

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME I

7
8 Kotzebue, Alaska
9 March 8, 2007
10 1:00 o'clock p.m.

11
12 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 13
14 Victor Karmun, Chairman
15 Robbie Everett
16 Percy C. Ballot, Sr.
17 Walter Sampson
18 Attamuk (Enoch Shiedt, Sr.)
19 Virgil Adams
20
21 Regional Council Coordinator, Michelle Chivers

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44 Recorded and transcribed by:
45
46 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
47 700 W. Second Avenue
48 Anchorage, AK 99501
49 907-243-0668
50 jpk@gci.net/sahile@gci.net

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

2

3 (On record - 1:00 p.m.)

4

5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, let's get this
6 meeting going on. We'll just call the roll and then
7 we'll have introductions. We need one more to have a
8 quorum. That particular individual is in town
9 somewhere. We can't locate him.

10

11 MS. CHIVERS: Okay, Mr. Chair. Percy
12 Ballot. (Arrives later) Ralph Ramoth. (No response)
13 Victor Karmun.

14

15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes.

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: Joe Arey. (No response)
18 I know Joe has already contacted the chair to let him
19 know that he will not be attending the meeting. He's
20 in Anchorage at a doctor's appointment. Raymond Stoney
21 is actually also in Anchorage in the hospital at this
22 point. Robbie Everett.

23

24 MR. EVERETT: Here.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: Walter Sampson.

27

28 MR. SAMPSON: (In Inupiat)

29

30 MS. CHIVERS: Attamuk.

31

32 ATTAMUK: Here.

33

34 MS. CHIVERS: Virgil Adams.

35

36 MR. ADAMS: Here.

37

38 MS. CHIVERS: Austin Swan. (No
39 response - unable to get a flight out) Mr. Chair, at
40 this point we do not have a quorum. I guess we can
41 continue through the agenda, although we cannot take
42 action on any of these items. I guess we could wait
43 for Austin to come in. At this point we can just hear
44 the reports. That way the Council is getting
45 information and then if he shows up then we can
46 actually go back and take action on those items that
47 are action items.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: If we should go
50 through the process of listening to reports and need to

1 get down to the point of taking action, do those same
2 reports have to be given to those that are not here
3 before the action is taken?

4
5 MS. CHIVERS: At least one more person
6 would need to hear it, so we have a minimum of six
7 voting on that action item.

8
9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What I'm getting at
10 is re-work. I guess double reporting is what I'm
11 getting at. If we have to get the report now and have
12 to give another report to make sure the individual that
13 will be voting gets the report, that's what I'm getting
14 at.

15
16 MS. CHIVERS: That is correct.

17
18 MR. SAMPSON: We can hear the
19 proposals, reports and everything to take action. If
20 we have to, we can do it by teleconference at a
21 prescribed date. We can't take action without a
22 quorum. We can listen to them.

23
24 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I understand we can't
25 take action without a quorum. What I'm getting at is
26 trying to get a double dose of reports. You know, you
27 listen to the reports now. Because somebody else is
28 missing, once we establish a quorum, then we have to
29 listen to the reports again.

30
31 MS. AYRES: This is Lee Anne Ayres with
32 Selawik Refuge. I guess I'd be happy to propose that
33 our Staff reports we can go ahead with since they're
34 typically not -- I don't think any of them pertain to
35 any of the proposals or business at hand for the board.

36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's have
38 introductions for right now. Go ahead, Walter, start.

39
40 MR. SAMPSON: Walter Sampson, Kotzebue.

41
42 MR. EVERETT: Robbie Everett, Kotzebue.

43
44 ATTAMUK: Attamuk, Kotzebue.

45
46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Victor Karmun,
47 Kotzebue.

48
49 MR ADAMS: Virgil Adams, Noatak.

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council
2 coordinator.

3
4 MR. RISDAHL: Greg Risdahl, Anchorage.

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. We'll
7 have to bypass the election of officers, vice chair,
8 secretary. I guess we can start here in Staff reports
9 and see what goes on there.

10
11 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, actually, if
12 you want to go ahead and start with item number seven,
13 which is Council Member reports, we can actually go
14 through those and we can hear the issues in those areas
15 if you want to start with that.

16
17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay.

18
19 MS. CHIVERS: That way we get the
20 reports from the regions before they have to leave.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: About 10 to 2:00 I'd like
23 to be excused for about half an hour for a special
24 meeting with the borough. So about 10 to 2:00 I'd like
25 to be excused for half hour or so.

26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Very well. Walter,
28 start your report, please.

29
30 MR. SAMPSON: My report? What are we
31 reporting on?

32
33 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Just Council Member.
34 Whatever happened this winter.

35
36 MR. SAMPSON: Oh, okay. I guess first
37 of all I want to say that when I received a letter from
38 the Department of Interior I was surprised to find out
39 that I was appointed to this body, to the Regional
40 Advisory Council. If you remember last year I argued
41 the point of how reappointments and how appointments
42 were made. At that point in time, I don't know who
43 submitted my name, I didn't have my name submitted,
44 somebody had to have submitted my name or Michelle did.
45 Anyway, I'm here for a year, I guess.

46
47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Welcome aboard.

48
49 MR. EVERETT: Welcome to Walter and
50 Virgil. I want to complain about the bad snow

1 conditions for the last few weeks. That's been
2 miserable.

3

4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Tell the Park Service
5 that.

6

7 MR. EVERETT: I know it. We've got to
8 get something done there. It's been a good winter.
9 Had the opportunity to get out to camp several times
10 with my kids and that's been great. Just happy to be
11 here.

12

13 ATTAMUK: Afternoon, everyone.
14 Attamuk. A few calls I get from people, they were
15 worried about the condition of the snow, rain, what the
16 caribou is going to do. Their main concern is the
17 caribou. For a while here at fall time they were
18 pretty plentiful around Kotzebue and they moved toward
19 Buckland. Buckland and Deering is getting a lot of
20 reindeer, mixed caribou with reindeer and their weather
21 is just the same as ours. When you go out to the
22 mountains like I did, it's not as it is here in town.
23 There's no ice on top. I checked different places.
24 This is toward Noatak. The caribou they were getting
25 is pretty much they're decent and fat, but that's
26 early. Like my boys get that nice, fat caribou, the
27 ones they get back here when they were crossing.

28

29 Rabbits were coming back till after
30 this. They were around my cabin, a couple places at
31 the Noatak and after this rain and everything I don't
32 think some of them could come out. Their tracks
33 weren't as plentiful. So we'll check on them later.
34 There's a lot of ptarmigans. Everything else is
35 plentiful besides everybody is worried about the
36 caribou. A lot of caribou towards Shungnak. I get a
37 call from Kobuk and Shungnak saying they're getting fat
38 caribou up there. So I don't know what happened. The
39 last call I got was about five weeks ago. Otherwise,
40 everything is fine here.

41

42 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Victor Karmun here.
43 After the warm weather I went to Krusenstern and saw a
44 female polar bear with two cubs that to me were
45 exceptionally small. I guess the warm weather melted
46 her den away or something, but she had to come out.
47 Anyway, she was up on top of the ice and I was
48 wondering how come this animal was acting very
49 peculiar. She knew where I was. I knew she saw me,
50 but she wouldn't budge. Finally these little, little

1 critters -- I don't know if they made it through this
2 last storm or if they're even going to survive the
3 winter because talking with the other polar bear guys
4 from Barrow, St. Lawrence Island, Diomedes, Wainwright,
5 actually she had to come out of her den about a month
6 and a half early, so I don't know. There's a lot of
7 food for her out there. There's lots of food. I'll be
8 going back out. I'd sure like to see her again anyway.
9 Outside of that, caribou, I got two in January that
10 were in real good shape. That's about it. Thank you.

11
12 MR. ADAMS: I'm Virgil Adams from
13 Noatak. I, too, like Walter, I don't know how I got
14 myself into this. I just got a letter from Fish and
15 Game saying that I was in the Council. Talking with
16 Chivers, she kind of gave me a heads up on what they go
17 through. I look forward to working with you guys and
18 sharing what we've got up in Noatak and what's going on
19 there. I guess I'm working with Joe Arey.

20
21 December I got some caribou up by
22 Kivalina and they were in pretty good shape also. I
23 guess last year I heard from Noatak people in doing all
24 the fishing and stuff it's been really slow this year
25 with the trout. On a good day, on a low pressure day,
26 they'll catch a few. I look forward to working with
27 you guys.

28
29 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. In response
30 to both Walter and Virgil, you can nominate -- somebody
31 can nominate you as well, so that might be the case
32 that happened in both instances and when they called to
33 interview you, they probably asked to see if you'd like
34 to be on the Council and then just begin the interview
35 process. So, in effect, somebody did submit your name.
36 We're happy that you did. Whoever did, that's good
37 they did. We need people on the Council, so welcome.

38
39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We can take Staff
40 comments or public testimony.

41
42 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I'd just
43 remind the audience that we do have these testimony
44 forms on the back table if you would like to testify.
45 I don't see anybody from the public. They're mostly
46 agency folks here. But if you would like to testify,
47 you're more than welcome to fill out a form and
48 testify. Thank you.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The only one I

1 thought that would testify is not here would be Caleb
2 Pungowiyi. He's got a proposal in here, but evidently
3 he's over at the school.

4

5 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I did hear
6 from Caleb. He sent me an e-mail stating that he was
7 going to be unable to attend the meeting, so within
8 each of your blue packets I did put a copy of his
9 letter regarding his proposal. When we get to that
10 proposal, I'll go ahead and read it into the record.
11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. The next
14 one then would be introduction of proposals and
15 analysis.

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: You could have Agency
18 reports.

19

20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay, thank you. We
21 can do that.

22

23 MR. SNOW: Mr. Chair, Council Members.
24 Patrick Snow, assistant manager of Selawik National
25 Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I'd
26 like to give a summary report of some of the permit
27 activities and law enforcement activities that happened
28 on the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge in the year of
29 2006 and some of our plans for 2007.

30

31 Permitted activities on the Selawik
32 Refuge, air taxi operator and transporter activities,
33 the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge issued eight
34 special use permits to air transporters and air taxi
35 operators. Activities by non-local, non-resident
36 hunters on the refuge were lower in 2006 than in recent
37 past seasons. I believe you all have a chart that I'd
38 given you that shows it's down to about 58 hunters on
39 the refuge this past year reported by the operators.
40 The refuge's largest air tax transporter for the past
41 several seasons was restricted largely to wheel landing
42 sites in 2006.

43

44 Guiding services. There were no
45 reported guiding activities on the refuge in 2006. The
46 permitted large game guide, who had been operating on
47 the refuge for the past several years sent a formal
48 letter to withdraw his services from the refuge. We
49 are currently taking applications for a competitive
50 process to determine who will be awarded the area in

1 his stead. The end date for having applications is
2 April 20.

3
4 Law enforcement activities. The
5 Selawik Refuge and surrounding areas had a large law
6 enforcement presence from late August until the end of
7 September of 2006. The refuge provided logistical
8 support to State and Federal officers. Fish and
9 Wildlife Service efforts consisted of three officers
10 performing patrols and float equipped planes and one
11 officer performing ramp checks at the airport. From
12 these efforts, 2,200 contacts were made and two camps
13 were observed where contact was unsuccessful. Five
14 violations were issued, one for transfer of antlers
15 before meat, one for hunting without a license, two for
16 not having metal locking tags and one air taxi operator
17 violation for violating conditions of his special use
18 permit, which was operating without insurance, and
19 that's still pending.

20
21 For the 2007 hunting season we plan on
22 coordinating with the State law enforcement officials,
23 as we have in the past. We have a Federal officer
24 scheduled to perform airport inspections on the ramp
25 here in Kotzebue. We are planning on scheduling an
26 officer to perform boat patrols along the Selawik River
27 drainage in addition to our usual aircraft float plane
28 patrols.

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any
31 questions from the Council Members. Walter.

32
33 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Snow, for
34 your report. In regard to analysis, how often are
35 analyses done before any permits are issued to guides
36 or those interest groups?

37
38 MR. SNOW: The air taxi operator and
39 transporter permits are provided on a yearly basis and
40 those are non-competitive. We don't really have
41 control over how many permits we give. We just
42 basically make sure that they have the proper
43 credentials to work on the refuge in accordance with
44 the State and Federal aviations regulations or any
45 other transporter regulations that might be out there.
46 If they have all the credentials and they don't have
47 any past violations, then we issue them a permit. The
48 guiding activities occur every five to 10 years. It's
49 basically a five-year permit and a five-year renewal.
50 So once a person has competitively applied and have

1 been awarded a guide area when there's only one on the
2 refuge, then the permit is good for five years and if
3 they have a good record, then it's renewed for another
4 five years before there's another competitive process.
5 Unless, of course, they have some sort of violation, in
6 which case their permit could be pulled. Does that
7 answer your question?

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: I guess maybe I didn't
10 quite ask the right question. What I was getting at
11 was, you know, the State of Alaska goes through its
12 process on an annual basis. For every so many years
13 they do surveys to make sure that resource is there and
14 that's what I considered I guess analysis of resources
15 within the refuge system before any permits are issued
16 to guides or transporters or whomever.

17

18 MR. SNOW: In that case, you're talking
19 about the wildlife population analysis to determine if
20 the game populations are adequate. We do have studies
21 almost every spring that we coordinate with the State
22 on as well as State caribou studies as well as moose.
23 I don't know who does the bear studies. The Park
24 Service has some studies, but I don't know if it's in
25 the guiding area. We usually use State and Federal
26 analyses that are usually done annually for moose and
27 caribou.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: So resource analysis on
30 an annual basis. You use pretty much what the State of
31 Alaska uses in regards to doing survey. Is there any
32 other methods or means of doing surveys other than how
33 the State does its survey?

34

35 MR. SNOW: I believe the moose survey
36 is a cooperative effort. The caribou surveys I'd have
37 to refer to the biologist standing next to me for help
38 on that.

39

40 MS. MORAN: Fish and Game is the one
41 that deals with the surveys of the caribou. We donate
42 collars for the collaring effort, which they also use,
43 but Fish and Game is what does the surveys right now.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I guess I
46 do have a problem with that. You're not the State of
47 Alaska. You're a Federal government. Your
48 responsibility is to do your research, do your surveys
49 under the Federal law. You don't have to go depending
50 on what the State provides for you. It's the Federal

1 government that is in charge or has the responsibility
2 in managing resource within Federal lands. The way
3 you're telling me is that you're using State work to do
4 what you're doing within the Federal lands.

5
6 MS. MORAN: We're just pooling our
7 resources to make sure that we're covering everything.
8 We have limited people, but it's also good to work with
9 other agencies and to provide more information about a
10 larger area. So we're not shirking our
11 responsibilities, we're just working together
12 cooperatively to get the best information that we can
13 get for the populations.

14
15 MR. SAMPSON: Just the way you stated
16 that, it sounded like the State of Alaska is doing the
17 work for you and you're using the State's information,
18 is basically what you said.

19
20 MR. SNOW: Patrick Snow. We actually
21 coordinate -- in some cases, with the moose surveys,
22 we'll have both Federal pilots and State pilots and
23 locally-hired pilots and observers for that survey.
24 The types of surveys are agreed upon by both agencies.

25
26 MR. SAMPSON: I guess, Mr. Chairman,
27 the reason why I'm raising these points is that once
28 you start relying on State surveys on State plans or
29 whatever they may be, it's not Federal management any
30 longer. It's State management is basically what you're
31 doing. When you're mandated by Federal law to manage
32 the resource within Federal lands and that's the point
33 I was trying to get at.

34
35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter, I appreciate
36 your concern, but I've sat in the back seat of a Super
37 Cub for many hours counting whatever terrestrial
38 animals in and around the region and I know the
39 coordination between the Feds and the State use the
40 same methods. Each one is allotted a certain area.
41 When you go fly those grids or whatever, and this is
42 where some of the questions come from. You extrapolate
43 from those grids you fly and you compare them. But
44 each organization, whether it be the U.S. Fish and
45 Wildlife, State Fish and Game, National Park Service or
46 what, just like I said, they do pool their resources
47 but they all use the same method. Basically the
48 results are going to be the same no matter who flies
49 that grid. Thank you.

50

1 Any more questions?
2
3 MR. EVERETT: Question.
4
5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yeah.
6
7 MR. EVERETT: Robbie Everett. I just
8 noticed that your numbers of transporters have remained
9 pretty consistent but the number of hunters since the
10 year 2000 at the high point has dropped about 100. The
11 percentage of moose being harvested per hunter is
12 higher. Did I hear that you said currently there are
13 no transporters scheduled for next year or did you say
14 a guide? I misheard that.
15
16 MR. SNOW: At this point both the
17 transporter and the guide applications are open. A
18 guide application is a competitive permit that lasts
19 five to 10 years. The air taxi transporter permits are
20 done annually and they're both open. The transporter
21 applications close on March 15. We've gotten three so
22 far. The transporter applications are being sent to
23 the regional office where they'll be analyzed. I
24 expect to have probably the same amount of air
25 transporter, taxi operators on the refuge this coming
26 year. If not, maybe one or two less.
27
28 MR. SAMPSON: On the activity report
29 there under moose, are those the numbers that were
30 taken, moose numbers taken or what?
31
32 MR. SNOW: Yes, sir. They are the
33 reported moose numbers taken by hunters by the
34 transporters.
35
36 MR. SAMPSON: Do you have any report
37 regards to what the numbers with regards to moose may
38 be within the refuge?
39
40 MR. SNOW: Not the total numbers by all
41 the hunters. These were just reports given by the air
42 taxi operators and transporters and these were the
43 moose.
44
45 MR. SAMPSON: Do we have any numbers on
46 the moose population within the refuge?
47
48 MS. MORAN: I don't have those numbers
49 with me right now. We gave a report on our last survey
50 last spring at the fall and it should be within the

1 minutes, but I can get those numbers to you after the
2 meeting.

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: If I may, Mr. Chairman,
5 I'd like to ask for the reports, at least for the last
6 four or five years of moose within the refuge.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. So
9 noted.

10

11 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I have a question.
12 Your outfitters that drop off the hunters, you guys
13 control those. I know people in our region are being
14 impacted just by transporters dropping off hunters.
15 The word of mouth going around is that it's cheaper to
16 go out without a guide and just go out and get dropped
17 off and harvest their caribou and their moose. If you
18 really talk to the people from Selawik, and that's your
19 refuge, and I wish you would have more people up there
20 during the fall when they're being impacted, and I
21 think that's where we're trying to come from. Our
22 people are being impacted and we live here and we have
23 to survive just on what we take and yet on your surveys
24 here I think the numbers are wrong. Just the migration
25 of caribou just fall time just by outsiders being
26 impacted and there's a lot of meat. When we check fall
27 time, I wish someone would have the time to go check
28 the airport. There's so much antlers leaving here
29 versus meat. There's a lot of waste going on. Yet us
30 Natives will get cited if we just waste even when we
31 try to call.

32

33 I'll give you an example. Same problem
34 we have in Aggie River right next to my camp.
35 Transporters and outfitters dropping off hunters. I
36 went to a meeting about two years ago for the Park
37 Service when I was working for Maniilaq. They were
38 working on the ecosystem, the Federal. They had about
39 30 scientists. I was the only Native there. Yet when
40 I put the list of the transporters and outfitters being
41 dropped off by hunters came in high numbers to study
42 because they do damage the land. They've seen this is
43 Yellowstone how much outsiders could hurt our land.

44

45 Like I told you last fall, this is the
46 first year I just pick a bag of trash from Aggie. I
47 always pick well more than that. We saw some hunters
48 there. Just think how much they are on the other side
49 towards Selawik because we know they are getting a lot
50 because they do complain. Not only that, Buckland is

1 feeling it, and they're not here. I wish they were
2 here. That's what I really worry about. I know
3 Selawik is not toward Noatak, but they get hurt and we
4 need to watch this.

5
6 MR. SNOW: Thank you, Attamuk. We did
7 contact the Native Village of Selawik and asked them
8 what information we might be able to pass on to the
9 transporters. I ended up sending to every transporter
10 a map of the areas that were traditionally used so that
11 they could avoid them. I've circled them in red. Also
12 issued them a map of red marked Native allotments,
13 Native lands to keep the user conflicts down as much as
14 possible. I'd be happy to entertain any suggestions or
15 ideas that you might have for further mediating the
16 conflict. This year that's what we had done. If
17 anyone would like a copy of what I did send out to the
18 transporters as far as mitigation, I can sure provide
19 that to them.

20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Walter.

22
23 MR. SAMPSON: I just want to follow up
24 with Attamuk. He just reminded me that last fall
25 during fall hunt I got a couple telephone calls from
26 Selawik. When the first batch of caribou herd started
27 to migrate south, there was a bunch of boats from
28 Selawik that were up the Selawik River. By the time
29 they get to an area to wait for caribou, there's some
30 aircrafts that were making some low passes apparently.
31 All I could do was refer them to your office here in
32 Kotzebue. From there what happened I don't know. But
33 I did get a couple calls on caribou hunting.

34
35 You know, price of fuel is almost \$8 a
36 gallon. That's pretty pricey for fuel. In order to
37 get food on the table, you have no choice but to find a
38 way to purchase fuel to do subsistence. Based on that
39 and based on what other interest groups are doing, then
40 there's got to be some sort of a scheme to make sure
41 that competition is not really in place. I mean you
42 can spot animals from the air better than from the boat
43 and sometimes you have people that will -- I hate to
44 use the word harass. I guess harass the animal to try
45 to push them to their hunters. I think we also need to
46 watch that. I'm just talking based on what the folks
47 in Selawik reported and called in last fall.

48
49 MR. SNOW: Thank you, Mr. Sampson.
50 Patrick Snow, Fish and Wildlife. We do get an

1 occasional comment. We try to encourage people to get
2 the color and number. I know it's difficult sometimes
3 to get M numbers, especially with the ones that have
4 been around for a while. They can have those three-
5 inch numbers rather than the bigger numbers painted on
6 the side. Where they were at, how low they were
7 flying. We very seldom, if ever, get a call with that
8 kind of information, so it's difficult to find the
9 people responsible. But we have that concern as well.
10 I know the Big Game Commercial Services Board has been
11 looking into that more recently too. They just based a
12 regulation that addresses that as well. Thanks for
13 sharing.

14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Virgil Adams, do you
16 have any questions.

17
18 MR. ADAMS: No.

19
20 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: National Park
21 Service.

22
23 MS. MORAN: Actually.....

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Oh, excuse me.

26
27 MS. MORAN: This is Tina Moran, the
28 wildlife biologist for Selawik Refuge. I just wanted
29 to give an overview of some of the projects that we've
30 completed and will be hoping to do in the future just
31 to give the Council an update on what we're doing.

32
33 First off, this spring, starting March
34 16th of this year, we're going to be doing a moose
35 survey. Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, ELM
36 and Fish and Game will cooperatively conduct a spring
37 moose survey. The survey will encompass the entire
38 Selawik River drainage, the Tag River, Kauk River,
39 southern portion of the Waring Mountains, the western
40 portion of the Purcell Mountains and the Selawik Hills.
41 We'll present the results at the fall RAC meeting.

42
43 As far as fisheries, last fall we
44 received a report from sport hunters catching numerous
45 sheefish on the Tag River on the Selawik Refuge. This
46 report was kind of confusing for us because we assumed
47 and local residents of Selawik assumed that sheefish do
48 not use the Tag River drainage. This report sparked
49 our curiosity and the refuge and the Fairbanks
50 Fisheries office staff planned to deploy 30 radio

1 transmitters into sheefish on the Tag River this
2 September.

3
4 The goals of this project are to verify
5 the presence of sheefish in the Tag River and to
6 monitor their movements over the next five to seven
7 years. This will allow us to determine if sheefish are
8 spawning in the Tag River. If we determine that
9 sheefish are spawning in the Tag River, we can identify
10 the spawning grounds and develop further investigations
11 if necessary.

12
13 Fish and Game, in cooperation with the
14 Fish and Wildlife Service and Park Service, are
15 proposing to deploy radio transmitters in sheefish on
16 the Kobuk River, upstream from Kobuk, in 2008 through
17 2009. The goal of this project is to pinpoint spawning
18 areas for Kobuk River sheefish stock, identify spawning
19 frequency and spawning timing. This project will use
20 the same methods used by Fish and Wildlife Service
21 during the 2004-2005 Selawik River sheefish project and
22 the 2007 Tag River sheefish project that I just talked
23 about. Fish and Wildlife Service is submitting an FIS
24 proposal for this project.

25
26 I think we've mentioned before that
27 last year we participated in a pike contaminant study.
28 We cooperated with Angela Matz with Ecological Services
29 in Fairbanks to collect pike from seven sites
30 throughout the region to test for methyl mercury
31 levels. The sites includes three sites in the Selawik
32 River delta, one site near Kiana, one near Noorvik, one
33 near Noatak and one near Buckland. We contracted with
34 several of these villages to collect the pike
35 themselves. The final report is due this spring.
36 We're anxiously waiting for that. The results will be
37 distributed when we receive them. We're hoping to
38 actually go out to some of those villages to personally
39 give that report as well.

40
41 2006 was the final year for the radio
42 telemetry tracking effort of humpback and broad
43 whitefish tagged in the Selawik River delta between
44 2004 and 2005. We had some interesting findings in the
45 fall of 2005 and again fall of 2006. We found several
46 broad whitefish that were tagged in the Selawik River
47 delta all the way up the Kobuk River in October of 2005
48 and 2006. Broad whitefish spawning behavior in the
49 Selawik River has been a mystery to us since we began
50 radio tracking effort in 2004. We were unable to

1 pinpoint a specific spawning area. Our findings lead
2 us to believe that broad whitefish in the region may
3 use multiple drainages in the region for fall spawning
4 and summer feeding.

5
6 We are currently working on a study
7 plan to replicate our Selawik River radio-tracking
8 effort in the Kobuk River to determine to what extent
9 whitefish spawning in the Kobuk River are using river
10 drainages in the region. A final report of the 2004 to
11 2006 Selawik River delta whitefish radio-tracking
12 project should be concluded by late fall and we'll have
13 that available.

14
15 Finally, we will continue to do bird
16 flu projects this summer. Just found out today that
17 they're 99 percent sure we'll get the funding, so
18 that's pretty much a given. I think we'll continue
19 doing some bird flu projects. Last year we did swans
20 and pintail ducks. It looks like we'll be doing those
21 same two projects again this year. The results came in
22 a little bit after the RAC meeting in the fall.
23 Hopefully you all know by now we did not find the H5N1
24 virus in any of the birds in Alaska or North America.

25
26 This is just a little more information
27 on the bird flu projects. There is a statewide report
28 that came out that includes all the projects done in
29 Alaska and it's available on the Web, but if you would
30 like a hard copy, just contact me and I can get you a
31 hard copy of it.

32
33 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
34 be excused for at least half an hour to 45 minutes.
35 I'd also like to request Park Service and BLM also give
36 us their survey reports for the last five years so we
37 can see some comparison in regards to moose within
38 their areas.

39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

41
42 MS. MORAN: Are there any questions on
43 any of those projects or any other fish and game
44 population issues that you have?

45
46 ATTAMUK: You said you didn't find out
47 where the whitefish were spawning in that Selawik area?

48
49 MS. MORAN: Nate Olson is actually the
50 one that was doing the project and I was just giving

1 his report. If you have any specific questions that I
2 can't answer, I can get back to you on that.

3

4 ATTAMUK: Usually, when the leaves
5 first start falling, the smaller whitefish are almost
6 ready. Within three weeks they usually lay. The
7 leaves, after they start falling, the (Native names for
8 the fish) start spawning. This is what I know when I
9 grew up in Noatak. We used to watch the leaves real
10 close to try to get them just before they spawn. But
11 let me tell you one thing. I think times are changing,
12 the weather is changing, temperature is changing, and
13 the temp has a lot to do with it.

14 Last summer the water was a lot warmer
15 below Noatak than upper Noatak for some reason when I
16 check it last year and I lost my meter to check it. I
17 sent it out to Anchorage to have it fixed so I could
18 check it and that's how we used to know at Noatak. So
19 you might use that for past reference because we need
20 this information where they spawn. If you were in
21 Noatak, I'd tell you where they spawn. It might be a
22 little bit different than Selawik because they've got
23 so many lakes.

24

25 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. A question
26 for Ms. Moran. Interested in your methyl mercury
27 studies in pike. Were those pike tissue biopsies done
28 by local residents that caught them participating or
29 were those all caught by agency employees? Just
30 curious about how some of that data was collected.

31

32 MS. MORAN: Sure. Yeah, we worked
33 really closely with the villages. We had a specific
34 methodology that we were given by ecological services,
35 so it was very specific and a lot of the folks were
36 trained that way. The aim was to hit subsistence
37 areas. That's why we were targeting folks that were
38 subsistence fishing for pike. We were going for just
39 15 fish per site and we wanted the whole fish, so
40 basically they catch the whole fish and then freeze it
41 and then they'd ship it to us and then we shipped it to
42 Fairbanks for analysis. So the whole fish was taken.
43 There were no tissues taken individually from the fish
44 at the site. They were sent for analysis in Fairbanks.
45 Does that answer your question?

46

47 MR. EVERETT: Yes.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Virgil, any
50 questions. Would that be your report?

1 MS. MORAN: That's my report.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. National
4 Park Service.

5

6 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
7 Park Service. Mr. Chair, Council Members. Let me
8 begin by just kind of giving you a brief synopsis of
9 our current staffing situation for Western Arctic
10 National Parklands, which will have some potential
11 impact on our operations. Currently we're down three
12 law enforcement commissioned officer positions,
13 including one ranger pilot. We're going to be
14 recruiting and attempting to fill the pilot position
15 and at least one of those ranger positions. That's the
16 chief ranger. We're also down essentially a wildlife
17 biologist and a subsistence fisheries biologist and
18 we're going to be restructuring that position to
19 combine some of the functions and add some other duties
20 and hopefully that position will be announced in the
21 near future and will probably be duty stationed, we
22 hope, in Kotzebue. So that's our current staffing
23 situation.

24

25 On the pilot, we'll probably not get
26 that position filled, unfortunately, this summer, but
27 we will hopefully get some assistance from the Office
28 of Aircraft Services in the form of a seasonal pilot.
29 So, depending upon how the ranger positions go, we may
30 be doing fairly well, especially coming the fall.
31 Superintendent Helfrich provided you at the last
32 meeting information on our increased monitoring of
33 transporter activities in the Noatak area especially.
34 That was very successful. It was an interagency effort
35 using standardized information collection forms and so
36 forth in cooperation with the State Troopers and Fish
37 and Wildlife Service and BLM. Hopefully that will
38 continue and we utilized an additional law enforcement
39 ranger for that on a detail from outside and we'll
40 probably do that again, advertise for a detail position
41 during the hunting season as well as try to augment the
42 Staff here perhaps from the Bering Land Bridge National
43 Preserve. So that's the staffing picture.

44

45 As far as the wildlife activities go,
46 basically, as I indicated, we're down some positions
47 but we're still being fairly active. We've got plans
48 this year for a population count of the Krusenstern
49 muskoxen. Unfortunately, we may not pull that one off.
50 It was scheduled for a couple weeks ago and it's being

1 pushed back further and further and I'm not sure that
2 we're not going to run out of time on that one. We
3 still have scheduled a composition work study for the
4 Krusenstern muskoxen.

5
6 This weekend we're supposed to begin
7 participating on the Seward Peninsula on a multi-agency
8 biannual count for the Seward Peninsula muskoxen. We
9 still have plans to do sheep work in the Bairds,
10 cooperate with the other agencies, including Fish and
11 Wildlife for the Selawik moose project and we'll
12 probably also be doing something on brown bears and
13 perhaps also dall sheep somewhere within the broader
14 reach and including part of the Brooks Range. We
15 haven't settled yet on where the bear project is going
16 to go. We are looking forward, I think, to increased
17 bear work in the northwest area, especially the Noatak
18 area, but we don't have any immediate plans for that.

19
20 So that's pretty much the work that
21 we've got laid out for this coming year. Also we're
22 making progress in the inventory and monitoring
23 program. We're working currently on identification.
24 We've got the actual vital signs that we'll be
25 monitoring and identifying. We're now working on
26 standardized protocols of how we're going to monitor
27 those vital signs. Brown bears and caribou are very
28 likely going to receive a good deal of attention, but I
29 can't tell you what those studies will look like and
30 how the monitoring efforts are going to really look
31 right now because we're still working on identifying
32 and working out the protocols for how we're going to do
33 them.

34
35 Hopefully, whatever we involve
36 ourselves with in caribou will augment whatever work
37 the State is already undertaking with caribou. Caribou
38 is such an important resource in the area and there's
39 so many other questions related to it than simply the
40 numbers that we get from the periodic photosynthesis
41 and stuff that are conducted that we feel it may be
42 necessary to put additional resources into aspects of
43 monitoring caribou.

44
45 We're also actually just wrapping up
46 the field work for a major baseline harvest study in
47 Kiana. Actually the field work was just recently
48 completed and the data analysis is beginning to be
49 undertaken, data entry data analysis. That's one of
50 our major baseline surveys that is a comprehensive

1 resource survey as well as socioeconomic data, similar
2 to what we've done in the past in, say, Shungnak, in
3 Buckland, in Deering and in Shishmaref and then Wales.

4
5 The other thing, I guess, and George
6 can talk about that, is our efforts to deal with the
7 transporter issue. Last year when George talked to you
8 he presented the results of our monitoring for the
9 transporter activities in the Noatak. Basically what
10 we found was an increase in numbers. Probably a pretty
11 substantial increase. Our approach to managing
12 transporters was questioned through the adequacy of our
13 810 subsistence impact analysis, which was last done as
14 part of the original Noatak General Management Plan.
15 In the process of trying to work through whether we
16 were going to do another 810 on the transporters, it
17 became pretty clear that we had larger problems facing
18 us, so we've changed the scope of that to begin
19 thinking in terms of a commercial services plan to deal
20 with transporters. I'll let George speak to that.

21
22 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, Ken. Mr.
23 Karmun.

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Good afternoon.

26
27 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you. I wish that
28 Mr. Sampson were still here. I'd explain that the
29 National Park Service is only responsible for snow in
30 good snow years. We can't take any responsibility for
31 bad snow years.

32
33 When I had the opportunity to speak to
34 the RAC last fall, I spoke in some detail about our
35 programs in 2006, particularly in regard to our law
36 enforcement program, our protection program, so I won't
37 go back over that material unless one of the members is
38 interested in that. Instead I'll focus on 2007.

39
40 As Mr. Adkisson explained, we have
41 quite a bit of natural resource survey work scheduled.
42 Muskoxen, sheep, moose, caribou, either on the parks or
43 on the surrounding lands. We're very pleased with the
44 cooperation with the other Federal agencies and with
45 the State on carrying out that survey work.

46
47 Also we are continuing our study of
48 lead, zinc and vegetation along the road between Red
49 Dog Mine and the port site. It's clear that lead and
50 zinc are being deposited in the vegetation, probably by

1 dust coming off of the trucks. What we are looking at
2 now is whether that lead and zinc is actually being
3 taken up by the vegetation, getting into the vegetation
4 and then perhaps into the food chain.

5
6 As far as our protection program, just
7 like last year we're going to have rangers out in the
8 field by boat, plane, helicopter and on foot and we
9 want to make sure that transporters are complying with
10 the law and within the terms and conditions of their
11 permit and that hunters are adhering to State law
12 regarding sport hunting. Also conducting themselves
13 ethically; not leaving trash, for example, Mr. Karmun,
14 in the field.

15
16 We're going to have a very active
17 interpretation program this year. Interpretation, in
18 Park Service language, is actually about education. We
19 have our education and interpretation center up on
20 Second Street and we had four rangers in there last
21 year working primarily with children and young adults.
22 One of those four rangers was a young woman from
23 Kotzebue named Missy Tabor. She did an excellent job
24 for us. I'm only sorry to say that Missy can't come
25 back this year. But we do hope to hire at least one or
26 two people from either Kotzebue or one of the other
27 villages for those interpretation positions.

28
29 Ken spoke to our staffing situation.
30 Mr. Karmun, he mentioned that we are going to be hiring
31 a biologist to be duty stationed here in Kotzebue. You
32 brought that up, I believe, the last RAC meeting and
33 also the last SRC chairs meeting. We couldn't agree
34 more that we need to have a biologist duty stationed
35 here in Kotzebue, so we will be hiring for that
36 position.

37
38 Finally, as Mr. Adkisson mentioned, we
39 are starting on a plan. The planner was up here just
40 this week. This is a public process that is going to
41 look at the way we manage transporters. That is those
42 companies that carry sport hunters into the field. It
43 will include an environmental assessment that is a NEPA
44 document and also a Section 810 analysis. I would be
45 naive if I didn't caution that this plan will not solve
46 all the controversy that surrounds transporters
47 operating inside the Northwest Arctic because, clearly,
48 it won't. Transportation services and sport hunting
49 are a very complex issue. I do believe that this plan
50 can address at least some of the issues regarding

1 transportation services and sport hunting inside Noatak
2 National Preserve.

3

4 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is that it?

5

6 MR. HELFRICH: That is it, sir.

7

8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any questions from
9 the Council Members. Attamuk.

10

11 ATTAMUK: Yeah, this might be Ken's.
12 You said a lot of rangers are being -- you're getting
13 low on rangers for the Bering Land Bridge and other
14 places. Ken, you and I talked about putting rangers as
15 a team from the Selawik Wildlife Refuge, Noatak
16 Preserve, Bering Land Bridge, Maniilaq, the borough,
17 all landowners here, put money together in a pie so we
18 could try to help our local people here to put rangers
19 out there because NANA could only do things in their
20 own land. I got a feeling strongly that if everyone
21 put money in a pie, the rangers we hire to go out
22 there, they could watch the land for us better because
23 NANA can't site anyone or do anything saying it's in
24 Maniilaq land. They can't do anything if it's in KIC.
25 But if we have something in the pie for everyone to put
26 in and that person reports to all of us, I think that
27 would really help us to have rangers out there and we
28 could hire locals to do this. I feel strongly.

29

30 For the transporters and outfitters and
31 the guys that go out there, the timing for the
32 migration of caribou is changing due to the weather.
33 When the regulation was put in place 20 years ago,
34 that's the time the caribou migrated after us
35 subsistence takers take our caribou. Maybe we have to
36 look strongly at changing the timing where guides and
37 outfitters and transporters could go out and take
38 hunters. Because we are now going out together and
39 we're the ones that are hurting because these guys are
40 going in land affecting the migration of the caribou.
41 I say this over and over like a broken record, in Aggie
42 I've seen them four mountains back from the river.
43 Pilots are getting so good they land in the mountains.
44 They'll drop them off right in the migration. If they
45 see a regular plane out there, the guides and
46 outfitters will start easing off and start maybe
47 working with us together. I'm not out to stop them,
48 but we need to find a place for them before time to
49 harvest our caribou.

50

1 Also, I'm going to remind you again
2 that last meeting we had when I had dead salmon
3 floating in Noatak, I couldn't find anybody to get
4 samples. Just below Sugar there was over a mile of
5 dead salmon and this was in mid August. I wasn't
6 working for Maniilaq, but when they called me, I went
7 up there and I checked, like I stated the last time.
8 When I opened the stomach, the eggs weren't ready for
9 spawning yet and it's not spawning until September and
10 later.

11
12 Also in the Aggie, those rainbow trout
13 had a lot of black spots in them. There were so many.
14 I know where to go because I live right there. I
15 didn't even need a net. I tell my boy there's
16 something wrong with them fish, get out there, and he
17 had waders and there was so much fish under there, he
18 was throwing them just with his hands. I'd look at
19 them and I'd throw them back. All what I get, all 11
20 -- I stated seven and I just talked to him a little
21 while ago, he said, Dad, I gave you 11 and every one
22 had spots on them. They were black. Some had white
23 sore spots like on them. We need to have someone where
24 we can report in different refuges or one phone call
25 for all the refuges, fish biologists, whatever you have
26 on hand, to be able to see. The weather is warming up.
27 Fish like this are coming out. When they do, something
28 happen, which is why I find out about this. My phone
29 calls didn't come from Native, they come from local
30 pilots. Not only Natives are worried about the land.
31 The people that live here that are married to Native,
32 they're worried about what's happening here. So I
33 think what we need to do strongly is putting money in a
34 pie for rangers for out there to help ease off the
35 people and pressure off you guys and we wouldn't pick
36 on you guys so much.

37
38 I feel sorry for my people going out
39 and hunting and some can't get any to fill up their
40 freezers. Some of them like to fill it up fall time to
41 make it just through the winter, you know. Eskimos are
42 just like alcoholics. If they don't get their Native
43 food, they suffer. Just like an alcoholic if he don't
44 get his booze, he'll suffer. He'll want his booze. Us
45 Natives got to have our food. It will calm us down.

46
47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Go ahead, Robbie.

48
49 MR. EVERETT: A couple things. I want
50 to thank the National Park Service for allowing several

1 of their staff members to work with the school district
2 in the science curriculum review that's just happened.
3 That was a lot of hours that they put in. Linda Jeski
4 and Janice Mazlin (ph), that's much appreciated and I
5 think it's a very proactive approach with your
6 education activities with the communities. Appreciate
7 that.

8

9 Number two thing I wrote down here,
10 with the Krusenstern muskox population study, you
11 mentioned that possibly that wouldn't happen. I was
12 wondering if volunteers could help with making that
13 happen if you were in need of people to be grunts or
14 whatever, if that was something that maybe members of
15 this committee could help with or other locals could
16 help that happen.

17

18 Number three, I want to continue to
19 encourage -- I brought this up at our last RAC meeting,
20 to encourage the National Park Service to monitor
21 transporter subcontracting with other transporters in
22 an effort to get around restrictions that may be placed
23 on them. I appreciate that you listen to that concern
24 and encourage you to follow up with that this next
25 year. I had a report from a hunter that was actually
26 one of those subcontracted out people and I know that
27 that was a little frustrating from my point of view
28 that that was happening.

29

30 The last thing, I just want to continue
31 encouragement of the National Park Service. You have
32 done a good job with this. In my employment, I'm in
33 constant contact with the young people and I'm
34 frustrated as I age and my beard goes gray that fewer
35 and fewer young people are actually participating in
36 subsistence activities and that saddens me. I would
37 like to also, with all the positions that you're
38 looking to fill, see if there's something that maybe
39 this committee could do or the agencies to put toward
40 some of the local groups to encourage their youth to
41 actively pursue careers in these areas. If I can do
42 anything to help, I would, but I think that's a problem
43 that we need to all address because it seems like more
44 and more of those positions are being filled by outside
45 people and I see a great resource of kids that should
46 be very tied to the land and the wildlife not
47 considering those positions as maybe as they could.

48

49 That's all I have. So maybe a question
50 on that Krusenstern muskox or a follow-up from you and

1 that's it.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Currently with the
4 muskox count it's a matter of having the plane and
5 pilot available more than anything.

6

7 MR. EVERETT: So if Dan would come back
8 from Hawaii, it would happen?

9

10 MR. ADKISSON: Probably not. If it
11 doesn't happen, we're not totally out because Jim Dowd
12 did get a window and did get some muskoxen count
13 information, which would also include part of
14 Krusenstern, but we feel it's important to go back into
15 Krusenstern and get a more detailed count. So we have
16 some information, so probably the critical piece of the
17 pie would be the composition work to be done later.
18 It's always good to know that people are willing to
19 support and participate and we do need to look at ways
20 to try to improve that level of interaction.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Any more
23 questions.

24

25 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, I'm from Noatak. I
26 do a lot of boating up in that area. I was wondering
27 if you guys still use the camp up at the Kelly River
28 area and if you guys do, what's your guys time frame or
29 when do you guys go in there or when do you guys pull
30 out of there and how many people are working there?

31

32 MR. HELFRICH: Mr. Karmun, if I may,
33 I'll answer two or three questions now, including
34 yours, Mr. Ramoth (sic). Attamuk, to address your
35 concerns, the sport hunting season is, of course, set
36 by the State Board of Game and I know a couple people
37 have, at least informally, talked to members of the
38 board about starting the caribou season later in an
39 effort to ensure that local subsistence users have an
40 opportunity to take caribou before sport hunters get
41 into the field.

42

43 In regard to rangers, I'd like to talk
44 to Ms. Ayres about that. Doing protection patrols with
45 local people would require some coordination. I'm not
46 sure that it's possible, but I'd like to talk to the
47 refuge about how we might do that.

48

49 As far as reporting these fish and
50 wildlife observations, and I remember you speaking to

1 salmon and trout last fall, I agreed there should be
2 some easy way for you to report that and we will get
3 back to the board on how a person out in the field
4 might report I saw something unusual happen with this
5 animal or with that fish.

6
7 Mr. Everett, as far as subcontracting,
8 I brought that issue up to the Big Game Commercial
9 Services Board and asked their investigator to look
10 into the matter. I think there may have been some
11 violation of State law. And I have not heard whether
12 that person has done any investigation or not.
13 However, I'm going to be attending a Big Game
14 Commercial Services Board later on this month and I'll
15 bring the issue up again. This subcontracting was
16 frustrating for all of us.

17
18 And as far as encouraging young people
19 from this area to join the Park Service, I think it's a
20 great idea and our first choice is always local hire
21 for any job we have. Many of our positions have some
22 sort of educational requirement and that's been a
23 hindrance in the past. I hope that it won't be a
24 hindrance in the future because we looked forward to
25 having more and more Native Alaskans on our staff.

26
27 Mr. Ramoth (sic), as far as the Kelly
28 River, we did use to have rangers out there -- oh,
29 excuse me, Mr. Adams. We did use to have rangers out
30 at the Kelly River ranger station summer long and we
31 haven't had that, Ken, for the last.....

32
33 MR. ADKISSON: Several years, I think.
34 It's going to vary. Early in the summer, late spring,
35 early summer, we try to get in there and open the camp
36 up and then how much use it gets really depends on the
37 level of activity. For example, this year we have a
38 number of research projects that will be going on in
39 the park that we'll probably use that facility for some
40 of the time. Those will be occurring off and on say
41 through the month of July or something like that. And
42 then our own field staff will use that camp as
43 necessary. Then in the fall, when we get through the
44 field season, they generally try to close it up.

45
46 MR. HELFRICH: So we're using it as a
47 base for research right now, but we have been talking
48 among ourselves about resurrecting that program which
49 we had people out at the Kelly River ranger station and
50 over at Cape Krusenstern summer long. I thought that

1 was an important part of our outreach program. So we
2 might be able to hire people to do that or find
3 volunteers who would like to be at those spots during
4 the summer months.

5
6 MR. ADKISSON: I would say that it
7 would also help if as a resident of Noatak if you have
8 thoughts on how that might work or advantages or
9 disadvantages or problems having that staffed maybe on
10 a more regular basis, would that cause any problems for
11 Noatak or would there be advantages to the community of
12 Noatak if that were more staffed? Would that help
13 address some problems you're seeing? We'd be
14 interested in hearing that from the community.

15
16 MR. EVERETT: One thing on that. The
17 year 2002 I was stopped by rangers up there and it was
18 actually kind of nice to know that they were kind of
19 checking in on people coming through, floaters
20 especially, and just had a positive experience with
21 them. They were really friendly and interested in what
22 we were doing, so that was real positive. That was the
23 late summer of 2002.

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Ballot, any
26 questions.

27
28 MR. BALLOT: I've just got a couple
29 little comments and apologize for being late, but it
30 was stormy and there's a whole bunch of basketball
31 players and kids and everything trying to get out of
32 town and they put me in the back, but I'm glad to be
33 here. I just wanted to say I really appreciate working
34 with these folks over here on our muskox co-op meeting.
35 I really appreciate working with Fish and Game doing
36 the stuff we did on the bird stuff this summer.

37
38 I looked at how long I've been on this
39 Advisory Board. It's been eight years, just about,
40 maybe seven years, but this transporter issue keeps
41 coming up and up and then we have a little Band-Aid
42 here, a little Band-Aid there. When are we ever going
43 to, Mr. Chairman, come to a point or some kind of a
44 forum where we do have both sides talking about the
45 problems and the issues and look at everything in
46 detail and hopefully come up with some way of
47 regulating the transporters or whatever the problem is
48 in regards to the transporters. I think it's about
49 time that we do suggest that we start something or put
50 together something or whoever we need to be talking to

1 with the State or whoever in our villages and our
2 agencies that monitor and try to come up with something
3 in the future for a meeting together to try to hash
4 something out that everybody can be happy and live
5 with. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thanks, Percy. Good
8 comments. I have one for Mr. Adkisson. I like that
9 getting a biologist on board. Is it going to be
10 permanent here? Who's going to supervise this
11 individual? Locally or out of Fairbanks or Anchorage
12 or where?

13

14 MR. ADKISSON: Probably myself
15 initially, so out of Nome.

16

17 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Attamuk.

18

19 ATTAMUK: Ken, George. Just to give
20 you an example, last summer when I went up the Noatak
21 River just below Kelly, there were hunters there that
22 was dropped off by transporters and outfitters. They
23 came through Noatak. The reason why I know about this
24 and I forgot to mention it, but there was a total of
25 nine and they told me -- one of them was a friend of
26 mine from Anchorage and he said they were dropped off
27 directly right there and they had nine in one camp. He
28 said they were going to stay there six nights, which is
29 great for them because the caribou were late last
30 summer. They did not get any because they called me
31 later. I said, yes, they were coming later. But I
32 mention this just to give you an example. More and
33 more hunters are being dropped off right at the river
34 and this is just the main river only. They told me
35 there was more in the drainages also and they drop them
36 off right around Kelly and below. They're learning
37 that. The reason why they like to go there, just below
38 Kelly is a spawning ground for salmon and a lot of
39 bears are there fall time. I mean there's a lot of
40 bears right there when you go around Sugar, and that's
41 why they like it in that area right there. They
42 usually get their chance to get their bear. I don't
43 know if they get it legally or not, but I thought I'd
44 mention it.

45

46 MR. HELFRICH: Thank you, Attamuk. I
47 hope that all these concerns, whether they be yours,
48 Mr. Ballot, or yours, Attamuk, or yours, Mr. Adams, or
49 yours, Mr. Everett, will come out during this planning
50 process that we're starting on right now. As I said a

1 moment ago, I can't say that this plan and the decision
2 that results from it will solve all the transporter
3 issues in this region, but I think that it will address
4 a number of them, particularly inside the preserve.

5

6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Ken.

7

8 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
9 Members. There still is effort going on within the
10 State part of the process to look at the transporter
11 issue and the user conflict issue. As I understand it,
12 there was a State planner up here a while back and that
13 lady was gathering information to evaluate whether in
14 her opinion the issue would lend itself to being solved
15 or resolved through some kind of cooperative management
16 process. As I understand, that report from her may be
17 due out shortly and it will basically be a
18 recommendation to either go ahead with a cooperative
19 management program or, in her opinion, the issue was
20 not resolvable through that method and they're going to
21 have to look at it some other way.

22

23 Now, from comments that we've had
24 regarding our new effort, it's been said by a number of
25 folks already that we need to look at a broad pictures
26 and that's probably true. On the other hand, our
27 initial look at our own data last fall suggested to us
28 that we've got a significant increase in the rise of
29 level of use. An even more cursory look at the
30 information suggested to us that that's coupled with a
31 locational issue. In other words, we're seeing a real
32 density increase in certain areas. Frankly, if we've
33 got a problem, you know, the user conflict issue has
34 been going on for a long time up here, years and years
35 and years. You know, about the only real progress that
36 was made was the establishment of the Noatak controlled
37 use area.

38

39 So, from our point of view, if we've
40 got a problem that's occurring on our lands, we want to
41 work within a broader context, but that doesn't absolve
42 us from having to try to do something about the problem
43 that's on our lands. If that has to be done
44 independently, then we'll have to do it independently.
45 That's what we're beginning to do, is look at a way to
46 address what's going on on Park Service lands.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. One more
49 and then we'll take a break. Go ahead, Attamuk.

50

1 ATTAMUK: I've got a question and I
2 wish Walter was here. I'm worried about what's
3 happening in the Wulik and in the Noatak River on the
4 trout. You guys got interested in worrying about the
5 contaminant levels on trout in those drainages there in
6 Noatak and the Wulik. I never tried Kivalina River.
7 The reason why I said this, Susan Georgette and I did
8 sampling -- the one from Fairbanks, we did sampling on
9 trout funding from NANA when I was at Maniilaq. The
10 older trout had less contaminant levels than the
11 juveniles. The juveniles, we aged them together.
12 There were two year olds and three year olds and had
13 higher levels of heavy metals than the ones that were
14 14 years old. That's why I have concerns.
15 Subsistence committee out of NANA funded this and I
16 gave a report and it never got to them somehow. I'm
17 worried if the juveniles have heavy metals, just what
18 would happen to them as they get older.

19
20 Let me rephrase myself so Walter can
21 hear it. I gave a report on the metal levels that
22 subsistence committee funded me and I gave a report
23 that the older ones had less contaminant levels than
24 the younger ones. I wish somebody would do another
25 trout sampling to see if there's a change mainly in the
26 juvenile fish. The juvenile fish are the smaller ones
27 versus the older ones. Of that, the oldest trout was
28 16 years old.

29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, National
31 Park Service. We'll take a 10 minute break and we do
32 have a quorum now.

33
34 (Off record)

35
36 (On record)

37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The next report we'll
39 listen to is OSM and then we'll go on from there.

40
41 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm
42 Steve Klein from the Office of Subsistence Management
43 in Anchorage. We did have one informational item for
44 you, which is labeled 12(A). If you look at Page 103
45 of your books, there's a letter from the Fish and
46 Wildlife Service director to the Alaska Federation of
47 Natives. They responded to an AFN letter where they
48 raised issues regarding the OSM budget.

49
50 I just wanted to brief you on where

1 we're at with the OSM budget, which it funds the
2 Regional Advisory Councils, it funds the OSM Staff, it
3 funds many of the Fisheries Monitoring Projects you
4 heard discussed by Selawik Refuge on whitefish and
5 sheefish. So I just wanted to provide you an update on
6 our budget. Much of this is covered in that letter on
7 Page 103.

8
9 When we look at our OSM budget, it's
10 been declining for the last seven years, really. Our
11 costs are going up and you see those increased costs
12 with increased fuel costs. We see it with cost of
13 meetings, cost of travel, cost for OSM salaries and
14 they keep going up and it's probably about 150-300,000
15 each year where our costs go up and our funding is
16 basically staying flat. So we've had to adjust to
17 those changes in funding. We've done that for the most
18 part by just when we have a vacancy in OSM, we haven't
19 filled it, so there's about seven positions within the
20 Office of Subsistence Management where we no longer
21 have those positions. We've eliminated those positions
22 so we can keep the program moving.

23
24 However, in 2008, we're proposed for a
25 \$500,000 reduction to OSM. Every year the president
26 releases his budget and it contains the president's
27 priorities of what the Fish and Wildlife Service should
28 be doing, where most of the subsistence funding comes
29 from. They decided that we should reduce our budget by
30 500,000 so they can address other higher priorities.
31 So we had to address where would we take a \$500,000
32 reduction. So it's forced us to look at our priorities
33 and the RAC's are certainly a high priority. That's an
34 area we don't want to have to cut because you play a
35 valuable role and I know I sure learn a lot from you
36 every meeting I get to come to. We know that's very
37 valuable information we get for the regulatory
38 proposals and the monitoring program, et cetera.

39
40 So when we looked at where to take that
41 500,000 reduction, the decision was we would reduce
42 funding that goes to the Partners for Fisheries
43 Monitoring Program, which is a program we started about
44 four years ago where we funded biologists and social
45 scientists and Alaska Native organizations. We don't
46 have any in your area, but we have several along the
47 Yukon River. Organizations like CATG and Tanana Chiefs
48 Conference and AVCP. Actually, it's about a \$900,000
49 program where we fund eight fishery biologists and
50 social scientists, as well as 25 interns to really

1 build our future leaders so that they work for the Fish
2 and Wildlife Service, they work for Alaska Native
3 organizations and help us make better decisions. We've
4 decided we're going to reduce that program by 300,000
5 and then reduce the money that goes to the State of
6 Alaska for them to participate in this program and
7 reduce that by 200,000. We wanted to convey to you
8 that the RAC's are very, very important to Pete
9 Probasco, our ARD, and the Federal Subsistence Board.
10 That's the last place we want to touch.

11

12 That 2008 budget is a proposed budget.
13 It still has a long ways to go before it's decided.
14 There's hearings with the House and the Senate. It
15 will probably be another year before the budget is
16 finalized. It could be a \$500,000 cut, it could be
17 zero, it could be an increase. There's a lot of people
18 that weigh in on those decisions, including Senator
19 Stevens, and we'll see how that process evolves.

20

21 If we do end up taking that cut and we
22 continue to have these \$150,000 increases every year
23 where we can do less, it's going to require some
24 changes in how we operate. I also wanted to present to
25 you today that one of the options we're really looking
26 at is to go to a two-year cycle where we would do --
27 right now we do fisheries and wildlife every year and
28 one of the ways we could implement this program with
29 fewer Staff would be to do fisheries one year and
30 wildlife the next year and do the Fisheries Monitoring
31 Programs where you provide your recommendations during
32 the wildlife year.

33

34 We're discussing that as kind of a
35 long-range plan to deal with the continual decrease in
36 our budget. You'll have an opportunity to weigh in on
37 that at your next meeting if it continues to advance.
38 My guess is we're going to have to really look at that
39 as a serious program change to address the budget
40 shortfalls.

41

42 That concludes my report. I'd be happy
43 to take any questions. These are hard decisions we've
44 had to make. We need to let you know what the thinking
45 is of how we're addressing these budget reductions.
46 Mr. Chair.

47

48

CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Sampson.

49

50

MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 Thank you very much for the report and the letter that
2 was written to Julie Kitka from Kenneth Stansell. You
3 know, that's really bothersome to see. The Federal
4 system also concentrating on cutting the subsistence
5 side of the picture every time they get a cut on the
6 top side. Exactly the same system that the State of
7 Alaska uses. Any time the State of Alaska gets a budget
8 cut, the first on the list Subsistence Division. That
9 has a reflection on what I do as far as subsistence is
10 concerned. That puts more pressure on the subsistence
11 users themselves.

12
13 I think, Mr. Chairman, at some point we
14 ought to as a RAC write a letter. I mean if the
15 Federal government is in the management business of
16 resource and under the provisions of ANILCA that we
17 have to continue to subsist, as budget cuts are being
18 made, it will also affect portions of ANILCA. I think
19 we need to re-look and take a look at how we can try to
20 deal with the budget cut problem in regards to
21 Subsistence Division side of the picture. It bothers
22 you. To me, this is a similar type of management
23 scheme that will turn into just like the State of
24 Alaska.

25
26 I think we need to make some noise at
27 some point in time. We've got people that are in the
28 management positions that can say, hey, subsistence is
29 an integral part of management within these lands and
30 that's what they need to tell the top level folks.
31 Quit studying grass, quit studying grasshoppers or
32 whatever those small critters that they waste money on.
33 Let's spend the money on the real stuff.

34
35 Going out and studying -- what do you
36 call these plots out in the country. To me, that's
37 just a waste of money. Spend that money wisely and
38 direct it to the Subsistence Division rather than going
39 out and put plots. I mean look at the cost of
40 helicopter time. Pretty expensive. But yet we get
41 budget cuts and the first on line is Subsistence
42 Division. It bothers me.

43
44 We've got managers from Bering Land
45 Bridge Northwest Region. Those managers out there
46 start making noise for us, raising their concerns in
47 regards to how resource in this region also needs to be
48 protected with all the different user groups at some
49 point in time. Some of the user groups are certainly
50 going to be cut off. Then we'll be hurting. I think at

1 some point, Mr. Chairman, we need to start doing
2 something, write a letter, direct management to say
3 draft a letter we can look at and we'll go from there.

4
5 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you for your
6 comments. Any other questions.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Hearing none, thank
11 you.

12
13 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. Being that we
16 have a quorum on board now, we'll go back to the review
17 and adoption of the agenda for right now. I don't know
18 if we're going to conduct an election today. We will?
19 We will do it shortly then. Anything on the adoption
20 of the agenda.

21
22 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I move for
23 adoption of the agenda as written.

24
25 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

26
27 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All in favor.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We also had Council
32 Member reports. Excuse me. How about the adoption of
33 the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Everett.

34
35 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman, I noticed
36 that on members present I was not included, however I
37 was referred to many times as making comments, so maybe
38 we could correct that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

41
42 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I move to
43 approve the minutes if that's what you're asking for,
44 for October 13th, 2006. Was that what you were asking?

45
46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes, sir.

47
48 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

49
50 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Seconded by Attamuk.

1 All those in favor.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Just for
4 the record on there I saw a thing in there and I'm
5 trying to find it. I don't mind, but they called me
6 Mr. Buckland and I would like to change it to Mr.
7 Ballot.

8

9 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Percy. So
10 noted. All those in favor of adopting the minutes.

11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The ayes have it.
15 Thank you. We'll go to the election of officers being
16 we have a quorum. The floor is open. I'll turn it
17 over to the lady.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: I nominate Victor Karmun
20 for the Chair.

21

22 MR. ADAMS: Second.

23

24 MS. CHIVERS: Are there any other
25 nominations?

26

27 ATTAMUK: Closed to nominations.
28 Victor, you got it.

29

30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you.

31

32 MS. CHIVERS: You can just ask to make
33 sure everybody is fine with that.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: I guess what you ask for
36 -- what he's saying is that he closed the nominations
37 and asked for unanimous consent for you to sit as the
38 chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All those in favor.

41

42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: Just ask to see if
45 anybody objects to that.

46

47 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: No objections. Thank
48 you.

49

50 MS. CHIVERS: We'll open the

1 nominations for the vice chair at this time.

2

3 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I'll
4 nominate Walter Sampson.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: I nominate Attamuk.

7

8 MR. BALLOT: I move to close.

9

10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We need a second.

11

12 MR. ADAMS: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Okay. We have two
15 nominations for vice chair.

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We have two
18 ways of handling two different nominations. We can
19 either do a roll call vote or you can do a ballot. If
20 everybody wants to go the ballot route, you can all
21 nominate who you would like to see as vice chair,
22 whether it be Walter or Attamuk and then pass your
23 notes this way and then I'll do a count.

24

25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What is the wish of
26 the Council Members. You want to go to a ballot.
27 Okay.

28

29 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I wanted to
30 hear how Raymond is doing. I notice he's not here. I
31 kind of have an idea, but I think he's still on the
32 board, right, before we go onto any more elections.

33

34 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I talked to somebody
35 that was down at Alaska Native Medical Center.
36 Evidently he went through dialysis. He's still under
37 observation. I don't know how long he'll be down
38 there. That's the last word I got.

39

40 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I did talk to
41 Raymond earlier this week and he thought he was going
42 to be there in Anchorage. He's out of the hospital,
43 but he is going back and forth for appointments to
44 visit with the doctor and he thought he would be there
45 possibly through the end of -- for sure the end of
46 March but possibly through the end of April. He sounds
47 very well though.

48

49 MR. BALLOT: So you do have our thing
50 to send him a get well card or whatever, but is he

1 still eligible for nominations to this board?
2
3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: At this time we'll
4 entertain the proposals and I'd like to keep -- oh, the
5 results. Sorry.
6
7 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, we have a tie.
8 So are you stepping down and passing the vice chair to
9 Attamuk?
10
11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: At times like this
12 the Chair can break a tie, but evidently it didn't do
13 it this time. The floor is open for secretary then.
14
15 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I'll
16 nominate Virgil and ask for unanimous consent.
17
18 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.
19
20 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. I nominate
21 Percy and ask for unanimous consent.
22
23 ATTAMUK: I'll take it. I'll take
24 Percy.
25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any objections.
27
28 (No opposing votes)
29
30 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Hearing none,
31 congratulations, Percy.
32
33 MR. BALLOT: Yeah, even I won't object
34 because I know we're back down from nothing. That's
35 why I'm elected to get over here or whatever.
36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We will trash Mr.
38 Buckland. Wildlife proposals. I'd like to see if we
39 could limit our discussion on some of these. Some of
40 these people have to get up and leave here shortly. We
41 have a very short list of proposals, so let's see what
42 we can do.
43
44 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think
45 these proposals are important. I don't think we ought
46 to limit ourselves to time. If we have to go into the
47 evening session, let's get into the evening session.
48
49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Well taken. Go
50 ahead, Greg.

1 MR. RISDAHL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
2 Members of the Council. If I do sound like I'm giving
3 you too much information, please don't hesitate to ask
4 me to stop or say we don't need to hear the regulatory
5 history or whatever. I'll definitely try to hit the
6 main points to refamiliarize everybody with the
7 proposals, although I'm sure you've all read them and
8 know them pretty thoroughly.

9
10 With that, we'll begin with Wildlife
11 Proposal No. 1, which was submitted by the Alaska
12 Department of Fish and Game. This proposal requests
13 that claws be removed from the Federal definition of
14 fur and that sales of handicraft articles made from
15 claws, bones, teeth, sinew, or skulls of black and
16 brown bears be allowed for sale only between Federally
17 qualified subsistence users statewide.

18
19 The proponent, in this case ADF&G,
20 submitted this proposal believing that if the
21 definition of fur is not changed, it will allow for
22 unconstrained commercial sale of handicrafts made from
23 bear parts and create market incentives for poaching.

24
25 A little bit about the history. The
26 Federal Subsistence Board has consistently supported
27 the sale of handicrafts made from the skin, hide, pelt
28 or fur of black bear statewide and brown bear in three
29 regions, including claws, by Federally qualified
30 subsistence users. Between 2002 and 2006 the Board
31 considered six proposals regarding the sale of
32 handicrafts made from some of the nonedible parts of
33 bears.

34
35 Under the current regulations, brown
36 bear hides with claws can only be used in handicrafts
37 for sale if the bear were harvested from Eastern
38 Interior, Bristol Bay and Southeast Alaska. Other
39 parts such as bones, teeth, sinew, or skulls can only
40 be used from brown or black bear taken in Southeast
41 Alaska.

42
43 The effects of the proposal include the
44 proponent s language for the Federal definition of fur
45 would require the removal of claws from all hides,
46 including fox, mink, what have you. It would remove
47 unit-specific restrictions. It would negate the intent
48 of the Federal Subsistence Board and the Regional
49 Councils in recognizing the diverse customary and
50 traditional uses of bears and bear parts throughout the

1 state.

2

3

4 It would allow the sales of handicrafts
5 from bear parts only to other Federally qualified rural
6 residents and we feel it would unnecessarily restrict
7 Federally qualified subsistence users as specified in
8 ANILCA Section 803. Therefore, the Office of
9 Subsistence Management opposes the proposal. We feel
10 there's no evidence to indicate that current Federal
11 regulations adversely affect bear populations and there
12 has been no evidence provided to indicate that current
13 Federal regulations have led to an increased legal or
14 illegal harvest of bears.

14

15

16 Current Federal regulations apply to
17 only bears harvested from Federal subsistence
18 regulations on Federal public lands and, of course, all
19 meat from bears harvested under these regulations must
20 be salvaged. Thank you.

20

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any State Fish and
23 Game people present.

23

24

25 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 My name is Terry Haynes. I'm the Federal Subsistence
27 Wildlife Coordinator for the Department of Fish and
28 Game in Fairbanks. Our comments on this proposal
29 appear on pages 33 and 34 of your Council book. You'll
30 see that our comments on most of the proposals in this
31 book are much longer and more detailed than they have
32 been in the past. I just want to take a couple minutes
33 to explain the reasons for that.

33

34

35 In the past, we've commented on the
36 merits of the proposal, whether we supported it or
37 didn't support it or had ideas for amending it. These
38 comments currently address some of the broader policy
39 issues the department has had concern about ever since
40 Federal subsistence management began. So if there's a
41 broader policy issue associated with the particular
42 proposal, there's some discussion of that in our
43 comments. I'm not going to go into that here because
44 we can't fix those things at this table today, so I'm
45 going to leave that up to you if you're interested in
46 reading those comments. I'm just going to comment on
47 the concerns we have about the proposal itself and that
48 will help speed up the process as well.

48

49

50 The department has had long-standing
concerns about the Federal regulation that allows the

1 sale of handicrafts made from bear claws. We've been
2 consistent in that concern. We would like to see the
3 definition of skin, hide, pelt, or
4 fur go back to what it was prior to the change being
5 made in the Federal regulation and that this definition
6 exclude claws. We think that is important and
7 necessary to reduce incentives for illegal harvest of
8 bears in Alaska and in other states because bear claws
9 have a high monetary value, we want to prevent that
10 from becoming an activity that promotes the harvest of
11 more brown bears under the guise of subsistence
12 regulations. And we don't want these activities to
13 become significant commercial enterprises.

14
15 This proposal would improve the
16 enforceability of the Federal regulations because it
17 would bring the definition of skin, hide, pelt and fur
18 in Federal regulation back in line with the
19 corresponding State regulation. I need to clarify that
20 the intent of our proposal was not to have the broad
21 application of the definition applying to all pelts.
22 We only wanted it to apply to bears. So this was an
23 error in our proposal and, as been pointed out, as
24 written, it would require -- if this proposal was
25 adopted, it would require the claws to be removed from
26 all furs and that certainly is not our intent. We only
27 want it to apply to bears.

28
29 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Terry.
32 Any comments, questions, from the Council Members.

33
34 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 What is the current bear population within Unit 23? Do
36 we have any idea what the numbers might be?

37
38 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman, Walter. I
39 don't. There is another proposal in here that deals
40 with Unit 23 bears. I don't remember if there's any
41 population information in that Staff analysis. There
42 may be. What I can tell you is that according to Jim
43 Dow, our area biologist, that the harvest of brown
44 bears in Unit 23 is pretty consistent. We could take a
45 quick look and see if there is population information.
46 That proposal is No. 50. It begins on Page 73.

47
48 MR. RISDAHL: Mr. Chairman. Greg
49 Risdahl. I can explain a little bit about the
50 population data that we have in that Proposal 50 if

1 you'd like me to.

2

3 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: That's relating to
4 the bear?

5

6 MR. RISDAHL: Yes, sir. On page 75
7 there is a table that shows something about the density
8 of bears, although it's not very great data. One of
9 the studies that was done is quite old. In 1987 was a
10 mark-recapture study in primarily the Noatak River
11 drainage area where they ended up with a bear
12 population estimate of around 500 bears. More recently
13 a study done by a Park Service individual using what's
14 called a stratified random sampling method is more of a
15 statistical analysis, came up with a bear density of
16 around 290 or 300 bears. So there's definitely some
17 disagreement between those two studies, although the
18 1987 study, of course, is much older. To be quite
19 honest, without doing more research, I would say it's
20 really hard to actually give a very good number. If
21 you're looking at the statistical aspects of the two
22 studies, the confidence interval is actually better for
23 the 1987 study than it is for the 2005 study. Again,
24 the '87 study is so much older that things certainly
25 could have changed and most likely have changed since
26 that time.

27

28 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you, Greg. Mr.
29 Sampson.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
32 Do we have any support from the public or any
33 objections from the public and who those people might
34 be? That's to the proposal.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Federal, State or
37 anybody else that wants to make some comments?

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: No, what I'm asking, Mr.
40 Chairman, is do we have in the record of any
41 organizations objecting to or not supporting the
42 proposal.

43

44 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. There is
45 actually a protocol that you are following and we will
46 get to the summary of written public comments. There
47 are some included in the book and if they're not
48 included in the book, then I will go over the ones we
49 received after the printing. But he'll go through some
50 other agencies first and then get to those. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is there anyone here
2 from the Alaska State Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Nobody. Okay. Is
7 there any other State or Federal Agencies that would
8 like to make some comments.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter, I got a
13 verbal comment from Phil Driver. You know him just as
14 well as anybody around here. When I talked to him last
15 fall, his comment was up around the Wulik River he said
16 the bear count in his opinion was down, but I said,
17 Phil, how long have you been taking bears around there.
18 I said they probably haven't filtered back in there
19 yet. But my own observation from around the region
20 around here, I would say the bear density is fairly
21 high. I'm not going to name any names, but I know four
22 in defense of life and property were never turned in
23 from August and September last fall. So what is the
24 wish of the Council on this one?

25
26 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I would
27 still like to see some sort of a population report on
28 bears and I think if we can take a look at the bear
29 population on an annual basis, take a look and see what
30 the trend might be in regards to whether the numbers
31 are declining or getting healthier, then I would
32 certainly like to take a look at that before I can base
33 my judgment on the proposal.

34
35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Any other comments.
36 Maybe I have one. To me, black bear, grizzly,
37 whatever, highly regulated -- well, maybe not black
38 bear so much, but the surveys in the last 20 years, my
39 association with the State Fish and Game and the U.S.
40 Fish and Wildlife, I was in on this one in '87 and at
41 that time they figured the bear density was only half
42 of what it says here in this particular report. To me,
43 that's why my argument the use of bear claws or
44 whatever is just another by-product of the animal and I
45 see no reason not to use them as each individual sees
46 fit.

47
48 Again, what is the wishes of the
49 Council Members. Do you want to adopt, reject, put it
50 on hold or what?

1 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I think
2 you've got a point there. At some point in time when
3 the resource starts to get depleted or to a point where
4 they decline, you know, the agency should have an
5 emergency order for closure of taking of bears. But in
6 regards to the use of the parts, you know, I don't have
7 no objections to people utilizing the claws as part of
8 their work. I mean it's part of the bear.

9
10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Attamuk.

11
12 ATTAMUK: Okay. Thank you. I'll be
13 leaving in a few minutes. This is a statewide
14 proposal, yet in our region we have so many bears that
15 some people in some areas are afraid to go camping
16 because they're scared they're going to be attacked by
17 bears. I haven't heard anyone taking advantage of
18 selling claws here in our region. They don't harvest
19 bears just to sell the claws here. Maybe this
20 statewide proposal couldn't work for ours because some
21 places they might take the bears for selling the claws
22 but I don't see it here. Each region should be seen
23 different. We've got so many bears and other places
24 don't have much bears. For me, I have a hard time
25 supporting this just because of the bear claws.

26
27 Me, personally, I even feel like
28 shooting bears. They're around my camp and they're a
29 nuisance. They're taking my meat away. There's so
30 many bears at the Noatak River and down the coast.
31 I've seen well over 30 when I was by Sugar last summer
32 in one day. This is daytime. What happened, they took
33 three of my caribou during the night and the caribou
34 was only about 1,200 feet from my tent. They were so
35 quiet I didn't even hear them.

36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Percy Ballot.

38
39 MR. BALLOT: I think we've got a lot of
40 bears in Buckland, too. I reported last year and
41 they're still up there. I hear them all the time. One
42 day, just in about two or three miles, we counted seven
43 of them and there's small tracks and big tracks all
44 over. I really don't have no problem with people using
45 that for whatever reason they want to do. I think it's
46 not a problem. Are we supposed to be doing an action
47 on this now.

48
49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I'd like to take
50 action, either take it into account as it is, reject it

1 or whatever. Attamuk.

2

3 ATTAMUK: Proposals like these I hate
4 to see us rush through them like this. Like me, I have
5 to leave, but I think our next meeting we need to look
6 closely how we set our meetings here. Proposals like
7 that are important to our people. We're trying to rush
8 through it and it's really hard for me to decide, you
9 know. Thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: We can entertain a
12 motion to postpone this until the next meeting.

13

14 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, when is the
15 next Federal Board meeting?

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. The next
18 Board meeting is in May. Actually, April 30th, May 1st
19 and 2nd, and that's when the Federal Subsistence Board
20 will take this up. Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Then following that
23 when is their next? I'm just trying to get some ideas
24 as far as time frame is concerned.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: The wildlife would be
27 taken up again next spring. This fall we'll do the
28 fisheries. I can make a suggestion. The Council,
29 rather than postponing this, you can just take no
30 action if you don't want to take any action on it
31 because of the other regions. That might be an
32 alternate or you can oppose it or take no action.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. The only
35 problem that I have with taking no action is that if
36 the other regions act on the proposal and it goes
37 before the Federal Board is what I have some problems
38 with.

39

40 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I know some
41 of the regions that have met just recently, I believe
42 all of them that have met have opposed the proposal. I
43 know Bristol Bay did, Kodiak Aleutians took no action
44 on it and I'm not quite sure about the other -- Seward
45 Pen opposed. I'm not sure what the Southeast did.
46 Maybe Terry Haynes knows.

47

48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Mr. Haynes.

49

50 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. Southeast

1 Regional Council also opposed the proposal. Western
2 Interior Council opposed the proposal too. I think,
3 with the exception of Kodiak Aleutians that took no
4 action, all of the councils that have met so far have
5 opposed the proposal.

6

7 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Based on
8 information that I was asking for, bear population and
9 survey reports and stuff, it would be good to look at
10 graphs and the sort, but I was sort of tending to not
11 support this proposal after reading portions of it.
12 Now that I've heard the other regions are also
13 objecting to that, I'm going to lean towards opposing
14 the proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is that a motion, Mr.
17 Sampson.

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: I was strictly giving my
20 viewpoints to the proposal, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Percy.

23

24 MR. BALLOT: One of the things I
25 noticed or was mentioned was that if it was passed or
26 even if we oppose it or not oppose it and it passes,
27 that it would require that claws be removed from other
28 animals of that sort. Can that language be taken out
29 of this.

30

31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Yes. As it was
32 stated, it didn't pertain to any other animal except
33 bears. Let me make a note here. We just lost our
34 quorum. We cannot take action on these vote items now.
35 We can listen to them, talk about them. We're going to
36 have to take action at a phone conference or at a later
37 date now.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. We
40 established a quorum at the beginning of the meeting
41 before we started taking action. As I understand it,
42 the way Robert's Rules work, we can take action on
43 items that need action because we've established that
44 quorum.

45

46 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I was talking in
47 terms of voting, Walter.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

50

1 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's take a five-
2 minute break.
3
4 (Off record)
5
6 (On record)
7
8 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's get the meeting
9 back to order, please. I'm going to ask the Council
10 Members. We can't take action. We can listen, but
11 just like some of the other ones, including you,
12 Walter, said why go through the process twice.
13
14 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Michelle,
15 what does it take to send a public notice for another
16 meeting?
17
18 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, Walter. I
19 don't know that they would actually conduct another
20 meeting.
21
22 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Who is they?
23
24 MS. CHIVERS: For today?
25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: No, for another
27 meeting at a different time.
28
29 MS. CHIVERS: I think what we would
30 have to do is first ensure that we would have a court
31 reporter. I believe that it would most likely be via
32 teleconference. I don't know that they would get us
33 all back into Kotzebue again.
34
35 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Who is they?
36
37 MS. CHIVERS: Our office. We were
38 talking about budget cuts and stuff. We did talk about
39 that when we were on the phone and they said that due
40 to the budget we would most likely conduct the meeting
41 via teleconference if we can get a quorum again. At
42 that time you can hear the proposals and then take
43 action at that time. Right now, at this time, because
44 we lost a Council Member, we also lost quorum. You
45 have to have the same number of voting members for the
46 quorum you established all the way throughout the
47 meeting. Once you lose that quorum, you cannot take
48 action on any items.
49
50 MR. SAMPSON: What does the law say in

1 regards to the creation of the Regional Advisory
2 Councils on getting alternates to sit in on behalf of
3 those that -- you know, for each area?

4
5 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, Walter. A
6 while back we used to have alternates for each Council,
7 but for one reason or another they got rid of that. No
8 more alternates. I think that came from the Secretary
9 of Interior. However, that seemed to work really well
10 when we had an incident happen like this. We could
11 actually call on that alternate. At this time we don't
12 have that option and we can't just select somebody
13 ourselves. It has to come from the Secretary of the
14 Interior to actually have somebody selected to do that.

15
16 MR. SAMPSON: So are these proposals
17 going to the Federal Board in April then?

18
19 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, they will.

20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Walter, we can listen
22 to them. We can't take action on them.

23
24 MR. SAMPSON: That's what I'm asking.
25 It bothers me if these proposals are going to the
26 Federal Board next month. To me, because of lack of,
27 we don't have no input into the Federal Board. As an
28 individual, I can go down and certainly make my views
29 known to some of the proposal. Certainly I can do that
30 through that public process. But as a group, as a
31 region, it bothers you that you can't even establish a
32 quorum. If we can find a way to get these folks to
33 either get on line or do something. I've got a
34 schedule, too. I've got other things that I needed to
35 do. That's why I rushed back from my trip to attend
36 this meeting. I don't know.

37
38 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Well, I'll ask. What
39 is the wish of the Council Members present. We can
40 listen to the proposals or we can possibly select a
41 date and time for the next meeting.

42
43 MR. BALLOT: I was just wondering, can
44 we appeal for Mr. Swan to come over.

45
46 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I just called
47 his wife in his room. He did not make it out of
48 Kivalina. She was already here previously. Due to
49 weather he was unable to make it out. We can certainly
50 try to call him.

1
2 MR. SAMPSON: Well, it's 4:00 o'clock
3 now. If we're going to get a session going, then we're
4 going to have to do it pretty quick or set up an
5 evening session. So, either way.

6
7 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: The rest of the
8 Council Members, what are your comments, please.

9
10 MR. ADAMS: As for me, I'm game to
11 anything. If we have to come in tonight, then we'll
12 come in tonight.

13
14 MR. SAMPSON: What's the staffing like?
15 Are the Staff going to be here to go over the
16 proposals? Are you going to be losing some of the
17 Staff members due to travel?

18
19 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I know some
20 of the Staff are traveling out tonight. Quite a few
21 Staff members are traveling out tonight. So you're
22 going to lose -- State is traveling and some of our
23 Agency Staff are traveling as well.

24
25 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chair. I will not be
26 able to attend a meeting from tomorrow morning until
27 Monday morning. I'm chaperoning for the State Science
28 Fair. I'm game for an evening session or trying to get
29 something going today, but would not be here tomorrow.

30
31 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Thank you. Well,
32 that leaves us with not too many options. We can
33 listen to the proposals and see if we can get a
34 teleconference at a later date or we could let that go
35 and just select a date and time of the next meeting.

36
37 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Why don't
38 you do this then. Why don't you try to set up a
39 conference call, hopefully with confirmation with
40 regards to all the membership being there for the
41 conference. I don't want to have to come to a session
42 tonight without a quorum and having to review because
43 during the next cycle of conference call we're going to
44 have to go through the whole process of review again.
45 I'd rather make sure that everybody listens to the
46 reports, listens to the proposal the way they're
47 written and get the viewpoints from all of us.

48
49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Michelle.

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. May I make a
2 suggestion. What we
3 could do is listen to the proposals today and those of
4 you that are here just keep those proposals in mind and
5 then I'll try to get everybody online via
6 teleconference and when it comes time for that
7 teleconference, Greg can just give a real brief summary
8 to all of the members if we get all of them online and
9 then that way we can take a roll call vote and see how
10 everybody feels while we're on teleconference. We just
11 need to set a date. It would have to be sometime soon.

12

13

14 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. What's the
15 chances of getting Austin on the phone now? Isn't that
16 a quorum if he's on the phone?

17

18 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is it okay with the
19 Council Members if we hear the proposals. Percy.

20

21 MR. BALLOT: I was game for everything,
22 but if we're going to go through them again, I guess if
23 we can't do anything else, I'll wait for the
24 teleconference.

25

26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do I hear a motion
27 that we postpone it to see if we can set up a
28 teleconference.

29

30 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I move that
31 we postpone this meeting and set up a teleconference at
32 a later date to look at the proposals.

33

34 MR. EVERETT: I second that.

35

36 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: All those in favor --
37 discussion first before we vote. Go ahead, Walter.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Michelle, if you could
40 let us know when that date might occur. I would need
41 to work around my schedule, too.

42

43 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I was just
44 consulting with our biologist here and he is available
45 the 20th through the 23rd of this month, which is not
46 this week but the week after. So if we want to select
47 a day somewhere in there.

48

49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Do you have another
50 date?

1 MS. CHIVERS: The 19th through the
2 23rd. He's open that whole week. So one day sometime
3 that week. Whatever day works best for everybody we
4 can set up a teleconference.

5
6 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: What would be the
7 best time frame for everybody.

8
9 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. For myself,
10 19th to the 23rd I've got commitments at that time. So
11 just to let you know.

12
13 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. For
14 myself, I would be the same as Percy except for the
15 23rd I'd be available.

16
17 MR. ADAMS: For myself, this would not
18 work for me. I wouldn't be around. I wouldn't be near
19 a phone at that time. I would be near a phone, but I
20 wouldn't be able to make that call.

21
22 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chairman. Is there
23 anything available the next week?

24
25 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Let's check with our
26 biologist over here and Michelle and see what they can
27 come up with. Also take some kind of comments as to
28 what would be the best time.

29
30 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. We were just
31 looking at our calendars here. The Staff Committee is
32 going to meet April 10th through 12th and they would
33 like to hear the Council's recommendation at that time.
34 Obviously it won't be printed in the book because we're
35 meeting later regarding proposals. The week of April
36 2nd through 6th is also open. Would that work better
37 for everybody.

38
39 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Good.

40
41 MR. SAMPSON: I would need to check
42 that week. I think I might have leadership village
43 travel. I'm talking NANA's president, Northwest Arctic
44 Borough mayor, school district, superintendent and
45 Maniilaq president, along with the board chairs are
46 traveling I think that week, but I will need to check
47 my calendar to make sure.

48
49 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: In the meantime, what
50 would be the most appropriate time for this

1 teleconference.
2
3 MR. SAMPSON: Why don't you tentatively
4 set it for that week and I can check on my schedule and
5 see what I may have.
6
7 MR. ADAMS: April 1st, that week would
8 work for me also.
9
10 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Ten o'clock, would
11 that be okay?
12
13 MR. EVERETT: The earlier the better.
14
15 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Nine o'clock.
16 Anybody make a motion to adjourn.
17
18 MR. BALLOT: I make a motion to
19 adjourn.
20
21 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: I need a second. Any
22 discussion. All those in favor.
23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.
25
26 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Oh, stand by.
27
28 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry, I
29 didn't realize it was to adjourn the meeting. We still
30 need to confirm our time and date of our next meeting.
31 If you'd turn in your books to Page 105. The Council
32 had selected to meet on October 17th and I've been
33 informed by our office that there's a conflict with
34 team members and we need to move that meeting date to
35 sometime earlier in that window.
36
37 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Myself, I'm open
38 almost any day. It doesn't really make any difference
39 to me, but the only thing I would suggest is it not be
40 in conflict with any other local activity.
41
42 MR. EVERETT: Mr. Chair. I suggest
43 that we look at moving it clear up to September 5th to
44 not conflict with hunting activities later in the fall
45 and keep it in the mid week so it doesn't conflict with
46 weekend hunting activities.
47
48 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Is that okay with the
49 rest of the Council Members. I'm open. It doesn't
50 bother me. Okay, September 5. Thank you.

1 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. If you'd turn
2 the page to Page 106. On Page 106 is the winter
3 schedule for 2008 and they're asking us to select a
4 date a whole year out for this meeting. If you look in
5 your meeting packet, I did put a new calendar in there.
6 February 19th through the 23rd there's already two
7 meetings there and Greg is the Staff biologist for the
8 Seward Pen meeting in Nome, so we can't meet that
9 week, but any week after that, February 25th through
10 March 14th, and the location. At this point in time it
11 can be a tentative, but we need to select something.

12

13 MR. SAMPSON: Let's shoot for the 27th
14 of February and see what happens.

15

16 CHAIRMAN KARMUN: Wednesday, the middle
17 of the week, is a good date. The meeting is adjourned.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

22

23

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public
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Joseph P. Kolasinski
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