support of these  
48 proposals, because they're not in front of -- they're not  
49 going in front of the Board at this time. These will be  
50 brought back to our meetings.

00038

1 MR. SAMPSON: So no actions?

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: I rescind my action then.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: And I will say nothing

10 about it.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: And I -- that's fine.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Otherwise we are  
17 planning on supporting these proposals later if they're  
18 recognized in the record.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: So you can erase my  
21 statements off the record, Madam (sic) Chair, and  
22 anything that deals with sheep. Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Calvin.

25

26 MR. MOTO: You know, just to -- since  
27 this is call for proposals to change Federal subsistence  
28 wildlife regulations, I guess when I talked this morning  
29 that they were under the impression that I wanted to  
30 change the subsistence taking of moose, I don't. I don't  
31 want to change the regulation. The way it is is good.  
32 It's just the fact that I was -- we were concerned about  
33 this other thing, that's all. So I just wanted to make  
34 sure the Park Service were aware that we didn't want to  
35 make any date changes or anything. Just leave it the way  
36 it, just making sure.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: So basically the  
39 information's that's been provided to us, Mr. Chairman,  
40 is just show and tell? Nothing to.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's just -- Michelle  
47 say, you know, it's not recognized yet since it's not  
48 written up, but they're looking forward to supporting if  
49 it is written and numbered, to support these proposals.

50

00039

1 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: So what happens from here?

4 Would all these proposals then be.....

5

6 MS. CHIVERS: An analysis will be put

7 together by Staff.....

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: For all the proposals?

10

11 MS. CHIVERS: .....in our office, and

12 then it will be sent out to you for your review, and

13 we'll view them at the winter meeting, and then it will

14 go before the Board at the May meeting.

15

16 MR. SAMPSON: I sort of feel embarrassed

17 for even being the variation to the table then.

18

19 MR. MOTO: So in other words, maybe at a

20 future date we will take action on it or -- yeah.

21

22 MS. CHIVERS: No, you will not be taking

23 on it today.

24

25 MR. MOTO: No action?

26

27 MS. CHIVERS: This is just informational

28 to let you know what proposals have been submitted so far

29 and that you will be looking at in the winter meeting.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: And I just even see why we

32 got it for discussion if it's just informational. I feel

33 that what I said is null and void, and I don't think that

34 that's why -- anything in regards to what I said about

35 sheep, you can strike off the record, please.

36

37 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, Walter, at this

38 time Ken did say he was looking for additional

39 information and wanted the Council to view this and see

40 if there was anything else that they wanted to add.....

41

42 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

43

44 MS. CHIVERS: .....to this proposal, so

45 it was open for your comments.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Well, that's why -- when

48 you said that I should get into the discussion, that's

49 why I said you can strike out all the statements in

50 regards to -- my statements to the sheep issue. So.....

00040

1 MS. CHIVERS: Well, at this point the  
2 only thing we would really strike is the motion. We  
3 won't be taking any motions at this time. We're just  
4 taking comments, which is.....

5  
6 MR. SAMPSON: Well, I.....

7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

9  
10 MR. SAMPSON: .....understand that.....

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Otherwise.....

13  
14 MR. SAMPSON: .....the discussion in  
15 regards to sheep is what we're talking.....

16  
17 MS. CHIVERS: Discussion was fine.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Otherwise these three  
20 are just informational right now.....

21  
22 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....until they -- and  
25 it is.....

26  
27 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: What about this Lance  
30 Kramer proposal?

31  
32 MS. CHIVERS: That's informational as  
33 well. That's being.....

34  
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Also informational  
36 also?

37  
38 MS. CHIVERS: That was submitted. An  
39 analysis will be written up on those.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Since we're not  
42 going to take no action on this, you know, let's make  
43 your comment very brief on these two -- on these  
44 proposals. Like I say, it's informational. And then  
45 before we go any further I'd like any more comments from  
46 the Council before we go to this other proposal. If none  
47 we'll go down another proposal that will be submitted in  
48 our next winter meeting, presented by Lance Kramer. It's  
49 generally by I imagine these antlers. So make your brief  
50 very comment, and then your very brief information.

00041

1 Michelle.

2

3 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, those are just  
4 submitted for your information. An analysis will be  
5 written on those as well, and those will be taken up at  
6 the winter council meeting.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

9

10 MS. CHIVERS: So these are just for your  
11 information as well just to read.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Yeah, go ahead,  
14 you may give us a brief informational on this.

15

16 MR. ARDIZZONE: I just wanted to make  
17 sure the Council was aware that we had several proposal  
18 other than what the Park Service was submitting.

19

20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

21

22 MR. ARDIZZONE: And basically Park  
23 Service's proposal cover what these two individuals,  
24 Lance Kramer and Paul Atkins want.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: So based on what I've been  
27 told is that we don't need no discussion on what's been  
28 presented to us?

29

30 MR. ARDIZZONE: Correct. We just wanted  
31 to make sure you were aware that there were some proposed  
32 changes that you will see at the winter meeting.

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thank you. It  
35 looks like we're going pretty fast now. (In Native)

36

37 MR. MOTO: Ee-ee.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Um-hum.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Item number 9,  
42 Fisheries Information Services Programs. Polly Wheeler.  
43 Got anybody for it, or is that informational?

44

45 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It's on your --  
48 it's right on Tab C.

49

50 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, my name is Polly

00042

1 Wheeler and I'm with the Fisheries Information Services,  
2 which is sort of the research arm of the Office of  
3 Subsistence Management. We fund -- FIS is the short what  
4 we call it. It's -- we fund projects addressing Federal  
5 subsistence fisheries management issues. The program is  
6 about four years old. My boss Steve Klien spoke to you  
7 last spring about our program. And we actually do have  
8 an action item for you today.

9

10 If you look behind Tab C in your Council  
11 books, there's a whole bunch of pages of information, and  
12 that's sort of -- I'll walk you through some of it, and  
13 if you have any questions while I'm talking, go ahead and  
14 ask.

15

16 The initial -- right behind Tab C, in the  
17 first few pages, pages 23 to 34 actually, provides an  
18 overview of the fisheries resource monitoring program.  
19 And just to give you some background because some of you  
20 -- this may be -- just to remind you sort of how the  
21 program works.

22

23 We fund projects again that are looking  
24 at Federal subsistence fisheries issues. We fund  
25 projects that deal with issues that you all have  
26 identified, that the 10 Regional Advisory Councils have  
27 identified as being important for their region. When we  
28 select projects for funding, we look at a couple of  
29 things. We look at are they addressing issues that have  
30 been identified by the Regional Advisory Council. We  
31 look at if there's a Federal nexus -- what we call the  
32 Federal nexus, if it's actually on Federal lands, or  
33 dealing with fish taken out of Federal waters. And we  
34 evaluate -- we have a technical review committee that  
35 evaluates the projects for scientific merit, you know,  
36 looks at past performance of the organization. Yeah.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: Can you define Federal  
39 lands with navigable waters?

40

41 MS. WHEELER: I would defer to.....

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: Is navigable waters  
44 included as part of the Federal lands?

45

46 MS. WHEELER: Do you want to talk about  
47 that?

48

49 MR. JENNINGS: Sure.

50

00043

1 MR. SAMPSON: I mean, the reason why I'm  
2 asking is the State's always inserting their right into  
3 navigable waters in through the boundary of any Federal  
4 lands. That's why I'm asking to -- for a definition of  
5 what -- when you talk about Federal lands.

6  
7 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, Mr. Chair, Mr.  
8 Sampson, Tim Jennings, Office of Subsistence Management.  
9 For the purposes of our Federal subsistence fisheries  
10 regulatory program, the Federal program has jurisdiction  
11 over waters within the boundaries of the conservation  
12 units, so that includes navigable waters.

13  
14 MS. WHEELER: Within or adjacent.

15  
16 MR. JENNINGS: Within or adjacent.

17  
18 MS. WHEELER: Right.

19  
20 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Good.

21  
22 MR. JENNINGS: Okay?

23  
24 MR. SAMPSON: That's all I wanted to  
25 have.

26  
27 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Tim. So we fund  
28 projects that have this -- that are dealing with Federal  
29 issues, that are dealing with Federal waters, and in  
30 order for a project to be funded, those are the top two  
31 things that are looked at, and then the Technical Review  
32 Committee also looks at past performance of the  
33 organization on projects for which they've been funded.  
34 And we look at partnerships and capacity building of the  
35 particular projects.

36  
37 On page 27 in your book, you'll see  
38 there's a model for guideline funding. The Federal  
39 Board, the Federal Subsistence Board that is, has decided  
40 that each region will get a particular percentage of  
41 whatever monies are available in a given year for the  
42 research projects, and this -- and right now we're  
43 looking at about 17 percent of the total project monies  
44 available the Arctic, Kotzebue and Norton Sound Region,  
45 which in 2004 was about \$800,000 for projects. The  
46 further direction from the Federal Board is that about  
47 two-thirds of those project monies go to what we call  
48 stock status and trends projects, sort of weirs, sonar  
49 counters, that sort of thing. Kind of the straight  
50 biological projects. And about a third of the funding

00044

1 goes to harvest monitoring and traditional ecological  
2 knowledge projects, sort of social science projects. And  
3 those are guidelines, they're not targets necessarily.  
4 They're guidelines for project selection.

5

6                   For 2004, we have about -- over \$5  
7 million available for project funding statewide. We got  
8 about 64 projects. Nine of those were for this region,  
9 for Arctic, North Slope and Kotzebue region. There were  
10 five stock status and trends projects, and four harvest  
11 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge projects  
12 that were submitted for the whole region.

13

14                   Pages 35 to 44 in your book, and I  
15 apologize, there's a lot of information here, but we want  
16 to make sure that get the full packet, and like I said,  
17 I'm just trying to walk you through it. The first part  
18 of the overview for this region talks about issues and  
19 information needs.

20

21                   And I wanted to go back to your minutes  
22 from the last meeting. At your last meeting you had  
23 asked that somebody from our program go out to each of  
24 the villages in the region and get at issues and  
25 information needs for Federal subsistence fisheries  
26 management. And my boss was here at the time, and I'm  
27 not sure what he said or didn't say, but I wanted to  
28 speak to that a little bit, because we've had several  
29 projects that are actually getting at fisheries issues  
30 for this region. Through one of the projects that we  
31 funded, there was a workshop held in Kotzebue here last  
32 November, November 19th and 20th, and there were  
33 representatives from villages in the region talking about  
34 harvest assessment, fisheries harvest assessment, but  
35 other issues came up. And so we've been looking at the  
36 minutes from that meeting to get at issues and  
37 information needs for this region.

38

39                   We also -- we're also recommending for  
40 funding another project that is also going to harvest  
41 assessment issues in the region. Through this project,  
42 and Enoch is part of it, as is Susan Georgette, there  
43 will be meetings held in each of the 11 villages to look  
44 at fisheries issues and look at harvest assessment. So  
45 we're not in a position -- the Office of Subsistence  
46 Management isn't in a position at this time to send a  
47 representative out to each of the villages, but we feel  
48 like we've got it covered through these other two  
49 projects.

50

00045

1                   So I just wanted to make sure that your  
2 concern that was raised at that meeting we feel is being  
3 addressed, but I would also add that if you feel there's  
4 issues that have not been addressed, that you raise them,  
5 and that we make sure that they're added to the issues  
6 and information needs, because those again guide. When  
7 we put out a call for proposals, people are looking at  
8 those issues that have been identified. And we want to  
9 make sure that it's covered, that you feel your issues  
10 are being covered.

11  
12                   So getting to the specific projects here,  
13 on page 41 in your book, there's a table, table 3, which  
14 looks at the stock status and trends projects that were  
15 submitted for this region. Like I said, there's five  
16 stock status and trends projects. Actually on three of  
17 them really pertain directly to this region, but all five  
18 of those projects have been recommended for funding by  
19 the Technical Review Committee. They all address  
20 strategic priorities. They all are technically sound.  
21 They're -- they have a good partnership or capacity-  
22 building component, and the experience of the  
23 investigators is solid. So those five projects are  
24 recommended for funding.

25  
26                   And then on page 42 you'll see that  
27 there's four projects submitted in the traditional  
28 ecological knowledge, harvest monitoring category. And  
29 three out of the four are recommended for funding by the  
30 Technical Review Committee, and I -- the one project that  
31 wasn't recommended for funding was primarily not  
32 recommended for funding because of the lack of Federal  
33 application, that there -- it's doing harvest assessment  
34 in Wales, Buckland and Deering, and the Technical Review  
35 Committee felt like there wasn't enough of a Federal  
36 nexus to recommend that project for funding, but the  
37 other three are recommended for funding.

38  
39                   And you will note that one of the  
40 projects is looking at customary trade, which is a hot  
41 issue that was before the Federal Board. At the Federal  
42 Board meeting when they discussed customary trade, they  
43 asked for additional information on customary trade  
44 practices in different regions, so that project is not  
45 specifically an issue that was identified by the Regional  
46 Advisory Council, but it was identified by the Federal  
47 Subsistence Board as needing more information. So the  
48 Technical Review Committee felt that that was a project  
49 that would be worthy of funding.

50

00046

1                   So I'm certainly here to answer any  
2 specific questions on any of the projects, Mr. Chair, but  
3 I would ask at this tie -- I mean, I'm open to questions,  
4 but our request would be that you approve or you support  
5 the Technical Review Committee recommendation for funding  
6 on these nine projects, Mr. Chair.

7

8                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for Polly  
9 from the Council? Walter.

10

11                   MR. SAMPSON: Polly, it's good to hear  
12 that, as I understand it, local folks are being --  
13 participating and being proactive in discussions of the  
14 planning. Has there been identified groups or  
15 individuals that the agency's working with at the local  
16 level? Is it the regional level or at the village --  
17 each village level?

18

19                   MS. WHEELER: How we have gone about  
20 getting the issues and information needs within each  
21 region is talking to the Regional Advisory Council  
22 members, talking to the managers in that particular  
23 region. And again for this region we funded several  
24 projects -- we've already funded one project where we had  
25 that meeting last November, and where there were local  
26 representatives. And then we're proposing to fund  
27 another project where people, Enoch and Susan will be  
28 going out to each of the 11 villages and talking  
29 specifically about fisheries harvest assessment. So I  
30 guess you could say it's both a local and a regional  
31 approach.

32

33                   MR. SAMPSON: Now, as far as utilizing  
34 some of the village folks at their level, that's also  
35 part of their program? I'm talking about the actual  
36 participation in doing the very work.

37

38                   MS. WHEELER: In doing the actual  
39 projects?

40

41                   MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

42

43                   MS. WHEELER: Yes. Yes.

44

45                   MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

46

47                   MS. WHEELER: That's a component, that's  
48 what we look at.....

49

50                   MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

00047

1 MS. WHEELER: .....for every project.....

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Good.

4

5 MS. WHEELER: .....that we fund, there

6 has to be this, what we call the partnership or

7 capacity.....

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

10

11 MS. WHEELER: .....building

12 component.....

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

15

16 MS. WHEELER: .....where there's local

17 people involved in a meaningful way.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

20

21 MS. WHEELER: Not just paying the tribal

22 council for.....

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Right.

25

26 MS. WHEELER: .....logistical

27 support.....

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

30

31 MS. WHEELER: .....but really trying to

32 involve people so that there's a real two-way

33 communication.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: The reason why I ask that

36 is that, you know, as an agency, the agency has always

37 done what they want to do in the past, and we've been

38 always been the recipient of these things, but I'm glad

39 to hear that there's a proactiveness from the community

40 side, because people are starting to look at the end

41 product which they ought to have ownership of, because

42 they're part of the system. Not only that, they live it.

43

44

45 MS. WHEELER: Right. Right.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: So I'm -- it's good to hear

48 that people are being proactive in that way.

49

50 MS. WHEELER: Um-hum.

00048

1 MR. SAMPSON: So it's good to hear that.

2

3 MS. WHEELER: Well, I would say, too,  
4 that at our winter meetings, we're going to have some of  
5 the investigators come and do presentations on their  
6 particular projects. And that would be an opportunity  
7 for you all to get -- to sort of, you know, find out  
8 what's going on and also provide comments or suggestions  
9 for how we can do things better.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: You all.

12

13 MS. WHEELER: You all. Okay.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: It just came out.

16

17 MS. WHEELER: I know.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further question.

20

21 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, Percy.

24

25 MR. BALLOT: She mentioned there's one  
26 project at Buckland/Deering. Why was not -- why was the  
27 that one not enough to be done in the studies? The  
28 proposal.

29

30 MS. WHEELER: The Technical Review  
31 Committee, which again is -- the Technical Review  
32 Committee as representation from each of the five federal  
33 agencies, and Department of Fish and Game also weighs in  
34 on it, and then we have a couple of partners that also  
35 sit on the Technical Review Committee. And as I said,  
36 one of the criteria for being funded under our program is  
37 that there's a tie with Federal waters. In that project,  
38 there's not a sufficient tie with Federal waters. It's  
39 not that it wasn't a -- it's not that it wasn't a good  
40 project. It's that there's not a tie with Federal  
41 management, and we have to fund projects that are  
42 addressing Federal subsistence fisheries management  
43 issues, and that have an application for Federal  
44 subsistence fisheries management.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is there more questions  
47 from the Council for Polly? Walter.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: Just maybe off the wall  
50 question. I know we're talking about subsistence issues

00049

1 here. Is there any thinking from the Federal side in  
2 regards to any plans to go into or partnering with State  
3 in regards to commercial activities? I'm talking more  
4 specifically of salmon fishery. Is there any thought or  
5 any dealings, any thinking of addressing those at the  
6 Federal side?

7

8 MS. WHEELER: You mean issues having to  
9 do with commercial fisheries?

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: As far as commercial  
12 fisheries, yeah.

13

14 MS. WHEELER: I guess I would say not  
15 directly, but indirectly in how commercial fisheries  
16 would affect subsistence, that would be.....

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

19

20 MS. WHEELER: .....a legitimate.....

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

23

24 MS. WHEELER: .....you know, that could  
25 be a legitimate project, but again we're supposed to look  
26 -- focus specifically on Federal subsistence fisheries  
27 management.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

30

31 MS. WHEELER: But like on the Yukon,  
32 there are certainly some -- there's a feeling that, you  
33 know, commercial fishing may be impacting subsistence  
34 fishing, so we're sort of looking at that. But again  
35 we're -- it's -- the direct focus has to be on  
36 subsistence fisheries.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

39

40 MS. WHEELER: But I will say, you know,  
41 we do fund -- we fund a number of projects through State  
42 organizations, and we partner with State organizations,  
43 tribal organizations, whatever.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

46

47 MR. MOTO: Under project number 4-158,  
48 subject fish harvest in northern Seward Peninsula  
49 communities, TRC recommendation no. Is that why you have  
50 recommended no on that, on their recommendation?

00050

1 MS. WHEELER: On that particular project,  
2 Mr. Moto, it's because there's not a Federal -- these --  
3 they're not in Federal waters. The harvests don't occur  
4 in Federal waters, and so the Technical Review Committee,  
5 their hands are tied, because the project has to address  
6 Federal subsistence fisheries management issues, and the  
7 harvest isn't occurring in Federal waters.

8

9 MR. MOTO: Okay. Even though we're not  
10 on Federal waters, it starts from Federal, you know, it  
11 comes from the ground near Federal land, and we're trying  
12 to find a distinction between that and, you know, State,  
13 so that's why I asked.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
16 for Polly? If not, B. I'll ask before you go, Polly,  
17 about partners for fisheries monitory program. Who  
18 handles that? Is this your agency.....

19

20 MS. WHEELER: Yes.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....on B?

23

24 MS. WHEELER: Yes.

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It is? Okay.

27

28 MS. WHEELER: It would be, Mr. Chair, but  
29 I guess before we move to the partners program, if I  
30 could ask if there would be support for the Technical  
31 Review Committee recommendations from the Council,  
32 because I didn't -- what we do, our process is that we  
33 get -- we present this to the Tech -- to the Regional  
34 Advisory Council, you approve or you support the  
35 Technical Review Committee recommendations, or not, and  
36 then it goes to the Federal Board in December. And  
37 they'll be looking at what the Regional Advisory Council  
38 recommendations are on the projects for this particular  
39 region, and then they'll be making a decision at that  
40 meeting. So if we could get your approval, support for  
41 the Technical Review Committee recommendations, or not,  
42 then I can carry that back to the Federal Board -- or to  
43 the Staff Committee and then to the Federal Board.  
44 That's an important piece of information.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Um-hum.

47

48 MS. WHEELER: .....that they'll need for  
49 their decision-making.

50

00051

1                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: You will respond, when  
2 you've got these villages, are they pretty cooperative,  
3 are they glad that you're around on this program?

4  
5                   MS. WHEELER: I guess I would throw that  
6 question back at you and what are you hearing from people  
7 in the villages. I would say generally speaking, we're  
8 -- the projects are -- the projects that I oversee, and I  
9 oversee all of the social science projects, all of the  
10 harvesting monitoring and TEK projects. Generally  
11 speaking people are. It's a new program, so the word's  
12 slow in getting out, but I would say generally speaking  
13 people are fairly happy with the projects, and we're  
14 starting to get the information back.

15  
16                   Some of the projects that I oversee have  
17 been slow in getting started. And sometimes we haven't  
18 gotten -- they've been slow in getting started, and  
19 sometimes slow in finishing and getting products out, but  
20 I think that's partly because they're harder to do in  
21 some ways than the straight biological projects, because  
22 it depends on people, and developing relationships, so  
23 it's taking a little bit longer. But I've been real  
24 happy with the results, and I think that we're -- that  
25 people -- as the word slowly gets out, people seem to be  
26 happy with the program.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Good. Walter.

29  
30                   MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would love  
31 to make a recommendation to do that, but after being told  
32 what I said early on is my statements to the fact regards  
33 to sheep is moot, then I can't see why I should be making  
34 a statement to make it a support in regards to fisheries,  
35 and I feel like that I'm sort of on a limbo right now in  
36 regards to how -- what we ought to do in regards to  
37 fisheries. Maybe I need to rethink what I need to do.  
38 Can we take a five minutes?

39  
40                   UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: You need to.....

41  
42                   MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. Yeah.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Let's take a five-  
45 minute break.

46  
47                   (Off record)

48  
49                   (On record)

50

00052

1                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Now we're on a  
2 little discussion. But I'll call the meeting back to  
3 order. I know it's getting close to lunch. What I think  
4 what we'll do is try to get this thing solved, and then  
5 we'll probably break for lunch, because I know a lot of  
6 guys have to go a long ways for lunch. So I'll all the  
7 meeting back to order. And we're still on item number 9,  
8 the draft 2004 fisheries resource monitoring plan, and,  
9 B. partners for fisheries monitoring program. I know  
10 there's a number of discussions now, a few minutes, I  
11 know is way more than five minutes, but it seemed like 15  
12 minutes, so we're down to either recommendations, that  
13 leave from the Council. Walter, you got anything on  
14 this?

15

16                   MR. SAMPSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, after  
17 discussion here, I certainly would like to pitch in my  
18 support for the request for fisheries in regards to what  
19 Polly Wheeler asked, but also to include for the upper  
20 Kobuk areas, sheefish spawning, and also to include  
21 beaver areas within the Northwest areas. So that is.....

22

23                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that a motion?

24

25                   MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

26

27                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It's been moved  
28 by Walter to support this fisheries monitoring program,  
29 including upper Kobuk sheefish, and also I know that the  
30 problem with the beaver is everywhere. That's a motion  
31 by Walter. Is there a second?

32

33                   ATTAMUK: Well, I'll second it.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by either Cal or  
36 Enoch.

37

38                   ATTAMUK: It doesn't matter.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Discussions. Walter.

41

42                   MR. SAMPSON: For clarification, in  
43 regards to the issue on sheefish spawning area and the  
44 issue on beaver, I understand that a request was made.  
45 It's a matter of finding organizations, entities to do  
46 the actual work on these things. The proposals were  
47 submitted, am I not correct?

48

49                   MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, just to clarify,  
50 the Office of Subsistence Management, this program, the

00053

1 Fisheries Information Services program, we fund projects.  
2 We don't do the research, but we fund the projects.

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Okay.

5

6 MS. WHEELER: So as I understood what you  
7 just said, you want added to your issues.....

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

10

11 MS. WHEELER: .....the upper Kobuk  
12 sheefish spawning area, the beaver/whitefish interaction  
13 -- or beaver interactions with fisheries, how they're  
14 affecting fisheries. You want those two things added to  
15 your issues. When we put the call for proposals out for  
16 projects in 2005, those issues will be added to your  
17 issues and information needs. Then we need to -- then  
18 we'll be looking for agencies, individuals, whatever, to  
19 submit proposals addressing those particular issues so  
20 that for next -- for the next funding cycle.....

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: So this is for.....

23

24 MS. WHEELER: .....for consideration in  
25 the next.....

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: ..... '05, not '04?

28

29 MS. WHEELER: Correct. The projects that  
30 you're looking at that are in front of you are projects  
31 that will begin -- the Federal Board will deal with them  
32 in December.....

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Right.

35

36 MS. WHEELER: .....they'll begin in  
37 spring of 2004.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Thanks.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Cal.

42

43 MR. MOTO: You had -- you weren't going  
44 to use any of the funds for Northern Seward Peninsula,  
45 will be transfer that to Squirrel River, or will that be  
46 -- will you have to do something else?

47

48 MS. WHEELER: If there are so-called  
49 extra funds for a particular reason, often what we do is  
50 we'll fund -- if we've got -- you'll notice a lot of

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1 these projects are two and three projects, so if we have  
2 extra funding in a given year, we'll fund that project  
3 for two years. We'll use that year's money to fund a  
4 project for two years, so the monies are staying within  
5 the region.

6

7 MR. MOTO: Okay.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further  
10 discussions?

11

12 (No discussion)

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Question.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
17 called for by Walter. All in favor of supporting the  
18 draft 204 for fisheries resource monitoring plan, signify  
19 by saying aye.

20

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

24

25 (No opposing votes.)

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: No objection. We  
28 support your -- thank you.

29

30 MS. WHEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Did  
31 you want me to speak, and I promise to be very brief, to  
32 this partners for fisheries monitoring program?

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: I think before you do I get  
35 clarity in regards to in the regional here on sheep.

36

37 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Clarifying something that I  
40 had some discussions with in regards to the Baird request  
41 that's being made in regards to support, and that's  
42 support that I intended to try to make on the sheep  
43 issues.

44

45 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, Mr.  
46 Sampson, Tim Jennings, Office of Subsistence Management.  
47 It's appropriate if the Council so desires for you to  
48 express support for a proposal to be submitted. That is  
49 different than a formal Council recommendation on a  
50 regulatory change to make to the Federal Board. If you

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1 make that decision -- or distinction, it's appropriate if  
2 you want to express support for the Park Service's  
3 proposal to be submitted. We will come back to you at  
4 the next meeting with an analysis, with an opportunity  
5 for public comments, for State input, and at that meeting  
6 the Council will be asked to make a formal recommendation  
7 on what regulatory changes to be made for sheep. So  
8 you'll have an opportunity at that next meeting to make  
9 your formal recommendation to the Federal Board. The  
10 Federal Board would then take up the decision making on  
11 the proposals at their May meeting. And either you, Mr.  
12 Chair, or if you're not able to make it, Walter will be  
13 at that meeting and be able to represent the region and  
14 the Council at that meeting. So the discussion on sheep  
15 earlier was appropriate, and it's also appropriate if the  
16 Council desires to express support for a proposal to be  
17 submitted. Does that help, Mr. Sampson?

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, thank you.

20

21 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah.

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

24

25 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

28

29 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, I just wanted to point  
30 out that our fish are just as important to us to even if  
31 they don't know they're not swimming in Federal waters,  
32 but they come from Federal waters in the river. And so I  
33 think that needs to be taken into account that we count  
34 on those fish for livelihood. And even though the  
35 Federal lands are way up there, they still go to Buckland  
36 and Deering. That's something to think about on the  
37 future, because I do want to see -- we do need to see  
38 some studies there.

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

41

42 ATTAMUK: Just for what Percy just said,  
43 that Calvin said, maybe what we need to is address the  
44 spawning areas, whether they're in Federal land or in the  
45 State lands. That way you won't say they're coming from  
46 the Federal lands. You could say they were in the  
47 spawning grounds, the State or the Federal. Just  
48 something to think to my mind.

49

50 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair.

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1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. JENNINGS: Tim Jennings. Maybe  
4 there's also a way Percy and Calvin to address your  
5 concerns through the State. I know that the State has  
6 cut-backs and such, but maybe there's a way over the next  
7 few years, if it's solely issues in State waters, that  
8 you can work through the State process to have the  
9 information and/or studies done that are needed in your  
10 area. So that's another avenue to explore.

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else from the  
13 Council? If none, thank you.

14

15 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair, did you want me  
16 to speak briefly to the -- and I promise it will be  
17 briefly, to the partners in fisheries monitoring program?

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Yep.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

22

23 MS. WHEELER: Okay. This program started  
24 a couple years ago. Well, actually the call for  
25 proposals went out several years ago, and beginning just  
26 about a year ago we placed certain positions within  
27 different native organizations. It was a request on the  
28 part of the Regional Advisory Councils to have these  
29 positions within different organizations. We currently  
30 have -- we're currently supporting six fishery biologists  
31 that are working. They work for Kuskokwim Native  
32 Association, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Council of  
33 Athabascan Tribal Governments, Bristol Bay Native  
34 Association, and Association of Village Council  
35 Presidents. And we have one social scientist partner  
36 position, and she is at the Native Village of Eyak.

37

38 And the reason why I'm bringing this up  
39 is that we have just put out a call for another social  
40 scientist position, and it's my understanding that it's  
41 being advertised now or very soon in the near future, and  
42 I can make sure that -- I will make sure that the word  
43 gets out once it is advertised. To have a social  
44 scientist, partners position. And it may be something  
45 we're -- the only regions that are excluded from  
46 consideration for this position is Southcentral and  
47 Southeast, so this region would be an issue that could  
48 potentially be considered for this social scientist  
49 partner position.

50

00057

1                   And these partners, like I said, they're  
2 -- we fund the positions, but they're housed in different  
3 native organizations, and the whole goal is to again  
4 build local capacity, build local involvement in the  
5 Federal subsistence fisheries management program.

6  
7                   So just a heads up that this call for  
8 proposals is going out, and if you are interested, by all  
9 means you can call me. The person, and I will give you  
10 my contact information, because this person that's listed  
11 here is -- currently her mom's ill and she's out of the  
12 office, but if you are interested in it, let me know, and  
13 I'll make sure you can get the information.

14  
15                   So that's all I had on that, Mr. Chair.

16  
17                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Is there  
18 any further questions for Polly? Walter.

19  
20                   MR. SAMPSON: The issue in regards to the  
21 way you deal with local folks, now much is local  
22 knowledge weighed into this?

23  
24                   MS. WHEELER: Into the fisheries resource  
25 monitoring program?

26  
27                   MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

28  
29                   MS. WHEELER: It's weighed a lot.....

30  
31                   MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

32  
33                   MS. WHEELER: .....Mr. Sampson, Mr.  
34 Chair. It's -- we have a whole -- like I said, there's a  
35 whole -- there's two-thirds of the funding goes to sort  
36 of straight biological projects, and a third goes to  
37 harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge  
38 projects. And that's the venue for getting local  
39 information. And Susan Georgette here and Mr. Shiedt are  
40 working on a project looking at traditional ecological  
41 knowledge of whitefish in Kotzebue Sound. They've been  
42 funded for a project that's ongoing now, and probably  
43 they'll be taking to you at the winter Regional Advisory  
44 Council meetings on that project. So it's weighed --  
45 statewide it's weighed heavily, and regionally it's an  
46 important component of the program. And as long as I'm  
47 here, it will continue to be an important component of  
48 the program.

49  
50                   MR. SAMPSON: The issue in regards to

00058

1 commercial issue I guess, I know the -- you have  
2 different stations on down Seward Peninsula, counting  
3 stations. How are those being addressed, and what are  
4 you doing to do fish count? I mean, is that viable any  
5 longer? Or is that -- what is the real mechanism? I  
6 know they used to use nets and this sort to do some  
7 counting.

8

9 MS. WHEELER: I'm probably not the best  
10 person to speak to that, but I can certainly give it a  
11 shot. I don't know if there's any fisheries biologists  
12 here that are more than welcome to jump in, but we've  
13 actually -- we're funding a project on the Pikmiktalik to  
14 look at stock status in that area. And I believe it's a  
15 counting tower if I'm not mistaken, and I think that's  
16 the on -- well, then we've got the whitefish projects and  
17 the Sheefish projects. So we've got different projects  
18 that are looking at stock status, you know, status of  
19 different populations. But I'm not sure I'm answering  
20 your question.

21

22 MR. SAMPSON: I guess how effective are  
23 these counting stations is what I'm trying to get at.  
24 Are they adequate enough to where you're getting some  
25 adequate numbers or information that you need? Because  
26 this summer I bumped into an individual that was doing  
27 some fish counts on the Kobuk, and the individual told me  
28 that as far as fisheries on the Kobuk is concerned, that  
29 they're way, way below numbers, but yet you have people  
30 that are actually fishing that are saying there's plenty  
31 of fish on the Kobuk. I mean, I'm trying to get some  
32 feel.

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: Could I respond, Mr.  
35 Chair? Tim Jennings, Office of Subsistence Management.  
36 If I understand your question, Mr. Sampson, the response  
37 is in some instances counting towers are an appropriate  
38 to gather data. Certainly it's about the fish runs and  
39 the status of the fish stocks. Certainly it's only one  
40 piece of information. In some small systems, a counting  
41 tower may be more than adequate to really have a good  
42 assessment of the status of those fish runs that are  
43 being counted on that system. In larger river systems, a  
44 counting tower may be wholly inadequate, like the Kobuk,  
45 like the Yukon, or the Kuskokwim where you're looking for  
46 all sorts of methods and means of information to assess,  
47 including the local knowledge of people catching fish,  
48 counting towers, net surveys. On the Yukon there's sonar  
49 that's used. So it depends really on the system, and  
50 where you have a counting tower as to how effective it

00059

1 is. And typically counting towers are either on small  
2 systems or on the headwaters of the larger systems in  
3 order to be effective.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Susan.

6

7 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette. I could  
8 just say a few words about the Kobuk River one, because  
9 that's run by the Fish and Game Department. And what  
10 commercial fisheries folks do there is have what's called  
11 a test net, so they have some schedule where people go  
12 out with a net and they see how many fish they catch in a  
13 certain period of time. And they don't really count  
14 every fish or anything. They just try to compare it to  
15 previous years and see if it's stronger than other years  
16 for that day in July, or less strong, and what ages are  
17 caught, and that. And I think the Kobuk River run was  
18 the third poorest in the last 11 years is what I read  
19 about the Kotzebue report, so that they weren't catching  
20 many fish in the test net this year. But it was late,  
21 too. It was kind of slow for when it was going on, and  
22 then it was late, and then it was late, and it wasn't a  
23 disastrous run or anything, it just was -- what they  
24 thought in the end, it was one of the lower runs, but no  
25 one counts every fish like they do on some of those small  
26 rivers in Norton Sound where they actually count almost  
27 every fish that goes by every hour that it's light enough  
28 to do so.

29

30 ATTAMUK: I got -- Susan, you brought it  
31 to my mind. I've got a question. Some years the fish  
32 never run just about in the same season. Was there a  
33 compared information with the test net versus the  
34 harvester, subsistence harvesters were taking? Do you  
35 know anything about that?

36

37 MS. GEORGETTE: You know, we look -l- we  
38 have that information I guess, but for the harvest, we  
39 only have how much they caught all year. We don't have  
40 it by week or by month or anything. And we have the  
41 information on test net. And you could look at the  
42 harvest, total harvest in the upper Kobuk communities, or  
43 Kobuk River communities compared to the test net for that  
44 year, but it's not something that, you know, we do  
45 routinely, but we certainly could look at that and see  
46 how the run effects the subsistence harvest.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, yeah, Lillian.

49

50 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah. About the fishing on

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1 Kobuk River, I'm raised there ever since I started  
2 fishing. We only have good fishing time like last part  
3 starting from few to last, not many, and waited for a  
4 bunch of salmon and other kind -- all kinds of fish.  
5 Only time is last part of August is the best time to get  
6 fish and sheefish starting July here and there, and we  
7 don't fish in wintertime. We've got no place to fish.  
8 When we want to fish in wintertime, we just have to drove  
9 over to Selawik or -- not many people don't count on the  
10 fishings, too, but they cut. That's the reason it's  
11 getting low. Young people don't fish -- don't count that  
12 fishes. And not much report, the way it seems to me it's  
13 never changed all this years. But all the creeks that  
14 have big lakes behind and fish used to come out. Talk  
15 about beaver. The first time I hear there's beavers in  
16 this kind of meetings. What we had a number of years  
17 when its -- when the beavers like down this one. And no  
18 one -- just like it seems to me no one trapping for  
19 beavers in our area. Like at other side of the pass. If  
20 they are starting to trap for beaver in wintertime while  
21 they have good fur, good meat, that's the best meat, too,  
22 to eat. We had it all a number of years, and it's really  
23 slowed down up there after all the creeks blocked, you  
24 know, and there are fishes on the other big lakes, and  
25 they had some opening. You've got to open those traps  
26 what beaver made. It's not hard. If somebody start  
27 working on those creeks to open the creeks where the  
28 people have their lands and fishing, that's something  
29 need to be granted there, and work -- or starting to trap  
30 for it. That way they'll help themself to catch. On  
31 lower -- I was -- like Kiana and all around here, they  
32 have fishing places there all year round just like. And  
33 I'd like to hear that fishing area and fishing is only  
34 short time for us. And got to push that, you know, keep  
35 telling them to count maybe that will -- they should  
36 know. But nobody using much seining, too, not like  
37 before we used to. They're just using these gill nets.  
38 Just one time the fish come around, due to the low water  
39 or sometimes high water. That's all I have.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Lillian.  
42 Somebody had their hand up?

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: No.

45

46 ATTAMUK: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That was you?

49

50 ATTAMUK: Yeah. Thanks, Susan. I've got

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1 a question for Polly. And here you're talking about  
2 biologists in different areas, and maybe we should  
3 request a biologist for beaver in our area, because it's  
4 starting to have problems here, and we're starting to see  
5 it all over, not only upper Kobuk. It's in Noatak, too.  
6 And if our fish don't go out do their thing out in the  
7 high seas or wherever they go, there's not way they could  
8 reach -- and we're going to have problems in the future.  
9

10 Also, I thought we had an issue on  
11 counting station in Noatak for fishery this year, and the  
12 tables one time, same as the beaver. Do you remember  
13 that one? They talked about counting station at Noatak,  
14 and I thought Kotzebue was going to go after the grant,  
15 and they asked me not to apply for it, because they said  
16 they were going to do it. I thought that was a few years  
17 ago. What happened to it?

18  
19 MS. WHEELER: I don't know, but I can  
20 find out.

21  
22 ATTAMUK: Well, Ken, go.....

23  
24 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
25 Park Service. Kind of on a historical note related to  
26 Walter's question, and I think Enoch's question. Early  
27 on in the Federal fisheries program, there was a proposal  
28 prepared to revitalize or reinstall the sonar on the  
29 Noatak, and basically my understanding is that proposal  
30 ran into two severe problems. One was the very high cost  
31 associated with it that would have essentially sucked up  
32 or more of the available Federal funds for this area.  
33 And the second one was getting the highly skilled  
34 technical staff capable to operate and do the sonar. So  
35 the problem, I think the proposal just died, but, you  
36 know, with Polly and so forth, and others in the program,  
37 we can, you know, look into that.

38  
39 Charlie Lien, who's our fisheries program  
40 manager wasn't able to make the meeting today because of  
41 some other obligations, and also there were not fisheries  
42 proposals to be finalized. But I think it would be  
43 appropriate for him to maybe prepare an overview of kind  
44 of what the process is for obtaining the kind of  
45 information Walter was asking about, and he can do that  
46 in conjunction with the State folks there in Nome who  
47 manage the fisheries up here, and, you know, bring that  
48 information back to you. And I think it would be  
49 appropriate to enter into a dialogue, and explore those  
50 questions, because I know Charlie -- it's too early on to

00062

1 say much I think about it, but I know he's -- from  
2 participating in the State test fishery that Susan  
3 mentioned and also looking at existing harvest data and  
4 stuff, which is another one of the tools I think they use  
5 in the Kotzebue Sound is actually look at the catch data.  
6 He has some concerns about potential impacts at various  
7 levels of commercial fishing if it's reinstated up  
8 here, and how that may affect, you know, escapement down  
9 the road and stuff. So I think it's very appropriate to  
10 start looking into that whole issue of data collection  
11 again, but that's all I can tell you right now at this  
12 stage.

13

14 MR. WHITING: I actually worked with  
15 Charlie on that. Alex Whiting. I actually worked with  
16 Charlie on that proposal to do a sonar counting station.  
17 I actually worked on the test fishery, too, on the Noatak  
18 in the late 80s, early 90s. But, yeah, one of the  
19 problems was the bionutrition, like Ken was talking  
20 about. There's only like a couple -- there's only like  
21 one in the State actually that we could find at the time,  
22 and there's another guy in Canada. And we ran into some  
23 difficulties with that, but in addition to that, we ran  
24 into difficulties with having space in town to store  
25 equipment and boats and nets and all that kind of stuff,  
26 and also having a coordinator in town to be able to do  
27 the day-to-day activities involved with that, so it --  
28 but we actually did throw together the whole proposal for  
29 that again, so I just wanted to let you guys know what my  
30 understanding was.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Alex. (In  
33 Native) Anything else?

34

35 ATTAMUK: Thanks.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thanks, Polly.

38

39 MS. WHEELER: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do you guys want to  
42 continue or break for -- well, it's lunch time now. How  
43 long do you guys want lunch break?

44

45 (Off record discussion regarding lunch  
46 break)

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll break for  
49 lunch and reconvene at 1:00 o'clock.

50

00063

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It's a little  
6 bit after 1:00 o'clock now. I'll call the meeting back  
7 to order. Item number 10, call for items for 2003  
8 report. I don't have anything to report right now, but  
9 we'll go over to agency report. Have you got anything,  
10 Michelle, agency reports?

11

12 MS. CHIVERS: Well, let me just clarify  
13 what the annual report -- the call for annual report  
14 items is these are issues that would be outside the  
15 regulatory cycle that the council may want to bring up as  
16 an issue, and then we would draft up an annual report  
17 which the Board would reply to. They would come up with  
18 some solutions or suggestions or recommendations on how  
19 to handle those issues, and so if you guys had something  
20 you wanted to put in an annual report, we would do a call  
21 for that now. I would draft something up for your  
22 review.

23

24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: And then it would be  
27 brought back to the Council at the winter meeting as kind  
28 of a final letter. You would sign it, and it would be  
29 presented to the Board, and then it would be -- a  
30 response would be made from the Board.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Thanks,  
33 Michelle.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: So the -- Mr. Chairman. So  
36 the request for the studies that we made this morning to  
37 include on Polly Wheeler's issue, would be appropriate to  
38 do that at this time now, or is that final package as it  
39 was made, or a request with Polly's.....

40

41 MS. CHIVERS: No, those were actually a  
42 separate study.....

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

45

46 MS. CHIVERS: .....a whole separate item.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. That's fine.

49

50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

00064

1 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I was just  
2 wondering, we've been talking about this concern about  
3 transporters for what, two years now. When is that going  
4 to be something that we need to have for some kind of  
5 response or something being done about regulating the  
6 transporting and/or.....

7  
8 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think that  
9 will be a part of the discussion under -- those can be  
10 done the agency reports.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

13  
14 MR. SAMPSON: I think that could be part  
15 of the discussion.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Thanks, Percy.

18  
19 MR. BALLOT: Wherever it is done. But is  
20 (In Native) is what I thought.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

23  
24 MR. BALLOT: It's an issue I really am  
25 concerned about.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Are we ready for  
28 reports? Okay. Agency reports. U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
29 Service, Subsistence Management. There's one, two, three  
30 and four. You're going to do it? U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
31 Service, Subsistence Management.

32  
33 MR. SAMPSON: He's just walking in.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Oh, good.

36  
37 ATTAMUK: Fish and Wildlife. Fish and  
38 Wildlife.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
41 Service, Subsistence Management. So you get one, two,  
42 three and four.

43  
44 ATTAMUK: Oh, we've been waiting, yeah.

45  
46 MR. RABINOWITCH: Excuse me for being a  
47 couple minutes late. The next item is Tab D as in dog.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Tab C?

50

00065

1 MR. RABINOWITCH: Tab D. And it should  
2 take you to page 95. And just for introductions, I'm  
3 Sandy Rabinowitch. I'm with the National Park Service,  
4 and I serve on the Staff Committee to the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board.

6  
7 There's two items that I'm going to talk  
8 about. The first one is a draft predator management  
9 policy. On page 95 is a short summary. There's actually  
10 a number of items here about this, and what I'm going to  
11 do is summarize these for you. There's actually quite a  
12 number of pages of material. And I'll walk you through  
13 the pages as I go. So on page 95 is a three-paragraph  
14 short briefing, and the point of this is to bring out to  
15 you that there's a draft policy attached, and the Federal  
16 Board is interested in you reviewing it, and any comments  
17 you might have. You can take an action, you can offer  
18 comments, or you can just listen. That's up to you.

19  
20 The Board wants to make sure that the  
21 Councils understand that the Board has spent a fair bit  
22 of time with this item, and does intend to adopt the  
23 policy, and that's included here, and I'll get to that in  
24 just a moment. And the reason the Board is doing this is  
25 because there have been a number of proposals over the  
26 past several years to the Board that have gotten into the  
27 area of predator management and predator control. So the  
28 Board's trying to better understand it and then come up  
29 with a policy that will ultimately provide clarification  
30 back to Council members and to proponents of wildlife  
31 proposals.

32  
33 And with that, I'll go -- I'll flip the  
34 page and go to page 97. This is a two-page executive  
35 summary, and again I'll just hit a couple of points. In  
36 the second paragraph on page 97, at the bottom of the  
37 paragraph there are two numbered questions, and I'm going  
38 to read those, because they're very key to this.

39  
40 The first question says, is it necessary  
41 to distinguish between the types of requests, and two,  
42 should the Federal Subsistence Board take actions to  
43 control a predatory species for the beneficial harvest of  
44 another species, or the desired species.

45  
46 The answer that this policy has come up  
47 with to the first question, is it necessary to  
48 distinguish between the two types of requests. And what  
49 that's getting at is a request, for example, to raise a  
50 harvest limit on wolves. You might have a proposal to

00066

1 raise the limit from five wolves a year to ten wolves a  
2 year. That would be one example. Another example would  
3 be a proposal that wanted to raise the hunting limit for  
4 wolves, but the reason is because you hope that by  
5 reducing the number of wolves, you'll actually get more  
6 moose or more caribou. So those are the two examples.

7

8                   And the Board's determined that it is  
9 important to understand the reason behind proposals on  
10 predators. It could be bears, it could be wolves. so  
11 those are the examples.

12

13                   The second, should the Board take action  
14 to control a predatory species to benefit another  
15 species. The answer to that question that the Board came  
16 up with is, no, that it should not.

17

18                   The executive summary then continues to  
19 go on and quote some sections of ANILCA, and specifically  
20 Title VIII. It also on -- page 98, it also talks a fair  
21 bit about the 1992 environmental impact statement. It's  
22 a three or volume, thick document that was done --  
23 finished in 1992 when this Federal program began.

24

25                   And the conclusion from that research  
26 was that the Federal Board's role is limited to the  
27 management of wildlife species in a way that you're all  
28 very familiar with. That is, that it deals with seasons,  
29 bag limits, harvest, and things like that. But it does  
30 not deal with trying to manage one species to benefit  
31 another species. That's just back to my example about  
32 wolf harvesting to get more caribou, or wolf harvesting  
33 to get more moose.

34

35                   I'll just pause for a moment. Okay, and  
36 I'll just keep moving on then.

37

38                   On page 99 is the actual policy itself.  
39 And this is the real meat of it. On page 99, the first  
40 paragraph is just an introduction. The second paragraph  
41 refers to the legal authorities again that the board  
42 consulted and reviewed. And then the policy itself is  
43 contained in paragraphs A and B that are labeled there.  
44 And I'll just read a couple of sentences out of each of  
45 these.

46

47                   It says, accordingly, the Board will, A,  
48 consider all Federal proposals to regulate seasons and  
49 dates, methods and means, harvest limits, and customary  
50 and traditional use determinations for the subsistence

00067

1 take of fish and wildlife. The Board will ensure that  
2 the primary effect of its decisions is to provide for  
3 subsistence take and use of the species.

4

5 And I'll move down to paragraph B. That  
6 the Board would direct the Office of Subsistence  
7 Management to return to the proponents all Federal  
8 proposals that specifically indicate the reason for a  
9 proposed regulation is to reduce the predator population  
10 to benefit the prey population, i.e., predator control.

11

12 And I think I'll pause again, because  
13 this is the real meat of what's proposed to go into  
14 effect here, and just see if you have any questions. If  
15 I've moved too fast over anything or not. So any  
16 questions at this point? Okay.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions, Council?

19

20 (No questions)

21

22 MR. RABINOWITCH: Then I'll move on.  
23 There's just one more thing for me to point out on this  
24 topic. On page 101 you get the next document connected  
25 with this, and at the top you see it says Staff  
26 analysis. There are 16 pages here. There's quite a lot  
27 of material. And this is simply a copy of the analysis  
28 that was given to the Board, reprinted in its entirety.  
29 And it's here for your review. I'm not going to read  
30 through all of this. What I've told you in the last  
31 couple of minutes effectively summarizes this. But  
32 there's a lot of detail in these 16 pages, including  
33 sections specific agencies of the Board, as each of the  
34 agencies have their own regulations that affect this  
35 subject, so a lot of this is just repeated in great  
36 detail. But my sense is you don't want me to go through  
37 all those 16 pages in great detail, so I won't do that  
38 unless you ask me to.

39

40 That concludes my summary of this.  
41 Again, I'll repeat, it's up to you what you would like to  
42 do, if you have questions, comments, motions or not is  
43 totally up to you. But the Board's trying to make sure  
44 that all the Councils see this draft policy and have an  
45 opportunity to ask questions, make comments if you  
46 choose.

47

48 So that concludes what I have to say on  
49 this subject.

50

00068

1                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions of  
2 Council? I guess not. Oh, Walter.

3  
4                   MR. SAMPSON: I think we're getting to  
5 the point where, you know, predator issue is certainly a  
6 sensitive issue for some of the interest groups. And I  
7 certainly support the Federal Board's direction in  
8 regards to the way it's going, and in regards to they're  
9 looking at -- rather than trying to address the predator  
10 issue itself, to consider proposals to regulate a  
11 species. I think that is certainly a better approach. I  
12 say that, because any time you start trying to manage and  
13 address the predator issue, then you have all kinds of  
14 people wired up with boxing gloves on each hand and  
15 thinking each interest group's going to win. I think  
16 rather than having to say that we need to take care of  
17 the bear predator or the wolf predator, rather than doing  
18 it that way, I certainly would take a look at the  
19 existing regulation and liberalize some of these  
20 regulations for a period of time until those things are  
21 controllable.

22  
23                   And secondly, in regards to the public  
24 process and how it ought to be addressed is that if  
25 you're going to come out with a draft plan, that draft  
26 plan ought to start at the local level, because these  
27 folks at the local and regional level are being impacted  
28 by these very issues. I'm talking about the predator  
29 issue. And if you start a process right at the grassroot  
30 level, you're going to have people supporting you through  
31 a process of planning to take care of what you need to  
32 take care of. This way by going through that very  
33 process, if something should go wrong, the finger's not  
34 at you. It's at the people themselves. They're going to  
35 turn around and say, oh, we messed up. Let's correct the  
36 problem. And I think if the agency can take that very  
37 process, rather than having to bring something to a  
38 community, go to a community with a whole different  
39 attitude and with a question, what can you do as a region  
40 and as a community to help us in regards to dealing with  
41 the specie problems, not predator problems, but specie  
42 problems. Because anytime you say predator, people get  
43 all wired up and one group will say oh, they're going to  
44 do some poisoning, they're going to do some dart  
45 shooting, and using helicopters and that sort of thing.  
46 You know, people get some wild ideas as to how things are  
47 going to be controlled.

48  
49                   I think there's different mechanism and  
50 different ways of dealing with the very issues. If

00069

1 there's some good potential problems down the road, let  
2 the local folks deal with that very issue, as you and I  
3 for too long have been trying to do these very things for  
4 them without really consulting folks at their regional  
5 level. I think it's time that we turn that around to  
6 where they're to become proactive in designing and  
7 planning of these things. That way they have the  
8 ownership of the issues, rather than somebody else  
9 somewhere. Sure, public will be part of the process in --  
10 through designing of these things, but I think we need to  
11 get away from the \$6 million wording like predators and  
12 this sort of thing. Any time you start talking about  
13 these things, then people like I said get all wired up  
14 and then through that process what occurs is that people  
15 have perception in regards to that the agency is doing  
16 these things for them. Not with them, but for them. I  
17 think if that perception can be broken somewhere to where  
18 people can participate in these things, then that  
19 opportunity ought to be there for them to deal with, talk  
20 about species, and I can recognize and understand the way  
21 the Federal system or Federal Board is looking at these  
22 to consider all Federal proposal. And I think it's  
23 something that you probably can use that as a mechanism  
24 to say this is the means to deal with, you know, methods  
25 and means right there is part of that process anyway. I  
26 mean, if you have a restrictive regulation, then you  
27 could liberalize that regulation for a period of time,  
28 until such time that things are under control. I mean,  
29 that's my feeling, my view point as a member.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Walt. Anybody  
32 else? Okay. Two, the Staff Committee role. Is that  
33 you?

34

35 MR. RABINOWITCH: All right. Thank you,  
36 Mr. Chairman. The next item that I have starts on page  
37 119, still in Tab D. And this is a very different item  
38 than the last one. I'll wait a moment and make sure  
39 everybody's caught up here.

40

41 So on page 119 is I think a relatively  
42 new subject. And my experience with this item is that it  
43 can be a little hard to understand for Council members  
44 that haven't been to the Federal Board meetings, whereas  
45 if you've been to Federal Board meetings, it might be a  
46 little easier to understand it, because you've seen it  
47 kind of first hand. And I know several of you have been  
48 to Board meetings, which I think is good.

49

50 So this item, again I'll summarize this

00070

1 material. In the first paragraph, it tells you that at  
2 the May 2003 Board meeting that some of the Council  
3 chairs were uncomfortable with things that were occurring  
4 with the Interagency Staff Committee, and as a reminder,  
5 I'm on that Committee. I'm the Park Service -- one of  
6 the Park Service members on it. And a discussion  
7 basically happened between Council chair and the Board.  
8 So they put their concerns up on the table, and there was  
9 a fairly long discussion. And the focus of this was that  
10 some of the Council chairs that were there believed that  
11 the Staff Committee is having too much influence on the  
12 Federal Board. and thus the decision-making process.

13

14                   And so as a result of that the Federal  
15 Board asked the Staff Committee to basically think about  
16 this issue, think about the complaint I'll call it, and  
17 come up with some suggestions of what might be done, how  
18 to be responsive to the concerns. So that's what this is  
19 all about.

20

21                   And the next part is that the Board, just  
22 like the last item, is interested in you all sort of  
23 hearing this and seeing if you have any additional  
24 comment about the material that I'll walk you through  
25 here in a minute.

26

27                   The Board intends to take this up at its  
28 December meeting, so just in a couple of months away  
29 here, and talk about this some more, so they'll review  
30 all the comments that come in from all 10 councils, and  
31 talk about it some more, and then possibly make some  
32 choices about the draft recommendations that I'll get to  
33 here in just a minute.

34

35                   So the proposed changes, and I'm going to  
36 read -- I'm going to read several pieces of these because  
37 they're fairly short, and I think it's as effective as me  
38 trying to summarize.

39

40                   The first two proposed changes I can lump  
41 together and say that the result of them would be that  
42 there would be more engagement between the Staff  
43 Committee and the Councils. And the best way to I think  
44 make an example is you'll see Staff Committee members  
45 like myself sitting here more often. Okay? I think,  
46 unless somebody showed up, I think I'm the only one here  
47 today from the Staff Committee, but maybe in the future  
48 there will be two or three of us instead of one. I can't  
49 make the guarantee, but that would be the hope. And that  
50 we'll have more interaction with the Council.

00071

1                   Flipping the page to 120, item number 3,  
2 and this is where I'm going to start to just read some  
3 sections. The suggestion is, following the Regional  
4 Council meeting, the Staff Committee will review  
5 information on the proposals with the Chairs, the Council  
6 Chairs, State Fish and Game at the Staff Committee  
7 meeting that precedes the Board meeting. The Staff  
8 Committee comments will be developed through a consensus  
9 building process that considers the Council  
10 recommendations, the Council Chair comments, Fish and  
11 Game comments, any public comments that have been  
12 received, and any other information that might come  
13 forward.

14

15                   This meeting is nothing new. Since the  
16 inception of the Staff Committee, the Staff Committee  
17 always meets prior to the regulatory Board meeting.

18

19                   Walter, did you have a question?

20

21                   MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

22

23                   MR. RABINOWITCH: Yeah, please go ahead.

24

25                   MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. When you  
26 refer to Staff Committee meetings, are you referring to  
27 Staff Committee at the regional level, or are you talking  
28 about the Staff Committee at the local level here?

29

30                   MR. RABINOWITCH: I think I would say  
31 regional, but let me expand upon that. Each Board  
32 member, like Judy Gottlieb who's here today, has one or  
33 two people that work for them. I work for Judy Gottlieb.  
34 And Bob Gearheart, who many of you know I think, is the  
35 other person that works for Judy. So we're the Park  
36 Service Staff Committee members. Each other agency has  
37 one or two people just like us, and they work for their  
38 Board members. That's what I'm talking about with the  
39 Staff Committee. Okay.

40

41                   And in fact in the directory which I see  
42 at Calvin's place, the Subsistence Directory, I don't  
43 know, Michelle, if you've got one for -- if you could  
44 just hold that up? Inside of that directory there is a  
45 list of the Staff Committee. Okay. So there's all of  
46 our names and phone numbers and e-mails and all that. So  
47 that's what I mean by Staff Committee. Okay.

48

49                   MR. SAMPSON: So where is the input  
50 rolled in from the local folks in regards to some

00072

1 discussions?

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm sorry?

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: I'm talking about Lee

6 Anne's input into that process.

7

8 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm sorry, Tim was

9 giving me a good suggestion here, and I missed the

10 beginning of what you said.

11

12 MR. SAMPSON: Go ahead, I want to listen

13 to Tim's discussion -- input.

14

15 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. I'll do that,

16 but then please repeat your question for me. The

17 distinction that Tim was reminding me to make was to

18 compare the Staff Committee to the Staff. Again, the

19 Staff Committee, the 10 of us or so that are on it, we

20 work for the Board members directly. They're our bosses.

21 The Staff at Office of Subsistence Management, Michelle,

22 Tim, and lots of other people that you see here today,

23 are referred to as the Staff. Did I get it on the head?

24

25 MR. JENNINGS: Yeah, and the word Staff

26 of the agencies.....

27

28 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay.

29

30 MR. JENNINGS: .....like Lee Anne or.....

31

32 MR. RABINOWITCH: Or Ken or Brad.

33

34 MR. JENNINGS: So there's -- we need to

35 draw that distinction.

36

37 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I was alluding

38 to my question. Where does the input -- how much of that

39 input is weighed from the Staff side? I'm talking about

40 Lee Anne's input or Willie's input into the system, is it

41 weighed at all?

42

43 MR. RABINOWITCH: Yes. My answer would

44 be, yes, it is, by the Staff Committee, just as we take

45 all the input from the Council.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

48

49 MR. RABINOWITCH: We get public input in

50 various ways. Sometimes they send in faxes, sometimes

00073

1 they send in letters. State Fish and Game writes up  
2 comments and sends them in. Really, any and all comments  
3 that we get are considered and weighed. The Council's  
4 comments get deference. They're considered very  
5 carefully and very highly, because that's what the  
6 regulations tell us to do.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: Um-hum.

9

10 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's what the statute  
11 tells us to do. And we -- I think we work pretty hard to  
12 not forget that.

13

14 And one of the changes in this number 3  
15 that I read is doing something that has been done  
16 periodically, but not regularly in the past, and that's  
17 if you compare how the Staff Committee does business now,  
18 and what this is suggesting, the difference with number 3  
19 is that we will always seek involvement from the Council  
20 Chair into this annual Staff Committee meeting about  
21 proposed regulatory changes. Now, it's likely that that  
22 will happen with teleconferences for a whole host of  
23 reasons. But you will be invited to -- your Council,  
24 your Chair, the Chair's designee will be invited to  
25 probably spend a part of a day and involving yourselves  
26 with the discussion about proposals from your region.  
27 And that's the change in number 3, is to formally make  
28 sure the Council is integrated into that.

29

30 Should I continue, Mr. Chairman?

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: (Nods affirmative)

33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. The fourth  
35 suggestion then is that Staff Committee representatives  
36 conduct briefings to Councils on issues where the Board  
37 is seeking Council comments, and the example I can give  
38 is what I just did on predator control. That's a perfect  
39 example of what this suggestion is putting forward.

40

41 The fifth item is to modify meeting  
42 procedures at Board meetings and to try to put a greater  
43 emphasis on communication between the Council Chairs and  
44 the Board. And that's -- that can take a number of -- it  
45 can occur in a number of different ways. The two that  
46 are highlighted are the a and the b underneath number 5.  
47 And a -- well, I'll just read it, because it's quicker I  
48 think. That prior to Board meetings, the Staff Committee  
49 will brief Board members on the results of discussion  
50 held during Staff Committee meetings. That's a

00074

1 continuation of what's normally done. The Board book  
2 will include an interagency staff analysis of the issue.  
3 That's normally done also. And then representatives of  
4 the Staff Committee will no longer make a formal  
5 presentation to the Federal Board. So that's the change.  
6 Those of you who have been Board meetings would recognize  
7 that the Staff Committee's recommendations are part of  
8 the list of recommendations that are made to the Board,  
9 so that would stop happening. That's what's 5.a. is  
10 suggesting.

11

12 And then 5.b. is kind of a procedural  
13 suggestion that the Federal Chair, Mitch Demientieff, who  
14 many of you know, would have deliberations on a proposal  
15 begin by enter -- by having a motion from someone on the  
16 Federal Board, and begin with a Regional Council  
17 recommendation, like if you had a sheep regulation and  
18 you were for it, that the Board would make a motion to  
19 support the Regional Council recommendation on that sheep  
20 regulation, and that would be the motion they'd put on  
21 the table to start their deliberations about their  
22 decision-making, whereas now the Board can put any kind  
23 of motion. They could say, we support the proponent or  
24 we support State Fish and Game, or anybody, because  
25 there's lots of opinions on these things as you know. So  
26 they would amend their procedures and begin with a  
27 Council recommendation. That's what 5.b. is talking  
28 about.

29

30 Yes, Walter.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Sandy, who  
35 then becomes the representative to make a formal  
36 presentation to the Board?

37

38 MR. RABINOWITCH: For the Staff Committee  
39 or.....

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, from the Staff.

42

43 MR. RABINOWITCH: There would not be one.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

46

47 MR. RABINOWITCH: There would not be --  
48 well, I'm sorry, let me back up. There would -- the  
49 Staff Committee recommendation would be written down, and  
50 it would be in the Board book, the big binders that.....

00075

1 MR. SAMPSON: Um-hum.

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: .....the Board has with  
4 all the proposals in them. It would be written down, and  
5 it would be there.

6

7 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

8

9 MR. RABINOWITCH: But myself or any of  
10 other member of the Staff Committee would not speak into  
11 the mike and read through the Staff Committee's  
12 recommendation. But that's what this is suggesting.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: So basically what it is  
15 then is you no longer physically sit on a chair reading  
16 exactly the recommendation that's in -- that's already  
17 placed in the book?

18

19 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's correct.

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

22

23 MR. RABINOWITCH: Okay. I'll continue.  
24 The next page, page 121 is a table that's meant to  
25 summarize everything that I just told you. So I'm not  
26 going to walk you through the table. It's just trying to  
27 present the same information in another format. If you  
28 have questions, I'm certainly happy to -- certainly happy  
29 to answer them.

30

31 And on the last page, 122, I've already  
32 covered this, we're taking this presentation to all the  
33 Councils, doing exactly what we're doing right now, and  
34 then the Board intends to take it up in December, discuss  
35 it and decide which of these, if any, they would like to  
36 adopt, or any new ones that might be suggested.

37

38 And that concludes what I have to offer  
39 on this.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Any questions or  
42 discussions.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Now, Mr. Chairman.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: .....I guess I understand  
49 and recognize the process that you're going through now.  
50 Is it because of the public's perception or is it some of

00076

1 the Regional Chairs that have concerns? Regional Chairs?

2

3 MR. RABINOWITCH: I think it's more  
4 accurate to say Regional Chairs.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: You're sure it's not  
7 Governor Murkowski, is it?

8

9 MR. RABINOWITCH: Not that I know of.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: I'm just trying to get a  
12 picture of what -- who is it that are raising.

13

14 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, I'll have a  
15 little fun back. The Governor may have things to say  
16 about other issues, but I don't think the Governor has  
17 focused on the Staff Committee.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, just to follow  
22 up on that, and Mr. Sampson, it is from the Council  
23 Chairs, and there was a feeling by some of the Chairs  
24 that the Board was not giving the Councils enough  
25 deference in -- consistent with Title VIII, specifically  
26 805, where it says the Board will give deference to the  
27 Councils on their recommendations for the taking of fish  
28 and wildlife. And so that -- this really sets about to  
29 emphasize that relationship between the Councils and the  
30 Board, by having the Board take up the Council  
31 recommendation, which is consistent with 805(c) of  
32 ANILCA.

33

34 MR. RABINOWITCH: That's a good  
35 distinction.

36

37 MR. JENNINGS: Also, one other point of  
38 clarification, Sandy mentioned there wouldn't be a formal  
39 presentation by Staff Committee on their recommendation.  
40 You could view the Staff Committee as the senior agency  
41 staff to the Board members that help the Board members,  
42 because the Board members have a whole host of  
43 responsibilities across the State, in many cases for  
44 different program, all program areas for their agencies.  
45 So they aren't into the day-to-day details of Title VIII  
46 and subsistence like their senior staff members are, the  
47 Staff Committee, so they rely heavily on their Staff  
48 Committee members for briefings and bringing them up to  
49 speak on issues to get them ready for the Board meetings.  
50 That will continue. And although there won't be a formal

00077

1 Staff Committee recommendation presented, I wanted to  
2 point out that there would still be a Staff presentation  
3 typically by a member of my Staff or another staff member  
4 which will present as you've normally seen, the  
5 biological background, the proposal information, the  
6 harvest information, and there will still be an  
7 opportunity for Board members and/or Council Chairs to  
8 ask questions relating to the proposal, and the analysis  
9 that the Staff has done. That remains.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. That was going to be  
12 my question, Mr. Chairman, was to -- would there be an  
13 opportunity in through the process to comment from the  
14 original Advisory Council side, and you said, yes, so --  
15 yes.

16

17 MR. JENNINGS: An additional point is the  
18 Staff Committee recommendation would be written in the  
19 book. There also remains an opportunity for the Board  
20 members and the Council Chairs to ask the Staff Committee  
21 questions regarding their input, their analysis, their  
22 recommendation of an issue. So if there's -- if a Board  
23 member or a Council Chair sees a need, they can ask Sandy  
24 or somebody else to address questions regarding the Staff  
25 Committee recommendation.

26

27 And that's all I have, Mr. Chair.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else from the  
32 Council? Okay. If none, number 3, Federal Subsistence  
33 Board Composition. Tim. Number 3, are you going to do  
34 that? Okay. Thank you for that, Sandy.

35

36 MR. JENNINGS: Yes, Mr. Chair, this is  
37 where Governor Murkowski comes in. Not in your book, but  
38 you should have before you at your table, there's three  
39 letters that's been stapled together. The one on top is  
40 to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair, Mitch  
41 Demientieff, from Cam Toohey, the Special Assistant to  
42 the Secretary of Interior. That's on top. The second  
43 letter in that packet is a letter back to Governor  
44 Murkowski from the Special Assistant to the Secretary,  
45 Cam Toohey. And then the third letter is the original  
46 letter from Governor Murkowski to Secretary of the  
47 Interior, Gale Norton.

48

49 So my briefing, Mr. Chair, regards this  
50 issue. The Secretary of the Interior received a letter

00078

1 from Governor Murkowski issued July 17th, and basically  
2 requested that the Secretary appoint a State official as  
3 a nonvoting member of the Federal Subsistence Board. And  
4 Governor Murkowski further requested that the appointee  
5 be either the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and  
6 Game or his or her designee.

7

8                   So in considering Governor Murkowski's  
9 request, we've reviewed the record of decision for the  
10 Federal Subsistence Management Program, which is  
11 basically the document that Sandy mentioned under  
12 predator management, the environment impact statement, a  
13 big document that was done by the Federal Staff as we  
14 took on Federal Subsistence Program in 1992.

15

16                   And the document in that document or the  
17 record of decision, it addresses Board membership. And  
18 specifically the record of decision does provide for a  
19 State liaison to the Federal Subsistence Board, and that  
20 the liaison to be nominated by the Governor and appointed  
21 by the Secretary of the Interior. This is the first time  
22 that the Governor of the State has elected to nominate  
23 anyone for such an appointment since the 1992 record of  
24 decision.

25

26                   Currently Staff members from the Alaska  
27 Department of Fish and Game do attend Federal Board  
28 meetings. They do provide the State's input and comments  
29 on regulatory proposals and other matters. But they  
30 typically do not actively deliberate with the Board  
31 unless the Board specifically requests them to do so.

32

33                   So operating in the context of this  
34 record of decision for the environmental impact  
35 statement, the Board does have the administrative  
36 flexibility in how it conducts its meeting. So, for  
37 example, the Board may change the Board meeting  
38 procedures to allow the State liaison as well as Regional  
39 Advisory Council Chairs to actively participate as the  
40 Board deliberates a proposal.

41

42                   The Secretary of the Interior is aware  
43 that this matter of the Governor's request is considered  
44 sensitive by many folks, and it may affect the way the  
45 Federal Subsistence Board conducts its meetings and its  
46 deliberative process in arriving at regulatory decisions.  
47 So the Office of the Secretary of Interior has requested  
48 the Federal Board to discuss the Governor's request, and  
49 for the Board to provide a recommendation back to the  
50 Secretary on how to implement the Governor's request.

00079

1 The Federal Subsistence Board met last Friday, September  
2 26th, in executive session to consider and discuss the  
3 Governor's request, and the Board decided that it would  
4 be prudent to request further public input and comments  
5 on this issue before the Board made its recommendation  
6 back to the Secretary. So to that end, the Board will be  
7 scheduling a public meeting on this subject in early  
8 November in order to hear testimony from the public prior  
9 to their recommendation back to the Secretary.

10

11 So, Mr. Chair and Council members, we are  
12 providing this information to you as Regional Advisory  
13 Council members so that you are aware of this request and  
14 how the Secretary and the Board is handling the request,  
15 and if you have any comments or you would like to provide  
16 input regarding the Governor's request, it is appropriate  
17 to do so at this time.

18

19 And, Mr. Chair, that concludes my  
20 briefly.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Any  
23 comments or inputs from the Council about the appointment  
24 of Executive Director from Alaska Fish and Game to the  
25 Federal Board? Any comments? Calvin.

26

27 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I was just wondering, it  
28 says down here that they would like to have the State of  
29 Alaska be the Commission of Alaska Department of Fish and  
30 Game or his or her designee. I'm kind of wondering since  
31 they have such high guy there, that some of the people  
32 might be intimidated, and the fact that he would be there  
33 and taking notes to see who giving undue comments about  
34 the State things. You know, we're aware of the fact that  
35 we do live in a State, thing like that. This -- when I  
36 got this, I read it I don't know how many times, and I  
37 have a problem with that, because I know that when I used  
38 to be on the Arctic Regional Council, a lot of our  
39 comments sometimes got taken out and, you know, things  
40 like that. And then they were changed a little bit, so  
41 that's all I have to say. But I thought I would comment  
42 on that.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Cal, that's a  
45 good comment. Walter.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to  
48 thank Glenn (sic) for his presentation regards to the  
49 request from the Governor.

50

00080

1 I as a member of this Council also would  
2 object to approving any such request. I say that because  
3 I really feel that the State of Alaska has failed its  
4 residents of the State by not giving the residents the  
5 opportunity to take a look and amending the Constitution,  
6 and by not giving the State residents that opportunity,  
7 then it's failed big time. So they're trying to find a  
8 way or other means to get into the Federal system. And I  
9 feel this is one of the ways to try to get into the  
10 Federal system. The next thing they're going to ask once  
11 they get into the Federal system is let's open up ANILCA.  
12 ANILCA is the only protection for native community  
13 throughout the State, for their protection as far as  
14 subsistence is concerned. By -- even though it might be  
15 a nonvoting position, like Calvin said, the influence  
16 from that system can certainly be made into the Federal  
17 Board. I think I certainly would, Mr. Chairman, be  
18 interested in attending a public wherever that public  
19 hearing is going to occur, and address this very issue.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. I've got a  
22 question maybe to you. Why is the Governor requesting  
23 for nonvoting member to the Federal Board? Why? What is  
24 the reason for nonvoting?

25

26 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I can't speak  
27 to that. I'm not sure what motivated the Governor's  
28 response or request. And I'm not sure if anybody here  
29 from the State has that kind of information that they  
30 could share. I think the Governor -- what we know of his  
31 request is contained in his letter. There has been an  
32 attempt, or there's an on-going attempt to clarify his  
33 request. I know his deputy -- one of his deputy  
34 commissions of Fish and Game, Wayne Regland, has been  
35 speaking with Board members. But I'm not sure what was  
36 behind the Governor's request other than face value  
37 what's contained in his letter.

38

39 I do have one additional piece of  
40 information that Judy Gottlieb, Board member, passed to  
41 me. It's regarding the date of this public meeting. It  
42 will be November 5th at 1:00 p.m., and I believe it's in  
43 Anchorage, is that right, Judy?

44

45 MS. GOTTLIEB: Yes.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'm sorry, November 1?

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: 5th.

50

00081

1 MR. JENNINGS: November 5th at 1:00 p.m.,  
2 and it will be in Anchorage.

3  
4 MR. SAMPSON: Do you know the location?

5  
6 MR. JENNINGS: I don't believe a location  
7 specifically in Anchorage has been identified yet.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

10  
11 ATTAMUK: I also object of the State  
12 trying to put their foot into the Federal system. And  
13 like Calvin say and Walter say, is correct, and to me I  
14 just see them as a predator coming in. If we open it to  
15 the State, we'll also have to open it to others that are  
16 not in the Federal system. See, just going to open it.  
17 Going to get into a can of worms.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

20  
21 MR. SAMPSON: I don't know how to word  
22 this, but I think maybe even more comical, on the comical  
23 side. Maybe we need predator control.

24  
25 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, if I could  
26 offer, obviously we don't know what the Federal  
27 Subsistence Board will recommend or what the Secretary  
28 will implement with this request. I can say that the  
29 Federal Board is certainly aware of the sensitivity of  
30 this matter. I can also say though that there's --  
31 ANILCA provides for and recognizes the important role  
32 that the State of Alaska has. They have -- in many cases  
33 they are the primary collectors of important information  
34 that we use in order to make subsistence resource  
35 decisions. We have a memorandum of understanding with  
36 the State to try to minimize duplication to promote the  
37 best use of our personnel and our resources, and so our  
38 Federal program does have an important relationship with  
39 the State, and the Board recognizes that, as does the  
40 Secretary. But there is concern about say undue  
41 influence. It needs to be clearly, carefully considered,  
42 and Title VIII is the Federal program, and that's I'm  
43 sure the direction that we'll continue to emphasize is  
44 the protections within Title VIII. But I did want to  
45 comment that the -- we see the State as a very important  
46 partner, and I think that will continue. It has to  
47 continue for this program to be effective.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

50

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1                   MR. SAMPSON: I agree with you in regards  
2 to partnering with the State of Alaska. We also need to  
3 understand that we're part of the State system, and that  
4 opportunity that we've, I'm talking about the regional  
5 and some of the communities through the State, that gave  
6 the State an opportunity to look at and amending the  
7 Constitution to address the very problems that's before  
8 us. And by not allowing the State residents an  
9 opportunity to look at amending the Constitution, that's  
10 failed its residents of the State of Alaska. Now they're  
11 trying to find other avenues and ways to get into the  
12 system. And that's why I strongly object to that  
13 requests. You know it, and I know it, that anytime you  
14 get somebody into the system, even though it might not be  
15 a voting member, as long as you're considered a member,  
16 then they're going to use that as a way to get into the  
17 rest of the Board members. And I certainly have some  
18 problems with that. And I hope that people will get the  
19 message throughout the State to look at that request and  
20 say, well, what is it that we really want to do. You  
21 know, if the State of Alaska would go to some of these  
22 communities or to some of these regions and say, we would  
23 like to participate in something like this, and take that  
24 approach, rather than going to somebody else and  
25 demanding, then that would -- that is certainly something  
26 they -- a whole different approach. You know, that's --  
27 they talk about their Constitutional rights and this sort  
28 of thing, but we have our rights, too. So I think  
29 sometimes we forget that, you know, we're privileged I  
30 should say to live on this land. I mean, we have all our  
31 rights to do certain things. We have the rights to do  
32 what we need to all our lives if we live all our lives.  
33 I mean, we're just here temporary. So I think that's why  
34 I say we're privileged to live on Mother Earth.

35

36                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Walt. Anything  
37 -- Enoch.

38

39                   ATTAMUK: I think you hear our message  
40 that you better back what we think loudly, I dressed it  
41 with a capital for every letter started.

42

43                   MR. JENNINGS: Well, Mr. Chair, I will  
44 take that back, and you have the benefit today of a Board  
45 member being present.....

46

47                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

48

49                   MR. JENNINGS: .....and hearing your  
50 comments directly, and I'm sure Judy will take those back

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1 as she has her discussions with the other Board members.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: If she needs some  
6 reinforcement, we'll be more than willing to be there to  
7 reinforce it.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We're here. We're  
10 here.

11

12 MS. JOHNSON: Tell him to come over.

13

14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yep. Cal, you had your  
15 hand up?

16

17 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I just had one more  
18 comment, you know. The Federal/State, when we have -- if  
19 you look at the State Board right now, most of the people  
20 that are on that, there isn't anybody on there from the  
21 villages any more, or region. And the reason I bring  
22 that up is one time the -- when they were talking about  
23 subsistence thing, they were supposed to have a meeting  
24 here in Kotzebue one time and the people from the State I  
25 understand didn't show up.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Two times.

28

29 MR. MOTO: They didn't show up.....

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Two times.

32

33 MR. MOTO: .....for the meeting to talk  
34 about subsistence, you know. I don't know whether they  
35 were busy or whether all of a sudden, they heard a  
36 hiccup, they're getting close, might as well do something  
37 else, you know. That's what bothers me, you know.  
38 That's why I'm bothered with the fact that they want to  
39 get somebody on there, because they won't give us an  
40 opportunity to say anything when we come to Kotzebue to  
41 give comments and nobody shows up to hear our comments,  
42 and a lot of times our comments are taken like they're  
43 just -- we're just people out here, and we don't know too  
44 much about our process. And when in fact that we should  
45 know about our process, you know. Generations and  
46 generations of our people look at before you -- before  
47 came, other people came. We always had abundance of  
48 game, because we know how to manage, you know. Now  
49 they're trying to teach us other ways what -- how we have  
50 to manage, and we just smile at them, because, you know,

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1 heck we used to do this -- this is what we were doing in  
2 the first place, and that is -- that's the only thing.  
3 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Cal. Anything  
6 else on the Governor's request? So like I say, you'll  
7 take it back, our consideration? Okay. Thank you.

8

9 And we're down to number 4, Regulatory  
10 Cycle Review Briefing. Is that you also, too? You may  
11 proceed.

12

13 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, that item,  
14 regulatory cycle review, is in your book on page 123. On  
15 page 123. This is an informational item. And the real  
16 substance of this briefing is contained on 123 under the  
17 last set of bullets, the recommendations accepted by the  
18 Federal Subsistence Board. What we looked at were ways  
19 to improve the annual process to change regulations, both  
20 fisheries and wildlife, and the Council meetings, the  
21 Board process.

22

23 And there are a couple of items here that  
24 directly affect the Councils. That first bullet, extend  
25 the fall Regional Council meeting window later into  
26 October, we heard from several councils that the present  
27 window to hold their fall meetings was not adequate.  
28 Some of them wanted to meet later, because they wanted to  
29 completely finish up with moose season and then to meet  
30 after moose season. So recognizing that need, we have --  
31 next year at this time, the fall meeting window will be  
32 open later to have meetings.

33

34 And then for those of you, the chair or  
35 the designee who goes to Board meetings, there's a slight  
36 adjustment in when the Board will hold their meetings.  
37 That's the second bullet.

38

39 The third item I'd like to ask for our  
40 input. This meeting we sent out the Council books  
41 earlier than normal, because we'd heard from several  
42 Councils, especially folks in rural Alaska like  
43 yourselves, that the mail takes a lot of time. Some of  
44 you weren't getting your books in time. I believe this  
45 book was mailed out three weeks in advance of this  
46 meeting. Did everybody receive their book before they  
47 came to the meeting? So it seems -- I think it's  
48 working. I've heard that it was better this time than in  
49 previous go-arounds, and so that's another item that  
50 we're really trying to focus on is helping you to be

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1 better prepared for the meetings by getting the  
2 information to you earlier.

3

4                   And then the other items are more  
5 administrative from our end to look at the regulations,  
6 and where possible make them more readable, more  
7 streamlined, more simplified, shift the effective dates  
8 for the fish regulations by one month. And then for  
9 those of you that have internet access, make things,  
10 information, documents available to you on line via the  
11 internet or by CD.

12

13                   And then we continue to look for waves to  
14 improve, but to set a formal internal goal of reviewing  
15 this cycle at least once every three years. That  
16 concludes my briefing, Mr. Chair.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for Tim  
19 on this report. Thank you, Tim. Good report.

20

21                   MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman, excuse me.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Cal.

24

25                   MR. MOTO: On this, you know, after the  
26 Federal Subsistence Board meeting, a lot of times we  
27 don't get information on what happened until about two or  
28 three months. You know, we'd like to have more timely  
29 input on what action they took so we could have time to  
30 review some of these things before we come to these  
31 meetings, too. We -- like we never really heard about  
32 what happened with Mr. Murkowski thing, you know, so I  
33 was wondering if we could have more timely manner in  
34 getting out these information. I know it takes a lot of  
35 work to get all that stuff that they have together after  
36 our meetings, but, you know, we'd like to have more, in  
37 other words, sooner then instead of two or three months  
38 maybe, monthly would be good.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Tim.  
41 Thanks, Cal. B, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Selawik  
42 Refuge. Staff. B.

43

44                   MS. AYERS: Lee Anne Ayers, Selawik  
45 National Wildlife Refuge. Walter, you had mentioned --  
46 or you had asked Peggy about how the fisheries projects  
47 were working as far as working with the local people and  
48 the communities. And I guess I'd like to first just talk  
49 on that real briefly. I think they're working great.  
50 The pictures what we're passing around are from our

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1 science fish camp, cultural camp that we held this fall.  
2 And we were just a partner and a challenge cost share  
3 where there were a number of people that were involved  
4 with putting it together.

5  
6 But I guess one of the pictures in there  
7 is of Randy Brown, one of the people that you approved a  
8 project for. And the sequence of events on the project,  
9 I think the process is wonderful, and I guess that's what  
10 I wanted to let you know about. Originally this council  
11 identified the issue of whitefish work being needed to be  
12 done in Selawik, in that area. One of the first projects  
13 that was approved was done by Susan Georgette, a  
14 traditional knowledge study. Some of the things that  
15 people in Selawik identified as not knowing about, and  
16 were interested in having the agencies find out the  
17 answers to some of their questions, was what Randy Brown  
18 and the Fairbanks Fisheries Office developed a proposal  
19 for.

20  
21 We were very much involved with the  
22 development of the proposal. The fisheries biologist  
23 worked real closely with the refuge staff on developing  
24 the project and what would work. Randy and I both went  
25 to the Selawik IRA on -- well, twice to talk about the  
26 proposal and make sure it was something that they  
27 supported. And one of the involvement or parts of the  
28 community involvement that Randy's doing is participating  
29 as the fisheries biologists in the cultural science camp.

30  
31  
32 So I guess I wanted to say I think the  
33 process is working great. I feel like the local  
34 community has a lot more input and authority over the  
35 projects that are being done, and the folks that are  
36 doing them from the Fisheries Staff are just -- have been  
37 wonderful to work with, and have been real sensitive to  
38 being -- having the project be part of the community. So  
39 I guess with that, that was kind of a fun note to be able  
40 to bring up and talk about to you. If you have any  
41 questions on the other things?

42  
43 And, Walter, does that kind of answer?  
44 You were asking how we had input into the process, or how  
45 the communities were involved, and basically unless the  
46 IRA Council approves of the research project and their  
47 way of being involved in it, it doesn't get a vote of  
48 confidence from the bottom ranks on up through. So I  
49 think we're seeing a lot more discussions between the  
50 refuge, the research biologists, and the communities on

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1 what's being done.

2

3                   So to the Council and I guess then to  
4 Peggy, I think it's kind of a new way of identifying  
5 research work to be done on Federal lands in this area,  
6 and I think it's bringing a lot of different players  
7 together, and I think from the pictures you see there,  
8 that the community is definitely involved in the  
9 projects, and excited about -- or getting us on the right  
10 track of working on things that the community's really  
11 interested in, which makes things like the science camp  
12 really easy to do.

13

14                   With that, the next just kind of agency  
15 update I'd like to pass around is our fall transporter  
16 hunter report. And the numbers that we have here on this  
17 sheet are from their last year's tallies that we don't  
18 get until the middle of the winter for you.

19

20                   So I guess just a brief note on this  
21 year's hunting activity on the refuge, based on what we  
22 know right now, we had two law enforcement commissioned  
23 folks out on the refuge again, Special Agent Mike Wade  
24 and Gene Peltola were out off and on during the hunting  
25 season, and their over-all impression were that the  
26 number of camps were down a little bit from last year.  
27 We had about the same number of transporters out there,  
28 and whether they took fewer clients or didn't fill in  
29 behind cancellations or what, but we'll kind of be able  
30 to confirm that when our actual activity reports come  
31 back in from those folks.

32

33                   We did have the Otter working out on the  
34 refuge this year, but that in some ways, he was working  
35 pretty much on the south side of the river, so he had --  
36 we had talked to him, and had shown him maps where the  
37 allotments and the high subsistence activity use was two  
38 years ago, and he seemed to have agreed that by working  
39 further away from Selawik we'd avoid the conflicts that  
40 occurred the first year he was up here.

41

42                   So we didn't -- the only calls we got for  
43 the village this year were regarding people using boats  
44 from the village to transport hunters, and we've -- we're  
45 kind of investigating that and working with folks there  
46 to make sure they know that that's illegal. And it can  
47 be permitted and be done legally if they are interested.

48

49                   MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, but people are  
50 transporting their friends into their allotments, and you

00088

1 really don't have no control over that.

2

3 MS. AYERS: Oh, right. Right.

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: I mean, if they're doing

6 it.....

7

8 MS. AYERS: No, only.....

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: .....just as friends, not

11 for.....

12

13 MS. AYERS: Only if they're getting.....

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: .....not for money.

16

17 MS. AYERS: Only if they're getting cash

18 reimbursement.....

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Right.

21

22 MS. AYERS: .....is it.....

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Exactly.

25

26 MS. AYERS: .....transporting without a

27 license, so -- and we had two violations. One of

28 somebody transporting their antlers out of the field

29 before their meat. And that was -- some of it was a kind

30 of confusion on definition of the field and kill site.

31 And the other was somebody -- it was a waste case of

32 people leaving rib meat, ribs in the field. So other

33 than that, it was fairly -- it seemed fairly quiet on the

34 refuge this year.

35

36 I'm trying to think of any other things

37 that are noteworthy. Well, we have hired another deputy

38 or assistant refuge manager. It's Kevin Fox. He's law

39 enforcement commissioned, so even though with Gene's

40 departure we're going to be getting another law

41 enforcement person on the refuge staff for next year.

42 Raymond.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Lee Anne, what in your

45 observation this fall, have you got an idea what it's

46 like this year the hunting population? Is it more than

47 last year this fall or.....

48

49 MS. AYERS: Numbers of -- actual numbers

50 of hunters?

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1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

2

3 MS. AYERS: Based on what Mike Wade and  
4 Gene were seeing, is they thought there were fewer  
5 people, or about the same on the refuge.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

8

9 MS. AYERS: And Mike was saying that  
10 there were just a lot fewer camps places on the refuge.  
11 What we're seeing though is along the fringe, especially  
12 over toward Buckland, some camps that are just outside  
13 the refuge that are operating just to the west of the  
14 boundary. And that's kind of a new development. And  
15 whether or how much they go on the refuge versus are back  
16 and forth in there. So that seems to be the big change  
17 from previous years. We're getting more use of Super  
18 Cubs for operating, which is kind of addressing the  
19 problem that all of the large lakes that the 206's and  
20 larger planes could access were basically being  
21 saturated. So the smaller planes are getting into the  
22 smaller lakes, but they're also not the -- it's harder to  
23 do the higher volume of hunters with a Cub operation than  
24 with a 206 type of deal.

25

26 So I think those are the changes. I  
27 think we're going to be -- probably some of the  
28 transporters that are working now are taking fewer  
29 hunters. And I guess I wouldn't be surprised if we saw  
30 more applications from new transporters next year. I  
31 think that would be -- if I had to say what my prediction  
32 was for next year was, I think we'll see a gradual  
33 decrease in the number of hunters, transported hunters on  
34 the refuge, but I think we may to along, and then in a  
35 year we may get a new transporting coming in. That could  
36 be a higher volume, or could just add on another layer of  
37 client load to the refuge. But right now there's no  
38 request for applications in the hopper.

39

40 So this year, and also as far as the  
41 moose went, talking to folks, and from what I saw, some  
42 encouraging signs of a lot of younger moose, kind of in  
43 that 35 to 45-inch antler range, which means that  
44 somewhere in the last four or five years, we've had some  
45 decent recruitment, and that's kind of what we've seen  
46 with the radio-collars and just being out there looking  
47 at numbers of calves, that we go through some low years,  
48 and then every once in a while we'll get a good year.  
49 And that's kind of -- it seemed to be reflected in kind  
50 of the age structure or the antler structure of the

00090

1 population this fall.

2

3 We hope to do some composition work this  
4 fall, but we're -- we have a census slated for this  
5 spring again, so with that I guess I feel pretty  
6 comfortable of what's going on there now. It still is,  
7 you know, a question of how we control numbers of  
8 transporters on the refuge. We still don't have the  
9 mechanism other than a limited application period, which  
10 has -- which Gene has instated, and it has helped quite a  
11 bit.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

14

15 ATTAMUK: Yeah. For your information,  
16 this is more for your information, when I was in  
17 Anchorage, some people know me, and I know these guides,  
18 who are telling me that they're starting to have concern.  
19 They're losing their hunter due to it's cheaper if they  
20 hire a transporter or an outfitter to take them out. And  
21 they said that your guys are going to have a heavy impact  
22 on these outfitters just dropping off hunters without  
23 guides in there. And we won't even have control over.  
24 And when they recognized me and they see me in Anchorage,  
25 and when they started addressing, I think it's going to  
26 be a problem in the future. Hunters not going through  
27 guides. I know -- and that's going to go right back to  
28 conflict, see.

29

30 MS. AYERS: Yeah. Well, we already have  
31 -- or we received complaints from the one guide that's  
32 permitted on the refuge that he has a hard time offering  
33 a type of hunt that's different than a client can get  
34 with a transporter, and that's true. Without an  
35 exclusive use guide area, he does have to compete with  
36 the transporters. The only difference with his business  
37 is that he -- with foreign clients, they're required to  
38 use a guide. So he still has that clientele that  
39 transporters, you know, can't have access to. But it is  
40 an issue, and that's one of the -- that Raymond had  
41 mentioned as kind of a State issue of -- it goes back to  
42 the Guide Board and transporters and guide areas and  
43 those issues, that we don't have control of on Federal  
44 land between guides and transporters.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
47 for Lee Anne? Walt.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: Lee Anne, thanks for your  
50 report. You listened to some of the concern and issued

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1 that were raised from the village reports this morning,  
2 and some of the requirements that some place you've got  
3 regulations that we have to deal with. You have your  
4 policies and stuff that agencies has to go by. Will the  
5 State of Alaska, even though the State game guide is  
6 under -- as I understand it, under the Department of  
7 Commerce? Is that where they're under? Big game guide?

8

9 MS. AYERS: Occupation.

10

11 MR. MAGDANZ: Occupational Licensing.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. That the State of  
14 Alaska is under -- or the big game guide is under  
15 Occupational Licensing agency, and you have a Federal  
16 system, and don't have an allowance for an outside -- or  
17 out-of-state even hunters to hunt ungulate species of  
18 game. What prevents us from putting in place in  
19 regulation that type of a requirement?

20

21 MS. AYERS: I guess I don't understand  
22 your question, Walter, what.....

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: What I'm getting at is.....

25

26

27 MS. AYERS: .....type of regulation are  
28 you.....

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: .....if the State of Alaska  
31 requires big game guides to be with their clients hunting  
32 moose and caribou, is there requirements for the Federal  
33 system to go by for outfitters to bring out their clients  
34 to hunt moose and caribou on their own?

35

36 MS. AYERS: You mean to actually  
37 accompany them.....

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Right.

40

41 MS. AYERS: .....like as a guide?

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

44

45 MS. AYERS: I'm thinking back to my Fish  
46 and Game days, and I say, no, but, Jim, you could  
47 probably with the.....

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: What is the.....

50

00092

1 MS. AYERS: I mean, actually.....

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: .....definition of --

4 what.....

5

6 MS. AYERS: .....you can -- Jim Magdanz  
7 could kind of enlighten you, but even a guide doesn't  
8 have to physically be in the field with their client, but  
9 that's kind of getting into State regulations.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

12

13 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, Mr.  
14 Sampson, a transporter is not to stay with his clients.  
15 I mean that is the difference between a transporter and a  
16 guide. And really a transporter could get in trouble if  
17 he did stay and offer what appeared to be guiding  
18 services in the field. If the transporter wants to, you  
19 know, stay with the hunter and help him select an animal  
20 and butcher it out or whatever, that's a guiding service,  
21 so he would need to be registered at least as an  
22 assistant guide to do that, and work under a master  
23 guide. So those are -- that's one of the key differences  
24 between transporters and guides.

25

26 MS. AYERS: But outfitters, they fall  
27 under guides now, don't they?

28

29 MR. MAGDANZ: That I don't know.

30

31 MS. AYERS: They provide.....

32

33 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah.

34

35 MS. AYERS: .....gear and services?

36

37 MR. SAMPSON: Could you guys speak up,  
38 please, if you're going to talk about it?

39

40 MS. AYERS: I was just -- there's  
41 outfitters. There used to be guides, outfitters and  
42 transporters. An outfitter is somebody who just provides  
43 the equipment and camp set up and gear for the hunter.  
44 Recently, once that -- I am under the impression that  
45 there were some changes in that, and that those  
46 outfitters actually fall under guides in some cases  
47 depending on the extent of the services they offer, but  
48 that's what I was -- we were whispering about, about, you  
49 know, what happened to outfitters? Because there is --  
50 they kind of go in -- they are in kind of a separate

00093

1 category.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Can you give us a  
4 definition of what a big game guide is?

5

6 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, I guess on the  
7 record, I probably couldn't, but we could certainly on  
8 the break, I'll run back to the office and grab the  
9 State.....

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Well, that's -- what I'm  
12 trying to establish here is picture I guess of what the  
13 State of Alaska's definition is in regards to what a big  
14 game guide is and what it does versus those people that  
15 are being dropped off by transporters or other means.  
16 When you have your State requirement to do -- have  
17 licensing and the sort to do their thing, but yet you  
18 have others that are doing the very same thing at no cost  
19 to these folks, then there's a system problem somewhere.

20

21

22 MR. MAGDANZ: I would agree with you  
23 there's a system issue, and that, you know, the Board of  
24 Game adopted a resolution four years ago asking the  
25 Legislature to regulate transporters along with guides,  
26 and the Legislature has not taken that up, or has not  
27 done that at this point. So the problem does -- you  
28 know, a lot of us have recognized it.

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, sir. Now, going  
31 back to.....

32

33 MS. AYERS: Oh, darn, I thought I was off  
34 the hook here.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: No. Going back to.....

37

38 MS. AYERS: You stay here.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Jim. Going back  
41 to Lee Anne, as an agency, as a manager of fish and  
42 wildlife refuge, you issue permits to clients. I mean to  
43 applicants?

44

45 MS. AYERS: It's a special use permit.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: To special use permit to  
48 have number of people.

49

50 MS. AYERS: Not to provide services in

00094

1 the refuge.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Not to provide services,  
4 but just number -- to require a number of people to hunt  
5 within the refuge?

6

7 MS. AYERS: No, we're not really given  
8 permits for a specific number of people that can go on or  
9 have access to the refuge. We're providing -- we have a  
10 -- the only ones that are restricted in the numbers of  
11 permits we can give are for guides. There's one guide  
12 allowed on the refuge right now.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

15

16 MS. AYERS: All of the other special use  
17 permits, such as for the snowmachine races, for  
18 transporters to provide access on the refuge for hunters,  
19 or for the general public, are -- we don't -- we have  
20 conditions on them to make sure that their business  
21 operation is compatible with the refuge's purposes for  
22 being established, including subsistence activities. But  
23 we are not -- we don't limit the number of businesses  
24 that can provide that access to the public, and we don't  
25 limit the number of people they can individually take.  
26 In order to do that, it would have to be the activity  
27 would have to be limited, not the number of special use  
28 permits that we give out.....

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Now in regards  
31 to.....

32

33 MS. AYERS: .....at this time.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: .....that permit that you  
36 issue, is there any reason why you can't have some  
37 requirements or some conditions placed on that permit to  
38 making sure that whatever catch that they get, they bring  
39 back with them? What I'm getting at is trying to get  
40 away from that wanton waste issue.

41

42 MS. AYERS: Okay.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: And, you know, if you --  
45 there's a purpose behind this. If you're interested in  
46 going out hunting, there's a purpose behind it. Or you  
47 must be interested in getting some meat for the family.  
48 And if that's the intent of that hunt, then they need to  
49 preserve whatever they catch so they can adequately bring  
50 that meat back and bring it home to their families for

00095

1 consumption. But you're not seeing that today. You see  
2 a lot of that meat right out at the airport that's being  
3 aired over the radio station, you want free meat? Come  
4 out and get it at Maverick Air. Come out and get it at  
5 other operators. If the intent of that is to -- for the  
6 hunters to go out, get -- hunt whatever they get, the  
7 racks and stuff and bring their meat, and just dump the  
8 meat off at the airport, then I've got a problem with  
9 that.

10

MS. AYERS: Yeah. Oh, I.....

11

12  
13 MR. SAMPSON: Something's wrong with the  
14 system here.

15

MS. AYERS: Yeah.

16

17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

19

20 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Mr. Chair, the  
21 Northwest Arctic Borough has taken some steps to deal  
22 with this issue, too. They passed an ordinance in April  
23 that would require transporters and guides to get permits  
24 to operate in here, and the Borough's in the process I  
25 understand of developing some conditions for the permits  
26 under that ordinance. I don't believe they're made any  
27 enforcements under it yet. But that's another avenue. I  
28 see Noah Naylor's in the audience here today, and he  
29 would know more about that than I do, but I think we all  
30 recognize this problem, and we've tried to deal with it  
31 in a number of different ways. And frankly the problem  
32 has continued.

33

34 MS. AYERS: I guess to follow up on your  
35 question to me, I understand. I think I understand your  
36 question now, and I guess the two ways that I see as a  
37 manager that we can deal with it, is, one, enforcing the  
38 State regulations that are already on the books as kind  
39 of how through our permit system is what it stipulates  
40 that that's an illegal -- you know, to break any of those  
41 State regulations that are in place is a violation of the  
42 permit. And those people who are found doing that,  
43 aren't allowed to get a permit to operate in following  
44 years.

45

46 The other thing I think is just having  
47 people out there checking folks during the hunting  
48 season. We estimated there's been -- it's kind of  
49 leveling off at 100 to 150 hunters out in the Selawik  
50 during the fall, and this fall, Mike Wade and Gene

00096

1 contacted 56 hunters in the field, so that's -- I mean, I  
2 think that's one thing as an agency we can do is to make  
3 sure there's the law enforcement factor in the field  
4 where we can actually catch and have authority on those  
5 types of violations the way the regulations are written  
6 right now. And it is -- it seems to be -- one of the  
7 problems is it seems to be it's the client or the actual  
8 hunter in the field, that's where the responsibility for  
9 those things lie. So I'm saying that's where we -- we're  
10 putting our effort as far checking and trying to have it  
11 be well known that that's not an acceptable thing, and  
12 that if that happens on the refuge, the chances of being  
13 cited are high.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: So going back to my  
16 question in regards to putting conditions into that  
17 permit of that sort, would that be allowable, or can that  
18 be allowable?

19

20 MS. AYERS: If you want, I could give you  
21 a copy of our special use permit, the way it's written  
22 right now. And if you have some suggestions of other  
23 permit conditions that could go on there, we could  
24 consider then. I'm trying to think of what is -- one of  
25 the difficulties is it's hard to hold the business  
26 operator responsible for the public's behavior in the  
27 field when they're not on a guided hunt, where they are  
28 legally responsible for that person.

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Then who's responsible for  
31 all the wasted meat then at the airport?

32

33 MS. AYERS: You could talk to law  
34 enforcement, but I would say the hunter that shot the  
35 animal.

36

37 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I was asking to  
38 get a requirement in place or a condition in place on a  
39 permit so some of that stuff can stop.

40

41 MS. AYERS: I guess I'll -- I'll get my  
42 -- the answer is.....

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe Sandy, we've got to  
45 put Sandy in the hot seat here. He's regional office.  
46 He gets to the Solicitor's Officer and whatnot. Would it  
47 be -- would she be able to put a condition on a permit to  
48 have that requirement placed, Sandy? No, I want some  
49 answers. I mean, these are very critical issues that  
50 we're talking about. I mean, that's going -- that same

00097

1 question's going to apply to the Park Service and to BLM,  
2 too.

3

4 MR. RABINOWITCH: Well, with all respect,  
5 Walter, I can't speak for the Fish and Wildlife Service,  
6 and I've never had any responsibility with law  
7 enforcement in the Park Service. So I've really got to  
8 turn around to our law enforcement folks, or Julie.

9

10 MR. SAMPSON: So you're going to pass the  
11 buck to somebody else?

12

13 MR. RABINOWITCH: I'm going to pass the  
14 buck as quick as I can. But, seriously, I really don't  
15 know the answers to that.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

18

19 MR. RABINOWITCH: And I don't.....

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: I'm not trying to put you  
22 on a position, I'm just trying to find a way to deal with  
23 the issue.

24

25 MS. AYERS: Well, I guess, I think maybe  
26 a thing to do at this point is to find -- to decide what  
27 at the next -- a good step is to finding an answer to  
28 your questions would be.

29

30 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, maybe somebody else  
31 back there, somebody's pointing at. Willie, you got any  
32 recommendations.....

33

34 ATTAMUK: Mr. Chair.....

35

36 MS. AYERS: I want to go -- I want to sit  
37 back down.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Well, before Willie  
40 gets here, I've got.....

41

42 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I need.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I've got a question  
45 just like.....

46

47 MR. GOODWIN: Well, when we get to the  
48 Park Service, I will.

49

50 MS. AYERS: Yeah.

00098

1 ATTAMUK: Yeah.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Just like Walter was  
6 saying, to advertise on the air that if you want meat, go  
7 get it, and if somebody didn't go get it, if it's been  
8 left out four or five days, and the hunters have left it  
9 there, is that the violation?

10

11 MS. AYERS: You know what would be.....

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Wanton waste?

14

15 MS. AYERS: Yes, it is, because if the  
16 person whose -- when a hunter brings in the meat, and he  
17 leaves it with a transporter or with an individual in  
18 town, there's -- the State requires a transfer of  
19 possession form to be filled out, and that that's what  
20 follows -- that's the chain of responsibility for that  
21 meat. And I guess now that's something that I think  
22 either Jim Dow, or Darrell, the wildlife protection  
23 officer, they're really the ones who should be answering  
24 the question -- that question, and not me. I'm not quite  
25 -- I'm not as up to speed on it.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: But going back to the  
30 conditions of a permit, this is what.....

31

32 MS. AYERS: The conditions to the permit  
33 that we do, there is some latitude with putting  
34 conditions on there. As you know, we've put on  
35 conditions on the permit as far as recommending areas  
36 that they do not fly and do not transport hunters because  
37 of subsistence conflicts. So when there's a basis for a  
38 condition, it's reviewed, it's put out for internal  
39 review with us. And depending on what's involved with  
40 the condition, we do have the ability to put conditions  
41 on the permits. But they have to be -- they do have to  
42 be reviewed, and they have to be within the power of the  
43 permit holder to comply with. And that's where -- I  
44 guess that's where you and I can, you know, talk further  
45 about what you're suggesting.

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: All done.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: One another issue in  
50 regards to take and transport, we know that we get  
reports of meats being left out in the country. Is there

00099

1 any reason why an agency cannot place an agent at the  
2 airport to look at some of the racks that are leaving  
3 town? I understand that there's some making or adding of  
4 brow tines to some of the racks that are being taken out.

5

6 MS. AYERS: Darrell and the State have  
7 had people at the airport here checking folks. To answer  
8 your question, I don't think there's any reason they  
9 can't, except for us, we have a difficult time  
10 establishing where that rack came from once it leaves the  
11 field, because our jurisdiction is on Federal land. So I  
12 think that's the only -- I think that's been done in some  
13 cases, and again, a law enforcement person would be the  
14 one. As a manager, I would say, our difficulty is random  
15 checks at an airport, at a State airport, and not on the  
16 federal land unit where we have authority would probably  
17 not be a very effective way for us to make cases.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Well, a random check that  
20 can be made and whoever an officer is can get to the Park  
21 Service, to BLM or to the State of Alaska, and say, hey,  
22 we have a moose here, moose racks here with, you know,  
23 this many brow tines, what -- then they can deal with  
24 these things. What I'm trying to get at is trying to  
25 find an avenue to get at some of this stuff that is being  
26 taken out. Because you see these big boxes of racks that  
27 are leaving, with no meat in them. And that's.....

28

29 MS. AYERS: Yeah.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: .....there's a possibility  
32 of, you know, I guess wanton waste is certainly has  
33 occurred.

34

35 MS. AYERS: Yeah. And I think your  
36 concern is something that's shared by a lot of people in  
37 the community and in the villages and within the agencies  
38 as well. I think the last time we got together and had  
39 discussions about wanton waste at the State advisory  
40 committees, made some really good progress in tightening  
41 up regulations, and putting some new ones into effect.  
42 And I guess I would just recommend, Walter, that maybe  
43 with some of your ideas, it's time to do something like  
44 that again, but I think it needs to be the agency law  
45 enforcement folks, and the state law enforcement folks,  
46 and yourself involved in it, to kind of come up with the  
47 workable ideas that can be made into proposals.

48

49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it?

50

00100

1 MS. AYERS: That's it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good report. Thanks,  
4 Lee Anne.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: That was easy.

7

8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Next is C. We'll take  
9 a break after Willie. The Nation Park Service, Staff. I  
10 suppose it's Mr. Goodwin or somebody. National Park  
11 Service. One right there, Willie, yeah, grab one.

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chairman, Council  
14 members, Ken Adkisson with the National Park Service.  
15 I've also brought with me up here to the table Dan  
16 Stevenson, our protection ranger for WARE, and Willie  
17 Goodwin, our special assistant. The reason I brought  
18 them up, too, is there are a number of topics I wanted to  
19 touch on, and I will do so briefly, but I have a feeling  
20 the issue of the transporters and the commercial use  
21 activity is going to be a major one that we kind of spend  
22 some time on, so I think their input and experience and  
23 background will be important.

24

25 First, let me touch on some of the  
26 simpler ones perhaps. I want to update you on a couple  
27 of the hunts. On the Federal subsistence musk oxen hunt  
28 for 23 southwest, as you'll recall from the last RAC  
29 meeting there were some concerns from Buckland and  
30 Deering over how State distribution of Tier II permits  
31 went last year, and very few of those State permits wound  
32 up in Buckland and Deering. As you know, because of the  
33 distribution of Federal lands, the ability of the  
34 villages to participate in the State hunt is very  
35 important if they are to gain access to the larger number  
36 of animals and especially animals closer to home where  
37 it's more efficient to hunt.

38

39 At that time, the Park Service made a  
40 commitment to the Council, to the villages, to work with  
41 the State and those two villages and through education  
42 try to see if we could improve that situation. And to do  
43 that, Fred Toktoo of our Nome office went to Buckland and  
44 Deering and held short clinics with the IRAs basically on  
45 how to fill out State Tier II applications and try to  
46 encourage people to apply, and I think that was very  
47 successful. You can ask Percy what he thinks.

48

49 But basically the result was we went from  
50 almost very few permits to Buckland and Deering this year

00101

1 under the State program to almost all of the permits this  
2 year went to Buckland and Deering, so we had basically a  
3 complete turn-around. And whether that really produces  
4 any significant results in hunting success or anything,  
5 we'll have to see. And as usual, we used the Federal  
6 permit system in those two communities with their  
7 permission to balance out any kind of really  
8 discrepancies in how the State permits go, because we  
9 really don't have any control over that.

10

11                   Basically to date through the Federal  
12 program both in 23 southwest and the rest of the Seward  
13 Peninsula, we don't have any reported harvest of musk  
14 oxen.

15

16                   On the -- does anybody have any questions  
17 on that before I move on to sheep? Questions? Comments?

18

19                   On the Federal subsistence sheep hunt for  
20 23 and 26(A), we had established quotas. The fall hunt  
21 opened and we've had moderate success out of that.  
22 Basically for the fall hunt in the Bairds with a quota of  
23 seven, six sheep were taken. For the DeLong Mountain  
24 area with a fall quota of four, two sheep have been  
25 taken. And once we have adequate snow cover, the  
26 superintendent will announce the opening of the winter  
27 season.

28

29                   General field activities for the Park,  
30 you've got a handout I believe that lists a lot of our  
31 research activities and field project activities. That's  
32 there for your information. If you have any questions on  
33 any specific projects or activities, you might want to  
34 call or contact Tom Heinline. If you have questions at  
35 this meeting, Tom's here and can answer them for you. I  
36 would also encourage you as individuals, if you have  
37 concerns or issues on what the park is doing, please feel  
38 free to contact the Kotzebue office and talk to Tom at  
39 any time.

40

41                   One thing you might also be interested  
42 in, some of the Fisheries Information Service research  
43 projects came up earlier, and some discussion about  
44 northern Seward Peninsula villages, as an informational  
45 note, the Park Service is funding a major subsistence  
46 harvest baseline study for Buckland and field work for  
47 that has actually -- small parts of it have started this  
48 fiscal year. And these are projects that are similar to  
49 the ones that we've conducted in Wales, Shishmaref,  
50 Deering, Noatak and are currently wrapping up one in

00102

1 Shungnak. And these are cooperative projects generally  
2 with the Department of Fish and Game, Division of  
3 Subsistence. In the case of the Buckland, project, it's  
4 also being done with the Institute of Social and Economic  
5 Research Center there, ISER in Anchorage, as well as  
6 ADF&G, and Buckland. And Jim Magdanz may want to address  
7 that in a little more detail later, but we are in the  
8 process of working with Buckland on conducting a major  
9 subsistence baseline harvest study.

10

11                   One thing that may also be of interest is  
12 the NANA resident zone issue which isn't so much a RAC  
13 issue as it is a Parks Subsistence Resource Commission  
14 issue, but Walter asked some questions I believe at the  
15 last RAC meeting, and it does affect users in the region,  
16 and so I just kind of wanted to update on that.

17

18                   In a nutshell, both the Kobuk Valley and  
19 the Cape Kruzenstern Subsistence Resource Commissions  
20 many years ago asked to change the resident zone status  
21 for Kobuk Valley and Cape Kruzenstern from the listing of  
22 several communities to one large inclusive area that was  
23 centrally synonymous with the boundaries of the NANA  
24 resident zone. That's been a long, drawn out issue, but  
25 it's nearing perhaps some final conclusion. The Park  
26 drafted an environmental assessment, put it out for  
27 review, took comments, and is now proceeding. We  
28 actually have draft rule making to establish the NANA  
29 region as the resident zone for those two park units, and  
30 that rule making has been wrapped into a larger Alaska  
31 Region Park Service rule making process and is currently  
32 under discussion, modification, discussions with the  
33 State, working out details. The idea is hopefully it  
34 will soon go forward to Washington eventually for  
35 publication in the Federal Register, and maybe in a year,  
36 year and a half we may come out with actually getting  
37 that in rule making an implemented.

38

39                   We've had some staff changes, too, that  
40 you might be interested in. In case some of you don't  
41 know, you know, Dave Spurties, the superintendent of WARE  
42 has transferred back East to New York. Julie Hopkins who  
43 probably most of you remember was an administrative  
44 officer here in Kotzebue with the Park Service and also  
45 assistant superintendent, well, she's back with us now  
46 after a stint in Anchorage, and Julie is the new WARE  
47 superintendent.

48

49                   We also have a new superintendent  
50 recently appointed for the Bering Land Bridge National

00103

1 Preserve. His name is Brad Bennett. He comes from back  
2 East, currently in a management training program, and he  
3 will enter on duty in Nome in early November.

4

5 Which brings us finally to the last item  
6 I guess is the transporter issue and commercial services,  
7 and you know, we've been sitting here listening to this,  
8 and we want you to know that we share your concerns, and  
9 it is a statewide issue, and it's really a struggle  
10 trying to come to grips with this I think. You know, Lee  
11 Anne and Jim Magdanz have talked about having to work  
12 with the State and the Division of Occupational Licensing  
13 and everything else, and many of these issues have been  
14 dragging on for years. And we don't have a lot of the  
15 numbers like Lee Anne presented to you, but Dan  
16 especially has some information to share with you and  
17 observations from the summer activity. And the other  
18 thing is our planning for commercial use services  
19 planning, we've had some budget cutbacks, travel  
20 restrictions, staffing turnover, and that's kind of put  
21 on hold, but Willie has briefed you earlier at other RAC  
22 meetings about our efforts, and that's going to be back  
23 on track. So I guess at this point for relation to the  
24 transporter issue, Dan's here if you have questions about  
25 his summer activities, his patrol work, enforcement  
26 issues, and his observations on levels of use and  
27 activities, because we had a meeting yesterday actually  
28 and some of the stuff was pretty eye opening and a little  
29 shocking actually in terms of some of the levels of use  
30 that we think may be going on, and Willie can fill you on  
31 the commercial services planning. And then we can answer  
32 any other questions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions of Ken?

35

36 MR. STEVENSON: If you'd like, I can give  
37 you an update just on what we.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

40

41 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
42 Chairman. We -- I'm a Federal law enforcement officer  
43 for the Park Service here in Kotzebue, and I've been here  
44 about four years, so I'm still pretty new, but I have  
45 seen some changes in the last couple years of increased  
46 use in the Noatak, and a lot of them transporters. This  
47 year we worked the Noatak, the Kobuk, Bering Land Bridge,  
48 and Cape Krusenstern, so it's a big area, as you know,  
49 and we have three full-time law enforcement officers, so  
50 we're barely making a dent it, but we're trying.

00104

1                   We contacted roughly 75 hunters this  
2 season in the field, and roughly 80 percent of those were  
3 dropped in by transporters. And we concentrate mainly on  
4 the remote back country strips, up the Naklik, the Aggie,  
5 the Eli, up the Kugaroruk, up Wrench Creek, and Kelly.  
6 So we try to concentrate more in the remote areas with  
7 popular airstrips, where our transporters are bringing in  
8 people. And not only transporters, but we're also seeing  
9 people coming in from Fairbanks and Anchorage as you well  
10 now with their own Super Cubs and float planes,  
11 especially in the upper Noatak, on the far upper Noatak  
12 near our boundary with Gates, we're seeing people coming  
13 in right out of Fairbanks with their own float planes,  
14 putting up camps and hunting.

15  
16                   When we walk into a camp, we're checking  
17 hunters, we check everyone evenly, and we're checking for  
18 -- the first thing I'm checking for is wanton waste, to  
19 make sure that people are getting the meat back to their  
20 camps, and that they're bringing the meat back first, not  
21 the antlers. And that's a state violation that we  
22 enforce, and that's something I check on at all camps.  
23 That's one of the main things. When we walk into a camp,  
24 and there's a lot of different things we're looking at,  
25 but for me, the main thing I'm looking at is the meat is  
26 back to camp, and there isn't wanton waste, or failure to  
27 salvage, which are two separate regulations. But the  
28 failure to salvage is they haven't taken enough meat off  
29 the carcass, or if they haven't -- or, in this case, we  
30 also remind people to leave the meat on the bone and get  
31 it back to the departure point. We actively enforce all  
32 the State regulations, and so we -- even if I walk into a  
33 camp and people are doing the right thing, or haven't  
34 hunted, we remind them, you know, do these regulations,  
35 follow these State regulations. So we're -- as Lee Anne  
36 mentioned, our presence out in the field, trying to be  
37 proactive and let people know, here's the resolutions,  
38 here's the reason why. We try to do that as much as we  
39 can across the board with everybody, and being as  
40 proactive as we can.

41  
42                   We also on the Kobuk, and to address the  
43 representative from Ambler, her concerns, we have been  
44 listening to the people of Ambler, and we are getting  
45 reports of plane use up in that upper Hunt River and  
46 Akilik River, so we've had people in the Hunt River and  
47 the Akilik River, and on the south side of the Kobuk  
48 River, looking for illegal float plane access and  
49 supporting hunting activities, and we've actually started  
50 using surveillance teams this year where we'll drop a

00105

1 couple people in and they'll just watch the country for  
2 10 days, and they can report on illegal transporter  
3 activities, illegal guiding activities, and same day  
4 airborne activities, which we know that we're getting  
5 reports on. Especially Clarence Woods up in Ambler has  
6 helped us on a couple cases, and has been very  
7 instrumental in a couple cases.

8

9           And I guess that brings me to another  
10 point. We really rely on public reports of illegal  
11 activities. It's how we make some of our -- most of our  
12 best cases. If we can get public involvement and public  
13 folks from the villages calling us with what they're  
14 seeing, you're the ones that are out there in the country  
15 more than we are, and we really need that. And I would  
16 encourage you to call the Park Service, and we can sure  
17 try to act on that, as quick as we can. Just -- and I  
18 think people are used to calling the State Fish and Game,  
19 but we also will jump if you have something going on, and  
20 you can get hold of somebody here in Kotzebue where we  
21 can out there as quick as we can depending on the  
22 weather.

23

24           I see the transporters as a very serious  
25 issues, and something that's -- I'm not sure that --  
26 that's a policy decision that's made above me, and how  
27 those decisions are made, but I see the meat coming back  
28 to the tarmacs here and rotting in Kotzebue also as a  
29 very serious problem. And it's just considered wanton  
30 waste to me. It's moose and caribou coming off Federal  
31 lands and it ends up back here and it's wanton waste is  
32 what I'm -- but there's a loophole with the possession  
33 and transfer forms, so these people -- so they're getting  
34 away with it. And it's a problem statewide. It's not  
35 just Kotzebue. But I agree it's something that needs to  
36 be addressed, and I know the State's been working on it,  
37 and I'm not sure of the best way to address that, but it  
38 very much concerns me, and I know it's a very important  
39 issues.

40

41           The random checks that Walter mentioned,  
42 just an idea, if we could get local people, and this  
43 might be something we could work with the local villages,  
44 but if we had local people in the villages, all we need  
45 is an eye witness. If we just have an eye witness that  
46 witnesses like a moose rack being taken out with no meat,  
47 or something fishy going on, that's all we need to go to  
48 court with. If we have an eye witness that's willing to  
49 testify and actually go to court with us if we pursue the  
50 case, that's all we need. It doesn't necessarily have to

00106

1 be a law enforcement officer, and if we have the  
2 personnel, I think it would be a great idea for some of  
3 us to come out to some of those airstrips and just sit  
4 and watch, but you know we're spread pretty thin, but if  
5 we could get local people as well to share the  
6 information, and then be willing to testify, that would  
7 work also.

8

9 I could go on and on, but I guess I'll  
10 take.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: No, one thing that I  
13 have noticed again this year, as myself, as being a  
14 resource protecting officer for NANA, a number of calls  
15 like in the park land, that the call was that somebody  
16 just came in with a huge antlers from a moose. Somebody  
17 just come in, they call me. The boat load down there  
18 with no meat. When I get down there it's already gone,  
19 so I cannot help them, because the guy refuses to use his  
20 own name. The guy that call me refuses to his own name.  
21 He says he's afraid to go to court and testify. But  
22 anything that kind of like that beyond me, I haveto file  
23 a full report. Use the same name that call me, but this  
24 guy won't do this to me.

25

26 MR. STEVENSON: It's a local person  
27 reporting?

28

29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Yeah.

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

34

35 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I wanted to make a  
36 comment on the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, you  
37 know. If you look at our map, it covers quite a bit of  
38 ground, but if you look at the map in the State, their  
39 concept of the Bering Land Bridge stops here. And we see  
40 on this here, that if you go up Embruk River, Emichuk  
41 River here, that the -- we could hunt musk ox around  
42 here, but just the State says no, because that's not part  
43 of the Preserve. But if you look at the National Park  
44 Preserve, you know, you could see there's a bigger area  
45 than what the State have.

46

47 And when we're talking about transporters  
48 also I thought maybe, you know, if you look at our  
49 Federal, they say no aircraft or motorized vehicle,  
50 whereas in the State regulation they say you can fly up

00107

1 there, but you can't hunt same day, but we see -- the  
2 reason we bring up this issue is we see these guys fly up  
3 there, and they get that moose that same day. And I  
4 think what they're doing is just when they fly up there,  
5 they look around to see where the moose is, then they  
6 land. When they go up -- or -- and they go up, they  
7 shoot it, you know. But this is something that I've  
8 always been against is guide service take guys and  
9 flying, and then landing and they said they've been up  
10 there three or four days, here they've only been up there  
11 maybe a couple of days and they come back with their  
12 moose, so you know that they haven't been up there --  
13 they never hunted the day before -- after, because you  
14 know, those moose move around a ways when -- if they see  
15 something.

16

17                   On this issue of hunting on the land  
18 bridge, if you could -- a lot of people -- we could hunt  
19 moose back there, but the State says, no, because that's  
20 part of State lands, and we keep -- I keep saying, no,  
21 that's part of the national preserve, too, back there  
22 just above Lutika, Camp Lutika, you know. And they tell  
23 us we have to go over on the Land Bridge to Good Hope Bay  
24 or wherever area before we could hunt moose now, because  
25 the Federal regulations say from August 'til March,  
26 whereas State had an emergency order from August 1 to  
27 September 15, and then they re-opened again in the middle  
28 of the winter, but by that time we're relying mostly on  
29 caribou, you know. And we don't want to see any changes  
30 in that, but we just wanted to bring up that point, the  
31 fact that we should be able to get at least one moose of  
32 something before the big game hunters start taking them.

33

34                   In fact, we had some big game hunters one  
35 time, and they went up there when there's reindeer. They  
36 killed eight reindeer. They said they were caribou. We  
37 told them, no. They just took the heads and the  
38 hindquarters, and they left the rest of the carcass. We  
39 went up there, they weren't caribou, they were reindeer.  
40 So now we don't have any reindeer, but still that  
41 disturbed me because they were able to go up there, get  
42 those, even -- whether they said it was caribou, and  
43 still leave the best part of the meat back, you know.  
44 And that's all I have.

45

46                   MR. STEVENSON: Yeah. I guess I would  
47 again say that we -- if we can get solid, good reports  
48 from you as quick as we can from the people that are out  
49 there and seeing those type of things happening, we'll  
50 try to respond as quickly as we can. And again, that's

00108

1 all we need is an eye witness that someone saw these  
2 activities. I know sometimes it's difficult to put it  
3 all together, but you're the folks that are out there,  
4 out in the country, and we can't do this alone. We  
5 really need that input. And all we need is someone to  
6 say, I saw this plane flying, I saw these guys shoot, and  
7 we can follow up with an investigation. We have -- that  
8 gives us legal right to pursue a case. But we need those  
9 reports I guess.

10

11 MR. MOTO: Well, what happened one other  
12 time is we use to have this big game guide come from  
13 Montana all the time. And then one day when we used to  
14 have the landing field down town, he came in an airplane  
15 and dropped off. I said, what's that? He said jet fuel.  
16 I said, what are you using that for? Helicopters. Right  
17 away I called Fish and Game, State, and they came over  
18 and confiscated all that. They confiscated his  
19 helicopter and his airplane. But to this day that guy  
20 won't talk to me. I don't care.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do you have anything?

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: I lost my train of thought.  
25 It might come back on. Give me a minute.

26

27 ATTAMUK: You're not that old.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: You were talking to me, I'm  
30 looking at minutes, and I was trying to listen, too.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it? I know  
33 we've got Willie's anxious there.

34

35 MR. STEVENSON: I just might add quickly  
36 also, we do check our transporters in the field when we  
37 do run into these planes that land out in the Noatak, up  
38 in Noatak and we're there, which often we miss them, but  
39 when we are there, and we check the plane, the plane is  
40 required to have an IBP permit, a copy of that in the  
41 aircraft, and we're checking that, and we're also making  
42 sure the person is a legal transporting on Park lands  
43 that we do have him on file. So we are trying to follow  
44 up with those things. The same with our guides, the  
45 registered guides that we have, three registered guides.  
46 And we pretty much know the areas they work, and we make  
47 sure when we do contact them in the field and the clients  
48 they're with, so we are trying to keep track of the  
49 transporters and where they're going, but it's -- and  
50 just to make sure they have a transporter license, a

00109

1 commercial IBP with it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

4

5 ATTAMUK: Okay. If you get called from  
6 the villages, and the people are scared to say we know  
7 the courts won't take hearsay. Can you take it to court  
8 just with affidavit? Signed affidavits saying, we saw  
9 this, but still my question is, the person might not want  
10 to sign it, because it's going to.....

11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, if they're willing  
13 to sign it. We do need a name. If they're willing to  
14 sign an affidavit, we can use that, and.....

15

16 ATTAMUK: But you could -- you still  
17 could take it to court if the person don't want to show  
18 up in court?

19

20 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, there's a couple of  
21 different things. That would give us some leverage. We  
22 could use that in a couple different ways, and we could  
23 use that as leverage with the prosecutors and it may  
24 never have to go to court. It would just give us some  
25 more ammunition and build our case. And then if the  
26 person we knew didn't want to go to court or testify, we  
27 would know that, and we'd work with that and take it as  
28 far as we could.

29

30 ATTAMUK: Yeah, maybe that's what we need  
31 to take out to -- message out to the villages, say, if  
32 you've got a concern, and if you want to make a  
33 complaint, you don't have to show up in court. An  
34 affidavit will do. Maybe you will have more input from  
35 the villages.

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: Right. And the way it  
38 works.....

39

40 ATTAMUK: Because I run into that same  
41 problem with Maniilaq when they call me. They've got a  
42 concern about certain things, and I said I need a letter  
43 or I need something, and they don't want to do that, and  
44 then that puts me in the same bind as you. I can't  
45 really do anything. It's all hearsay.

46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Right. Right. And what  
48 that does is it just gives us more ammunition to build a  
49 stronger case, and a lot of these guys do plead guilty.  
50 They know what they did was wrong, and 90 percent of them

00110

1 plead guilty, once we catch them, they plead guilty, and  
2 all that evidence never sees -- the magistrate never sees  
3 that evidence, so it doesn't have to go in front of a  
4 court, and they don't have to testify. But it just  
5 builds us a strong case. And the defense attorney will  
6 look at that, and say, oh, they've got a good case.  
7 Plead guilty. And so that -- but there's no guarantee  
8 that that's going to happen.

9

10 ATTAMUK: Yeah, maybe we have to revisit  
11 the regulation on the wanton -- excuse me, the waste of  
12 the caribou or moose and redefine it a little bit better  
13 saying how many percent of it they have to take back, not  
14 just to here to Kotzebue. Maybe we have to extend it  
15 further, so they have -- you know. Just to get better  
16 control. Something. We need to think of something.

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: I agree. I agree. And  
19 that's where the commercial service plan might be a good  
20 answer for us with the Park Service. Again, that's above  
21 me.

22

23 MR. ADKISSON: The other -- Ken Adkisson,  
24 Park Service. The other thing I would say on that is if  
25 you look in our regulation books for the Park Service,  
26 generally you'll see something to the effect that, you  
27 know, hunting is maybe prohibited except where, you know,  
28 provided for in the following regulations, and then when  
29 it is provided for, generally except for subsistence  
30 hunting under Title VIII of ANILCA they're talking about  
31 sport and general hunting, and the regulation says in  
32 accordance with appropriate Federal and State -- or  
33 nonconflicting Federal and State, you know, laws and  
34 regulations, so the crux of it is, is we often have to  
35 fall back on the State regulations when it comes to  
36 something like wanton waste, because we don't have any  
37 specific regulation for that. I mean, we have regulation  
38 about harassing wildlife, but if you're legally hunting  
39 there under State regulation, we don't have a specific  
40 regulation for that. We have to incorporate the State  
41 regs. So if we have an issue like that, you know,  
42 somewhere somebody's got to go back and try to work the  
43 State system to get their regulations changed, or the  
44 other option is, is to create a special Park Service  
45 regulation which in this day and age, given the current  
46 situation, is a real challenge.

47

48 ATTAMUK: Thanks.

49

50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Are you about done?

00111

1 MR. ADKISSON: Yes.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Willie.

4

5 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 Willie Goodwin, I work for the Park Service, too.

7

8 I don't have a listing of how many  
9 clients these -- the transporters have brought out, but  
10 we do have a listing of transporters that were given  
11 permits. For the Noatak Preserve there was four  
12 transporters that were issues incidental business permits  
13 and also as Dan mentioned, the three concession permits  
14 for the three guides that operate in Noatak. At the  
15 Bering Land Bridge, there were two transporters issues  
16 permits, and no guides over there. So those the numbers  
17 we have. And next spring I'll have what the number of  
18 clients they have, because they do have to report that,  
19 too.

20

21 Now, with respect to the commercial  
22 services plan, we've had -- we started the process and  
23 had some village meetings already. Like Ken said, due to  
24 budgetary problems, and the guy that was working with me  
25 on this had some other responsibilities he had to go  
26 through, and we got right into hunting season, so I  
27 didn't try to have any more hearing in the villages, but  
28 we intend to have them yet. My -- our plan is to go  
29 ahead and have those public meetings first in Ambler and  
30 Kivalina, here in Kotzebue, Nome, Anchorage, and come up  
31 with a draft plan, get it back to the villages for  
32 comments on the plan that's drafted, and hopefully after  
33 that process is done we can have the commercial services  
34 plan, which would outline all of the uses that are out  
35 there for commercial purposes, and, of course, the  
36 transporters a big issue.

37

38 And one of the issues that you talked out  
39 is the wanton waste. At this point, I don't know, but I  
40 will find out if we can put that as a condition in the  
41 permits. I've been told that we can do it with the  
42 concession permits, the guides, but with the  
43 transporters, I will find out if we can do that as a  
44 condition to each of the permits.

45

46 The other considerations that we're  
47 talking about is the number of clients that they can  
48 bring out. So far I haven't heard anybody say that we  
49 can't put that in there, but, of course, the Solicitor's  
50 Office will have to clear the commercial services plan

00112

1 before we put it into effect. So I don't know if that  
2 issue will come up.

3

4 But there are some other things that are  
5 happening. In the Noatak, for instance, we've heard  
6 reports from village people that the local folks are  
7 bringing people out to their allotments, and then hunting  
8 in the park. Our plan at this point is to do an  
9 educational process first with the people, say that --  
10 showing them that you do need a permit, and this is the  
11 way you can get a permit to do this type of activity. So  
12 once we do that with the -- getting the word out through  
13 the newspaper and radio, and possibly letters to these  
14 people, and to the various IRA councils and city  
15 governments, and then go forward with it.

16

17 We've had one guide volunteer his  
18 services already to make sure that they go through the  
19 process to become assistant guides, because it is an  
20 opportunity for our people to make some money. But we  
21 want to make sure they do it legally. That's the bottom  
22 line. I'm sure, you know, we'll continue to hear from  
23 the local folks that there's too many people going out,  
24 but I don't know to what effect it will have with -- if  
25 some of the local people are doing it. I know we can't  
26 do anything in the allotments, but since the -- if they  
27 are going out into park lands and bordering on the edge  
28 of providing a service that is transporting, then  
29 certainly we'll take a look at that.

30

31 So those are the plans that we have to  
32 address some of these problems that we have out there  
33 now. And I'll be glad to answer any question that you  
34 might have.

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for the  
37 three gentlemen from the Council? Enoch.

38

39 ATTAMUK: No, I know you know this,  
40 Willie, but it still comes out for the people in the  
41 villages, they need to be educated that in order for them  
42 to take hunters out there they need -- I thought they  
43 need six-pack license.

44

45 MR. GOODWIN: That's one of the other  
46 things they would need is a six-pack license, and  
47 insurance, you know.....

48

49

50 MR. GOODWIN: .....those things that they

00113

1 will need before they get their permit from the Park  
2 Service.

3

4                   ATTAMUK: Also, don't take this, don't  
5 record this part. If they start, we put in the permit  
6 that they need to take their meat back. I would spend  
7 less on gas. I would just go to the airport. I wouldn't  
8 have to leave town.

9

10                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Willie, would they also  
11 need a six-pack license if they're bringing them to their  
12 own allotment?

13

14                   MR. GOODWIN: Yes.

15

16                   ATTAMUK: Yes.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

19

20                   MR. GOODWIN: The other issue is that's  
21 been mentioned here is the authority on navigable waters.  
22 A court case has proven that the Park Service has  
23 authority on navigable waters, so if somebody wants to  
24 take it to court on that, they're more than welcome. If  
25 they're cited for, for instance, one of the things they  
26 can't do is shoot a bear without a guide, you know, an if  
27 they're caught, then.....

28

29                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

30

31                   MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to  
32 thank you. Thank you, Willie and Ken, and.....

33

34                   MR. STEVENSON: Dan.

35

36                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much for  
37 your report then. It's good to hear that the Park  
38 Service is certainly looking at some of the issues that  
39 are critical and needs to be addressed. I think the  
40 biggest issue that we're talking about here is the  
41 protection of the resource. That's the bottom line. And  
42 once we get a handle on making sure that resource is  
43 protected, then things hopefully will get to the point  
44 where people with different user groups will say, hey,  
45 yes, it is a problem. We need to address -- all address  
46 that. I think we certainly at some point need to address  
47 that, like somebody stated earlier, you know, we  
48 concentrate on one area, that resource is half depleted  
49 in that area, they move on to a certain area. And that  
50 certainly is what's happening, and I think at some point

00114

1 in time we need to look at the wanton waste to make sure  
2 that that resource is protected.

3

4 So with that, Mr. Chairman, I move that  
5 we take a 15-minute break.

6

7 ATTAMUK: Me, too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah. Be back here at  
10 3:30.

11

12 (Off record)

13

14 (On record)

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I'll call the  
17 meeting back to order. We're still on item number 11,  
18 agency reports. We had the reports from the U.S. Fish  
19 and Wildlife Service, we had report from Selawik Wildlife  
20 Refuge, and a report from National Park Service, which is  
21 very excellent reports, you know, you guys. You're  
22 really done good on these reports. And very honored to  
23 give us nice reports. So at time we're still on reports.  
24 It's BLM, recreational activities on Squirrel River. I  
25 believe it's Randy Meyers from BLM. Randy.

26

27 MS. MEYERS: Okay. Mr. Chair, and  
28 Council members, this is Randy Meyers from Bureau of Land  
29 Management here in Kotzebue, and I have a report for you  
30 today about the hunting activity for this fall in the  
31 Squirrel River, the Upper Tag River, and on the Kauk  
32 River at the base of Baldwin Peninsula.

33

34 And I'm going to focus on, I have the  
35 most information on BLM's special recreation permit,  
36 guide, outfitters, but I also have some information on  
37 transporters. And I've spent the last several weeks  
38 making some phone calls and trying to interview people in  
39 person, and made one flight in the Squirrel River with  
40 Mike Billbe, the ranger from the Fairbanks Bureau of Land  
41 Management office. He was able to come out and spend a  
42 couple of days. Mike tried to get a flight with the Park  
43 Service to get out an additional day, and their pilot was  
44 having some problems with his vision I think and he was  
45 in Anchorage getting that taken care. And he also was  
46 hoping, Mike Billbe, the ranger, was hoping to maybe go  
47 out with Darrell Hildebrand and any of Darrell's staff,  
48 to fly with them if there was room, but that didn't work  
49 out either. And so we were confined to just one day of  
50 flying in the Squirrel. Actually one afternoon.

00115

1                   And I had hoped to get out -- and we  
2 landed at four different camps. We have five special  
3 recreation permit holders who are active in the Squirrel,  
4 and then there are three additional ones who are not  
5 active, haven't been for several years, but they still do  
6 have a valid permit. And so we landed at four of the  
7 five camps, and then I was able to talk over the phone  
8 with the fifth operator. And I tried to work out another  
9 flight with local air taxi pilots to land at the fifth  
10 place, but it's a high strip, real windy, kind of short,  
11 and you need a Super Cub to get in there, and I could  
12 never get time. They could never get the time to do  
13 that.

14

15                   So, I've given you a list on the second  
16 page. The first page is who I contacted and when, and  
17 then the second page is a list of the operators who have  
18 special recreation permits with BLM in the Squirrel, and  
19 also on the Northern Seward Peninsula.

20

21                   And then getting into the specifics for  
22 how many hunters came, and what they got, the five active  
23 special recreation permits holders in the Squirrel guided  
24 a total of 31 hunters this year, and they also on the  
25 side dropped off some hunters. And so there was a total  
26 of 18 dropped off hunters by those guides. And so that  
27 was a total of 49 hunters that were brought in by our  
28 special recreation permit holders. And those hunters  
29 took approximately 39 caribou and 16 moose, plus one  
30 brown bear and one wolf. And so that was the Squirrel  
31 River.

32

33                   And then on the Upper Kauk River, we have  
34 one operator, and unfortunately I wasn't able to land at  
35 his -- I wasn't able to schedule a visit to his camp, so  
36 that will be a high priority next year to land at his  
37 camp and talk to him, because I haven't been able to talk  
38 to him by phone after the season was over in late  
39 September, but Darrell Hildebrand, the Fish and Wildlife  
40 Protection officer with the State, did land at his camp,  
41 and so I interviewed Darrell three times over the course  
42 of this season just being able to take advantage of what  
43 he was seeing in the field, and sharing what I had, the  
44 little that I had seen in the field. So to get his  
45 direct information from when he talked to people at the  
46 camps. And he said that Mike had approximately 15  
47 hunters, and so those were guided hunters. And he said  
48 that the didn't think Mike had had any drop-off hunters.  
49 And those hunters had taken 11 moose and several caribou.  
50 And he had -- Mike had -- Mike Vanning is the down there

00116

1 on the Upper Kauk, and he had a pretty big camp. Okay.

2

3                   So those are the guides. And then the  
4 transporters. In the Squirrel River, there are at least  
5 five who are active, and they brought in an approximate  
6 number of 41 hunters into the Squirrel this year. And at  
7 least two air taxi operators brought in hunters to the  
8 upper Tag. And I don't have information on the number of  
9 game animals taken by the transporters on the upper Tag.  
10 I was able to talk to Trooper Hildebrand and get a little  
11 bit of information on the transporters as well.

12

13                   So on the 5th of September, which was  
14 still kind of early in the hunting season as the moose  
15 season ran from the 1st to the 20th, we counted 13 active  
16 sport hunter camps in the Squirrel River as a whole, and  
17 two subsistence hunter camps. And talking with Trooper  
18 Hildebrand, he flew in the Squirrel a number of times,  
19 and he said that it was pretty busy there this year, and  
20 he saw 30 camps. That was the highest number of camps  
21 that he had seen in the Squirrel this year was 30. And  
22 that the average number on the average day he flew, the  
23 there were 17 or 18 camps.

24

25                   The five guide/outfitters that have  
26 permits from BLM, that would make five base camps, and  
27 then they had a total of 10 spike camps. So with just  
28 our special recreation permit holders, they had a total  
29 of 15 camps. Now their spike camps may not have been  
30 continuously active as, you know, they maybe shot a moose  
31 out of one and then move that spike camp to somewhere  
32 else, but just to give you an idea of, you know, 15 camps  
33 were from our special recreation permit holders, and then  
34 the rest were either transported in, or they were  
35 subsistence hunters.

36

37                   I looked a little bit at some records  
38 that I have, looking at the average number of special  
39 recreation permit hunters coming into the Squirrel during  
40 the last 10 years, from 1994 through 2003. So I came up  
41 with an average of 43 hunters per year, and this year the  
42 special recreation permit holders brought in 49. So it  
43 was a little bit higher than the average on the number of  
44 hunters brought in by special recreation permit clients,  
45 but on a whole, looking at all of the hunters in the  
46 Squirrel, my records show an average of 128 sport hunters  
47 per year in the Squirrel during the last 10 years on  
48 average. And this year I counted approximately 90. So  
49 this year was a bit of a drop. But looking at camps, it  
50 seems like the camps were more numerous this year, so

00117

1 maybe, you know, fewer people in the camps, but more of  
2 them.

3

4                   And then just as an example, in going  
5 back to the year 2001, Darrell Hildebrand has been the  
6 Fish and Wildlife Protection officer here for the last  
7 three years. So in 2001, he saw nine camps during a  
8 flight in the Squirrel River in mid September, and --  
9 correction. Correction. I saw nine camps in the  
10 Squirrel River during a flight in mid September, and  
11 Trooper Hildebrand reported seeing an average of 12 camps  
12 during his patrols. So then in 2002 BLM flying in the  
13 squirrel saw 15 camps in mid September, and the highest  
14 number Trooper Hildebrand tallied that year was 16. And  
15 then in 2003, we again documented 15 camps in early  
16 September and Trooper Hildebrand reported an average of  
17 17 and 18 camps with the highest number noted being 30.  
18 So in that three-year period you can see a little bit of  
19 a rise in the total number of camps in the Squirrel.

20

21                   So activity levels in the Squirrel were  
22 high in '03, and Trooper Hildebrand mentioned that camp  
23 locations changed daily. He could see that when he would  
24 fly from day-to-day, that camps were popping up in  
25 different places.

26

27                   Talking with the hunters and the special  
28 recreation permit holders, the guides, it seems like  
29 caribou moved through the Squirrel this year in good  
30 numbers, and lots of small bands moving through. Moose  
31 were reported in fair numbers. And there were lots of  
32 bears around.

33

34                   That concludes my report, but I'm ready  
35 for questions. Yes, Enoch.

36

37                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

38

39                   ATTAMUK: I've got a question. How many  
40 -- do you know about roughly how many average in a camp  
41 of people?

42

43                   MS. MEYERS: Well.....

44

45                   ATTAMUK: I know that's going to be a  
46 hard one. Maybe you can't answer.

47

48                   MS. MEYERS: Yeah, it really varies,  
49 because two of our special recreation permit holders are  
50 very small operators. One of them just had four people

00118

1 in camp, and two of them were guides and two of them were  
2 clients. Another camp had roughly similar, maybe six  
3 people in camp. And then the others are bigger  
4 operations, and they have one to three assistant guides  
5 as well as the one master guide, and then they might have  
6 a cook, and they might have a packer. So right there you  
7 have, you know, five or six staff people, and sometimes  
8 the staff people do hunt after the clients get their  
9 game. And then hunter-wise, you might have, you know,  
10 anywhere from five to 15 clients. So camp size can  
11 really vary, and, of course, it can vary over the course  
12 of a season. They might have a period when they have a  
13 lot of their clients in camp, and then they might have a  
14 period when they only have a couple. So I'd say the camp  
15 size, the average camp size, maybe eight to 10 people in  
16 camp.

17

18 ATTAMUK: At a long period of stay of how  
19 many days? Or the turn-over is what I'm.....

20

21 MS. MEYERS: Sure.

22

23 ATTAMUK: .....really trying to find out.

24

25 MS. MEYERS: Yeah, the turn-over.  
26 Usually about seven day maybe might be the average. And  
27 so the guides usually set up in late August, so they're  
28 ready to go by the first of September, and then they  
29 usually start taking down in real late September. So  
30 they've got a whole month. So if they could get say four  
31 sets of clients, each staying for seven days, and that  
32 would be -- and then, of course -- yeah, go ahead.

33

34 ATTAMUK: I've got one more. You said  
35 early in your report that when they caught caribou,  
36 moose, bear, and you said wolf. Was that wolf in season  
37 or do you know? I thought they were closed for the  
38 summer or something like that. No?

39

40 MS. MEYERS: Boy, I just admit I just  
41 didn't check into that. I just assumed it was okay.

42

43 ATTAMUK: Was it open, Lillian? Okay.

44

45 MS. JOHNSON: At that?

46

47 ATTAMUK: Wolf.

48

49 MS. JOHNSON: Wolves.

50

00119

1 ATTAMUK: Yeah, she mentioned that  
2 they.....

3  
4 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

5  
6 ATTAMUK: .....get one wolf on her  
7 report.

8  
9 MR. SAMPSON: It must be good to see in  
10 summer time?

11  
12 MS. JOHNSON: No. No. No. Mooses.

13  
14 MR. SAMPSON: I know.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Randy, it was kind of  
17 my great honor to be -- have Billbe around a while, you  
18 know, it's sure nice to have him around.

19  
20 MS. MEYERS: Yeah. Yeah.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And then I'm glad he  
23 was able to come. He told me that he wasn't wasn't going  
24 to be able to do it, but I'm glad he changed his mind and  
25 came up here.

26  
27 One thing, that I'm flying down at the  
28 Squirrel, Randy, I've noticed one four-wheeler in the  
29 Squirrel River area. Is that legal to use by the guides?

30  
31 MS. MEYERS: It is legal to have four-  
32 wheelers on BLM, on public lands.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It is.

35  
36 MS. MEYERS: If a network of trails  
37 starts to develop, that's when BLM needs to take action,  
38 and so there are several of our special recreation permit  
39 holders that do have four-wheeler, and.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Um-hum.

42  
43 MR. SAMPSON: Ready time to start getting  
44 a four-wheeler, being out so they can branch out?

45  
46 MS. MEYERS: But several of them don't,  
47 and they don't want four-wheelers. And some of them are  
48 really good about regulating the use. In one camp, only  
49 guides can use the four-wheelers, and they bring in a  
50 certain amount of gas, and when it's gone, it's gone. So

00120

1 they really the use very -- try not to use them very  
2 often, or very much. Plus every time we go out, you  
3 know, we try to talk about some of the stipulations that  
4 BLM has on the permits, and, you know, stress staying on  
5 the gravel bars, and not going in vegetated terrain if at  
6 all possible. And the guides have said that they aren't  
7 useful for, you know, zipping over the tundra and finding  
8 game. What they really want to use them for is just  
9 hauling meat and hauling gear, you know, to a spike camp  
10 or from a spike camp back to the base camp if necessary.

11  
12                   Some of the guides have their own planes,  
13 and some of them do not. So the ones that do not look at  
14 the four-wheelers as a way to, you know, help transport  
15 some of the things that they have. Once they're in the  
16 field, they have, you know, a regular air taxi guy take  
17 them in and take them out to get them back to Kotzebue.  
18 Percy.

19  
20                   MR. BALLOT: And some guides do contract  
21 with transporters. I think we saw more than 15 in  
22 Buckland from this Vanning camp. And that was mentioned  
23 a few times by some people that were helping them there  
24 that had 40 at least, so this number is not kind of.....

25  
26                   MS. MEYERS: Yeah, it's not. So -- and I  
27 would be interested in information there. So you're  
28 saying that you think, and other people.....

29  
30                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah, he was based out of  
31 Buckland, that plane, in and out of Buckland.

32  
33                   MS. MEYERS: Right. Right I think what  
34 he was doing is having his clients take a scheduled  
35 flight to Buckland, and then he.....

36  
37                   MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

38  
39                   MS. MEYERS: .....and his pilots -- or  
40 he's not a pilot, but he had pilots come in and pick them  
41 up at Buckland and take them to the camp. But you're  
42 saying that you thought he was dropping off hunters and  
43 not.....

44  
45                   MR. BALLOT: Right.

46  
47                   MS. MEYERS: .....guiding them, as well  
48 as doing some guiding?

49  
50                   MR. BALLOT: Right.

00121

1 MS. MEYERS: Okay. And that.....

2

3 MR. BALLOT: I was told that he has a  
4 contract with a float plane or something like that,  
5 another transporter.

6

7 MS. MEYERS: Yeah, he had at least two  
8 pilots working for him.

9

10 MR. BALLOT: Right.

11

12 MS. MEYERS: And so Darrell didn't think  
13 that he had any drop off hunters. He's perfectly -- you  
14 know, it is legal for him to drop them off. And so I'm  
15 interested just in the number of hunters that he took,  
16 and so perhaps he did take more than 15 if he was  
17 dropping some off.

18

19 MR. BALLOT: Well, one of the guys that  
20 was helping him said he had a contract to have 20 in this  
21 one area and 20 in another area, so I'm counting Tag and  
22 Kauk River.

23

24 MS. MEYERS: And that's certainly  
25 possible.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Um-hum.

28

29 MS. MEYERS: And all of our special use  
30 permites fill out an annual use report and send it in to  
31 BLM, but this being, you know, the 2nd of October, they  
32 just got back from their season so they haven't sent in  
33 any of their reports yet, so that's one place that I can  
34 see if he's reporting that. And I have a call on his  
35 message phone to -- you know, for him to call me, so I  
36 can talk to him directly about how his season went, and  
37 get some more information.

38

39 MR. BALLOT: Also as to -- and I think  
40 Calvin said he mentioned that we found a moose way up the  
41 Buckland River earlier, a few weeks ago, and I was  
42 working with Jim on that, and Trooper Hildebrand. I was  
43 just wondering, I never got a report on what he found  
44 about that hornless moose that was found up there, up the  
45 Buckland River.

46

47 MS. MEYERS: Jim, did you want to say  
48 anything about that? You and Darrell were working on  
49 that headless moose situation.

50

00122

1 MR. BALLOT: Hornless moose.

2

3 MS. MEYERS: On the Buckland River.

4

5 MR. DAU: I'm Jim Dau, Fish and Game.

6 Darrell got out there and investigated, and he couldn't  
7 find the moose. Raymond investigated with Peewee and you  
8 guys flew how many hours around Harvey Creek?

9

10 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And we never did find  
11 it.

12

13 MR. DAU: Right. You went up and looked,  
14 right?

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah, went up there  
17 twice.

18

19 MR. DAU: Yeah, and Darrell went up and  
20 looked, and he couldn't find it. He landed, he looked on  
21 the bar. He couldn't find anything, so he was convinced  
22 that there was no headless moose in the Harvey Creek  
23 area. And he looked hard. He went into Buckland, after  
24 he looked, and he kept trying to find people who had  
25 actually seen the headless moose.

26

27 MR. BALLOT: Um-hum.

28

29 MR. DAU: He talked to about six  
30 different guys, and, well, I didn't see it, but this guy  
31 did. Well, you go find that guy. Well, I didn't see  
32 it.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Right.

35

36 MR. DAU: .....but this guy did. But  
37 anyway, Darrell said he never found anybody who had, you  
38 know, first-hand witness. So he was convinced that, you  
39 know, it wasn't there. That's -- if Darrell was here,  
40 he could tell you about it, but he's not, he's in  
41 Anchorage.

42

43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Since the.....

44

45 MR. BALLOT: When there's -- Mr.  
46 Chairman, when there's reports, isn't there -- why don't  
47 you find out on the ground, get there and come up with  
48 this or have somebody bring you up or wherever the  
49 situation may be, couldn't it be a lot better than flying  
50 around? You could see nothing much from the air. I was

00123

1 told it was covered with willows and grass and stuff like  
2 that, and the moose were -- bear were eating on it so  
3 that might be -- you know, we need to.....

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: Do you have any idea, name  
6 of who said that, where that moose was?

7

8 MR. BALLOT: I think you were talking to  
9 Delbert Thomas and Raymond Lee, Jr. They were the ones.

10

11 MR. DAU: I know when Darrell went into  
12 the village, he hoped to do just what you said. He  
13 wanted somebody to go with him. He could land right near  
14 Harvey Creek. He either wanted to take them with him and  
15 land there or go up in a boat, and he couldn't find  
16 anybody who'd seen it. Everybody he kept tracking down,  
17 they couldn't go. But Darrell was prepared just to, you  
18 know, take those guys and say, take me to what you saw.  
19 And he couldn't find anybody, so.....

20

21 MR. BALLOT: Well.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: On the report I  
24 got.....

25

26 MR. BALLOT: .....welcome to work with us  
27 on that, and we'll find somebody to do something next  
28 time where a situation like that happen.

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: On the report I got  
31 from Buckland, they said it was inpointed three miles  
32 inland on North Buckland. So I went up there twice, and  
33 I went back to Buckland and talked to Hadley, and they  
34 said there was a moose there, that -- and did you see it?  
35 He said, no, no. So I went back up that day again and  
36 never did find it. After a day later I went back again,  
37 and still never find it, so I didn't know that Darrell  
38 was also behind me some place. I didn't know he was out  
39 there.

40

41 MR. BALLOT: Well, there's lots of bears  
42 up there. It probably got chewed up.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: So this guy, they're kind of  
47 concerned about him basing out of Buckland or whatever.  
48 What is the process that -- we really don't want him  
49 there. I mean, why don't he go Selawik or why don't he  
50 go up -- do it out of Ketchikan or wherever he's coming

00124

1 from. That kind of stuff.

2

3 MS. MEYERS: Right. Well, he is legal so  
4 far.....

5

6 MR. BALLOT: We understand.

7

8 MS. MEYERS: .....in what he's doing, and  
9 his operation has gotten bigger. When he initially  
10 contacted us and put in an application, his application  
11 was for four to eight hunters per year. And so he's  
12 obviously gone way past that mark. And it's -- there's  
13 nothing in his permit that says he can't go past that  
14 mark, but he had given us, you know, that indication that  
15 it was going to be not a large operation. So that may  
16 have affected how we dealt with his permit initially.  
17 But he does have a permit now for five years. And I  
18 would like to, you know, talk with him and just, you  
19 know, that there is local concern about the number of  
20 people that are coming in. And it's hard for the guides  
21 and transporters to keep track of that many people. And  
22 I've had them tell me in the past that they would  
23 willingly cut back, because it is a big problem. And so  
24 this is the first year that Mike Vanning had such a large  
25 number of people in the field, so I'm going to explore  
26 that topic with him if he, you know, feels that he might  
27 be scaling back just to make a more efficient operation.  
28 Also, you know, with local concerns. So I don't -- I'm  
29 not sure now that's going to turn out, but I can  
30 certainly pass those concerns along.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Um-hum. Walter.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you for your report,  
35 Randy. The reason why I'm asking Jim is maybe he might  
36 be able to help you on numbers. But before I go into  
37 numbers, Squirrel River, as I understand it, the way  
38 Federal system is set up, that before any permits,  
39 whether it's for recreation or for guiding or for what  
40 the purposes, before anything is issued, what do you call  
41 a study or an evaluation is done within that certain  
42 area. Squirrel River was done?

43

44 MS. MEYERS: You're correct.

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

47

48 MS. MEYERS: And what you're talking  
49 about is an environmental assessment.

50

00125

1 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Now, in regards to  
2 numbers of moose, you indicated that there was moose  
3 number was fair. In 2002, do you have any idea what the  
4 numbers were on the Squirrel, just within BLM lands?

5  
6 MS. MEYERS: You mean how many were  
7 taken?

8  
9 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. No.

10  
11 MS. MEYERS: No.

12  
13 MR. SAMPSON: How many moose per square  
14 mile were there within the Squirrel?

15  
16 MS. MEYERS: No. No. Because the last  
17 census that was done specifically in the Squirrel River  
18 was 1998, and that.....

19  
20 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. What was the numbers  
21 then?

22  
23 MS. MEYERS: And the number then was  
24 approximately one moose per square mile. And then the  
25 next earlier census was 1992, and that -- it was the same  
26 figure, approximately, excuse me, one moose per square  
27 mile. And both times I don't remember what the bull/cow  
28 ratio was, but it was not a cause for alarm.....

29  
30 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

31  
32 MS. MEYERS: .....in both of the '92 and  
33 '98 census. And then Fish and Game did work on a census  
34 that included the upper Squirrel and the NOatak for  
35 moose. But it wasn't the whole Squirrel.

36  
37 MR. SAMPSON: So in.....

38  
39 MS. MEYERS: And that was very recent.

40  
41 MR. SAMPSON: So that the latest then is  
42 -- numbers then was adequate enough then to justify for  
43 continued moose hunt on. It just sort of -- I mean, just  
44 the way hunts are done, I mean, when we're out hunting,  
45 we have to go out looking for it. So just the numbers of  
46 moose taken from one certain area, that's pretty high  
47 number. I mean, somebody has to do some spotting  
48 somewhere in order to hunt moose. Is that legal?

49  
50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It is legal, you know,

00126

1 so you have a guide and he has his own plane, and so  
2 he'll fly around look for a place that he sees moose,  
3 looks for a place that he can land nearby and set up a  
4 spike camp. So then he'll set up a spike camp. And what  
5 he has to make sure, that he is -- make sure to follow  
6 the regulations that when he brings in his hunter, that  
7 the hunter can't hunt that same day that they land. But  
8 as -- it's legal for him to find the game by air, and  
9 then bring his hunter in, have the hunter wait until the  
10 following day, and then do the hunt. And that is legal.  
11 And that's how they do it a lot.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: The Kauk River area, part  
14 of the Buckland drainage is being -- or was proposed to  
15 close up. And as far as part of Kauk River, is that part  
16 of Buckland drainage, or not considered as part of  
17 Buckland drainage? It goes over to the other side then?  
18 Okay.

19

20 MS. MEYERS: Yeah, quite a bit to the  
21 east.....

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

24

25 MS. MEYERS: .....from the Buckland.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: The Kauk River area, do you  
28 have any idea what the moose population number might be?

29

30 MS. MEYERS: I don't.

31

32 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

33

34 MS. MEYERS: I don't.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: The reason why, the Kauk  
37 River is exactly where? Where -- it starts off.....

38

39 MR. BALLOT: It goes towards the Selawik.

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: .....on the -- right by --  
42 across Elephant Point?

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Um-hum.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Yes.

47

48 MR. SAMPSON: Then it heads east.....

49

50 MR. BALLOT: And it goes towards Selawik  
Hills.

00127

1 MR. SAMPSON: Right.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: Then how -- what is the --

6 the drainages go right up to where?

7

8 MS. MEYERS: It dumps into Eschscholtz

9 Bay.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. I mean, the east end

12 of that is what I'm.....

13

14 MS. MEYERS: Oh, yeah.

15

16 MR. BALLOT: Way back on the north side

17 of the Selawik Hills. Way back.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

20

21 MR. BALLOT: Way in.

22

23 ATTAMUK: Is that Kauk?

24

25 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Because I'm earlier, I'm  
28 sure that they were probably using Super Cubs to hunt up  
29 in the mountainsides, too, somewhere.

30

31 MR. BALLOT: They're using float plane.

32

33 MR. SAMPSON: Because the reason why I'm  
34 asking is, is that there was Super Cub or apparently an  
35 airplane that landed up on a mountain that set its  
36 satellite transmitter of.

37

38 MS. MEYERS: Oh, an ELT.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah. And they requested  
41 Civil Air Patrol respond to that and we did. And when  
42 they got close to that mountain, somebody shut the darn  
43 thing off. So we figured it was a Super Cub that landed  
44 hard and shut its ELT off. I'm trying to -- that's why I  
45 was asking where.....

46

47 MS. MEYERS: Right.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: .....the permitted area.

50 So when issue is -- a permit is issued, it covers not

00128

1 only one area, but the whole BLM land, or just segments  
2 of or portions of BLM land?

3

4 MS. MEYERS: Portions of. Like the  
5 Squirrel River is Game Management Unit 23-06, and so a  
6 guide can be permitted to guide in that whole area that  
7 is 23-06. And so down on the Kauk River it would be 23  
8 -- it's not 06. It would be another number. And so he  
9 would be permitted to guide in the whole area that had  
10 that boundary, and it's only a portion of the Seward  
11 Peninsula.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

14

15 MS. MEYERS: But they're fairly big  
16 areas, because the.....

17

18 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

19

20 MS. MEYERS: .....Squirrel River is  
21 approximately.....

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: That's good.

24

25 MS. MEYERS: Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
28 for the BLM?

29

30 MS. MEYERS: Thank you very much.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: I guess one last question,  
35 I'm sorry, the same question that I've placed to the  
36 other agencies. What is BLM's position in regards to  
37 that very same question I had for the other agencies?

38

39 MS. MEYERS: And specifically?

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: More specifically to the  
42 condition of the permits.

43

44 MS. MEYERS: Oh, the stipulations.

45

46 MR. SAMPSON: The stipulations, yeah.

47

48 MS. MEYERS: well, we certainly have  
49 stipulations about how the camp is run, and, you know,  
50 our stipulations, one of them says that the guide and his

00129

1 hunters will comply with all of the State game regs, and  
2 so that's where the, you know, issue of handling your  
3 meat and wanton waste comes in. So it's covered under  
4 the stipulations, but it's not a direct BLM stipulation.

5  
6 MR. SAMPSON: So was Maverick working  
7 around in the general area of where permits were issued?

8  
9 MS. MEYERS: Yes.

10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Interesting. Okay.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Done?

14  
15 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Randy, good  
18 report.

19  
20 MS. MEYERS: Thank you.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Still on reports. The  
23 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff.

24  
25 ATTAMUK: Jim, you're it I guess.

26  
27 MR. DAU: I've got the best report of  
28 all. I don't know what happened. I'll answer questions  
29 if you have any questions. I don't have a report.

30  
31 MR. SAMPSON: I've got a question.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walt.

34  
35 MR. SAMPSON: Where are we at, Jim, with  
36 numbers of our caribou herd? I know for a couple of  
37 years now we've been talking about possible and potential  
38 of crash of the caribou herd. Where are we at with those  
39 numbers?

40  
41 MR. DAU: We don't know for sure. We  
42 haven't done a census. We haven't completed one since  
43 '99. In '99 it was 430,000. Last July we took  
44 photographs. We're not going to have those counted I  
45 don't think until probably June We're going to start  
46 them next month. But unequivocally the herd is still  
47 very large. It's got to be in the vicinity of 400,000  
48 I'd say. That's just based on sitting there, you know,  
49 flying over these big group, but the herd is still very,  
50 very big.

00130

1                   One thing about body condition that I  
2 noticed, and you guys probably all did, too. You know,  
3 we've been worried, because this herd has been over  
4 400,000 now for well over 10 years, and we've talked  
5 about this in the working group. But this year up in  
6 Onion Portage, and with the caribou I shot for our  
7 family, the caribou were fat. They're in good shape. So  
8 I'm not seeing any indication in terms of body condition  
9 or so far in any of the counts that these guys are ready  
10 to fall off the edge. Things still look pretty good  
11 amazingly.

12  
13                   ATTAMUK: Just for your information,  
14 Walter, this year for some reason, I get a lot less calls  
15 about caribou being sick this year, not like before.  
16 Before they had a lot of concern about pus, swollen  
17 joints, green meat, you know, and whatever. Ever since  
18 we have put out that pamphlet that was mailed to them, I  
19 think that helped quite a bit for the hunters to  
20 understand the conditions of the caribou. That really  
21 helped out big time. And I will thank the State for  
22 being part of it, for that role. That little book there  
23 we went out to every village.

24  
25                   MR. DAU: Yeah, and I would agree. I've  
26 gotten no calls this year, not one, about sick caribou.  
27 In fact Earl Kinnick, the king of sick caribou, called me  
28 to say, no sick caribou this year.

29  
30                   MR. SAMPSON: So the caribous been  
31 following their prescription.

32  
33                   MR. DAU: I guess so.

34  
35                   MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

36  
37                   MR. DAU: They've been listening to Earl.  
38 We can all thank Earl.

39  
40                   MR. SAMPSON: Yeah.

41  
42                   MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman.

43  
44                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

45  
46                   MR. MOTO: I had a question. Has it ever  
47 been determined what happened to our moose? Remember, we  
48 had a pretty good report of quite a few moose in that  
49 area. Have you ever determined what happened to them?

50

00131

1 MR. SAMPSON: They migrate.

2

3 MR. DAU: Well, yes and no. We now based  
4 on a census we did two springs ago that a lot of them  
5 aren't there any more. There's a lot few moose than  
6 there used to be. And my census agreed with all the  
7 reports I got from Buckland and Deering. And I've been  
8 into both Buckland and Deering last December and talked  
9 to the villagers, you know, gave them my data, and  
10 everybody was saying the same thing. You know, I've been  
11 riding thousands of miles, I'm not seeing any moose. So  
12 that's one thing that happened, you know, is moose  
13 numbers went down.

14

15 The density down there was the lowest  
16 that I've ever counted. It was 0.1 moose per square  
17 mile. That was in an area west of and including the  
18 Buckland Drainage, all the way to the Good Hope. So no  
19 matter where we went, it's not that they were all in the  
20 Kiwalik and we missed them. They weren't in the Kiwalik,  
21 they weren't in the Inmachuk, or Kugururok or Good Hope.  
22 They just weren't there.

23

24 Now, as far as what caused the decline,  
25 I'm not absolutely sure. You guys know, especially in  
26 Deering, that you're getting more wolves. You're getting  
27 more caribou in the winter, you're getting more wolves,  
28 and you've always had lots of bears. We saw a relatively  
29 low number of calves, just like we've seen elsewhere in  
30 the unit, too. So you know, I don't know exactly what  
31 killed your moose off, but I'm pretty confident that  
32 you've got a lot less moose than you had 10 or 15 years  
33 ago.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

36

37 MR. MOTO: On the State lands, what are  
38 being done with like when you see musk ox crippled and  
39 stuff, what do we do with them, you know. Especially if  
40 they come to our -- like earlier this year, we had a  
41 bunch of musk ox come to our village, into the graveyard,  
42 and knocking down those grave markers and stuff. What  
43 can we really do, you know, we -- we tried to chase them  
44 away, and they keep coming back. And then we had a  
45 number of our grave things knocked down, you know, and  
46 then finally a couple of guys got tired of seeing that,  
47 and they killed them. I was wondering, couldn't we have  
48 taken the meat to town and distributed it, or would you  
49 have to have a special permit, permission from you?

50

00132

1 MR. DAU: You have two questions. Your  
2 first question, what can you do about crippled musk ox.  
3 About three years ago I hired Tim Gavin and he killed the  
4 musk ox that had a broken leg. I paid him. He sent me  
5 the hide and the skull. He distributed the meat in  
6 Buckland.

7  
8 As far as what to do with musk ox in your  
9 graveyard, you do have to have a permit to kill them out  
10 of season. And when that happened last summer, we  
11 actually were in the process of issuing a permit, I think  
12 to Gibson and maybe one other person to kill those. The  
13 problem was somebody else in Deering went out and killed  
14 them before they got the permit. And one of the  
15 stipulations of the permit would have been to distribute  
16 the meat in the village, just like you said. That's what  
17 we wanted to happen. When this person did it illegally,  
18 other people went out there, they shoved them over the  
19 cliff. And that's not good for anybody. We were  
20 disappointed. I know the village was frustrated. If  
21 they could have just waited about four hours, it could  
22 have all been done legally and productively. It's really  
23 a shame it went the way it did.

24  
25 MR. MOTO: Do you have any special  
26 stipulation on wolf predation or how we could cut down on  
27 the wolves, or is there a bag limit, or there's some kind  
28 of thing we have to do?

29  
30 MR. DAU: With wolves right now, if you  
31 buy a trapping license for \$15, there's no limit. You  
32 can harvest as many wolves in the year as you can find.  
33 And you can either shoot them or you can trap them under  
34 the State side. Under hunting regulations, the  
35 regulations right now are pretty liberal compared to the  
36 rest of the State. You can kill 12 -- or 10 wolves a  
37 year. There's a proposal into the Board of Game to  
38 increase that. The Department's recommendation for the  
39 proposal is to not increase it as much as we originally  
40 wanted, but it would still increase it to 20 per year.  
41 Most hunters I know don't shoot 20 wolves on a hunting  
42 license a year.

43  
44 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

45  
46 MR. DAU: But anyway, I think wolf  
47 seasons and bag limits are pretty liberal right now.

48  
49 MR. MOTO: 'Cause we were never.....

50

00133

1 MR. DAU: Again, if you've got a trapping  
2 license, you can get as many as you find.

3  
4 MR. MOTO: Yeah, we were never clear on  
5 what we could do with them, you know. Whether we could  
6 go out just -- not go out killing indiscriminately, but,  
7 you know, just go out and get them for our stuff, you  
8 know.

9  
10 MR. SAMPSON: Well -- oh.

11  
12 MR. BALLOT: Last year you said the  
13 caribou were spread in four different areas. How are  
14 they now? We're wondering where the caribou are at in  
15 Buckland. We haven't seen.....

16  
17 MR. DAU: That's a good question.

18  
19 MR. BALLOT: .....what's going on with  
20 them.

21  
22 MR. DAU: This is the 25th consecutive  
23 unusual year of caribou migrations I think. That's what  
24 I tell everybody. It's been an odd -- it really has been  
25 an odd migration. They were about two or three weeks  
26 late coming off the North Slope. I almost postponed the  
27 Onion Portage collaring project, because I didn't think  
28 we'd have any caribou to collar. They came through --  
29 they started coming through at Onion Portage in big  
30 numbers around the 6th or the 7th of September, and I've  
31 never seen so many caribou cross the river in a one-week  
32 period as I did this year. Usually it's little bitty  
33 bunches, you know, three, five, maybe up to 20. This  
34 year we saw numerous groups of 300 to, you know, five or  
35 six or 700 caribou, and they blew across there for about  
36 eight or nine days, and then they stopped.

37  
38 There's a whole glug of them right now,  
39 they're spread from about the north fork of the Buckland  
40 River back to Purcell Mountains. Then there's another  
41 glug that starts in the headwaters of the Omar and the  
42 upper Squirrel. A big band of them that goes up through  
43 the Miyumrik Mountains over towards Red Dog, Kelly River.  
44 And then there's a few scattered ones we know that are up  
45 towards Cape Lisburne and Point Lay. And I think some of  
46 those are going to stay on the Slope.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more questions for  
49 the State, for Jim Dau?

50

00134

1 MR. SAMPSON: No, I'm just curious about  
2 what, you know, the State Game Board has been meeting in  
3 different regional centers, and this year, this is the  
4 second time that the State Game Board refused to come to  
5 Kotzebue. What was the justification?

6  
7 MR. DAU: This is a golden opportunity to  
8 get me fired, but I'm going to -- I'll tell you anyway.  
9 All of us in Region 5 disagreed strongly, and so did John  
10 Cody. Everybody we talked to thought this was the worst  
11 thing that the Board had done. One of the things that  
12 the Board has been doing right since they regionalized  
13 their regulatory approach, was to go meet in Nome and  
14 Bethel and Barrow. Two years they pulled out of here  
15 because they couldn't find a meeting place. The only  
16 place they could hold it was the armory, and it was tied  
17 up. This year it was based on money. They said, we  
18 can't afford to do this in Kotzebue, and they're doing it  
19 to save money. That's the story we got. And we got  
20 steamrolled by Juneau. We being our staff.

21  
22 So one of the things -- we had a joint  
23 advisory committee meeting back in July. Raymond was  
24 there and Enoch was there and others. One of the things  
25 that came out of that meeting was a resolution  
26 complaining about the Board of Game venue change, and it  
27 was very clear that all the ACs were unanimously opposed  
28 to that change. And they didn't change their mind.

29  
30 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Thanks, Jim.

31  
32 MR. BALLOT: Jim, one last question.  
33 What's the process to get our local advisory council  
34 back? Who would I talk to?

35  
36 MR. DAU: Charlie Gregg.

37  
38 MR. BALLOT: Charlie, okay.

39  
40 MR. DAU: And it shouldn't be hard at  
41 all. It's just a matter of holding a meeting and having  
42 elections.

43  
44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's what this is  
45 for, yeah.

46  
47 MR. SAMPSON: And making sure you're  
48 active. In order to have a good clout, you need to be  
49 real active in the advisory council.

50

00135

1 MR. DAU: Yeah.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more comments for  
6 Jim? Walt.

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: I guess, Jim, I want to  
9 thank you for your work in relationship with our  
10 communities throughout this region. I know you've always  
11 -- there's times when people call for some information,  
12 and you and your office have been very good in regard to  
13 responding to those requests, and I would thank you for  
14 doing that. And that relationship that you've  
15 established to work with -- working with our people is  
16 certainly something that not too many people establish.  
17 I think not too often you see people willing to even give  
18 up their own time to do other things that needs to be  
19 done to making sure that those issues that are critical  
20 are addressed, and I want to thank you for that type of  
21 relationship that you have with our people.

22

23 MR. DAU: Thank you, and.....

24

25 MR. SAMPSON: And you certainly have  
26 fulfilled more than what the State really should -- or  
27 should expect from you. And we want to thank you and  
28 recognize you for that relationship.

29

30 MR. DAU: Well, it's easy, because, you  
31 know, I can't do the job without you guys really, you  
32 know, and that's the way I feel about you guys. I've got  
33 the best people in the State to work with, so appreciate  
34 it, and it sounds like I should be retiring right now.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: No.

37

38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: No. Calvin.

39

40 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman, Jim, going down  
41 the same vein, you know, since you've been on, I think  
42 we've had better response from our biologists than any  
43 other biologist we've ever worked with in this region. I  
44 know that you have such a big area to cover a lot of  
45 times, but we appreciate the time that you have to come  
46 to our village and let us know things. But I wish you  
47 would let us know a week ahead of time sometimes, you  
48 know.

49

50 MR. DAU: Okay. Well, I'll be there

00136

1 sometime after next week.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: Jim, I'm not trying to  
6 encourage you to retire. It's just that I wanted to make  
7 sure that we recognize and publicly thank you for that  
8 relationship that you have with our people. Because I  
9 know personally there's times when things are pretty --  
10 issues are pretty touchy, to where people are getting  
11 hostile in some cases, that you put yourself to a  
12 position where you've established a good working  
13 relationship with people. And that type of a  
14 relationship that people establish, certainly you don't  
15 get too often. Your commitment, your time to this region  
16 certainly has been good. And you have another 50, 60  
17 years coming to you, so.....

18

19 ATTAMUK: Yeah.

20

21 MR. DAU: Well, thank you for the  
22 compliment.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: You'll probably be smoking  
25 a cigar like -- what's that old man that died two years  
26 ago? Woody or whatever his name is. But anyway, thank  
27 you.

28

29 MR. DAU: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

32

33 ATTAMUK: I just want to say like Walter  
34 said, to say thank you for what you do. And I always  
35 say, you know, when we have meeting with the State, that  
36 I'd rather see them retire or get rid of people  
37 administratively out of Anchorage and keep you on,  
38 because we could work with you. They don't know what's  
39 going on in Anchorage, or down in Juneau, you know. And  
40 when they say they're short of funding in the State, we  
41 could lay off some of those guys, or get rid of the  
42 Governor. Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

45

46 MR. BALLOT: Jim, I, too, want to thank  
47 you. (In Native).

48

49 MR. DAU: That's right.

50

00137

1 MR. BALLOT: And I suspect we'll be  
2 working more together.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Jim. Good  
5 report.

6  
7 MR. DAU: Thank you. And thank you for  
8 the compliments. I really appreciate that. Coming out  
9 of September, I'm usually kind of discouraged, but I  
10 really appreciate it. Thank you.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. On behalf  
13 of the RAC, I certainly want to thank the U.S. Fish and  
14 Wildlife Subsistence Management, the Selawik Wildlife  
15 Refuge, the National Park, BLM, and Alaska Department of  
16 Fish and Game. That was very, very excellent reports.  
17 Understandable. Thanks, again.

18  
19 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walt.

22  
23 MR. SAMPSON: One other item I didn't  
24 mean to leave out, but for Park Service, maybe Ken can  
25 answer to, you know, the situation that occurred I guess  
26 on the Noatak Flats. That's somebody that needs to look  
27 into. And maybe Willie can -- using trail stake and  
28 material for tent.

29  
30 MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
31 this is Willie. I did fly out with Buck. It was Buck's  
32 hunters that were there.

33  
34 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

35  
36 MR. GOODWIN: The plan is to -- the  
37 rangers will go out and put those stakes back.....

38  
39 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

40  
41 MR. GOODWIN: .....to the trail.

42  
43 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. Good. Thanks.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Now it's  
46 almost final here. The other report. Any other agencies  
47 got anything to report on? Any other agencies, any other  
48 reports? I guess none.

49  
50 Written report, informational items and

00138

1 Council members.

2

3 Other business. Then I would --

4 Michelle, we're waiting for establish time and place for  
5 the next meeting.

6

7 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Hawaii.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Michelle.

10

11 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, I've put some  
12 current calendars for the fall of 2004 in front of you.  
13 But before we get to that one, in the very back of your  
14 book you have the winter 2004 Regional Advisory Council  
15 meeting window, and the Council has selected February  
16 24th and 25th here in Kotzebue. And we just need to  
17 confirm that.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

20

21 MR. SAMPSON: February? February 24?

22

23 MS. CHIVERS: Um-hum. February 24th and  
24 25th.

25

26 MR. SAMPSON: I got the calendar only for  
27 October.

28

29 MS. CHIVERS: It's the last page in your  
30 book.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. You got it?

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: February. Wait a second.  
35 For some reason I always have to go to lot of meetings.  
36 I need to know. February.

37

38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: When is Federal  
39 Board meeting.

40

41 MR. SAMPSON: 24, 25.

42

43 MS. JOHNSON: February Kotzebue.

44

45 (Off record conversation)

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: 24, 25, you said?

48

49 MS. CHIVERS: Yes.

50

00139

1 ATTAMUK: When is the Federal Board  
2 meeting?

3  
4 MS. CHIVERS: It's May 18th through the  
5 20th.

6  
7 MR. MOTO: May 18, 19, 20th, 2004 it  
8 looks like. It says right there. Federal Subsistence  
9 Board.

10  
11 MS. JOHNSON: Subsistence Board,  
12 Anchorage, May 18/20.

13  
14 MR. SAMPSON: February 24, 25. 2004.  
15 I've got February 25th, RAC, Kotzebue. Wednesday. 24,  
16 25.

17  
18 MR. SAMPSON: Is that going to be here in  
19 Kotzebue?

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

22  
23 MR. SAMPSON: Which all you coordinate  
24 besides us?

25  
26 MS. CHIVERS: For this Council. Just me.

27  
28 MR. SAMPSON: Just you?

29  
30 MS. CHIVERS: Um-hum. (Affirmative).

31  
32 MR. SAMPSON: Just our -- you don't.....

33  
34 MS. CHIVERS: Oh, you're talking about  
35 which other Council do I coordinate?

36  
37 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, which other Councils  
38 to you.....

39  
40 MS. CHIVERS: Yeah. I also have the  
41 Kodiak/Aleutians Council, and that is scheduled.....

42  
43 MR. SAMPSON: You have Kodiak and  
44 Kotzebue?

45  
46 MS. CHIVERS: .....they haven't -- yeah,  
47 they haven't set a meeting date yet. They will be  
48 setting that on October 17th. We have a meeting in  
49 Anchorage on October 17th.

50

00140

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Calvin.

2

3 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair, I've got this  
4 directory here, on my phone number, it's not 2201, it's  
5 2244, in case you ever want to call me, it's 2244. The  
6 fax number is the same. I'll get the fax, because I  
7 usually work in the city office anyway.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Northwest Arctic.

12

13 MR. MOTO: Page 19. 2244.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You guys looking at the  
16 window? Enoch?

17

18 ATTAMUK: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, that's good, 24 and  
21 25 is good.

22

23 MS. JOHNSON: What's the traveling date?

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: 23.

26

27 MS. JOHNSON: 23.

28

29 ATTAMUK: 23, Monday.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: WE probably can skin a cat  
32 in one day.

33

34 (Miscellaneous conversation)

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You guys want to set  
37 the date for the fall meeting 2004.

38

39 ATTAMUK: It looks like they're preset  
40 for us. All they've got to do is ask us, how would the  
41 dates be.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: March 24 and 25.

44

45 MS. JOHNSON: February.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: February, I'm sorry.

48

49 ATTAMUK: February 24, 25.

50

00141

1 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move that  
2 we set our next Regional Advisory Council meeting for  
3 February 24 and 25.

4  
5 MS. JOHNSON: Second.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The motion has been  
8 made by Walter to next RAC meeting February 24 and 25, in  
9 Kotzebue. Here in Kotzebue?

10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: Kotzebue.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Kotzebue.

14  
15 MR. MOTO: Kotzebue.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yep. The motion's been  
18 made by Walter. Is there a second? It's been moved,  
19 seconded by Lillian.

20  
21 MS. JOHNSON: Yeah.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further discussions  
24 on our next meeting, February 25, 24 in Kotzebue?

25  
26 (No discussion)

27  
28 MR. MOTO: Question.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question's been  
31 called. All in favor of meeting February 24, 25, signify  
32 by saying aye.

33  
34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Next meeting February  
37 24, 25, 2004, Kotzebue. Okay. Item 14. May we hear it?

38  
39 ATTAMUK: Move.....

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Item number 14.....

42  
43 ATTAMUK: .....to adjourn.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: .....may we hear it?

46  
47 ATTAMUK: Move to adjourn.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Move to adjourn by  
50 Enoch at exactly 4:32. Adjourn.

00142

1 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, you still need  
2 to set a meeting date for the fall 2004, which is the  
3 loose calendar that I've given everybody.

4  
5 MR. SAMPSON: Oh, you want both? Fall,  
6 too?

7  
8 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, we want fall as well.  
9 And the meeting dates that have been selected so far is  
10 September 8th and 9th is North Slope in Barrow.  
11 September 22nd and 23rd, Seward Pen in Nome. And  
12 September 27th and 28th is Bristol Bay in Dillingham.  
13 And so the weeks that are completely open are the week of  
14 September 13th through the 17th, October 4th through the  
15 8th, and October 11th through the 15th.

16  
17 MR. SAMPSON: September's kind of hard  
18 for us to having meetings. Is there a way you could  
19 change it?

20  
21 ATTAMUK: October.

22  
23 MR. SAMPSON: October for -- it's really  
24 busy for some of us. I barely make this meeting. You  
25 know, and it's not going to change again for me next  
26 year.

27  
28 ATTAMUK: I had to travel down to come to  
29 this meeting.

30  
31 MS. JOHNSON: It's subsistence time for  
32 you.

33  
34 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, for us. Because our  
35 windows are different than the subsistence start from  
36 Southeast all the way north. Because your conflict with  
37 Bristol Bay, you said, so you shouldn't have to really  
38 worry about the other RAC boards, right?

39  
40 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, the reason we  
41 have to worry about the other councils when they meet is  
42 a lot of the team members overlap with this Council. We  
43 just need to make sure we're not overlapping with the  
44 team member that needs to travel to two different  
45 meetings at the same time. And so that's why we're  
46 looking at the meeting window that's open. And if you  
47 want some time in October, the meeting times that are  
48 open is October 4th through the 15th, if in October makes  
49 it easier for you.

50

00143

1 (Off record conversation regarding date)

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Could we communicate within  
4 the next two weeks on October 6 and 7?

5

6 MS. CHIVERS: Do you want to set that as  
7 a tentative date?

8

9 ATTAMUK: Yes.

10

11 MR. SAMPSON: Then we communicate back  
12 and forth, because I've got to look at my calendar and  
13 what -- September for me is really hard.

14

15 MS. CHIVERS: Okay. October 6th and 7th  
16 here in Kotzebue?

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yeah.

19

20 (Off record)

21

22 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, 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 02 through 143 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 2nd day of October 2003, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Kotzebue, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of October 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 □