

1 NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE  
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3  
4 Kotzebue, Alaska  
5 October 8, 2004  
6 9:00 o'clock a.m.

7  
8 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

9  
10 Raymond Stoney  
11 Joe Arey  
12 Percy C. Ballot  
13 Calvin Moto  
14 Walter Sampson  
15 Attamuk - Enoch Shiedt  
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17 Regional Coordinator, Michelle Chivers  
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Kotzebue, Alaska - 10/08/2004)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good morning. I'll call the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory meeting to order. Those of you that wants to testify for this meeting, there is a green form like this. Fill it out and give it to Michelle. I'll call the meeting to order and then I'll call roll call.

MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
Walter Sampson.

(No response) (Present after roll call)

MS. CHIVERS: Raymond Stoney.

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Lance Kramer.

(No response)

MS. CHIVERS: Lance did send an email that he would be out and I asked Raymond to check to make sure -- I actually forwarded the information to him and he did excuse Lance. Percy Ballot.

MR. BALLOT: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Enoch Shiedt.

ATTAMUK: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Calvin Moto.

MR. MOTO: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Joe Arey.

MR. AREY: Here.

MS. CHIVERS: Austin Swan.

(No response)

MS. CHIVERS: Austin did also send an

1 email to me requesting that he be excused and he was  
2 excused by the Chair.

3

4 Mr. Chair, we do have a quorum.

5

6 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to  
7 ask to be excused for a little bit because I have a  
8 tribal meeting here that was kind of late in coming  
9 before this meeting, but I think it's very important that  
10 I attend that and I'll be back in about one, two or three  
11 hours maybe, if I may.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Percy. One  
14 thing I'll say, do we need an action for excuse of the  
15 two gentleman?

16

17 MS. CHIVERS: No.

18

19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I don't need an action.  
20 Okay. Thank you, Walter. I'm glad you showed up.

21

22 We'll go down the line to Item 4, review  
23 and adoption of agenda. I think I'll let Michelle go  
24 through the agenda for review. I think there's a few  
25 things that have to be added on the agenda.

26

27 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, there is one  
28 item that does need to be added. It's the ethics  
29 disclosure. You and I discussed this. We went over the  
30 agenda last night. For item number 3A, I'd like to add  
31 the ethics disclosure. I've handed out a sheet of paper  
32 to each of the Council members and it's titled Suggested  
33 Language for Ethics Disclosure.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before we go any  
36 further, I overlooked welcome and introductions and I  
37 should have done that. We'll start with Calvin for  
38 introductions, please.

39

40 MR. MOTO: My name is Calvin Moto. I'm  
41 from Deering, Alaska. This is my second go-around on the  
42 Regional Council.

43

44 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin. I'm  
45 Raymond Stoney. I'm from Kiana and been on the RAC since  
46 '93. Welcome to Kotzebue.

47

48 ATTAMUK: Attamuk here in Kotzebue  
49 representing our village.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Walter Sampson, Kotzebue.  
2  
3 MR. AREY: I'm Joe Arey from Noatak.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. We've got  
6 some new faces, so we'll start from Ken. Introduce so we  
7 know who you are and your agency.  
8  
9 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
10 Park Service, Nome.  
11  
12 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good morning. Sandy  
13 Rabinowitch. Staff Committee to Federal Subsistence  
14 Board for the Park Service.  
15  
16 MS. MEYERS: Good morning. Randy Meyers,  
17 Bureau of Land Management here in Kotzebue, Natural  
18 Resource Specialist.  
19  
20 MR. JOLY: Good morning. I'm Kyle Joly.  
21 I'm with the Bureau of Land Management, a wildlife  
22 biologist out of Fairbanks.  
23  
24 MR. JENNINGS: Good morning. Tim  
25 Jennings with the Office of Subsistence Management in  
26 Anchorage.  
27  
28 MR. MASON: I'm James Mason with Arctic  
29 Sounder newspaper and KOTZ radio.  
30  
31 MS. GEORGETTE: Susan Georgette. I work  
32 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue.  
33  
34 MR. MILLS: Dave Mills with Gates of the  
35 Arctic National Park. I live in Fairbanks.  
36  
37 MR. GOODWIN: Willie Goodwin, National  
38 Park Service, here in Kotzebue.  
39  
40 MR. CHEN: Good morning. My name is  
41 Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in  
42 Anchorage.  
43  
44 MS. AYRES: Lee Anne Ayres, Fish and  
45 Wildlife Service, Selawik, in Kotzebue.  
46  
47 MR. RAMOTH: Clyde Ramoth, Fish and  
48 Wildlife Service based out of Selawik.  
49  
50 MR. ARDIZZONE: Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife

1 biologist, from OSM.  
2  
3 MR. STEVENSON: Dan Stevenson with Park  
4 Service here in Kotzebue.  
5  
6 MR. WEYIOUANNA: Alfred Weyiouanna Park  
7 Service in Kotzebue.  
8  
9 MR. DAU: Jim Dau, Fish and Game,  
10 Kotzebue.  
11  
12 MS. THERIAUT: Sophie Theriaut, student  
13 at University Laval, Quebec City, Canada.  
14  
15 MS. ARMSTRONG: Helen Armstrong with Fish  
16 and Wildlife Service, Subsistence Office.  
17  
18 MS. CHIVERS: Michelle Chivers, Council  
19 coordinator.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Did we miss anybody?  
22  
23 MS. CRAVER: I'm Amy Craver with Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management.  
25  
26 MR. MIHATA: I'm Kean Mihata, Park  
27 Service.  
28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Welcome to Kotzebue.  
30 Welcome all the audience and all the agencies and a  
31 couple members. I'm glad we've got a quorum to do our  
32 business work. I overlooked that welcome, so we'll just  
33 go to item number four. Again, would you describe the  
34 changes or additions to the agenda. Michelle.  
35  
36 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
37 terms of changes, we do have the ethics disclosures I  
38 wanted to add under 3A. At this time, as far as I know,  
39 that's the only change we wanted to make. Do you want me  
40 to go ahead with the ethics disclosure?  
41  
42 MR. SAMPSON: Before we go into ethics  
43 disclosure, I think there's other things we ought to  
44 discuss, which I would like to add to the agenda if we  
45 may. One is I would like to get an update regards to  
46 where the State of Alaska is in regards to the game guide  
47 issue, whether that agency is still active or not, and  
48 the other issue is regards to the transporter issue, what  
49 we're doing as an agency and what the State of Alaska is  
50 doing in regards to a transporter issue. I think if we

1 can add those into the agenda somewhere for discussion I  
2 certainly would be interested in discussing those issues.

3

4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.  
5 Which would you prefer, Mr. Sampson, under new business  
6 or other business?

7

8 MR. SAMPSON: If these items are going to  
9 be covered under the reports by the agencies, that's  
10 fine, but if they're not, then I certainly would want to  
11 get them under other business or new business even.

12

13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walt, I'll ask this  
14 question to you and then I'll ask the State. Have we got  
15 from the State a report on this issue what Walter had  
16 described? Jim.

17

18 MR. DAU: I'm Jim Dau, Fish and Game. I  
19 can talk a little bit. There's not much to tell you,  
20 Walter, but I can tell you what I know when I give the  
21 Agency report for Fish and Game.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: I guess what I was  
24 hopefully looking at was to try to get the State law that  
25 references how the game guide is set up, who is in charge  
26 and how it works, and the issue in regards to the  
27 transporter issue, what is being done, what can be done  
28 and how we can work to make sure that we deal with those  
29 issues because those two items will lead to issue that we  
30 certainly need to talk about as a commission. I think  
31 it's important that we all do certainly have a reflection  
32 on management for lands that the Federal government owns  
33 as well as the State of Alaska. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further changes or  
36 additions to the agenda?

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: I move for adoption of the  
39 agenda with changes, Mr. Chairman.

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It's moved by  
42 Walter.

43

44 ATTAMUK: I second it.

45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded by Attamuk.  
47 Any further discussion on the agenda.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MR. MOTO: Call for question.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been  
4 called for by Calvin. All in favor of adopting with the  
5 amendment signify by saying aye.  
6  
7 IN UNISON: Aye.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
10  
11 (No comments)  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. You've got your  
14 agenda. Now we'll go to the ethics disclosure. I'm not  
15 too familiar with it, so I think I'll ask Michelle to  
16 give a little briefing.  
17  
18 MS. CHIVERS: This isn't necessarily a  
19 new item. We discovered under the Federal Advisory  
20 Committee Act that the Department has asked that the  
21 Council members make a financial disclosure regarding  
22 items that the Council would need to take action on. So  
23 what they have asked is that we ask each of the Council  
24 members to make the public aware if they have any  
25 financial interest in the matters that the Councils take  
26 up for consideration.  
27  
28 So what I've placed in front of each of  
29 the Council members is a sheet that has suggested  
30 language for ethics disclosure on the back. What I could  
31 do is give each of you a moment to look at it and see --  
32 what I need you to do is read one of the paragraphs which  
33 applies to you, you would state your name, where you live  
34 and, for instance, like for the first paragraph, it says  
35 I subsistence hunt and fish under Federal lands and  
36 waters under consideration at this meeting. I do not  
37 hold any commercial permits or conduct any business  
38 activities directly affected by the agenda before the  
39 Council.  
40  
41 So that's kind of an example of how we  
42 would go through this. If you do have a commercial  
43 interest, you would choose one of the paragraphs here and  
44 read that one. The only items that we have -- we do not  
45 have any proposals that are being taken up at this time,  
46 but we do have the fisheries information services  
47 projects that will be brought forth. So if you feel that  
48 you have a commercial interest that would affect your  
49 vote, you need to state that at this time.  
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that it?

4

5 MS. CHIVERS: You can probably start with  
6 one of the Council members and have them read. Walter  
7 has his hand up.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: You're saying read one  
10 paragraph at a time for all the Council members?

11

12 MS. CHIVERS: Yes. Each Council member  
13 can select the paragraph that best applies to them. I  
14 don't know if anybody is a commercial fisherman or a  
15 sport hunter or anything like that, but if you are and  
16 you find that paragraph, you could read that paragraph to  
17 state what the paragraph says that would apply to you.  
18 If each of the Council members can take a moment and  
19 select which paragraph would apply to them and then you  
20 can read that. It looks like a couple have questions.

21

22 ATTAMUK: I've got a question. Attamuk  
23 here. One of them states commercial fisherman. I've got  
24 a commercial fishing permit that's just for fishing, but  
25 I don't own a guiding or transporting outfit. I'm just  
26 trying to verify, make sure it don't mislead as saying we  
27 are commercial fisherman, but we don't operate or  
28 transport. I think the question was leading to some of  
29 us might have interest as a commercial fisherman during  
30 the summer versus whether we've got interest to sit on  
31 this Board as a commercial fisherman or just as a  
32 resident from here. It was like that the last time we  
33 had a meeting.

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: Currently, everybody that  
36 is on the Board they have all applied under subsistence,  
37 so everybody is under the subsistence arena. We don't  
38 have any that have come on Board under the commercial or  
39 a sportfishing interest as of this time. But for the  
40 financial disclosure, whenever we're covering topics,  
41 they just want to make sure that a Council member does  
42 not hold a financial in the matter.

43

44 ATTAMUK: Then the wording would have to  
45 change and I hold a sport commercial fishing permit,  
46 right? Here we would consider commercial fishing -- what  
47 we do during the summer is commercial fishing for salmon.  
48 And I do have another question. I subsist and harvest.  
49 It says hunt fish. I think we should change the wording  
50 because we don't hunt for fish, we harvest fish.

1 MS. CHIVERS: The way it's stated, you  
2 could choose hunt or fish. They just put it in  
3 parentheses so that you can choose one or the other.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I think Calvin had his  
6 hand up.

7  
8 MR. MOTO: I'm trying to find the  
9 relevance to commercial fishers because most of the  
10 commercial fishers are on State land, not on Federal  
11 land. I don't know why it just would be on that. I  
12 subsistence hunt and fish. I also hold a commercial  
13 fishing permit. Most of that stuff is under -- when  
14 you're a commercial fisher, you don't fish commercial  
15 fishing in Federal water.

16  
17 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry. I  
18 did forget to mention that this only applies to  
19 activities on Federal lands and waters. So if you have  
20 something that's on State lands, then what you could do  
21 is just choose the first paragraph, which states that you  
22 do subsistence fish or hunt in Federal lands, but you do  
23 not hold any commercial permits that would affect -- the  
24 first paragraph, if you have something that's affected by  
25 State lands and not Federal lands, you could just choose  
26 that first paragraph and read that.

27  
28 This is in the works to be reworded  
29 because we did have some other Councils that stated it's  
30 really hard to select something from these paragraphs  
31 here. For this meeting, we'll go with what we have.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Walter.

34  
35 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
36 think the discussion regards to ethics disclosure  
37 discussion is moot right now. I say that because I  
38 remember writing that issue in regards to through the  
39 process of applying for this position as an individual,  
40 in regards to the suggested language as a user group.

41  
42 Secondly, I think if we're going to talk  
43 about the ethics disclosure issue, we need to put that  
44 section of that law before us. If any of the members  
45 have any conflict in regards to some of the action items  
46 that we're going to take, then we can make it known for  
47 the record that so and so has a conflict to proposal  
48 number and the sort. I think we're discussing something  
49 that we don't need to talk about until we get to that  
50 point where we might have a conflict at that point in

1 time.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. One  
4 thing I'll follow up on what Mr. Sampson said. There's  
5 also a number of questions from other villages about the  
6 RAC. They're asking who they are and how do you make the  
7 regulations. Number one they said was, well, they should  
8 come to Kiana or Selawik, some place with the group and  
9 then make some changes or regulations, just like this  
10 ethics disclosure. They should be publicized to all the  
11 villages. Otherwise, you know, that would be just to  
12 ourselves here.

13

14 Anything else on this issue, ethics  
15 disclosure. Mr. Sampson.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: I understand what you're  
18 getting at, Michelle, but I think in regards to  
19 disclosure of any conflicts, the responsibility ought to  
20 be placed on each individual member. If they feel they  
21 have a conflict, then they will make it known through the  
22 process of their discussion in regards to whether they  
23 have a conflict at that point in time when they discuss  
24 proposals or other issues.

25

26 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, Walter. They've  
27 asked that we do this financial disclosure at the  
28 beginning of the meeting, but I do feel you have a good  
29 point, that it should be taken care of like prior to the  
30 subject when it comes up. This is a standard procedure  
31 that they have established.

32

33 MR. SAMPSON: Who is they?

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: Actually, it's under the  
36 Federal Advisory Committee Act. I'm going to have Tim  
37 come up and he can described this better.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: If you're going to bring  
40 these types of requests to this body, then you ought to  
41 bring that section of the law that requires us to do  
42 certain things. The reason why I'm raising some of these  
43 issues is that -- the disclosure laws I don't have a  
44 problem with. What I'm getting at is that if you're  
45 working to weed us out as a member from this Council,  
46 then I'll have some problems with that. I say that  
47 because that was the intent of the State of Alaska in  
48 regards to sitting on different committees, boards and  
49 commissions. But I think as a user group for this  
50 Council, if the intent is to do that, then I'm sorry, I

1 wouldn't support that. But if you could show to me that  
2 this is what the Federal law says we need to do, then I  
3 need to see that section of that law that provides for  
4 that.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: As the Council members  
7 know, we're still on the review and adoption of the  
8 agenda, so that's what we're here for, to get that  
9 information.

10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Then I think  
12 point of order, if we're out of sequence here, I  
13 apologize for raising something that I shouldn't. So, if  
14 that's the case, then we'll go back to the issue in  
15 regards to the adoption of the agenda.

16  
17 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Tim Jennings.  
18 If I recall, you did call for the vote and unanimously  
19 adopted the agenda as amended. So I think we are onto  
20 the next item, which was the ethics disclosure. That's  
21 my recollection.

22  
23 Maybe I could help with the question that  
24 Mr. Sampson asked. If you'll look in your Council book  
25 on page 64. It actually begins on page 62. This is your  
26 Council charter, beginning on page 62, continuing through  
27 page 64. This is the charter for the Council and Item 10  
28 has the ethics responsibility paragraph for members.  
29 This was a new paragraph that was added a year ago when  
30 this was signed by the Secretary of Interior last year  
31 November.

32  
33 The intent of it, as I understand, is  
34 only to disclose those financial interests that a member  
35 may have when there's a vote on an item if there's a  
36 commercially-held interest, financial interest, where a  
37 member may have some gain at stake and might need to  
38 excuse themselves from taking a vote on that particular  
39 item.

40  
41 It does not have any intent to weed out  
42 Council members from serving on a Council. The intent is  
43 to, where appropriate, disclose financial interests that  
44 are held by Council members. Then there's a  
45 determination that can be made. That's the intent.

46  
47 If you would like to take some time to  
48 read this paragraph, if you want to take a little break  
49 and we can have any further discussion to clarify any of  
50 your items, it's your discretion. I don't think, in this

1 meeting today, with what I know about the Council  
2 members, this shouldn't be viewed as a substantial item.  
3

4 My assessment of knowing who you are and  
5 what you have from working with this Council for several  
6 years, there's only one item on the agenda where the  
7 Council will take a vote and that's to do studies and it  
8 would be difficult for me to see where there might be a  
9 financial gain from studies unless you were somehow going  
10 to profit from doing the study yourself and then you  
11 might want to disclose that if you were a partner in the  
12 study. Other than that, I think a Council member could  
13 say that they have no financial interest in the agenda  
14 items today.

15  
16 So I hope this clarifies the intent of  
17 this. It's just to make a public disclosure for  
18 financial interests that might be held by Council  
19 members.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. I'll say to  
22 the Council members you might want a little more time to  
23 look at this ethics disclosure. Can we talk about that  
24 during a break or something.

25  
26 MR. SAMPSON: I guess there's some  
27 clarification that needs to be made here. There's a  
28 question in regards to the commercial fishing permit that  
29 he has. To me, it doesn't matter if an individual has a  
30 license to do certain things. That's their prerogative.  
31 It's none of my business to get into what he does. I  
32 think what we're talking about is if there's a potential  
33 conflict participating as a member of this party where we  
34 might have a potential conflict in regards to making the  
35 dollar as a decision-maker. What he does is his business  
36 and I think he needs to have a little better  
37 understanding of what that entails.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

40  
41 ATTAMUK: I still have a conflict with  
42 the wording here. If I'm out in another meeting  
43 somewhere and someone could ask me, Enoch, do you have a  
44 commercial fishing permit, which I do, but that's not for  
45 guiding or transporting, it's for commercial fishing  
46 summer time. Do you understand what I'm trying to say?  
47 And I can sign this because the wording I'm a commercial  
48 fisherman. I know what you're saying. I know this is  
49 applied to sportfishing, but the wording by lawyers could  
50 be translated and said so fast that I could be weeded out

1 in a minute saying I've got a commercial fishing permit.  
2 If you look at it like that, if you translate it in  
3 words.

4

5 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I'd like to  
6 offer the suggestion that the language is representative  
7 or suggestion only. I think it's important for each  
8 Council member to make the changes that fit your  
9 situation. In other meetings I have seen Council members  
10 state their name and where they're from. For instance, I  
11 was at a Bristol Bay meeting last week and more than one  
12 Council member said I hold a commercial fishing permit to  
13 fish in Bristol Bay. I also subsistence hunt and fish on  
14 Federal lands. For the agenda items today I have no  
15 conflict of interest and that's their statement. You  
16 need to make a statement that is true to your situation  
17 and not be feeling like the language is trying to put in  
18 words that you're not comfortable with what your  
19 situation is.

20

21 Anyway, the disclosure is they hold a  
22 commercial fishing permit, but on the agenda items today  
23 there's really nothing that they see is tied directly to  
24 their commercial fishing permit and they make a  
25 declaration that they have no conflict of interest. I  
26 hope that helps. The language is suggested, but you need  
27 to modify it as appropriate for your situation.

28

29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk, Enoch and  
30 Walt, you know, even though I'm a Chair of this group I  
31 will not say do this or that. It will be up to the  
32 individual to make a decision about this issue. Further  
33 comments or discussions. Attamuk.

34

35 ATTAMUK: The reason I say that because I  
36 applied for a grant this year. Just a brief explanation.  
37 This fell in my hand, do you have a commercial fishing  
38 permit, and I had a hard time explaining to them that my  
39 commercial fishing permit did not fall into this one.

40 For the grant, I wanted to do work for my people in my 11  
41 villages and I had a hard time explaining to them. They  
42 say this is a commercial fishing permit. The language  
43 here applied to the federal funding I was trying to get.  
44 Do you understand what I'm trying to say here?

45

46 MR. JENNINGS: (Nods affirmatively)

47

48 ATTAMUK: People will translate in your  
49 same Federal office. Depends who you talk to.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think the  
4 issue in regards to ethics disclosure, like I said, if  
5 any of the members have any problems or a question in  
6 regards to a potential conflict, then at the point in  
7 time when a decision has been made on a proposal, then we  
8 ought to make that known. I don't have any problems with  
9 regards to ethics disclosure in general, but I don't  
10 think -- I mean look at all the time we're spending on  
11 this issue while we could be doing some other things.  
12 But conflict certainly can be raised at the point in time  
13 when we need to, but if we have to go through line by  
14 line, let's go through it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that what you  
17 request, Mr. Sampson, just go through line item and just  
18 get this thing going?

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. If I have to  
21 go through each one of these or just one, then I --  
22 certainly I don't have any conflict with regards to what  
23 I do as a member of this body, but if I have to go  
24 through each one of these.....

25

26 ATTAMUK: Mr. Chairman.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

29

30 ATTAMUK: I think, to make this short, I  
31 think we should -- I would fall into the first paragraph,  
32 you know. Otherwise everybody will have to read the same  
33 thing over and over.

34

35 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, that was going  
36 to be my suggestion at this point. The Council feels  
37 that they don't have a conflict of interest, so if you  
38 would like to select that first paragraph. We're not  
39 asking you to read every paragraph. Just select a  
40 paragraph. But if we use that first paragraph, that  
41 should cover each of the Council members and we can get  
42 this financial disclosure out of the way if they read  
43 that first paragraph.

44

45 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think even  
46 the first one still has a problem with regards to the  
47 commercial permit issue. It says I do not hold any  
48 commercial permits. When an individual has a -- even  
49 though it says to conduct business activities, which he  
50 wouldn't probably have a direct effect anyway, but at

1 some point in time when we start talking fisheries, then  
2 that will be a conflict of interest possibly. I  
3 shouldn't say it will, but it possibly could have a  
4 conflict at that point in time when we start dealing with  
5 a fishery issue.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, you may.

8

9 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. I appreciate  
10 the little extra time we're taking today on this issue to  
11 help the Council and others understand what the  
12 requirements here are because this will come back up at  
13 future meetings, every meeting, because of the way the  
14 charter is now written. So it's important that the  
15 Council does gain some familiarity and understanding  
16 about the intent. I agree with Mr. Sampson that we don't  
17 have before us today issues where the Council is going to  
18 take action. There's really only one this afternoon.  
19 It's fine with me as the representative of the Office of  
20 Subsistence Management and in one way also representative  
21 of the Federal Subsistence Board on this issue, to go  
22 ahead. Unless there are other questions you have about  
23 it, we could move on. And then, as Mr. Sampson  
24 suggested, we could bring it back up if there's an item  
25 later on in the agenda where there's a feeling we ought  
26 to have a disclosure. I'm available to answer more  
27 questions or I'm also ready to move on with the agenda.  
28 But this issue will come up every meeting, so it's  
29 important that we have an understanding about what the  
30 intent of this ethics disclosure is for Council members.

31

32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before I take your  
33 question, Mr. Sampson, how much time do we have on this?  
34 I mean how much time do we have, just for today or table  
35 it for the next meeting or what?

36

37 MR. JENNINGS: I don't understand.

38

39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: How much time limit do  
40 we have on this disclosure? How much time do you want to  
41 give it? Just for today only or wait until the next  
42 meeting.

43

44 MR. JENNINGS: The nature of what the  
45 intent is to ask, ethics disclosure is for the items on  
46 your agenda before you today and then future meetings we  
47 would have the same ethics disclosure at future meetings  
48 because the agenda will be different. There will be  
49 other topics raised or regulatory proposals raised. So  
50 it will come up every meeting and its focus is on what is

1 before you today for action items.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Calvin.

4

5 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman. Each one of us  
6 Board members were selected on our merits of what we put  
7 down on our applications and I don't see where we have to  
8 go through this ethics thing because we were selected not  
9 just because of what we wrote down on our -- if we were  
10 commercial fishermen, then we said we were commercial  
11 fishermen on the application. What I can't see is where  
12 we would have a conflict. If we're commercial fishing on  
13 Federal lands, then I could see a vested -- you know,  
14 like this ethics coming up, but since we're dealing  
15 mostly with Federal issues, I don't see where we have to  
16 try to throw in some of the State issues that I was  
17 afraid might come in because I don't want to see anybody  
18 from State take over some of our Federal subsistence  
19 things. That's all I have to say.

20

21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Cal.  
22 Walter, anything else?

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I  
25 think one way of dealing with this issue is that if any  
26 of the membership have a question or a potential  
27 conflict, each member can let you know as the Chair and  
28 it can be raised at the point in time of that conflict  
29 and then you can make that decision whether the  
30 individual has a potential conflict when we get to those  
31 certain action items.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. Any  
34 further discussion on ethics disclosure.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I think you're  
39 ready to move on in the agenda unless there's any more  
40 questions.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Do you want an  
43 action on this, Michelle?

44

45 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. If you'd like,  
46 we can go ahead and move on just as Walter suggested and  
47 when we get to that item, if one of the members does have  
48 a financial interest or a gain that they feel they can  
49 state at that time there is a conflict, then that Council  
50 member would actually not participate in that discussion.

1 So at this time, if you'd like, we can go ahead and move  
2 on with the agenda.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that okay with the  
5 Council members.

6  
7 (Nods affirmatively)

8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay, we'll move on.  
10 Item number 5, to review and adopt the minutes of  
11 February 25, 2004 held in Kotzebue. I'll give you a few  
12 minutes to go through it.

13  
14 (Pause)

15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I guess everybody is  
17 familiar with the minutes. A motion on the floor for  
18 approving the minutes.

19  
20 MR. SAMPSON: So moved.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Moved by Walter.

23  
24 ATTAMUK: I'll second it.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Seconded. Any further  
27 discussion on the February 25 meeting minutes.

28  
29 (No comments)

30  
31 MR. MOTO: Call for the question.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question has been  
34 called by Calvin. All in favor of adopting the minutes  
35 of February 25 signify by saying aye.

36  
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.

40  
41 (No opposing votes)

42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. It passes. Next  
44 item. Council member reports. Village concerns from all  
45 Council members. Who wants to begin?

46  
47 ATTAMUK: I'll start it off.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay, Attamuk.

50

1                   ATTAMUK: For this fall's caribou  
2 hunting, I got calls from villages saying they were slow  
3 coming across. We all could feel it as hunters. For the  
4 people that did call me, they didn't worry. They were  
5 pretty happy. A lot of the caribou was fat, except one  
6 area. They weren't real fat in between -- the little in  
7 head was green on the meat. Otherwise, the rest of what  
8 I hear from them, they were pretty happy. Some people  
9 here in Kotzebue said they did not get any caribou until  
10 late fall. Kobuk, Shungnak and Noatak called me saying  
11 there were a lot of bears and wolves holding the caribou  
12 back this year. There was wolves all over. I saw them  
13 in my area. I saw them at Noatak, wolves and bears, so  
14 they were plentiful this year. I think they had their  
15 fill. I even watched a bear hunt actually get his  
16 caribou. He got the caribou I wanted and I wasn't  
17 arguing with him. The first time I ever see a bear chase  
18 one uphill and he got it. I couldn't believe this if I  
19 didn't see it firsthand.

20

21                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Enoch. Any  
22 questions or adding to Enoch's statement. Joe.

23

24                   MR. AREY: In our village, caribou was  
25 coming down late for some reason and they were staying  
26 way back there in the mountains, but once they got in  
27 about a couple weeks ago they really started coming down  
28 and they crossed right in the village. People got what  
29 they want as far as meat goes. The fish this time,  
30 people are getting more than last year. This year they  
31 got so many sacks, but still not enough. They see bears  
32 every day up on the Noatak. Sometimes they see five at  
33 one time. That's adult bears. They're not cubs  
34 following their mothers. So we're just getting too many  
35 bears. Those are the main concerns in our village right  
36 now anyway.

37

38                   Thank you.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Joe. Any  
41 questions for Mr. Arey from Noatak.

42

43                   (No comments)

44

45                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: If not, we'll go to  
46 Walter.

47

48                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
49 With the work I do, I do constant travel in and out of  
50 region. I periodically will hear people talking with

1 regards to hunt in general. Sometimes when you fly you  
2 will hear people in the back seats talking about the  
3 great hunt they've done. They talk about the big horns  
4 they got and having to leave the meat in an area that  
5 somebody else might want it. I think these are some of  
6 the things we certainly need to address at some point in  
7 time. It's an issue ethically and morally. To a point,  
8 sometimes it's wrong. If we're going to allow people to  
9 hunt within Federal/State lands, then we need to have  
10 that enforcement. If we're enforcing the law and  
11 stopping some of the Natives from doing what they're  
12 doing but can't do anything about the other user groups,  
13 then I have a problem with that. To me, that's profiling  
14 that's occurred and we all know about it.

15  
16 We hear about it over the public radio  
17 station. Anybody that wants meat, come out to the  
18 airport and get it. When you go out to the airport, what  
19 do you see. What's in the plastic bag sometimes is  
20 green. Sure, sometimes that meat is good, but the  
21 majority of the time that meat is green, not edible. And  
22 that's being publicly done over the radio.

23  
24 But when we deal with the very residents  
25 of this region, we handle them in a whole different  
26 manner. There's something wrong with the system. We  
27 need to correct that system. These are some of the  
28 things that I hear, not only from this community but  
29 throughout the communities. If one is being addressed in  
30 one way, then the other needs to be addressed in a  
31 similar manner. There's got to be equity. You can't  
32 treat one group of people in one way and treat the others  
33 in another way. It's a system problem. It's something  
34 that certainly needs to be addressed.

35  
36 Some of you probably think I'm saying  
37 that because I hear it only in Kotzebue. It's not only a  
38 Kotzebue issue, it's a region wide issue. In fact, you  
39 go to another region somewhere, they'll tell you a  
40 similar type of story.

41  
42 Environmental issue is another thing that  
43 we need to deal with. When you have groups of people  
44 being dropped into certain camps, then you've got a  
45 problem with human waste. Some of the things with the  
46 trash that's being left. I just watched a video not too  
47 long ago in regards to some of the very camps and how  
48 some of these camps were being managed. These are within  
49 Federal lands. But yet the expectation on our part, I'm  
50 talking about the Natives in general throughout the

1 region, we're expected to clean what we take, but yet we  
2 can't manage the other.

3  
4 I'm trying to show a picture of the type  
5 of similar issues, but yet dealing with people one way  
6 and ignoring the other. To me, that's profiling. If  
7 that's the type of management we're going to manage, then  
8 we've got a problem. I'm not saying it's the manager's  
9 problem, but I'm saying as managers of this region, of  
10 these lands collectively, we have a problem, let's deal  
11 with it together. Let's not ignore it. I think it's  
12 time that we start dealing with these issues. We'll have  
13 more discussion on some of the things as we go through  
14 some of the reports. I'm just highlighting some of the  
15 things that I hear and certainly needs to be dealt with.  
16 I think it's only fair to everybody that there's equity  
17 somewhere.

18  
19 Thank you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. Are  
22 there any questions for Walter from any of the agencies  
23 about his concerns.

24  
25 (No comments)

26  
27 MR. MOTO: Good morning. Calvin Moto  
28 from Deering. I have a few issues that I wanted to bring  
29 up, similar to what Walter said. Since Percy isn't here  
30 he asked me to outline a little bit about some of the  
31 problems they're having with caribou this year. This  
32 year the caribou hadn't gone through Buckland until  
33 pretty late because they feel that the guiding hunting is  
34 diverting some of the caribou to a different area. I  
35 noticed that also in Deering. The only caribou we have  
36 are the ones that stay around year round in Deering area.  
37 We haven't seen any new caribou come to our area. Is it  
38 because of all these guiding hunting going on or what?  
39 We have to really find out for sure what's going on.

40  
41 I heard this year that they had over 103  
42 guided hunters in this region. They're leaving trash for  
43 us to pick up. I think they have the mentality that they  
44 think we have to do the cleanup and I don't think that's  
45 right.

46  
47 Another problem we have is right now we  
48 have a large amount of muskox in our area and about every  
49 other day we have to chase them off the land so sometimes  
50 the planes could land. This is getting to be a big

1 concern with some of our people. We would like to see  
2 either the take expanded or some of them relocated  
3 someplace else. This is kind of the feeling.

4  
5 Bears. We have a significant amount of  
6 bears this year, wolves. Wolves are getting to be pretty  
7 active in our area because a large amount of muskox,  
8 caribou and deer. Sometimes the wolves come almost into  
9 town and we have to shoot them. I have never seen so  
10 many wolves come close to our village in a long time like  
11 they've been doing the last two or three years. It's  
12 getting to be a concern because in the fall time, like  
13 this time, you know, we have kids running cross country  
14 races and we have to have somebody out with a rifle. The  
15 same thing with the bears because when they have cross  
16 country, they run upriver and back and there's a lot of  
17 bears up there and people are concerned.

18  
19 This year also the first time we saw a  
20 significant amount of crab. It's been a long time since  
21 we've had crabs in our area. They're not very big, but  
22 they're starting to come around again. When I was a  
23 young man, we used to get crabs all the time. They're  
24 kind of a tan, brown crab.

25  
26 This year also is the first time we had a  
27 significant amount of whitefish. We haven't had white  
28 fish for a long time. We look at this as a good sign  
29 because when we see more whitefish or herring, we know  
30 there will be more seals or oogruk. This year is the  
31 first time we got an oogruk for all the elders in our  
32 community. This is a program that we have where the  
33 young people hunt for the elders so they could have seal  
34 oil and fish and caribou. I see this working pretty  
35 good.

36  
37 As a whole, I think we'd doing fairly  
38 well and I want to thank you for giving me this time to  
39 express my thoughts and opinions.

40  
41 Thank you.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.  
44 It's very interesting that you say that you're finally  
45 seeing those crabs again. That's very interesting  
46 because I worked on that Deering airport in '86 and were  
47 seeing those. At least they're showing up again.

48  
49 MR. MOTO: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: That's a good  
2 statement, Calvin. Okay. As for my concerns for myself,  
3 I do a lot of flying for NANA Regional Corporation as a  
4 resource protecting officer and I have to fly over  
5 Deering area, Candle area, Buckland area in that one day  
6 and the next day I have to go up the coastline to the  
7 port, Kivalina, Wulik, Noatak and back to Kiana and then  
8 third day would have to be Upper Kobuk, way up far as  
9 Manillaag area, and I cover the entire area. It covers a  
10 lot of mileage working for Nana, protecting all the  
11 private lands and property.

12  
13 Concerning caribou in this area that we  
14 all know, like we hear from the members, that the caribou  
15 was something like two and a half weeks late this year.  
16 They migrated in the latter part of August and then they  
17 continued on through upper Selawik area and they went  
18 down over on the other side of Selawik. About the 20th  
19 of September when we got a little cold spell, all of a  
20 sudden almost like 2,000 caribou, they turned a 180-  
21 degree angle and started heading backwards. Then they  
22 went as far as the Red Dog area and they turned around  
23 and started coming back again. It's kind of obvious  
24 migration of the caribou. Now they're continuously going  
25 south. The report I see from the villages that the  
26 caribou are pretty healthy. Everybody is pretty pleased  
27 about what they've seen concerning caribou.

28  
29 For the transporters and guides, we  
30 expected the same as last year, the hunters in the field.  
31 Surprisingly this year we've hardly see as many hunters  
32 compared to last year. Last year we had hunters  
33 everywhere. So this year it's pretty quiet.

34  
35  
36 Just like Walter said, all the government  
37 agencies was around, but there was hardly any law  
38 enforcement people except for Selawik Wildlife Refuge and  
39 the State had one. We had one ranger up at Gates to the  
40 Arctic, but he's always 50 miles away. So compared to  
41 wanton waste stuff in the lower part of the Kobuk and  
42 Noatak and Wulik area, there was nobody enforcing this  
43 wanton waste.

44  
45 The village concern is about these  
46 agencies that we need to come up with a solution for all  
47 the government agencies to have their law enforcement  
48 officer on duty during the hunting season beginning  
49 August 1 until the 15th of October.

50

1                   It's like the BLM. They never went to  
2 Squirrel River when there were a lot of hunters. I know  
3 Randy was very concerned about that, but there was a lot  
4 of hunters in that area with four-wheelers and aircraft  
5 everywhere. However, I was up there just two days ago  
6 flying my final flight. Most camps have been pretty well  
7 maintained and in good shape.

8  
9                   People that hunted in Squirrel River  
10 area, there was hardly any law enforcement in these land  
11 areas, so sure enough there was some wanton waste in the  
12 area and then we get the blame for it. Like Walt said,  
13 we need to come up with a solution and then enforcing  
14 some of these rules that's been violated by non-resident  
15 people.

16  
17                   Concerning muskox, I know there's a  
18 concern by all the Council members. There was a few  
19 comments from Noatak and Kivalina. I said, well, just  
20 tell the agencies to bring the muskox back where they  
21 came from. Some of these muskox on the coastline from  
22 here to the port side, you know, there's a number of  
23 camps and houses and they're within 10 feet from your  
24 doorway. You can't even go out. You can't chase them  
25 away. If you chase them away, they get mad at you and  
26 you're stuck. So we need to come up with some solution  
27 in order to hunt muskox. I don't know how to explain it,  
28 but they're just right there and they won't go away.  
29 Maybe Willie would tell us how to fix them, but I don't.  
30 I'm not a muskox hunter. And there's a lot of them.

31  
32                   I guess one thing I thought about quite a  
33 bit is the permit on muskox hunting. We'd probably have  
34 to come up with bigger numbers to issue these permits if  
35 a guy wants a muskox. That's the concern from the local  
36 people in Noatak and especially Kivalina and Deering.  
37 Just like Calvin said, sometimes the aircraft would have  
38 to circle a couple times in order to land because they're  
39 across the runway, a muskox here, a muskox there. So  
40 that's the concern from the local people.

41  
42                   Walter.

43  
44                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
45 intend to ask the question -- as we go through the  
46 process of our agenda, I neglected to ask that question  
47 regards to any proposals for muskox hunt from northern  
48 part of Unit 23. I know we have muskox hunts over on  
49 Seward Peninsula, Buckland area, but we don't have any  
50 muskox hunt on the northern part of Unit 23. Was there

1 any proposals that was done?

2

3

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ken.

4

5

6 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council  
7 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. Jim Dau  
8 could address the general northwest Alaska, Cape Thompson  
9 State Tier II hunt.

9

10

11 I did have an announcement that I wasn't  
12 sure whether to bring it up under proposals or agency  
13 reports, but this seems like an appropriate time to  
14 address it specifically in relation to Mr. Sampson's  
15 questions. The National Park Service is going to be  
16 working with the Cape Krusenstern Subsistence Resource  
17 Commission to develop a proposal that would open up Cape  
18 Krusenstern to limited muskox and hunting. We've still  
19 got some work to do on that. We're still looking at some  
20 of the biological information. We've had some  
21 discussions in a working group with two of the commission  
22 members.

22

23

24 The Cape Krusenstern Commission will be  
25 meeting here in Kotzebue Tuesday of this week and we hope  
26 to work something out at that meeting, get a proposal  
27 roughed out and submitted it to meet the Federal program  
28 deadlines and when that's done, of course, it will go  
29 into the books, it will go through the Staff analysis and  
30 you'll see it show up on the next round. But I guess if  
31 you had any questions maybe at this point I could try to  
32 address them, but like I say we'll be taking this up  
33 perhaps in some detail at the Commission meeting Tuesday.

33

34

35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ken, I've got a  
36 question for you on the muskox. Did you say for the  
37 muskox situation on the Cape Krusenstern, were they  
38 issuing more permits or what is it?

38

39

40 MR. ADKISSON: Well, I think there's a  
41 number of questions. I can just sort of tell you where  
42 we're at right now. As you know, the Park Service for  
43 years has been very reluctant to open Cape Krusenstern  
44 up. I would say that we still have a number of real  
45 biological concerns. The situation in the Arctic  
46 National Wildlife Refuge recently where they basically  
47 declined fairly rapidly from several hundred animals down  
48 to less than I think around 27 animals at the last count  
49 only adds to those concerns that we have. I've seen  
50 nothing really to suggest that we can't handle a limited  
51 hunt within Krusenstern, so I think initially we expect

1 to see a very small harvest. There's going to be  
2 allocation issues come up, which hopefully the SRC can  
3 help us work through because very clearly it will be an  
4 804 situation where probably demand would far outstrip  
5 harvest availability or allowable harvest.

6  
7                   That will, I think, open the door and get  
8 us started and then I think we need to work with ADF&G to  
9 talk about exactly what groups of animals we're talking  
10 about and how harvest allocations could be established.  
11 Perhaps similar to some solutions we found on the Seward  
12 Peninsula where we sort of have a very successful, I  
13 think, joint Federal/State managed hunt.

14  
15                   I think for this time around our response  
16 is going to be a very small harvest to get it started and  
17 track that and our biological work on the animals from  
18 composition data and so forth. One of the questions I  
19 would have is -- right now, I mean, it strikes me that  
20 the State Tier II hunt, even though they may hope to  
21 focus the harvest or spread it out among the full range  
22 of Cape Thompson animals, because I think no one would  
23 say that the animals from the Cape Thompson population  
24 all the way from the mouth of the Noatak to Cape Lisburne  
25 are not a biological population, but being spread out  
26 along that narrow strip raises questions. Right now the  
27 State Tier II hunt that's going on focuses the harvest  
28 really, I think, in that strip along the Wulik/Kivalina  
29 area just to the north of the park and to the east of the  
30 monument.

31  
32                   I don't see any mechanism that the State  
33 has other than to zone things to spread some of that  
34 harvest further north and I think that's one of the  
35 questions we have. Frankly, the last thing we want to  
36 see from a park point of view is concentrating that  
37 harvest in Krusenstern on the limited age and sex groups  
38 that we have. I think a lot more of that will probably  
39 come out at the SRC meeting.

40  
41                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ken, one comment I have  
42 for you. In order to come up with this muskox situation  
43 in that area from Cape Krusenstern, you need to go to  
44 Noatak, Kivalina and Point Hope and then find out what  
45 they're experiencing concerning the population of muskox.  
46 The numbers you have said is not the number that --  
47 there's way more than 27. There's a larger group in that  
48 Wulik area and upper Kivalina River area.

49  
50                   MR. ADKISSON: What you say about

1 involving the communities is true, but right now our  
2 answer to part of that -- we have had a series of  
3 meetings over the years. This has been a long, sort of  
4 drawn-out issue. Right now I think under the time frame  
5 that we've got it seems to be most effective to work with  
6 the SRC, the Krusenstern SRC, which has members from  
7 those areas, to get something moving.

8

9                   The 27 that I mentioned is the Arctic  
10 National Wildlife Refuge. It's not the Cape Thompson  
11 population. All I was pointing out there was that you  
12 had a fairly substantial number of animals and within a  
13 matter of a few years it declined to almost nothing.  
14 That decline is not well understood. I'd say almost not  
15 understood at all. The last thing we want to do is to  
16 wind up with a situation like that on Krusenstern.

17

18                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Sampson.

19

20                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
21 I'm glad it's been addressed if SRC is going to be  
22 addressing that. I recognize and understand the State  
23 has a hunt. What I was asking for was an issue in  
24 regards to a discussion on getting a Federal hunt in  
25 place for Krusenstern, Cape Townsend area, so I'm glad  
26 that will be addressed and certainly I would support  
27 that. Thanks.

28

29                   MR. ADKISSON: You're very welcome.  
30 Thank you much.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

33

34                   ATTAMUK: Enoch Shiedt here. I know what  
35 Raymond was trying to say when he was talking about  
36 enforcement. I think what he was trying to say, he  
37 needed enforcement for sport hunting out there during a  
38 short hunting season and I just don't want the agents to  
39 take it the wrong way, that we want enforcers for the  
40 Natives because we try to live -- and most Natives will  
41 comply with the regulations out there. Because I don't  
42 want to see my people being enforced right now and our  
43 sport hunters are not being enforced. It's just like  
44 Walter said, it's just not fair. I understand what  
45 Raymond is trying to say, but don't translate his word  
46 that we, as Natives, want enforcement out there for us.

47

48                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Enoch.  
49 We'll take a 10-minute break. Lots of coffee here.

50

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'll call the meeting back to  
6 order. Michelle, are you ready? This morning, the  
7 comments and reports from the villages is very  
8 interesting about the caribou, muskox, everything.  
9 Again, I certainly want to thank more agencies that are  
10 here with us this morning. People from the borough.  
11 Welcome to the meeting here. And, of course, what do you  
12 call it, the Kotzebue newspaper, the Arctic Sounder,  
13 we're very glad to have you here. As you know, just  
14 about every household in the region reads your newspaper.  
15 It's very interesting. Welcome to the RAC meeting. It's  
16 the first time I've ever seen you here. Thank you very  
17 much for being with us today.

18

19 Okay. We're down to the Chair report,  
20 it's 805 letter. It concerned a proposal WP04-01. Whose  
21 going to do that, Michelle, the State or Federal?

22

23 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, this was a  
24 statewide proposal that was submitted and this is the  
25 actual action that the Board took on that item and the  
26 Board did adopt that proposal with modification and it  
27 also states that they took into consideration the  
28 Regional Council's recommendation. That's all.

29

30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: It's on page 13 as  
31 Proposal WP04-01.

32

33 MS. CHIVERS: This is just an  
34 informational letter. There's no action needed by the  
35 Council. Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: No action needed.

38

39 MS. CHIVERS: (Nods affirmatively)

40

41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Walter.

42

43 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
44 Just sort of curious in regards to when the Board adopted  
45 this proposal what amendments were put into that  
46 proposal.

47

48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Michelle.

49

50 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, Walter. If you

1 read on page 13, the actual action that the Board took  
2 was they adopted with modification that the sale of the  
3 handicraft items made from the fur of brown bear,  
4 including claws, will be allowed in the Southeast,  
5 Bristol Bay and Eastern Interior subsistence regions. At  
6 this time, it would not be allowed in the other seven  
7 regions who opposed this proposal.

8  
9 Thank you.

10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: This is just  
14 informational.

15  
16 MS. CHIVERS: Correct.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any comments from the  
19 Council members.

20  
21 (No comments)

22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll go down to  
24 item number eight, Unit 23 moose Interagency discussion.

25  
26 MR. ARDIZZONE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
27 Chuck Ardizzone, wildlife biologist, OSM. This agenda  
28 item, we just wanted to give you a quick briefing on  
29 moose in Unit 23 and some discussion of things that have  
30 been going on and then hopefully it will lead into some  
31 other Staff from the other agencies, the State coming up  
32 here and talking about what they think about the moose  
33 population here. So I'm just going to cover some quick  
34 things real quick.

35  
36 I gave you a two-page handout on Unit 23  
37 moose. It should be with your packet.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Has everybody got this  
40 handout?

41  
42 (No comments)

43  
44 MR. ARDIZZONE: The first couple of  
45 tables on the first page would be the State regulations,  
46 current regulations. The second table is current Federal  
47 regulations. Then I was just going to run through the  
48 text on the bottom and we can go from there.

49  
50 Over the last several years, State and

1 Federal moose hunting regulations in Unit 23 have become  
2 more and more divergent. Since there are a number of  
3 Federal land managers in Unit 23 a teleconference was  
4 held on June 28, 2004 between the Federal staff from the  
5 BLM, NPS, USFWS and OSM to discuss the concerns and  
6 determine whether or not to propose changes to moose  
7 regulations on Federal lands.

8  
9 Currently, there is a three-month  
10 difference between State and Federal regulations.  
11 Federal subsistence users are able to hunt January 1  
12 through March 3rd, however the latest a State hunter  
13 could harvest a moose would be December 31st. During the  
14 teleconference the Federal staff discussed a number of  
15 options that could be used to address the differences  
16 between the regulations.

17  
18 The options included no change at this  
19 time, we could partially align Federal regulations with  
20 State regulations with a number of options, A through D,  
21 which are on your sheet. Number three would be establish  
22 the requirement for a Federal registration permit so that  
23 Federal hunters have an easy to use and understand  
24 reporting mechanism. The fourth thing we thought we  
25 could do is fully align Federal with State regulations.

26  
27 After considerable discussion a consensus  
28 was reached. No changes were going to be proposed to the  
29 Federal Subsistence Board regulations at that time.  
30 However, it was determined that this issue was very  
31 important and should be brought to the Northwest Arctic  
32 Regional Advisory Council for their review and input.

33  
34 Currently, the Council does not have to  
35 take any action at this time; however, if the Council  
36 believes a regulation change is needed, a regulatory  
37 proposal should be submitted before October 22 of this  
38 year.

39  
40 That's just a basic overview of some  
41 discussion we had in June. We thought the moose issue  
42 was very important and the Council should discuss it or,  
43 if they want to, submit a proposal. If they don't want to  
44 do anything, that's fine also. Currently, there's the  
45 Federal and State Staff here that can answer questions if  
46 you have any. They might have some input they want to  
47 come up to the speaker and give you a little briefing.  
48 I'm not sure. It's up to you, Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Anything from

1 the Council members about this.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think I  
4 certainly would be interested in discussing the moose  
5 issue within Unit 23 both with the Federal and the State  
6 folks. I certainly have some concerns in regards to that  
7 resource. With all the horns coming through his fall,  
8 the issue in regards to poundage of meat going out  
9 sometimes looks very bad. I don't want to use the word  
10 bad, but it seems like we have some horns that are coming  
11 through and a small box along with that going out. I  
12 mean moose. You're talking 800 to 1,500-pound critter.  
13 If you've got a small box that only weighed 70 pounds,  
14 where's the other 1,000 pounds of it?

15

16 What I'm getting at is there's got to be  
17 a better way of tracking this type of hunt that's  
18 occurring, both at the Federal and the State lands maybe  
19 to address the concern and the issue. Maybe one thing we  
20 ought to look at is making a recommendation to set up a  
21 station at the airport where all the hunters can go  
22 through. I mean if it means treating the other hunters  
23 in this region, we ought to set up a station somewhere  
24 where all the hunters are bringing in their meat.

25

26 Understand, I don't have any problems  
27 with people hunting. It's the meat that I'm concerned  
28 about, the resource. If people are going to hunt, they  
29 take that meat with them wherever they came from. Sure,  
30 it's going to cost them money to bring it out. Isn't  
31 that the purpose of them coming is to go out and get meat  
32 or is it just for the horns?

33

34 So, I think with that, Mr. Chairman, if  
35 we can find a way to establish a station for hunters to  
36 go through, maybe that would eliminate the issue of  
37 wanton waste because moose is starting to concern me.  
38 All the years that I do hunting on an annual basis  
39 usually I'll catch a moose, but this year I didn't catch  
40 a moose. I boated for about a week and a half every day.  
41 I saw a lot of cows and calves, but as far as bull moose  
42 is concerned I didn't see one. I saw one to a distance,  
43 but there was no way I was going to go humping up,  
44 shooting the critter and have to hump a good mile, mile  
45 and a half.

46

47 But this year has been poor hunting for  
48 me as far as moose hunting. That's why I raised the  
49 issue in regards to if people are going to hunt, maybe to  
50 address the wanton waste issue, we ought to set a station

1 where hunters can go through showing, yes, these are the  
2 bull moose that I got, this is the meat that I'm bringing  
3 back with me. Maybe it would eliminate that process of  
4 wanton waste.

5  
6 It would also do another thing. It would  
7 show the agency the meat they're bringing back with them,  
8 if it's not edible, then they can say it's not edible,  
9 then they can dispose of it in a proper process rather  
10 than dumping it off at Alaska Airline dumpster, than  
11 having to point fingers at the community for wanton  
12 waste. So I think we ought to have a good dialogue in  
13 regards to that issue.

14  
15 Thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. One  
18 thing I wanted to ask, in this case, if this ever  
19 happened with a hunter that got a moose and wanted to  
20 give it away because it was so old, it would still be the  
21 hunter's responsibility in order to dump it, is there any  
22 punishment to that?

23  
24 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Chair, I'm going to  
25 have to pass that question off to one of the law  
26 enforcement individuals in the room. I can't answer  
27 that.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

30  
31 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I guess maybe  
32 before we go into that, one other issue maybe you could  
33 quickly bring and shed some light to us in regards to  
34 number of moose. Maybe the survey is what I'm interested  
35 in, when that occurred, what the numbers are and trying  
36 to compare previous years to numbers of moose this year.  
37 So if you could quickly go through the process of  
38 providing us information in regards to survey moose over  
39 a period of time, I certainly would be interested.

40  
41 MR. ARDIZZONE: I'm not knowledgeable of  
42 the current survey, but I know Jim Dau is here. He might  
43 want to come up and talk to you and tell you what the  
44 situation with the moose population is. Then there's  
45 other Federal Staff here that can also help fill in the  
46 blanks.

47  
48 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. As a land  
49 manager, as a landowner, as a Federal agency. I think  
50 that should be part of the responsibility of the

1 landowner. You, being the Federal agency, I think also  
2 have a responsibility for that resource. That's why I  
3 asked if there's a way to coordinate an effort with the  
4 State. I'm not trying to put you on the spot, but my  
5 concern is in regards to number of moose that are being  
6 taken versus what the survey says for the last two, three  
7 years.

8  
9 MR. ARDIZZONE: Mr. Sampson, I  
10 understand. I just didn't want to misspeak because I  
11 would normally get my information from Jim or someone up  
12 here anyway, so it's better to get it directly from them.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Dau.

15  
16 MR. DAU: I'm Jim Dau with the Department  
17 of Fish and Game. Mr. Chair, Walter. For the last four  
18 years in terms of numbers of moose, we've been censusing  
19 big areas. We've kind of changed the way we census  
20 moose. We're doing much bigger areas now than we used  
21 to. All the censuses we've done have been cooperative  
22 censuses with either the Fish and Wildlife Service or  
23 National Park Service or BLM. I was just talking to Kyle  
24 Joly about trying to do the Squirrel and Noatak this  
25 spring. So anything I'm talking about here there's  
26 Federal counterparts here that could sing the same song.  
27 But it hasn't been Chuck, so it's nice of you to put one  
28 of us who has been in the plane up here.

29  
30 In these big areas for the last four  
31 years, I'll tell you which areas we've done. Four years  
32 ago we did the Noatak, the lower Noatak below Kaluktavik  
33 Creek, all the way down to the mouth and including the  
34 upper Squirrel, that's everything above the north fork of  
35 the Squirrel, and in that census, it's about 5,000 square  
36 miles, we had 0.3 moose per square mile.

37  
38 The next year I did the Seward Peninsula.  
39 I did that portion west of and including the Buckland  
40 Drainage. That's about 6,000 square miles. There we had  
41 0.1 moose per square mile.

42  
43 The next year with Gates of the Arctic  
44 staff we did the Upper Kobuk. It was a little over 4,000  
45 square miles. The density there was about 0.2 moose per  
46 square miles.

47  
48 Then last spring we did the Seward  
49 Peninsula again and the reason why we did that again was  
50 that density had been so low that the State had closed

1 most of the State season and we wanted to make sure our  
2 numbers were good, so we wanted to repeat it. We got  
3 basically the same results last year that we did the two  
4 years prior to that, 0.1 moose per square mile.  
5

6                   So, to give you something to compare  
7 against, in the Interior, where moose are considered  
8 abundant, in big areas, not just little honey hole areas  
9 that are good for moose, but in big areas, 6,000 square  
10 miles, they're getting three moose per square mile, so  
11 that's 10 to 30 times as many moose per square mile in  
12 the Interior as we've been seeing out here in big  
13 portions of Unit 23. So it's pretty low.  
14

15                   Maybe I'll stop there and give you a  
16 chance to ask questions.  
17

18                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.  
19

20                   MR. MOTO: I was wondering and the people  
21 of my community were wondering about -- I know about  
22 three years ago we had a large population of moose. What  
23 happened to them? When you closed the moose to the  
24 people in our area, did you also close to guides and  
25 stuff like that? We can't hunt moose, but we see some  
26 guided people come in to hunt moose. We can't understand  
27 that rationale.  
28

29                   MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Calvin. The short  
30 answer to your first question about what happened to the  
31 moose is I don't know for sure. I've got some ideas  
32 about things that are happening to them. Throughout this  
33 whole unit there's lots of bears. We all know that.  
34 I've talked to every one of you guys. You fly around,  
35 you snowmachine around, there's lots of bears. I think a  
36 large part of our problem is that bears are knocking off  
37 a lot of calves every year before we ever get to even the  
38 first snow. So I think that's part of what happened to  
39 them.  
40

41                   I guess I've got a little different take  
42 than you maybe Calvin about there were lots of moose two  
43 or three years ago. I think two or three years ago there  
44 were not a lot of moose down around Deering. I think  
45 what happens around Deering though is that you get moose  
46 moving into the Inmachuk and they're moving right down  
47 near the village and I see this census after census after  
48 census. In the winter time, those moose get down near  
49 the villages and I was told this happens.  
50

1                   When I first got here back in the late  
2 '80s, everybody says we've got all these problems in the  
3 winter time, these moose move right down near the village  
4 to stay away from the bulls and I thought, yeah, right.  
5 Well, I've been here 16 years now and those people that  
6 told me that they were absolutely right. I see it time  
7 and time again. As I do these censuses, you get down  
8 near the villages, your density goes up and the  
9 proportion of calves that you see goes up, no matter  
10 whether you're talking about Noatak or Shungnak or Kobuk  
11 and down by Deering too.

12  
13                   So the point of all this is I think it's  
14 real easy for people who live in a village to get maybe  
15 an inflated view of moose numbers if they're only looking  
16 out their window because the moose are packed right  
17 around the village. But when I'm in the Upper Good Hope  
18 or Cottonwood Creek, any of those drainages down there,  
19 we didn't see hardly any moose. Where it's really bad is  
20 over in the Buckland drainage.

21  
22                   Now you had another question about the  
23 State closing the season. The State closed the season  
24 for everybody. When we do an emergency closure, we can't  
25 close the season for just non-residents or local  
26 residents or anything. It's like flipping a light  
27 switch. It's either a full closure or a full opening, so  
28 that's what we've done. On the Federal side, there's  
29 been no closure. You guys haven't taken any emergency  
30 action. So even though the State season has been closed,  
31 people in Buckland and Deering have still had the option  
32 of hunting under Federal regulations in those drainages.

33  
34                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before the emergency  
35 closure for Deering and Buckland, Jim, was there any  
36 harvest report for prior to emergency closure for sport  
37 hunters in that area?

38  
39                   MR. DAU: Yes, we have. I've looked at  
40 that stuff in real detail and I've always felt that the  
41 State harvest reporting system has done a real good job  
42 for people who don't live in this region. That most of  
43 the people who come here from Anchorage and Fairbanks and  
44 Ohio and Michigan, most of those guys buy licenses, most  
45 of those guys submit their harvest reports.

46  
47                   Looking at the Seward Peninsula, for the  
48 first time I've begun to question that somewhat because  
49 the last year that we had a hunting season down there I  
50 was down there, I saw what it looked like. There were

1 lots of camps. It's just like the people from Buckland  
2 and Deering were telling me. They were on every bar.  
3 Some of those guys were only hunting caribou, but I can't  
4 believe that only five guys were hunting moose down there  
5 and that's about how many moose I had reported.

6  
7                   So, for the first time I started to  
8 wonder have we got some shrewd operators out there who  
9 are telling us they're hunting someplace else so that we  
10 don't get the impression that there's all this pressure  
11 down there. This is pure speculation on my part, but I'm  
12 just telling you that what I see in the State harvest  
13 reporting data for the Seward Peninsula doesn't really  
14 agree with what I saw when I looked out the window of the  
15 Cub and I went down there several times looking. And I  
16 talked to the protection officers both from Nome and  
17 Kotzebue and they said, man, this place is a flying  
18 circus. There's lots and lots and lots of hunters down  
19 there.

20  
21                   So, I've looked at it and based on our  
22 harvest data, Raymond, harvest on the Seward Peninsula,  
23 whether you're talking about local people who live in  
24 Buckland and Deering or whether you're talking about all  
25 the non-local people, it's been very low. The reported  
26 harvest I don't think has ever been more than 10 moose,  
27 but I'm questioning whether that's really the full  
28 picture.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

31  
32                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Jim, for that  
33 report. I also have a two-part question, I guess, both  
34 for the Federal and the State. In regards to Native-  
35 selected lands, who has the ultimate responsibility on  
36 that resource within Native-selected lands, the Feds or  
37 the State?

38  
39                   MR. ARDIZZONE: State.

40  
41                   MR. DAU: My understanding is that any  
42 lands that are selected but not conveyed, whether it's  
43 selected by a Native corporation or the State or anybody  
44 else, if it's not conveyed yet, the State still manages  
45 wildlife on those lands. If it's conveyed to a Federal  
46 agency, it's under Federal management. If it's conveyed  
47 to a Native corporation, it's managed by the State as  
48 private land. So corporation land is managed by the  
49 State. Now, the one caveat to that is the State  
50 promulgates regulations for harvest on those lands, but

1 as the land owner, the corporation absolutely controls  
2 access and you know that better than I do.

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: I was just trying to get  
5 clarity in regards to who manages that resource. In  
6 regards to navigable waters, who is responsible then for  
7 -- or who manages the navigable waters within both the  
8 State and the Federal area?

9

10 MR. DAU: There's probably lots of people  
11 in the audience who know this better than me and if  
12 anybody does, come up, but my understanding is that it  
13 used to be that the State controlled navigable waters  
14 period. I know the Park Service says, when you're in a  
15 hard park at least, that they can control navigable  
16 waters there. Is there anybody from Park Service or  
17 anybody else that can address that?

18

19 MR. SAMPSON: My intent of my question is  
20 to try to pinpoint in regards to who manages the  
21 resources.

22

23 MR. MILLS: Hi. My name is Dave Mills,  
24 superintendent for Gates of the Arctic. I'm certainly  
25 not the expert on this and legal experts will debate this  
26 forever, but my understanding -- and I like to try to  
27 keep things simple. The reason this is controversial,  
28 there's been very few navigability determinations.  
29 There's actually a process that needs to go through from  
30 the Federal government standpoint to determine whether or  
31 not a river is navigable. And there's only been a few  
32 cases where navigability has been determined by the  
33 Federal government. The State will assert navigability  
34 when they think it -- or they'll claim navigability when  
35 they think it meets the basic standards of a canoe or  
36 whatever. But, legally, there's been very few actual  
37 determinations around the state of legal determination of  
38 navigability. That's why it gets fairly controversial.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: So what you're telling me  
41 then, Dave, is that State has the responsibility even  
42 within Federal lands if it's navigable.

43

44 MR. MILLS: I think the intent is --  
45 you're talking about wildlife regulation?

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: Within Federal lands.

48

49 MR. MILLS: Okay. A lot of this has to  
50 do -- when you say who has jurisdiction has to do with

1 the type of activity going on. The National Park  
2 Service, let me be specific to the type of activities  
3 that we might manage. If it's a recreation activity that  
4 is clearly within the purpose of a national park and say  
5 there's commercial activities going on within that --  
6 let's keep it out of this region -- within Yukon-Charley  
7 Rivers National Preserve flows there. I don't think  
8 anybody is going to argue that that river, even though  
9 there hasn't been a determination on it, is a very  
10 navigable river. They used to take sternwheelers up and  
11 down it.

12  
13 So, for the purpose of interstate or  
14 international commerce, even though there hasn't been a  
15 determination, the Federal government isn't going to make  
16 the argument that that is not a navigable river. In the  
17 management of interstate commerce, such as fuel barges  
18 and things like that going up and down, clearly the State  
19 would have jurisdiction of that. When it comes down to  
20 managing recreational activities or activities that have  
21 to do with the scope of the authority of the National  
22 Park Service, in this case such as guides that provide  
23 services up and down the river, we have said in that  
24 area, even though it's navigable, that's something that  
25 within the boundaries of the preserve. In that case,  
26 it's something that we manage and we're going to manage  
27 that appropriately for that area. So it kind of depends  
28 what activities you're talking about.

29  
30 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. So, as I  
31 understand it, if I was a guide, I can go into Kobuk  
32 Valley and do my business of guiding as long as I'm in  
33 compliance with the State of Alaska in regards to the  
34 navigability issue.

35  
36 MR. MILLS: I think we have said this in  
37 Kobuk, but it's my understanding that in terms of  
38 commercial guiding services in Kobuk Valley National  
39 Park, no matter where that occurs, in the river, out of  
40 the river or on the bank, the National Park Service  
41 manages those activities. That doesn't mean the State  
42 doesn't also have jurisdiction. Clearly that would  
43 probably be determined as a navigable river, but they  
44 would certainly have management authority over commerce  
45 and other things going up and down the river, but when it  
46 comes to things within the scope of the Park Service.

47  
48 Ken, do you want to add to that?

49  
50 MR. SAMPSON: Can't always have the

1 answers.

2

3

4 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
5 Park Service. Not always, Walter, and in a complex issue  
6 like this I'd hope that there'd be somebody else chiming  
7 in like from OSM, Tim Jennings for example, but I'll just  
8 give you my take on the basic question of management  
9 authority responsibility and so forth.

9

10

11 When the program first began in 1990-91,  
12 two factors come into play. Is it an identified  
13 conservation unit, and that's very important now, or is  
14 it general public lands, like BLM. Things are complicated  
15 and you get different answers depending upon how the  
16 answer to that first primary question turns out.

16

17

18 But the example that I'll give you is  
19 from Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and the area of  
20 Cape Espenberg. If you look at a map of the Federal  
21 public lands for subsistence management in the early days  
22 of the program, you will find in the northeast corner of  
23 Bering Land Bridge a large white section through the  
24 Espenberg area. That's essentially Nana Corporation  
25 selected lands.

25

26

27 In the early days of the program, those  
28 lands technically were not subject to Federal subsistence  
29 management. That's why the map was white in that area.  
30 However, when the Federal program was amended and  
31 adjusted to deal with fish, some of the definitions in  
32 the regulations and so forth changed. At that time  
33 selected but non-conveyed lands within conservation units  
34 then became subject to Federal subsistence program  
35 management through the Federal regulatory processes. That  
36 also applies to waters, regardless of navigability or  
37 anything else that flow through those conservation units.

37

38

39

40 So in the case that Walter raises about  
41 the Kobuk Valley National Park, it definitely provides  
42 the jurisdiction and the authority to the Federal  
43 program. There's also a backup and this would be  
44 questionable, but there are Park Service rules and  
45 regulations that have gone through court processes that  
46 basically say, as Dave Mills has pointed out, you can  
47 always get into questions about navigability and shared  
48 jurisdiction and so forth, but as far as Park Service  
49 management goes on its own regulations, if it's within  
50 the boundary of a National Park or monument, activities  
51 within there generally fall subject to the National Park

1 Service. That doesn't mean that the State has no right  
2 in there, but generally so.

3  
4 But those are Park Service regulations  
5 and not Federal subsistence regulations. The changes in  
6 the fish program definitely take in selected but non-  
7 conveyed lands within the boundaries of the conservation  
8 unit. That would not apply, I believe, in the area of  
9 the BLM lands down there around Buckland, but it would  
10 apply in things like Cape Krusenstern, Noatak National  
11 Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

14  
15 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
16 Thank you for clarifying that for me. Now I have a  
17 clearer picture in regards to that moose becoming the  
18 property of the Federal government and that caribou  
19 becoming the property of the Federal government through  
20 the process of crossing that Kobuk Valley as well as the  
21 Cape Krusenstern monuments. So that does clarify.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 MR. ADKISSON: Right. You might ask  
26 somebody that works regularly with BLM about the question  
27 of selected but non-conveyed lands because I think there  
28 may be some differences still between lands and waters  
29 that flow through, but it's a complicated issue,  
30 especially in the general public lands, like BLM.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

33  
34 ATTAMUK: Let Walter finish.

35  
36 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
37 What I was leading to was the issue in regards to the  
38 studies that the State of Alaska is doing I guess with  
39 your own funding or does the Federal also pitch in on  
40 surveys and studies that occur within Federal lands?

41  
42 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Walter. We pretty  
43 much share everything. Usually the Federal agencies have  
44 a lot more money than the State does, so I think they've  
45 anteed up the lion share, like money for buying gas. If  
46 we have to rent a building, they do that. It's easier  
47 for us to do things like hire somebody in a village to  
48 provide wood or water. The State has aircraft that we  
49 contribute. It just depends on the circumstances where  
50 we are. A lot of times we stay in Federal facilities,

1 which is worth a lot of money. It doesn't show on a  
2 spreadsheet very well that they've contributed much, but  
3 there's just lots of ways that we share expenses and  
4 staff time.

5  
6 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Jim. I think  
7 the Federal side of the picture, I was trying to paint a  
8 little bit of picture in regards to the role that the  
9 Federal agency plays in regards to the survey because at  
10 some point in time there's going to be a challenge made  
11 to the agency in regards to survey numbers, whether those  
12 are actual Federal surveys or the State of Alaska. So I  
13 want to thank you for that information.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

16  
17 ATTAMUK: Walter just covered it. I was  
18 just going to say about the survey thing on the Federal  
19 side and the State side. My question to both of you, did  
20 the Federal survey toward Buckland and Deering and did  
21 the State survey and did your numbers -- what's the  
22 difference between your two numbers? I know the State  
23 closed the Buckland side area and Deering side and it was  
24 open on the Federal lands. But Ken is trying to explain  
25 the land to me and I think it's just more complicated  
26 now.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

29  
30 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Attamuk. On the  
31 Seward Peninsula, that's probably the one exception where  
32 the State has pretty much done the census down there.  
33 There hasn't been a lot of Federal help, but that's the  
34 exception. Almost every other census we do, whether  
35 you're talking about moose or muskox or anything else, we  
36 usually have Federal Staff and State Staff in planes out  
37 there doing it. So it's never a comparison of Federal  
38 numbers versus State. We both own the numbers and we  
39 both talk about them. I think the one place where there  
40 is probably more of a dichotomy is when you're talking  
41 about enforcement. I know the State enforcement guys are  
42 spread so thin that they say we really don't want to go  
43 down and patrol Federal lands because there's Federal  
44 enforcement officers patrolling those lands. Why should  
45 we leave a place with no enforcement at all to go down  
46 and cover a place where there is already Federal Staff.

47  
48 I don't know much about the enforcement  
49 side. If you want to know about enforcement, Dan  
50 Stevenson is here and he could talk more about that.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

2

3 ATTAMUK: Okay. Walter brought up the  
4 issue of waste of moose. I think what we need to do from  
5 here, Michelle, is put a proposal from an individual or  
6 from this Board saying we need to revisit the wanton  
7 waste issue because there's no real definition saying --  
8 all they could do is just say skin the caribou and bone  
9 the caribou and it's not a waste, and still they leave a  
10 lot of meat. I think we need to revisit and put a  
11 proposal together on that wanton waste that's happening  
12 there. That's the only way it could be enforced if it's  
13 changed. Right now it's so loose that anybody could  
14 translate anyway they want and I think that's what we  
15 need to do, Michelle, is come up with a proposal on this  
16 issue right here coming for our moose being wasted out  
17 there big time.

18

19 Walter isn't the only one that sees it.  
20 I see it out there. I get calls. I go check on it.  
21 There's tons of meat out there being wasted and still  
22 legally. It's legal for them just to drop it off here  
23 and just leave it.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Jim, for that  
28 information. Are you going to cover in your report your  
29 surveys and numbers that you come out with in both State  
30 and Federal lands as an agency report?

31

32 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Walter. I didn't  
33 bring handouts or anything, but after lunch, if you want,  
34 I can swing by and get all the census results and just  
35 hand those things to you if you want and you'll see every  
36 census that we've done in Unit 23 and by area. I can  
37 give you that. It kind of takes too long. We've been  
38 doing these big censuses now since about 1992, so we  
39 really don't have time for me to go through all those  
40 things, but I can give you those. I think most of you  
41 have seen that spreadsheet over the years, but I'd be  
42 glad to bring that for you tomorrow.

43

44 MR. SAMPSON: I'm just curious in regards  
45 to the numbers over a period of time. I mean if there's  
46 concerns, which I have, in regards to moose in general, I  
47 certainly want to take a look at what that data might  
48 look like. If we don't have data as a base for arguments  
49 to make a proposal or put in a proposal, then it's sort  
50 of like -- well, I think it would be an ideal thing for

1 me to take a look and see what those numbers might look  
2 like and encourage both the Federal and State in regards  
3 to even more cooperatively work on these issues that we  
4 need to for the future.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.

7  
8 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Walter. The one  
9 thing I want to say is that the whole story is not in the  
10 data and the numbers. That's about 10 percent of the  
11 story. I think what our data shows now, these big  
12 censuses we've been doing, is that moose numbers in large  
13 parts of the unit are now very low. We don't have real  
14 good historical information going back 10, 15, 20 years  
15 on moose abundance to show that they've gone down, but I  
16 can tell you that most of the people I talk to in the  
17 villages tell me that moose numbers are lower now than  
18 they were 10, 15 years ago. My impression from flying  
19 hundreds of hours in this unit every year, snowmachining,  
20 is that moose numbers are down.

21  
22 Even some of the commercial operators are  
23 telling me the same thing. Not all of them. Some of  
24 them are protecting their business. But I get lots and  
25 lots of consistency in the reports I get that moose  
26 numbers have gone down over the last number of years.

27  
28 Another piece of information I get from  
29 almost everybody that bear numbers are high and wolf  
30 numbers are high and I think those two things are  
31 related. They all add credence to it. So I just want to  
32 make sure you know that when I make arguments, what I  
33 want to do is at some point I want to encourage -- I've  
34 got some recommendations for this RAC Council about moose  
35 regulations. I'd like to make those, I don't know, now  
36 or later, but it's not based on just the census data.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

39  
40 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I certainly  
41 would be interested through the process of your report  
42 with the recommendations that you have and we'll deal  
43 with it at that point in time.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. As  
46 you know, we're still on discussions on Unit 23  
47 concerning moose. Any more discussion.

48  
49 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair. The reason we  
50 scheduled this discussion before the wildlife proposals

1 is hopefully if the RAC feels the need to submit a  
2 proposal we could do that in order and we could get a  
3 proposal written up and submitted so we could take it  
4 back to the office and get it into the book for  
5 regulatory review. If Jim has some suggestions, it might  
6 be good to take his suggestions now and I'm sure there's  
7 some Federal Staff that might have some different  
8 opinions that you might want to hear from. But I think  
9 it would probably be a good point now to cover that stuff  
10 instead of later because then we can actually get a  
11 proposal together and get one submitted before the  
12 cutoff.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further discussion  
15 before we go to the next item. Call for proposals to  
16 change Federal subsistence wildlife regulations. As you  
17 know, this is concerning moose population that we all  
18 know is declining. This proposal could be submitted by  
19 the public, Council or other agencies. Who's going to do  
20 that?

21  
22 MR. ARDIZZONE: I think now would be a  
23 good time to discuss if you want to submit a moose  
24 proposal for Unit 23, any changes. I know there's been  
25 some disparity between State regulations and Federal  
26 regulations. We've kept the Federal season open, as  
27 you've already discussed. This would be the time to  
28 change Federal regulations if you feel the need to submit  
29 a proposal.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. I'll go to the  
32 Council first. Do you think, Walter, Attamuk, that you  
33 need to change the regulations on moose?

34  
35 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think it's  
36 critically important that we get a report both from the  
37 State and the Federal side of the picture before we even  
38 attempt to address any proposed changes that we might  
39 want to take a look at. I would wait until the State  
40 gives their report in regards to moose than towards the  
41 end of the session. If there's an interest in putting  
42 together a proposal, we certainly can make that  
43 recommendation at that point in time.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So what you're saying,  
46 Mr. Sampson, after the report we'll come up with this  
47 proposal change?

48  
49 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. We'll come back  
2 to you again. Item number 10, Fisheries Resource  
3 Monitoring Program. Is this informational or what is it?  
4

5 MS. CRAVER: Good morning, Mr. Chair and  
6 Council. My name is Amy Craver and I'm the new  
7 anthropologist with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
8 Program. I'll be responsible for tracking the harvest  
9 monitoring and TEK projects from Northwest Alaska and  
10 I'll be working with Steve Fried, who is responsible for  
11 the biological projects.  
12

13 The goal of the Fisheries Resource  
14 Monitoring Program is to fund technically sound research  
15 projects that address high priority subsistence fisheries  
16 issues. These research projects address fisheries issues  
17 information needs that are identified by local  
18 subsistence users and management agencies, including the  
19 Federal Subsistence Board. I want to emphasize what  
20 we're focusing on at FIS are research proposals and  
21 projects not regulatory.  
22

23 One of the objectives of this program is  
24 to also develop fisheries management expertise within  
25 tribal and rural organizations and to promote  
26 collaboration among Federal, State and Alaska Native and  
27 local organizations. The projects that we fund provide  
28 both immediate information such as in-season harvesting,  
29 monitoring and long-term information, such as TEK  
30 projects for Federal subsistence management.  
31

32 In order to identify the most important  
33 issues, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program relies  
34 heavily on the Regional Advisory Councils to identify  
35 issues and information needs.  
36

37 The program staff at FIS works with  
38 fisheries managers to help RACs identify issues and it's  
39 very important that we do hear what the local information  
40 needs are from your communities and to be able to push  
41 these forward so that when we have a call for proposals  
42 that we can gear those proposals towards what are the  
43 needs of the communities.  
44

45 FIS is beginning a strategic planning  
46 process to revise the information and issues and needs.  
47 This planning process will be done throughout Alaska and  
48 we've already started the strategic planning process in  
49 the Bristol Bay region and also Southcentral. We're  
50 anticipating that we'll probably be doing this planning

1 process in the northern region in the next couple of  
2 years.

3  
4 The criteria for our research projects  
5 are as follows. We pay attention to the strategic  
6 priority in terms of Federal jurisdiction, conservation  
7 mandate, allocation priority, data gaps, role of the  
8 resource in terms of how important is that resource to  
9 subsistence users and then in terms of local concern.  
10 We're also evaluating the proposals based on the  
11 technical and scientific merit and that's in terms of how  
12 clear are the objectives, how does the budget look, does  
13 it look like it's a reasonable project to fund.

14  
15 Then we also look at the past performance  
16 and administrative expertise of the organizations that  
17 are submitting the proposal. Another very important part  
18 that we're evaluating is the capacity building and how  
19 local people are involved in terms of the research and  
20 conducting the research on a daily basis.

21  
22 The process for project selection.  
23 People submit the investigative plans to FIS. Staff from  
24 FIS write up reviews and then those reviews go to the  
25 technical review committee and then they take a look at  
26 what we've come up with and then make modifications.  
27 Finally, what I'm going to present to you today are two  
28 proposals for the Regional Advisory Council to make  
29 recommendations to push forward to the Subsistence Board.

30  
31 The Federal Subsistence Board policy  
32 guidelines are a minimum of 60 percent of the program  
33 monies go towards non-Federal sources. Some of the  
34 activities that are not eligible for funding under this  
35 program are basically habitat protection, hatchery  
36 enhancement and then contaminants work. We don't deal  
37 with any of those topics.

38  
39 On page 17, these are the guidelines for  
40 funding. If you look on page 17, Table 1, for 2005, 17%  
41 of the overall budget that goes towards statewide goes  
42 towards the Northern Region and that's approximately  
43 \$244,000. Of that money that goes to the Northern  
44 Region, two-thirds of that money goes towards stock  
45 status and trends projects. That's approximately  
46 \$162,000. The remaining third of the budget goes towards  
47 harvest monitoring and TEK projects. That's roughly  
48 \$81,000 and that's for 2005.

49  
50 The overview for 2005 on page 18, overall

1 there were 31 projects that were submitted to FIS  
2 statewide. Unfortunately, there was only one from the  
3 entire Northern Region and that was a stock status and  
4 trends project. That Northern Region, of course, is  
5 North Slope, Seward Pen and Northwest Arctic. Of the 31  
6 projects that were recommended for funding, 24 were  
7 recommended by the TRC for funding.

8  
9 The overview for the Northern Region,  
10 you'll see that on page 20 to 22 in your booklet. You'll  
11 see it kind of just starts with a brief discussion of the  
12 issues and information needs. These were identified last  
13 year for 2005 call of papers. I have a full set of these  
14 information needs. It's just sort of an overview of what  
15 you see in your book. I've got a full set here. This is  
16 what's recommended for 2005. This is what I would urge  
17 you to take a look at and see if you want to make some  
18 additional recommendations for issues and concerns that  
19 you'd like to see the research proposals perhaps address  
20 for the next call for projects.

21  
22 On page 21, there's a list of ongoing  
23 projects in the region and 22 projects have been funded  
24 in the Northern Region since the inception of this  
25 program. Then we've got eight projects right now that  
26 are currently occurring. I would recommend that the  
27 Council take a look at these projects because at the  
28 winter meeting, if there's any projects that are  
29 particularly interesting to you, we can arrange to have  
30 the principal investigators and the local people that are  
31 involved in the projects talk a bit to the Council about  
32 their results.

33  
34 Just a couple of examples of exciting  
35 projects that are going on in this region here, the  
36 traditional knowledge of whitefish in the Kotzebue Sound  
37 and then sort of a companion to that project is whitefish  
38 migration and habitat use. The thing that's really great  
39 about this project is they've got a lot of local support  
40 from Selawik, you've got Clyde Ramoth, he's been really  
41 involved in doing interviews with local people, with  
42 Susan Georgette, Enoch Shiedt is involved and Randy  
43 Brown. It's an example of Fish and Wildlife people and  
44 the State and local people all working together to come  
45 up with some really exciting results.

46  
47 In terms of 2005, like I said, there was  
48 only one project that was submitted for funding for  
49 funding consideration and that's just for the entire  
50 Northern Region. The low number of these projects

1 suggest that we really -- hopefully the Council will go  
2 back and talk to your communities and maybe you've got  
3 some topics at the local level that maybe you could push  
4 forward and you could perhaps work with myself or Steve  
5 Fried to find some researchers that could work with the  
6 tribes to get some projects going. This is something  
7 that we really want to encourage more local involvement  
8 and to work with our staff to try to facilitate getting  
9 the proposal put together to push forward for funding.

10

11                   The one project that the TRC forwarded,  
12 it's a project that's proposed by ADF&G and on page 23  
13 you'll see the map where the project takes place. It's  
14 located on the Unalakleet River. Just in a nutshell,  
15 it's basically addressing coho salmon abundance and  
16 spawning distribution. I don't want to go into a lot of  
17 details because the information is there in your book,  
18 but there's an executive summary about this project on  
19 page 26 and 27.

20

21                   The second project up for your approval  
22 is on page 28 through 33. This is an inter-regional  
23 project and there's only one project that's being  
24 considered. Inter-regional goes throughout different  
25 regions. This project is looking at the genetic species  
26 markers and whitefish. The TRC has recommended this for  
27 funding as well.

28

29                   I guess, if there's no questions, that's  
30 all I really have to offer the Council.

31

32                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything from the  
33 Council. Walter.

34

35                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you for your quick,  
36 fast report in regards to fisheries. As a layman, I  
37 don't know some of the acronyms you're using. I don't  
38 know TRC, FIS, all the acronyms. I'd prefer to hear what  
39 those acronyms are for any future reporting.

40

41                   In regards to strategic planning, the  
42 process I understand you're going through and will take  
43 us through is the agency has taken that lead to go  
44 through a process. Through the process of planning and  
45 designing, at what point in time do you plan to go to the  
46 communities for their input into the process of designing  
47 that plan because of the very effects it will have on  
48 their way of life? Or is it the agency's plan to put  
49 together a draft, then bring that out to the communities  
50 for review?

1 MS. CRAVER: That's a very good question.  
2 There might be somebody in the audience that knows more  
3 about this because I'm really quite new. But from what  
4 I've observed with the Bristol Bay planning process, they  
5 invited managers from the Bristol Bay area. There were  
6 two Regional Advisory Council members, there was a couple  
7 local people that were involved in the initial planning  
8 process, but it's like people from the State and Federal  
9 agencies, there were two RAC members, a local person,  
10 somebody from the university and it's a mixture of  
11 biologists, subsistence fishers and social scientists.  
12 Then they come up with the strategic plan based on that  
13 meeting, then that plan goes out. It's distributed  
14 widely to get input.

15  
16 Basically, what they're trying to do then  
17 is identify the gaps in where research needs to be done  
18 and then they have another meeting. I'm not exactly sure  
19 if it's the same group of people that are brought  
20 together for that second meeting to evaluate the whole  
21 process. I don't know because we haven't had the second  
22 meeting yet.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

25  
26 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you for that  
27 response. In regards to planning process, I have some  
28 different ideas in regards to how the Federal system  
29 needs to take an approach on planning and designing of a  
30 plan. First of all, because of the very issue, and that  
31 is fisheries, that has an impact on our way of life. I'm  
32 talking about our regional folks. If the Federal agency  
33 is going to be putting together a plan, I would ask that  
34 you involve the communities in that process by going out  
35 and having scoping meetings at the village level because  
36 they need to be part of that process. For too long plans  
37 have been done for us. For too long those plans never  
38 worked. I think it's time that we turn that around to be  
39 a process where local folks are part of that planning  
40 process.

41  
42 What I'm getting at is I want the local  
43 folks to be part of that planning process so they can  
44 have part ownership of that plan. Not the Federal  
45 agencies, but the local folks have the part ownership in  
46 that plan. Like I said, plans have been done for us for  
47 too long. Plans never work for us for a long time.  
48 We've always been the recipient of these things. It's  
49 getting to the point where we're tired of reacting to  
50 things.

1                   It's time that we become proactive in  
2 designing these plans so people will have the ownership  
3 of these things. So that way if something should come up  
4 and your plan didn't work, to a certain point finger-  
5 pointing wouldn't happen. People would say, oops, we  
6 messed up, let's fix the problem. Let's become a we, not  
7 the agency putting together that plan.

8  
9                   I'm hoping that the recommendation that  
10 I'm making by voicing the concerns that I see in the past  
11 and the future needs of the agency as well as the future  
12 needs of the community is both met together, not in  
13 separate forums. But the very process you talked about,  
14 having different groups coming together, does not address  
15 the concerns that we have at the local level. So local  
16 folks can participate in that process so they can have  
17 part ownership of that plan. So I hope by pointing out a  
18 couple issues it will give you something to think about  
19 for future planning.

20  
21                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.

22  
23                   MS. CRAVER: Let me just clarify. So  
24 what you're suggesting is that before they even have the  
25 planning meeting that would be in Kotzebue or Anchorage  
26 that the scoping meetings occur at the local level and  
27 then that's sort of the foundation for what they work  
28 with at the planning meeting.

29  
30                   MR. SAMPSON: Certainly. It's something  
31 that I would encourage would happen. So that way when  
32 there's issues or concerns raised at the task force  
33 meeting, you can remember those very things that were  
34 talking about at the village level. You can raise those  
35 very concerns that they raise, which these people might  
36 not think of through that process of planning. Once you  
37 put that together, that first draft, then you can take  
38 out to the communities and say from the discussions, from  
39 the scoping meetings that we've had, through the process  
40 of planning with this committee, this is what we have.  
41 We've incorporated some of the issues, some of the  
42 concerns that you have. Take a look at the plan. Take  
43 it apart. Make some recommended changes to that plan and  
44 then people will feel that they've been part of that  
45 process.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

48  
49                   ATTAMUK: I've got a question, Amy. For  
50 your Slope side and Northwest Alaska, in your genetic,

1 did you see the results on the end? Is there a  
2 difference between our char study, genetic studies that's  
3 been done? Is there a difference in genetics saying this  
4 is mainly from Slope or this is mainly from Northwest  
5 Alaska?

6  
7 MS. CHIVERS: You know, Enoch, I have to  
8 be honest. I'm not a biologist and I'm new to the  
9 program and I can't really answer that in an educated  
10 way, but perhaps there's somebody here that could that's  
11 familiar. I will talk with Steve Fried who will know a  
12 lot more than I do about it and he'll either get back to  
13 you or I'll get back with you on that question.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

16  
17 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Again, I want  
18 to thank you for your report. The reason why I raised  
19 some of those issues and some of the concerns is that we,  
20 at the bureaucratic level, sometimes have a tendency to  
21 deal with the very resource on a scientific level,  
22 forgetting really the traditional knowledge of folks.  
23 The knowledge that they have in regards to that resource  
24 because of the use over years that they have, they see  
25 the trend, whether it's going up, going down. They have  
26 that knowledge as well, but too often we base our  
27 arguments sometimes just on science.

28  
29 I think it's time that we change that.  
30 That's why I raised the issue in regards to the process,  
31 in regards to having scoping meetings with the community  
32 folks so they can feel that they've been part of that  
33 process. They will feed to you the information that you  
34 ask for as long as you ask for it at the local level. As  
35 long as they can understand the process that you are  
36 doing this not for an agency but for their future and the  
37 future of that resource.

38  
39 Thank you.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

42  
43 ATTAMUK: I've got another one, Amy. You  
44 stated that you don't do any contaminants, yet if you go  
45 to the villages the people want contaminant studies done  
46 not only on fish in all phases, including plants, they  
47 want to get a baseline. We are seeing what's happening  
48 is levels of mercury and even in our snow that we drink,  
49 we melt to eat and drink. So I think you need a broader  
50 area than fisheries, what's happening with the plants out

1 there also. It affects all the people.

2

3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else.

4

5 MS. CRAVER: Those are the side boards of  
6 our program. We don't fund contaminants research, but we  
7 can certainly work with communities to identify other  
8 sources of funding. I know the refuge is working on a  
9 contaminant study right now. We're just sort of confined  
10 with sort of our mandate what we're going to look into in  
11 terms of research.

12

13 I did want to get back with something  
14 that Mr. Sampson said. Unfortunately, because I was using  
15 abbreviations, like TEK, I was not making it clear that a  
16 third of the projects that we fund are traditional  
17 knowledge projects. To me, as an anthropologist, those  
18 are the most exciting projects. To talk with Susan  
19 Georgette and Enoch about their whitefish study and the  
20 nature of the interviews and the kind of information that  
21 they're getting from the elders in Selawik, it's  
22 phenomenal and they're uncovering this through these  
23 interviews. So we're with you on valuing traditional  
24 knowledge and local input and that's part of what's great  
25 about this program, I think.

26

27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Again, I was  
30 just encouraging you as a Staff of the Federal agency  
31 that you go out and participate on these things with  
32 those people. Not them doing that for you, but you  
33 working with them at the village level so you can get a  
34 better picture of what they're trying to do as Staff,  
35 then people will also learn who you are and what you do  
36 so that the reception of any future plans or future  
37 dealings with them, they can picture who you are over the  
38 telephone.

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.

41 Have you got anything?

42

43 MR. CHEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
44 name is Glenn Chen with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I  
45 wanted to provide a little bit more information on the  
46 strategic planning exercises that FIS is undergoing right  
47 now. I participate in both the Southcentral Planning  
48 Group as well as one for Bristol Bay. I agree with  
49 Mr. Sampson that local involvement by the subsistence  
50 user communities is very important to these exercises to

1 identify what are needed areas of information for  
2 fisheries management for the Federal Subsistence Program.  
3 To that end, there has been Council members on these  
4 planning committees for both Southcentral and Bristol  
5 Bay. As we get around to beginning the planning efforts  
6 for this region, we will certainly have Council members  
7 from this Council participate in those efforts. I will  
8 definitely carry the message, as will Amy, back to FIS  
9 that the importance of local involvement and perhaps as  
10 you suggested, Mr. Sampson, to bring these meetings and  
11 invite local community members to participate in these  
12 efforts more so. I think we'll carry that message back  
13 to FIS.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Does that  
16 end your report?

17  
18 MS. CRAVEN: With the two projects I told  
19 you about, those projects we would like to find out if  
20 the Council will approve them and forward them on to the  
21 Federal Subsistence Board to review them. They're both  
22 in your booklet here. The inter-regional proposal is on  
23 page 28 to 33. The genetic species, markers and  
24 population structure in Alaskan whitefish, this is an  
25 inter-regional one that we need for you to review and  
26 that's on page 31. Then there is the coho salmon  
27 abundance and spawning distribution in the Unalakleet  
28 River and that's on page 26. So those are the two  
29 proposals that we would like for you to review and decide  
30 if you approve them.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

33  
34 ATTAMUK: I've got a question. You  
35 mentioned Unalakleet. Is that in our region or is that  
36 out of our region?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

39  
40 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
41 As I understand it, that's part of our region because  
42 North Slope, Northwest and Norton Sound. Unalakleet is  
43 in Norton Sound. So, as I understand it, it is part of  
44 the study area.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

47  
48 ATTAMUK: What does the Advisory Board  
49 think of us deciding for Nome area right here from  
50 Kotzebue to a study done? I would have a problem Nome

1 deciding for me for my area because they might not live  
2 -- like Walter say, with the scoping what the people  
3 want. Do you see what I'm saying? I could understand a  
4 study being done in Nome. I don't even know what the  
5 people from Nome think. They're not here to back up this  
6 study.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before I get going to  
9 the Agencies, Walter, do you have anything else?

10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
12 Again, as I understand it, that process is being worked  
13 through the regions, so if there's any studies that are  
14 going to be done, then they will be working with those  
15 folks like they are within this region. Clyde Ramoth,  
16 with Mrs. McDan there and others in this region. If  
17 that's the case, then I'm sure they'll be working with  
18 the folks within their respective regions. So what  
19 you're asking is that in regards to the studies that you  
20 just reported, I certainly would support and encourage  
21 this very committee to support as well. So that is my  
22 understanding, Enoch, unless somebody else has a little  
23 different pitch of what you folks are trying to do.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So you are requesting  
26 an approval of this report you gave us.

27  
28 MS. CRAVEN: (Nods affirmatively)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Yes, you may.

31  
32 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. Tim Jennings,  
33 Office of Subsistence Management. I think Walter really  
34 did summarize quite well the nature of what we're asking  
35 or offering the Council to express support for these  
36 projects if you want to and to address your concern,  
37 Enoch, about being out of your typical Council boundary.  
38 If you don't feel comfortable addressing it when it's out  
39 of the boundary of the Northwest Arctic Council, you  
40 don't need to. The Council doesn't need to make a  
41 recommendation of support.

42  
43 Mr. Sampson was correct. We put the  
44 three regions together from a study perspective for  
45 studies and that's why we bring the Unalakleet proposal  
46 to this region because you may have views that you want  
47 to share from your regional perspective when you look  
48 across Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic and North Slope  
49 and you put it in the big picture. So what we're asking  
50 today is if you want to express a support or a concern

1 for this project, that's appropriate, or if you feel like  
2 you would not like to take any action on making a  
3 recommendation to the Federal Board on these projects,  
4 that's okay too.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch.

7  
8 ATTAMUK: Let me ask you this then. What  
9 does the Slope and Nome say about this? Do they approve  
10 of this study happening in their region? Maybe you said  
11 that earlier. I've got no problem if they approve of it,  
12 you know. I will gladly support my neighbor in villages  
13 of doing a study like this.

14  
15 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair and Enoch,  
16 Attamuk. Both of the other Councils have met. I wasn't  
17 at the North Slope meeting, but I understand that the  
18 Council did support both of these proposals, the  
19 Unalakleet and Inter-regional genetics study for  
20 whitefish. At the Seward Peninsula meeting a couple  
21 weeks ago, the Council there officially did not take a  
22 position on either of these proposals. They heard the  
23 discussion. Individually there's some support for the  
24 study going forward, but the Council decided at their  
25 meeting not to take any action, so there's no official  
26 Council position on either of these two from Seward  
27 Peninsula Council.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: What you're asking now  
30 is to support and approve these programs right now?

31  
32 MR. JENNINGS: It's an expression of  
33 support. The actual approval and decision-making on  
34 whether or not these projects go forward will be made by  
35 the Federal Subsistence Board at their January meeting  
36 and usually, Mr. Chair, you attend those meetings and  
37 represent the Northwest Arctic area or someone else might  
38 attend on your behalf if you're not able to attend. But  
39 that's the decision-making point, would be in January and  
40 it's done by the Federal Board.

41  
42 Before you today is an opportunity for  
43 you to provide your input to the Federal Board expressing  
44 support or it may be expressing something else, either  
45 taking no action or saying perhaps you disapprove of this  
46 project for a certain reason. That's what would go up to  
47 the Board and you'd have an opportunity to address that  
48 before the Board when they make a decision in January.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

1 MR. SAMPSON: I'll let Enoch go ahead.

2

3 ATTAMUK: I understand what you're saying  
4 since you told me that Slope approve of it out of their  
5 Council and Nome you say they haven't decided yet. So if  
6 Nome hasn't decided yet, is the Federal going to approve  
7 of this project whether Nome approved it or not?

8

9 MR. JENNINGS: I don't know what the  
10 Federal Board will do. Obviously, in January, they will  
11 have recommendations of support for this project on  
12 Unalakleet River from what is called a Technical Review  
13 Committee, which is made up of Federal and State Staff,  
14 which reviews the technical merits of a proposal. Then  
15 they'll have an expression of support from North Slope.  
16 They won't have an official opinion or recommendation  
17 from Seward Peninsula, but the Chair may speak to it  
18 anyway. Grace Cross is the Chair of that Council and she  
19 has the opportunity to speak to it as the Chair at the  
20 meeting.

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I share what  
25 Enoch is saying, I guess. Just a quick question in  
26 regards to the char and dolly varden identification,  
27 genetics, spawning stock, assessment and wintering  
28 stocks. Are you folks working with FRED Division out of  
29 Fairbanks in regards to those very stocks?

30

31 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sampson. I  
32 know the program has funded and works closely with  
33 Fairbanks, with Fred DiCicco, yeah, and has provided  
34 funding for several of Fred DiCicco's projects.

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

37

38 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
39 appreciate your response. Fred is one heck of an  
40 individual to work with. A lot of knowledge and a lot of  
41 background information that he has in regards to  
42 fisheries.

43

44 Mr. Chairman, with that, I certainly  
45 would make a motion that we support the studies that are  
46 currently being done. The issue in regards to strategic  
47 planning, which I hopefully outlined for you the process  
48 that I see that needs to occur. With that, I make that  
49 motion.

50

1                                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Motion by Walter.  
2 Second.  
3  
4                                   ATTAMUK: I'll second it.  
5  
6                                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Second by Attamuk. Any  
7 further discussion.  
8  
9                                   (No comments)  
10  
11                                  MR. MOTO: Call for the question.  
12  
13                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: The question is called  
14 by Calvin. All in favor of approving supporting the  
15 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program signify by saying  
16 aye.  
17  
18                                  IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Opposed.  
21  
22                                  (No opposing votes)  
23  
24                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: They got it. It  
25 passes. Thank you very much. I know it's a very  
26 difficult situation for you, but you did good. We'll  
27 continue on, but it's going to take a while for agency  
28 reports. Do you guys want to take a lunch now or just  
29 continue on? It's going to take a while for these  
30 reports. It's 20 to 12:00. Let's take lunch and what  
31 time be back here?  
32  
33                                  ATTAMUK: 1:15.  
34  
35                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. Let's adjourn  
36 for lunch and be back here at 1:15.  
37  
38                                  (Off record)  
39  
40                                  (On record)  
41  
42                                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: I'll call the meeting  
43 back to order. It's almost 1:30, so we're behind  
44 schedule. The next item is the call for items for 2004  
45 annual report. I don't have much, but just for the  
46 record. This year again we still had quite a bit of  
47 transporters and guides in that Unit 23 again this year.  
48 There was quite a few seen everywhere, but they went  
49 pretty smooth this year, not like compared to other  
50 agencies. For caribou, the caribou is still migrating

1 awful fast. They're heading north and south. For moose  
2 population, we'll be seeing a report from other agencies  
3 in Unit 23. Muskox, it's something that all of us are  
4 looking at. You see them just about everywhere, so it's  
5 something to look into for rural villages, like Kivalina  
6 and Buckland and Deering.

7  
8 On the report right there, I might have  
9 Percy give a report like on the caribou population at  
10 this time of the year. How is it doing in Buckland,  
11 Percy?

12  
13 MR. BALLOT: Like Calvin mentioned, we  
14 hardly have anything over there. I think they only got  
15 about 20 this year. We just don't know where they're at.  
16 I think they're not migrating toward our way. Some of  
17 them are coming from Deering way, small bunches, but not  
18 very much hunting caribou around there.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin, I'll ask you  
21 the same question. I know they're very concerned people  
22 about the migration of caribou. How are they affected in  
23 Deering right now?

24  
25 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman. We are very  
26 concerned with the fact that we see caribou, but they're  
27 the ones that have been there year round and we're not  
28 seeing any fresh ones. We're wondering what happened to  
29 the other caribou. Are they going to disappear like they  
30 did in the 1980s or what? Are the big game or other  
31 people overharvesting or what, you know? I know like in  
32 Buckland they have a big concern with that because the  
33 last two or three years they haven't been able to get any  
34 belugas and stuff and they're very reliant that these  
35 caribou do come around for their subsistence. That's all  
36 I have to say on that.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.  
39 Enoch, the transporters and guides in your camp area, how  
40 did it affect you this year?

41  
42 ATTAMUK: The transporters this time was  
43 a little different. I think they know where my camp is  
44 at. How many different boats were telling me that when  
45 I'm at camp, they see my boat from the air and they would  
46 go further and go toward Aggie. When I'm not there, they  
47 would go close to my camp and go on over. They were no  
48 real problem. I was surprised that they were pretty high  
49 this year. But the problem I was running into is our  
50 local commuters were flying low. Some were even flying

1 lower than my cabin. I'd have to look down from under  
2 the house to see the plane and I talked to them.

3  
4 The other one was when the State trooper  
5 was there flying pretty low with another plane in front  
6 of him and they, like I say, bent the rules. Said they  
7 were fishing, going toward Aggie. When I called him up  
8 -- see, these regulations need to be changed, where an  
9 individual will translate any rule he wants for his own  
10 benefit. I talked to the State troopers about this.  
11 They assured me they were fishing.

12  
13 I think it needs to be changed all equal,  
14 that hunting time season, if you're fishing or not, they  
15 need to fly at recommended Federal aviation agency level  
16 of 1,500 feet. That would eliminate a lot of our  
17 problems up in Noatak, Selawik, Upper Kobuk, all over,  
18 the more I think about it. Because I've seen it and I  
19 was there. It's sad to see where planes are flying  
20 really low and using that fishing as an excuse. Thanks.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thanks, Enoch. Walter,  
23 do you have anything on the annual report to be  
24 transported to the Board of Game?

25  
26 MR. SAMPSON: I think the issue in  
27 regards to migration patterns certainly has some  
28 problems, I guess. We've heard it from folks in the  
29 Upper Kobuk. In fact, in August, first part of  
30 September, I went to Shungnak with a boat and the folks  
31 were asking where were the caribou. Somewhere trickling  
32 crossing between Shungnak and Ambler there was a lot of  
33 boats between Ambler and Kiana that were still waiting.  
34 This was in September. I think weather has been a factor  
35 for slow migration this year as well as others possibly  
36 as well. Caribou is migratory. They change patterns  
37 depending on feeds, I'm sure. But as far as aircraft and  
38 other interest user groups are concerned, that's the  
39 other problem, is diverting the first bunch of the  
40 caribou herd. When you do that, the tendency for the  
41 rest of the herd to follow is to follow that diversion.  
42 I think that's been part of the problem.

43  
44 As far as aircraft flying low is  
45 concerned, Enoch, I think we now have tools you can use.  
46 If you have a camera, take a picture of the airplane and  
47 send it to FAA. Guaranteed FAA will take care of that  
48 problem. That's basically it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walt. Joe,

1 do you have anything to report to the Board of Game?

2

3 MR. AREY: Like I said, caribou was slow  
4 coming down this year from the north. Later on they were  
5 down around the canyons and from there, another couple  
6 weeks, they were right where they could get them on the  
7 river. There's hundreds of caribou up there now. Just  
8 caribou?

9

10 Because we've got these transporters --  
11 well, I don't know if they have a license to take people  
12 out to their allotments, but they take them out and  
13 they're just trophy hunters. Sometimes they come back  
14 with no meat, just horns. Some of them just maybe two or  
15 three boxes. With all the horns, just two or three  
16 boxes, I don't know what they do with the meat. There  
17 was people that transport them to their allotments. Once  
18 they take them there, they don't tell them where they can  
19 hunt. They'll go to somebody's allotment next to it or  
20 this side and hunt on it and then people don't like it  
21 when other people are hunting on their private land. So  
22 we're having that problem there too.

23

24 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Joe. We'll  
25 have a good report from all of this. Walter.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe we can get a  
28 clarification regards what constitutes legal guiding and  
29 what constitutes paying somebody -- whether it  
30 constitutes to pay somebody to bring them to private  
31 lands for a dollar. Is that legal? I mean what is  
32 guiding? Is it for exchange of money? Can somebody in  
33 two or three sentences tell us what is legal guiding and  
34 what it constitutes versus what we're hearing in regards  
35 to taking people to private lands?

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38 Dan Stevenson with the National Park Service. Guiding,  
39 as far as Federal land, National Park Service, they have  
40 to have a guiding concession permit with National Park  
41 Service and be a licensed guide within the state of  
42 Alaska in order to guide any individuals on Federal land.  
43 The IBP holders for transporters are allowed to transport  
44 individuals up the river to allotments, but they are not  
45 allowed to guide legally.

46

47 MR. SAMPSON: What's IBP holders?

48

49 MR. STEVENSON: I'm sorry, Walter. It's  
50 incidental business permit. It's the National Park

1 Service permit that allows for commercial operation other  
2 than guiding to occur on Federal lands. Photography,  
3 transporting backpackers, transporting hikers, floaters,  
4 taking out photographers. But those individuals are not  
5 allowed to guide under our regulations, the IBP holders.  
6 Hopefully that clarifies.

7  
8 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
9 That certainly clarifies my question. Now, in regards to  
10 hunting within the park by those individuals, then what  
11 happens?

12  
13 MR. STEVENSON: The individuals that are  
14 brought up by IBP holders?

15  
16 MR. SAMPSON: Yes. If an individual does  
17 not have a permit but yet takes people into a private  
18 land and these folks are out-of-state hunters, isn't  
19 there a requirement for a big game guide to be taking  
20 these people?

21  
22 MR. STEVENSON: There's two different  
23 questions there, but, yes, all the State regulations  
24 apply on State lands. If that IBP holder or an  
25 individual takes them up to their private allotment, then  
26 the State regulations do apply, if they're a non-  
27 resident, they need a guide. They need an outfitter to  
28 do it legally. If those IBP holders bring individuals up  
29 onto Federal land, onto National Park Service land in our  
30 case, that's what I work with, and they guide those  
31 individuals, that's technically illegal according to our  
32 regulations. We're trying to work with those individuals  
33 to help them get either -- if they don't have an IBP  
34 permit, get them an IBP permit so they can transport  
35 individuals. If they're interested in guiding, they need  
36 to go through and get their guide license and they need  
37 to go through the apprenticeship and get a guide license.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

40  
41 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
42 While you're in the hot seat, the issue in regards to big  
43 game, caribou is considered big game, is it not?

44  
45 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

46  
47 MR. SAMPSON: Now, since caribou is  
48 considered a big game, the requirements both at the State  
49 and Federal level, as I understand it then, is that you  
50 need a big game guide to take you hunting. If

1 transporters are dropping off hunters into an area but  
2 yet does not guide to take these hunters out, where is  
3 the fine line?

4  
5 MR. STEVENSON: Again, to make sure I  
6 understand the question, these are IBP holders that take  
7 hunters up for.....

8  
9 MR. SAMPSON: Are transporters IBP  
10 holders?

11  
12 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, they are. Legally,  
13 they have to be an IBP holder to operate on the Federal  
14 lands and we do check the transporters for that IBP  
15 permit. They're required to have that in their  
16 possession in the aircraft.

17  
18 MR. SAMPSON: If they're IBP holders and  
19 you have a Federal and State law that says in order to  
20 hunt big game you need a guide, where is the fine line?

21  
22 MR. STEVENSON: They need a guide for  
23 brown bear and mountain goat. They don't need a guide  
24 for caribou.

25  
26 MR. SAMPSON: You just told me that  
27 caribou is a big game, so that should fall under that  
28 law.

29  
30 MR. RABINOWITCH: Mr. Chair. I'm Sandy  
31 Rabinowitch with the National Park Service. One small  
32 point, if I may, Walter. I believe that the Federal  
33 program does not classify game the way the State program  
34 does. So I think you're absolutely correct about what  
35 you've said for the State program and how they classify  
36 game as big game. On the Federal side, there's no  
37 classification. It's just not there. So that might be  
38 one little thing you're kind of tripping over. I'm not  
39 sure.

40  
41 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. That's why I  
42 asked that question. I'm glad you clarified that. Thank  
43 you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

46  
47 ATTAMUK: Let me understand you for an  
48 IBP holder. If he knows he's going to take someone out  
49 that's going to take a big game as caribou to the park  
50 lands, what's the difference right here, you know -- I'm

1 trying to understand your answer. There's an IBP holder,  
2 but the guy he's taking out and dropping him off, he's  
3 not guiding him, yet he knows he's going to take caribou.  
4 What's the difference right here? I need to understand a  
5 little bit better.

6  
7 MR. STEVENSON: I understand, Enoch, and  
8 it is a fine line. The IBP holders, the incidental  
9 permit allows them to do a commercial operation on  
10 Federal lands, allows them as a transporter, whether  
11 you're doing it by boat or by aircraft, to bring those  
12 individuals upriver to an allotment or even onto Federal  
13 land to a campsite if they have that permit and drop them  
14 off, strictly transport. But then they are not allowed  
15 legally to guide, actually go with that individual and  
16 assist them in a hunt. I know it is a fine line, but  
17 that's the way our regulations read.

18  
19 MR. SAMPSON: So an IBP holder could drop  
20 off anyone that's not in this land to anybody's land, is  
21 what you're saying, no? It's got to be his land?

22  
23 MR. STEVENSON: He could drop them off on  
24 Federal land, just like the air taxi operators do.  
25 They're IBP holders as well. So they can drop them off  
26 on Federal public land, but they're not allowed to guide  
27 them in a hunt. So I understand your confusion and it is  
28 a fine line. I know most transporters know they're  
29 taking hunters up and dropping them off, but that's where  
30 it's supposed to stop. They can transport them. That's  
31 what transporter means. They can transport them to a  
32 site, but they're not an outfitter, they're not a guide.  
33 If they want to become a guide, then there's a process to  
34 get a guide license.

35  
36 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I guess I  
37 want to try and take a stab on it from a little different  
38 viewpoint. Sandy just explained the definition is the  
39 way I described it for the State. Since the State of  
40 Alaska now is overseeing that resource within private  
41 lands as well as corporation lands, then do you know how  
42 the State of Alaska sees individuals being taken out by  
43 allotment holders as a big game guide?

44  
45 MR. STEVENSON: I see what you're saying.  
46 I think the confusion is, for me, we see that often in  
47 the field. Transporters, IBP holders, taking individuals  
48 to private land and then from there they hunt onto  
49 Federal land. I guess that's what I deal with out in the  
50 field. If they stay on private land, then you're

1 absolutely correct.

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: Yeah, but on the other hand  
4 the State of Alaska this morning stated that as far as  
5 navigable waters are concerned, that's their  
6 jurisdiction.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: That gets into another  
9 issue. I can give you one example and all I can tell you  
10 is my experience and it is very complex and I understand  
11 the confusion. But on the Kobuk River two years ago we  
12 did have some barge owners that were coming upriver,  
13 shooting caribou from the barge and we had some good  
14 reports from folks out of Ambler and we were able to talk  
15 to those individuals. We boarded the vessel and  
16 confiscated the caribou and confiscated their rifles.  
17 They were non-locals hunting on the Kobuk River. They  
18 were shooting from the barge. That case was going to  
19 trial in Anchorage and the defendants hired lawyers and  
20 we were hoping it would go to trial, but it didn't and  
21 the lawyers apparently looked at it very closely and said  
22 the Park Service had a real strong case to show that we  
23 do have jurisdiction on the navigable waters on the  
24 Kobuk. So that was the Kobuk River case and all I can  
25 say is it was decided or until a judge -- until it's  
26 decided in court, we claim we do have jurisdiction on the  
27 Kobuk River.

28

29 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I  
30 think maybe Willie might be able to shed some light in  
31 regards to the discussion we're having. I know it's sort  
32 of complicated when you start dealing with issues both at  
33 the Federal and State level as far as jurisdictions are  
34 concerned. Maybe Willie can clarify things.

35

36 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, members of  
37 the Council. This year we helped one of the residents in  
38 Noatak get an IBP permit. In the process, what he needed  
39 to do to get the permit was also have a State license to  
40 be able to operate. Of course, that goes through the  
41 Department of Commerce and he had somebody else helping  
42 him with that. Once he got that, the issue of the  
43 six-pack license came up. The chief ranger, after some  
44 investigation and research, found out that according to  
45 the Coast Guard navigable waters out of Noatak ends at  
46 the village. So he didn't need the six-pack license  
47 above the village according to the Coast Guard, so he was  
48 okay. But, of course, you're right, jurisdiction within  
49 the park, like he said, is administered by the Park  
50 Service.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. That  
2 clarifies some of my questions in regards to the issue.  
3 With that, I want to thank you.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Good discussion. Now  
6 we'll move along and go down to Agency reports. Office  
7 of Subsistence Management. Michelle.

8  
9 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
10 Inside your book, between pages 35 and 43, these are  
11 informational issues that have been discussed in the  
12 office and a lot of these are policies that have already  
13 passed. What we've done is put them in the book for the  
14 Council to look at. If the Council has any questions, we  
15 do have Agency Staff here to answer questions.

16  
17 Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

20  
21 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think at  
22 some point in time since these are a policy set by the  
23 Agency, maybe we ought to get a quick highlighted  
24 briefing in regards to just some highlights of those  
25 policies. You can talk about policies at the Agency  
26 level and as far as policies are concerned, I don't have  
27 the slightest idea what those are. If we can get sort of  
28 a highlighted briefing of what those policies are and  
29 what they state, it would be an ideal thing. That way we  
30 would be periodically reminded that these are the  
31 policies of the Federal government.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: So a quick report. How  
34 do the Council members feel about this? Be all right  
35 with all of you?

36  
37 (Nods affirmatively)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay, we'll do that  
40 very briefly, all five.

41  
42 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair and Council  
43 members. My name is Tim Jennings. I'm with the Office  
44 of Subsistence Management. I'll give you a brief summary  
45 of each one of these five written briefings and then if  
46 you have questions, we can go further as needed.

47  
48 The first one is page 35 in your book,  
49 this is a policy dealing with predator management. For  
50 clarification, this is a Federal Subsistence Board policy

1 that they recently implemented in writing. You will  
2 recall over the past couple years there has been  
3 discussion here at this Council regarding the Federal  
4 Board considering a predator management policy. So this  
5 briefing is in your book because the Board took final  
6 action on their policy recently at their May board  
7 meeting this year.

8

9 On page 35, the meat of the overview is  
10 that on predator control issues the Federal Board  
11 recognizes that it doesn't have direct authority to  
12 perform predator control as a body. Its role is for  
13 establishing the harvest and season limits, methods and  
14 means, customary and traditional use determinations for  
15 the take of subsistence species, which in some cases  
16 could be predator species, like wolves and bears.

17

18 The policy then says that the appropriate  
19 agency or agencies to perform predator control would be  
20 the land management agency in conjunction with the State  
21 of Alaska. So that's an over what this policy that the  
22 Federal Board says. The actual policy that the Board  
23 adopted is on the next page, page 36.

24

25 I'll stop there and see if there's any  
26 questions about predator control or predator management  
27 policy.

28

29 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: This might be a silly  
32 question. What is really the definition of predator? Is  
33 it man or another source?

34

35 MR. JENNINGS: The context here, Mr.  
36 Chair and Mr. Sampson, is predator control for non-human  
37 species. For things like wolves and bears primarily is  
38 what we're talking about here.

39

40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk:

41

42 ATTAMUK: Are you saying that in the  
43 Federal land for predator control the State got control  
44 over the predator control, not the Federal people or  
45 Federal landowners?

46

47 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair and Attamuk. In  
48 conjunction with the State of Alaska Board of Game  
49 process and the land management agency -- for instance,  
50 if it's on the Fish and Wildlife Refuge lands, there

1 would need to be some determinations made by the agency,  
2 the land management agency, the refuge, that predator  
3 control is consistent with the planning goals and  
4 purposes of the refuge and is needed. There's certain  
5 criteria that the refuge would need to go through, a  
6 public process, environmental process, and in conjunction  
7 do that with a Board of Game process.

8  
9                   What the Federal Subsistence Board is  
10 saying, that's where the control or the responsibility or  
11 authority lies for predator control, not with a proposal  
12 to the Federal Subsistence Board to implement predator  
13 control. The Federal Subsistence Board would not  
14 entertain the predator control proposal for regulation.  
15 It would need to go to the Federal land management agency  
16 and the State of Alaska. That's what this policy  
17 clarifies.

18  
19                   ATTAMUK: Thanks.

20  
21                   MR. JENNINGS: Ready to move on to the  
22 second one, Mr. Chair?

23  
24                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes.

25  
26                   MR. JENNINGS: That would be on page 37.  
27 This has to do with Council correspondence policy.  
28 Again, this is a recent Federal Board policy laid out for  
29 all 10 Councils and it's in response to a recent request  
30 from a couple of Councils that the Board provide  
31 clarification regarding Council letters and  
32 correspondence. So that's what this policy lays out.  
33 It's first time in writing. Informally, this is the way  
34 we've been doing business for a while with your Council  
35 and with others around the state, other Councils. We, as  
36 Staff, support your Council. So, when there's a letter  
37 to go to another agency or to the Federal Board, like an  
38 annual report, our Staff helps provide the support to  
39 draft that letter or correspondence and have the Council  
40 Chair consider it -- or the Council and the Council Chair  
41 typically signs it.

42  
43                   Basically what this policy does is it  
44 lays out an avenue to help facilitate the correspondence  
45 being reviewed and approved. There was a recent instance  
46 in the last couple years where some correspondence from  
47 another Council was going beyond where the departmental  
48 policy suggested that the Council correspondence could  
49 go. The purpose of these Councils is to help advise the  
50 Federal Subsistence Board on subsistence issues within

1 your region and statewide, so the Federal Board felt like  
2 they needed to clarify that.

3  
4 In particular, Councils should not try to  
5 lobby elected officials on pending legislation. That was  
6 the recent case there was some questions about the  
7 appropriateness of that kind of correspondence coming  
8 from a Council.

9  
10 So, basically, this lays out a way that  
11 we help you prepare the correspondence that you're  
12 wishing to have. It comes into our office and it goes up  
13 through our chain of command to Tom Boyd for a policy  
14 kind of review on behalf of the Board and then we help  
15 make any modifications with the Chair and it gets signed  
16 and goes forward to the entity.

17  
18 I'll stop there and see if there's any  
19 questions. Your Council hasn't generated a lot of  
20 correspondence over the years. I don't know of any  
21 issues or concerns that have been raised regarding your  
22 Council correspondence. It's all been straightforward  
23 and appropriate. This came up in another region.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from  
26 Council.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, go to the next  
31 one.

32  
33 MR. JENNINGS: The third item there, Mr.  
34 Chair and Council members, would be subsistence use  
35 protocol on page 41. We do have a member of this  
36 protocol group here, Mr. Glenn Chen of the BIA. If you  
37 have questions on this one, I'll ask Glenn to come  
38 forward to the mike to address any questions. He's more  
39 familiar with this than I am.

40  
41 Basically, in overview, we have a  
42 committee of Federal and State Agency folks that are  
43 looking at, as you can see on the top of page 41, the  
44 State uses the terminology amounts necessary for  
45 subsistence. The Federal terminology is subsistence use  
46 amounts. We're trying to collaboratively come together  
47 to address what are those amounts. The status here is  
48 that it's a work in progress. When there is something  
49 that has meat on the bones, something that has some  
50 substance to it that is in draft form, we will be bring

1 it to each and every Council through your meetings to get  
2 local input, to hear Council concerns and to get your  
3 input and feedback before it goes on to the Federal Board  
4 for consideration. I'll stop there and see if there are  
5 questions.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions. Walt.

8

9 MR. SAMPSON: On the third paragraph, I  
10 guess, the first sentence says, "Subsistence use amounts  
11 are established based on historic subsistence harvest  
12 levels." How are the harvest levels gathered? Is there  
13 a process that the Federal government goes through to  
14 gather harvest level?

15

16 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sampson. I  
17 think that's part of the issues that the protocol  
18 committee is working with, is how best to gather that  
19 information. We'll see if Mr. Glenn Chen has additional  
20 information to add to that.

21

22 MR. CHEN: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sampson. What  
23 Mr. Jennings described is correct. We haven't worked out  
24 yet what the process might be for developing those  
25 numbers. That still remains to be seen as the process  
26 we're going to use. One suggestion that's been put forth  
27 is that we use as a baseline or a starting point the  
28 numbers that the State has developed for amounts  
29 necessary for subsistence.

30

31 So, for example, for salmon on Yukon  
32 River, the State has established ANS amounts for  
33 different species of salmon. That might serve as a  
34 starting point, but we have not finalized the process  
35 we're going to use.

36

37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: So, as part of the process  
40 then, do you plan to work with some of the communities to  
41 gather some of the data as a basis that you can use on an  
42 annual basis or just a one-time information gathering?

43

44 MR. CHEN: I think local input is going  
45 to be very important, Mr. Sampson. For example, the  
46 State Subsistence Division does annual household surveys  
47 and that we recognize is a very important source of  
48 information that might be used to establish what people  
49 harvest traditionally of the various species for  
50 subsistence. We anticipate doing the same thing.

1                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions.  
2 Calvin.  
3  
4                   MR. MOTO: Yes. I'm trying to figure out  
5 here on the fourth paragraph, the process of developing  
6 this protocol has proven to be challenging. Recently,  
7 State and Rederal -- what's a Rederal?  
8  
9                   (Laughter)  
10  
11                  MR. CHEN: Mr. Moto, you caught a typo on  
12 this page here. It should be Federal, not Rederal.  
13  
14                  CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions.  
15 If none, go to the next one.  
16  
17                  MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
18 We'll move on to the next item on page 42 of your book,  
19 Regional Advisory Council briefing regarding  
20 participation on committees. Where this has come up is,  
21 as you'll recall, we have this interim memorandum of  
22 agreement between the Federal program and the State of  
23 Alaska and under the broad umbrella memorandum of  
24 agreement we have several working groups. One of which  
25 we just discussed, the amounts necessary for subsistence.  
26  
27                  There are other protocols and committees  
28 that have been established between Federal and State  
29 Agencies working on subsistence. In some cases, you may  
30 recall we've had Council member participation. What we  
31 have is a problem that we discovered with the Federal  
32 Advisory Committee Act, whereby it limits the membership  
33 on these committees of non-chartered committees. This  
34 Council is a FACA-chartered committee council to advise  
35 the Federal Board. We looked at your charter a little  
36 bit earlier on the ethics disclosure. It will come up  
37 again a little bit later this afternoon in terms of  
38 whether or not you want to propose changes to your  
39 charter.  
40  
41                  These committees that are working on some  
42 of the MOA issues are not FACA chartered. So, since they  
43 are not FACA chartered, we cannot have the public  
44 participate. Only Federal and State agencies are legally  
45 able to participate.  
46  
47                  So what that means is on these protocol  
48 committees and other committees that get formed there  
49 won't be Council representatives at that subcommittee  
50 level. The subcommittee committee level will do their

1 work and then we will bring the draft to the Councils at  
2 your FACA-chartered meetings like this one, that's where  
3 we don't run into the problems with meeting FACA  
4 requirements. We'll get input from the Councils at that  
5 point.

6  
7                   The real key here is the last paragraph,  
8 that the Federal Board recognizes how important it is to  
9 get the local input and input from the Councils. We  
10 fully intend to ensure that there will be ample  
11 opportunity for any of these issues that are being  
12 developed through committees. Once it's developed to a  
13 stage that's ready for you to consider, we will bring it  
14 to one of your meetings for you to discuss before it goes  
15 on to the Federal Board. So that's what this briefing is  
16 about. Mr. Chair, I'll stop and see if there's  
17 questions.

18  
19                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

20  
21                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
22 guess trying to clarify for me here, that committee, I  
23 understand the role, but the listing of the committee, is  
24 it an interagency committee or outside the agency  
25 committee?

26  
27                   MR. JENNINGS: There's several committees  
28 that are in process. The most active one right now is  
29 the one we just discussed, amounts necessary for  
30 subsistence. They're an interagency, Federal and State.  
31 So representatives from several of the Federal agencies  
32 as well as the State of Alaska, Fish and Game.

33  
34                   MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

35  
36                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anymore questions.

37  
38                   (No comments)

39  
40                   MR. JENNINGS: Ready to move on?

41  
42                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes, let's move on to  
43 the next one now.

44  
45                   MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, the last item  
46 we have for you has to do with the recently passed  
47 regulation regarding the sale of handicrafts made from  
48 bear fur and/or claws. This came up a little bit earlier  
49 today in your meeting. You'll recall the 805(c) letter  
50 reports to you the actions that the Federal Subsistence

1 Board recently passed. This was one of them that was in  
2 your letter. It was a statewide proposal originally. As  
3 it was amended and passed by the Board, the Federal Board  
4 limited it to Southcentral, Southeast and Eastern  
5 Interior Regions.

6  
7 So there is an administrative appeal  
8 process available in our Federal regulations. The State  
9 of Alaska has requested through this appeal process, it's  
10 called the request for reconsideration and the State is  
11 requesting that the Federal Board take another look at  
12 this recently passed regulation on the sale of  
13 handicrafts for bear fur and claws.

14  
15 So this is informational. It's saying to  
16 you as you see the letter from Tom Boyd on page 43 to all  
17 the Chairs that we've received this request for  
18 reconsideration. There's a process we go by which we'll  
19 prepare a Staff analysis, we'll engage with the  
20 interagency group and then with the Federal Board. The  
21 Federal Board will decide in the next several months,  
22 couple of months or so, if they're going to take this  
23 back up. If they do take it back up and reconsider it,  
24 then we will come back to the Councils with an analysis  
25 of the reconsideration. There will be another  
26 opportunity for Council input and then ultimately next  
27 May the Board will make a decision -- if they took it  
28 back up, they will make a decision on what to do with the  
29 regulation in the administrative appeal process.

30  
31 So this is informational, kind of laying  
32 out what's happened and what would be the process.  
33 What's also attached herein to the letter of Tom Boyd  
34 that continues on page 44 and beyond is the letter from  
35 the State of Alaska requesting reconsideration and the  
36 basis and the background for that reconsideration. It  
37 goes to page 60 in your book if you want all the details  
38 of the background.

39  
40 So I'll stop there, Mr. Chair, and see if  
41 you have questions.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

44  
45 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
46 think for clarity for myself, I guess, is this request  
47 coming from the Department of Fish and Game or is it  
48 coming directly from the Board of Game from the State of  
49 Alaska?

50

1 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sampson.  
2 As you'll note on page 44, it came from the Department of  
3 Fish and Game, signed by Commissioner Duffy. Also for  
4 clarification, you'll recall that the Board only approved  
5 this for three regions. So, right now, the regulation  
6 does not apply in this region. It only applies in  
7 Southcentral, Southeast and Eastern Interior Regions.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
12 think the only problem or not the problem, but at some  
13 point in time concessions is always on the table. You  
14 know, the State of Alaska had an opportunity to change  
15 its constitution for everyone to have equity, if you  
16 will, but they did not. Now that we are in the Federal  
17 management and support it because it is a plus for all of  
18 us, it seems like it's always the State of Alaska that  
19 goes in to the Federal Board to ask for concession. I  
20 think the Federal Board also needs to consider that they  
21 represent all of us within different regions.

22  
23 As far as concessions are concerned, I  
24 think the Federal Board also needs to have a discussion  
25 or dialogue with the State in regards to trying to have  
26 an equity within the State Game Board if that's what the  
27 State of Alaska is always asking for, equity. If the  
28 State of Alaska is asking for equity in regards to what  
29 the Federal Board passes, then the Federal government  
30 ought to ask the State of Alaska to have equity in the  
31 State Game Board. Right now, as far as rural  
32 representation is concerned, there's none. It's  
33 Fairbanks/Anchorage control and that's basically  
34 Anchorage/Fairbanks Game Board.

35  
36 What I'm trying to get to you is that if  
37 there's going to be equity or asking for an equity from  
38 the State level, then the Federal Board ought to ask the  
39 State of Alaska to have equity in their Board as well,  
40 too.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions.

43  
44 (No comments)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, thank you.

47  
48 MR. JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
49 That's all I have.

50

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: We'll move along. The  
2 next item is B, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Selawik  
3 Refuge.  
4  
5 MS. AYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My  
6 name is LeeAnne Ayres, the refuge manager for Selawik  
7 National Wildlife Refuge.  
8  
9 MR. RAMOTH: I'm Clyde Ramoth. I work at  
10 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge stationed at Selawik.  
11  
12 MS. AYRES: I guess first there were a  
13 number of questions that came up earlier in your meeting  
14 that I'd like to maybe provide some information from the  
15 refuge side.  
16  
17 Walter, you brought up the issue of land  
18 status within the refuge boundary on conveyed land,  
19 patented land, and I guess probably one of the areas that  
20 we have the largest amount of Native patented land is in  
21 the refuge on the Kobuk delta. I think that's one area  
22 where a majority of the Kobuk delta is NANA land that's  
23 within the refuge boundaries. When we're talking and  
24 thinking about moose regulations, I guess one thing that  
25 is important to know is that the people hunting on those  
26 lands are hunting under the State regulations there.  
27  
28 So, Walter, was that one of the issues  
29 that you were looking into?  
30  
31 MR. SAMPSON: Yes. You know, the refuge  
32 runs Melvin Channel going east, well it used to include  
33 all of Noorvik. In regards to portions of those lands,  
34 that's not been conveyed either to KIS or to NANA. Have  
35 permits been issued for concessions within portions of  
36 those lands or on a Kobuk delta for guiding?  
37  
38 MS. AYRES: No. Our only guiding area is  
39 down south of the Selawik River on the Tag area.  
40  
41 MR. SAMPSON: So you're aware of the  
42 guiding that was done within the Kobuk delta this fall?  
43  
44 MS. AYRES: No, we're not.  
45  
46 MR. SAMPSON: That's why I asked that  
47 question.  
48  
49 MS. AYRES: I'll have Kevin Fox talk with  
50 you about that because, no, we weren't aware of that.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

2

3 MS. AYRES: The other issue that was  
4 brought up was the navigable water issue. Boy, it's a  
5 complicated one and I think even between the experts that  
6 deal with it on the State and Federal side. I think you  
7 bring up a really good point. It's a very important  
8 issue as far as who has jurisdiction and who can be doing  
9 what and who is regulating what there.

10

11 I guess I'd like to encourage the Council  
12 to maybe have that as an agenda item at some time and  
13 have some of the folks that deal with this day and night  
14 come and talk to us about where things stand right now.

15

16 There are differences between the Parks  
17 Service and Fish and Wildlife Service. As Dan explained,  
18 they have actual regulations that exert a little bit more  
19 authority or jurisdiction on submerged lands or those  
20 navigable waters within the park boundaries. Fish and  
21 Wildlife Service, the refuges do not. There is a  
22 difference between the Federal agencies on that. And the  
23 process that the State is playing right now is actually  
24 trying to help clarify which are navigable waterways and  
25 who has jurisdiction on those.

26

27 So I think down the line things are  
28 working towards becoming a little bit more clear, but  
29 it's still a confusing issue and I think it's a real  
30 important one that we all make sure we have the right  
31 answers on.

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

34

35 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chair. I certainly  
36 appreciate LeeAnne's information there. I think at some  
37 point in time maybe the Federal Agencies can sit down and  
38 make that determination and make it clear in regards to  
39 who owns those waterbodies because there's going to be  
40 many times when the court is going to make that  
41 determination for you and I. So I think if we can make  
42 some sort of determination on some of these waterbodies,  
43 we certainly would appreciate that.

44

45 At some point it's going to help us as  
46 well in some of our arguments as a community. It's going  
47 to also be a negative at some point, which is fine too.  
48 At some point in time, maybe you can work with the Park  
49 Service as well as BLM even though you might have some  
50 differences as far as regulations are concerned.

1 MS. AYRES: I'll certainly take that to  
2 heart and it is a high priority. Where it really comes  
3 in is with some of the user conflict and transporter  
4 issues and what we have the authority to do. So I agree  
5 with you, it should be on the top of our list of things  
6 to get clear.

7  
8 The next issue that came up, you were  
9 talking about numbers of moose and who had the numbers  
10 and whether the Federal agencies or land managers had a  
11 data set versus the State's data set. I guess I'd just  
12 like to say how happy I am that we don't have that. Jim  
13 Dau and I have been looking at moose for 20 years now and  
14 I don't think either of us can tell a Federal moose from  
15 a State moose. So I think it's really important that we  
16 work together and we have data that we both agree on.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

19  
20 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
21 think even though you appreciate, that very statement you  
22 made, we need to double think of the very effects and  
23 determination that we have to make because that effect is  
24 on the family that puts the food on the table and I think  
25 that should be the bottom line of what we do and how we  
26 do things both at the Federal and the State level.

27  
28 MS. AYRES: Okay. And I think that will  
29 lead right into Clyde. One of the things that we were  
30 really fortunate to have him be able to come in to  
31 Kotzebue today was to talk about what people in Selawik  
32 are experiencing and what they're seeing as far as  
33 resource issues and other topics that come up that I  
34 think the Council would appreciate hearing.

35  
36 So, with that, I'll turn it over to you,  
37 Clyde.

38  
39 MR. RAMOTH: I asked Mr. Chairman what  
40 would be appropriate to bring as concerns from our  
41 Selawik hunters and gatherers. There was one concern --  
42 of course, I get email and phone calls and I talk to a  
43 lot of our folks up there.

44  
45 Spring sheefish migration was very late  
46 this spring and, of course, a lot of you are aware of  
47 that. Along with the waterfowl. Our folks seem to think  
48 they went straight to their nesting grounds and that was  
49 a concern.

50

1                   Moose hunting seems like there was  
2 concern about too many planes, whether it be private or  
3 agency or commercial. We've heard some concerns about  
4 transporters and guides. That could disrupt the moose or  
5 caribou, but folks got their caribou, but I'd say about  
6 15 plus or minus this fall at Selawik.

7  
8                   Of course, the caribou we know -- we've  
9 heard it was late. I've heard some concerns, whether  
10 it's the weather or the smoke from the Interior, the  
11 Squirrel River hunters.

12  
13                   Another concern is the beaver affecting  
14 our water quality. So there's some proposals put in  
15 because we have a great abundance of beaver up there and  
16 less people are hunting and trapping them. Hopefully  
17 we'll get some folks interested. I don't know about  
18 Noorvik or other villages, but that's something I've been  
19 talking to LeeAnne about, wanting to do more stuff in  
20 Noorvik.

21  
22                   Another concern we heard with the folks  
23 at Selawik was the transporters and guides. Like I  
24 mentioned, there is some illegal transporters and guides  
25 happening and that's been a concern for local hunters.  
26 We've heard year in and year out folks that can barely  
27 save enough money for gas to go upriver and wait for the  
28 caribou or moose. They get affected by folks that are  
29 either flying or boating others just for that dollar  
30 value.

31  
32                   But that's just a quick nutshell of what  
33 I heard and the folks of Selawik are fortunate we've had  
34 a good season as far as berries and gathering.

35  
36                   MS. AYRES: Clyde, did you want to say a  
37 few things about the ongoing fisheries projects, the two,  
38 sheefish and whitefish?

39  
40                   MR. RAMOTH: Sure. The sheefish project  
41 happening up the Selawik River, they've completed tagging  
42 close to 1,500, I believe, with the leadership of Ray  
43 Hander out of the fisheries office out of Fairbanks and  
44 we contracted Selawik IRA to hire two field technicians  
45 and they rotated schedules, but with the mudslides that  
46 we have up past the Singauruk River, past the Shovel  
47 Creek, that's been a concern. But they were able to tag  
48 their numbers. With all the other obstacles, I think the  
49 first year was successful.

50

1 I helped coordinate at the Selawik Inn  
2 and boat some stuff from Kotzebue, so that's ongoing.  
3 We're looking forward to next year with a lot of good  
4 improvements. But that's to find out hopefully the  
5 population of the sheefish.

6  
7 With the whitefish study that Randy Brown  
8 is doing, they put 96 transmitters on the broad  
9 whitefish, the humpback and the ciscos. After doing some  
10 tracking, they've identified the ones that got tagged at  
11 the south end, near Tookamagoruk, in that area, Fox  
12 River. They found fish all the way up the Selawik, so  
13 they're kind of hanging around at the south end. The  
14 ones they tagged and put transmitters at the north end  
15 are hanging around at the north end of the Selawik delta,  
16 but they've still yet to determine whether they're going  
17 out in the Selawik Lake or Kobuk Lake or anywhere else.  
18 So those projects are ongoing.

19  
20 It's good to work with the local folks  
21 and the biologists because they understand each other and  
22 they're the folks that actually will hopefully give us  
23 good reports and numbers.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Clyde, I've got a  
26 question for you about putting tags on those whitefish.  
27 How did they monitor them?

28  
29 MR. RAMOTH: With a transmitter. They  
30 fly with radio transmitters and I'm not really familiar  
31 with that. LeeAnne probably could answer better. But  
32 they fly around 800 feet and that was hard to track on  
33 the Selawik Lake, but when they fly around the Selawik  
34 delta area and further, they were able to find out where  
35 the fish are going. I recall hearing one of the  
36 biologists saying the one fish that was tagged up the  
37 Kobuk they found way up the Selawik five to ten years  
38 later, so those kind of stuff are interesting to find.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

41  
42 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you  
43 very much. Good to hear that you do have fisheries  
44 studies. It's really interesting to listen to, those  
45 people that study fisheries. I've sat in some of the  
46 fishery presentations where, for instance, the trout  
47 studies and whatnot where trout are tagged in one area  
48 and the areas they migrate to. A lot of them over into  
49 the Siberian side, the Russian side. Some down to the  
50 Norton Sound area. Of course, some up the Kobuk and

1 Selawik area as well too.

2

3 So it's really good to hear that,  
4 certainly, as far as fisheries are concerned, studies are  
5 being made because at some point in time when developers  
6 start looking at developing something, we'll need  
7 certainly some baseline to work off, to look at. Not  
8 only that, since the Borough is going through its  
9 planning process and land selection, we are certainly  
10 looking at some of the lands that the Borough is  
11 selecting to protect the very sources, especially some of  
12 the spawning areas, some other subsistence areas, of  
13 course, as well as potential development areas as well.

14

15 But it's good to hear that the agency is  
16 certainly doing something with the local folks on doing  
17 these studies and I certainly encourage the other  
18 agencies to do that just as well too.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 MR. RAMOTH: Mr. Chair. Just one more  
23 brief information I want to share real quick. I heard  
24 Attamuk earlier talk about contaminants on certain  
25 species and stuff. There is a proposal put in to study  
26 the contaminants on northern pike. Angela Matts, out of  
27 the office out of Fairbanks, and I know we've sent  
28 letters to -- I've faxed and spoke with Tina Moran out of  
29 the office here in Kotzebue. We've identified six  
30 villages, I believe. If everything works well, we'll  
31 start that next year. The northern pikes though, they  
32 want to find out mercury levels and others within our  
33 subsistence communities.

34

35 MR. BALLOT: Thank you. I'm just  
36 wondering, do you have numbers on the transporters or the  
37 guides in the Selawik/Tag area?

38

39 MS. AYRES: Yes. Mr. Chairman. Yes, I  
40 do. That was going to be our next report. Before I go  
41 on to that with the fisheries projects, we want to thank  
42 you because both of these projects were ones that were  
43 generated and reviewed through this Council. In addition  
44 to the baseline data and the fisheries work themselves,  
45 both projects contributed to the Culture Science Camp  
46 that Selawik did this year too. So lots of good things  
47 are coming off the projects, I think, that you folks are  
48 reviewing and supporting here.

49

50 With that, I'll go on to our fall update.

1 This year we had three law enforcement officers that were  
2 out on the refuge and we did concentrate our effort in  
3 the areas where our special use permit holders were  
4 operating and our guide area was, which was south of the  
5 river predominantly.

6  
7 Their reports on actual activity as far  
8 as numbers of hunters and numbers of game taken are due  
9 November 1st. So what I have is basically our report  
10 from last year, which I believe you've already seen, but  
11 I have it here again if you'd like to have it now.  
12 Numbers-wise, we had one less transporter working on the  
13 refuge and we had one new transporter, a boat operator,  
14 that was based out of Selawik.

15  
16 Just from the officers that were on the  
17 refuge, Mike Wade and Gene Peltola, who have been doing  
18 patrols on the refuge for a number of years and are very  
19 familiar with who's who out there, their overall  
20 impression was that there were fewer hunters in the field  
21 this year and that that was kind of following a trend  
22 from last year where overall numbers were down slightly.  
23 But we won't really know until the numbers come in from  
24 reports.

25  
26 MR. SAMPSON: What were the total numbers  
27 last year?

28  
29 MS. AYRES: Last year we had 100 hunters  
30 with 44 moose taken and there were four active  
31 transporters. The folks that were out there were able to  
32 contact over 120 hunters in the field during the season.  
33 From those there were seven violations and they included  
34 wanton waste, taking the bone off the meat and not  
35 leaving on the required evidence of sex. The wanton  
36 waste cases were primarily not salving enough of the neck  
37 and rib meat. So those are the violations we have for  
38 this fall season. We'll certainly make sure that our  
39 tallies from the transporters' reports are available to  
40 you all when we get them.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for  
43 wildlife refuge. Walter.

44  
45 MR. SAMPSON: I guess I need a  
46 clarification and more information in regards to  
47 transporters. If a transporter -- are we talking about  
48 transporters or guides?

49  
50 MS. AYRES: We only have one guide, Jim

1 Earhart, that's licensed on the refuge and he did not  
2 have any clients this year.

3

4 MR. SAMPSON: In regards to violations by  
5 transporters, do you do any scrutiny in regards to  
6 background checks?

7

8 MS. AYRES: Yes, we do. The violations I  
9 mentioned, those were all on individual hunters, not on  
10 the transporters. Before we issue a special use permit,  
11 if they have had a State or Federal game violation within  
12 the last two years, that's grounds for them not  
13 qualifying for a special use permit.

14

15 MR. SAMPSON: That's what I was going  
16 after. Thanks.

17

18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else.

19

20 MS. AYRES: Just that I do have more  
21 detailed numbers on our moose survey that we did in 2004  
22 if you'd like me to give it to you.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

25

26 MR. BALLOT: Please.

27

28 MS. AYRES: I know Jim will kind of help  
29 put this in perspective of the rest of the region. I  
30 think that's one of the things. I do think the detailed,  
31 specific refuge data is important. We are collecting  
32 that. It was my mistake. What I wanted to emphasize is  
33 that it's really valuable to have a regional outlook on  
34 what's going on with moose and resources so we don't miss  
35 the big picture by looking at too small of an area with  
36 our Federal units.

37

38 So, with that, on the Selawik, in 2001,  
39 we did a census of the Tag River drainage, which is about  
40 1,700 square miles. This is pretty much south of the  
41 Selawik River and extends up to the headwaters of the  
42 Tag. In 2001, we estimated close to 1,400 moose in that  
43 area. We redid the same area in 2004 and there was close  
44 to 1,000, so we definitely had a decrease in moose. One  
45 caveat in that is that in 2004 when we did the census  
46 that we received the lower number on, we were up against  
47 that real early melt that we had, so our sightability for  
48 seeing the moose out there to count was very low the last  
49 two days that we did the census. So I think our numbers  
50 are probably on the low side.

1                   So two conclusions that I came to looking  
2 at the data is that, yes, I think moose numbers have gone  
3 down in the Selawik. I don't think really dramatically,  
4 but there definitely has probably been a decrease. The  
5 number of moose harvested out there is kind of  
6 stabilizing around 40 during our sport hunt. We have less  
7 solid data as far as how many are being taken with the  
8 subsistence hunt.

9  
10                   We also have a habitat study going on  
11 right now where we're looking at the browse, the  
12 condition of the food for moose that is on the refuge.  
13 We've been getting some interesting results back already  
14 from that. The woman doing the work has looked all  
15 through the flats to the river corridors and her initial  
16 impression without having analyzed all of her data is  
17 that there's still quite a bit of good moose food out  
18 there in a lot of the refuge.

19  
20                   One area where there's not is along the  
21 Tag River corridor itself and that's primarily because  
22 the willows that are along the river there have grown too  
23 old and are too high for the moose to reach since there  
24 hasn't been a fire in some of those areas for a while.  
25 So that may explain some of the shift that hunters are  
26 seeing of moose, off the Tag River and more along the  
27 flats. The habitat may be changing there along the river  
28 corridor over the last 20 or 30 years.

29  
30                   I think the numbers of moose that people  
31 are harvesting from Selawik, if they range from 20 to 60,  
32 which our numbers kind of suggest from past subsistence  
33 surveys and from what we're kind of guesstimating today,  
34 I don't think they're going to have an impact on the  
35 moose population. I think the areas that we count are  
36 more focused around where the sport hunting is occurring  
37 and I think Jim Dau has done an excellent job of being  
38 very proactive in developing some State regulations to  
39 address that area and the hunting pressure that's going  
40 on there.

41  
42                   Where people from Selawik are hunting are  
43 along the river corridor there and some of those moose  
44 are actually probably coming from the Fish River and the  
45 Kobuk delta and the lower Selawik there. So I think the  
46 actual subsistence regulations that are on the books -- I  
47 guess I don't think the subsistence harvest that's  
48 occurring in the Selawik drainage is having a negative  
49 impact on the moose population there.

50

1                   Some of the things that we did hear from  
2 people regarding the current regulations were that they  
3 were very confusing and they were very confusing for us  
4 to try to explain to people what the Federal regulations  
5 were and what the State regulations were and where they  
6 applied and where they were going to be hunting.

7  
8                   Walter brought up a good point, there's  
9 these patented lands within the refuge boundaries, so are  
10 those Federal regulations applying or State regulations  
11 applying. In reality, there's a patchwork of lands  
12 within the refuge, especially around the village of  
13 Selawik. So I guess that is one concern from the refuge  
14 perspective that we have is that the current regulation  
15 regime is very confusing for people hunting on the refuge  
16 that are residents of the region.

17  
18                   The other one is the harvest reporting  
19 scheme. We had a hard time telling them how they were  
20 technically supposed to report their harvest. I think  
21 the State was gracious enough to let us use their harvest  
22 reporting system even though people weren't hunting under  
23 the hunt that harvest report was set up for.

24  
25                   So those were some of the other issues  
26 that came up for us. Clyde, is there anything else?

27  
28                   MR. RAMOTH: No.

29  
30                   MS. AYRES: Regulation-wise, moose  
31 numbers.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

34  
35                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, LeeAnne, for  
36 your information. I think one thing we don't do too  
37 often is to thank people that certainly put in a lot to  
38 the process, what the Federal have to go through as well.  
39 Park Service, Fish and Wildlife, BLM. Even though you're  
40 in the land management business, it seems like that one  
41 individual is always there when you're in need and that's  
42 Jim. Jim's credibility within this region certainly is  
43 high. Somebody who we highly respect because of the way  
44 he does business for the State of Alaska even though he's  
45 an employee of the State of Alaska. His working  
46 relationship with the people is such that he's got an ear  
47 to listen with and I think that really sets his tone of  
48 work, to listen to people. Neutral in what he does, in  
49 the business that he does. I think we don't thank him  
50 enough for his work. So, with that, Jim, publicly, for

1 public record, I want to thank you for your work. You  
2 put in a heck of a lot of hours into the air, a lot of  
3 hours and time listening to people, a lot of time and  
4 hours working with people. I wish that we had more of  
5 those people with your caliber. I certainly appreciate  
6 your work.

7  
8 In regards to some of the issues  
9 regarding moose, you talked about the decline in regards  
10 to the moose, do you have any idea or some numbers in  
11 regards to bull/cow ratios or cow/calf ratios that you  
12 might be able to shed some light where the trends might  
13 be for those?

14  
15 MS. AYRES: Actually, our bull/cow ratio  
16 data is very weak. Primarily because we have a hard time  
17 doing the surveys in the fall this time of year because  
18 we don't get snow.

19  
20 MR. SAMPSON: Do you have an idea of the  
21 numbers?

22  
23 MS. AYRES: No, I couldn't give you  
24 numbers the last time. Jim has the spreadsheet where we  
25 have the past survey numbers from the Selawik on, but we  
26 don't have any really current ones and I think that's  
27 probably right now our highest data priority, is to try  
28 and collect that data this fall.

29  
30 MR. SAMPSON: How about the cow/calf  
31 ratio?

32  
33 MS. AYRES: Cow/calf in 2001 there were  
34 nine cows, nine calves per 100 adults. This is in the  
35 spring, so that's ones that are probably going to be  
36 recruited into the population. In 2004, we had 13 calves  
37 per 100 adults, so slightly up. And that's the most  
38 recent data we have for calves in regard to the  
39 population. One thing that was brought up a number of  
40 times this fall by folks out there and from what we saw  
41 from just doing work on the refuge was quite a high  
42 number of wolves on the refuge for what's typically seen  
43 out there. I guess it will be interesting if those  
44 wolves move on through with the caribou as they go  
45 farther south or if they reside there during the winter.  
46 They could really change the picture for moose on the  
47 refuge fairly rapidly if they really have increased. The  
48 two packs that are there had a very high number of pups  
49 and if they continue to survive and they set up camp on  
50 the refuge during the winter. I think we'll be keeping

1 an eye on that.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.  
4  
5 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
6 Looking at the numbers from -- is that Tagagawik? Whose  
7 spelling is that?  
8  
9 MR. RAMOTH: I think that's the official  
10 map back in the '50s.  
11  
12 MR. SAMPSON: I think we need to get a  
13 good spelling on it. It's not wik. Anyway, looking at  
14 the numbers there, starting with March, the density  
15 certainly has gone down from 1.4 to .62 even though --  
16 oh, I'm looking at -- no, .056 in 2004.  
17  
18 MS. AYRES: Actually, that 1.14 is not  
19 comparable to the 2001 and 2004. That 1997 census was  
20 from the core area, the high-density core area of that.  
21  
22 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.  
23  
24 MS. AYRES: But the density has gone down  
25 between 2001 and 2004.  
26  
27 MR. SAMPSON: It looks like the calf  
28 ratio also is down.  
29  
30 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. Where is the  
31 Cock River counts on?  
32  
33 MS. AYRES: We have not done Cock River.  
34 One of the reasons we didn't was because of the low  
35 number of moose that are out there. During that spring  
36 census a lot of years there weren't any moose out there.  
37  
38 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chair. You mentioned  
39 about the Federal and State regulations being confusing,  
40 so maybe we need to have them on the radio and have some  
41 people trying to summarize for the hunters sometime.  
42  
43 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think  
44 better yet, because there are land managers within  
45 certain areas south, more specifically maybe Noorvik and  
46 Buckland area, maybe the best thing you could do is just  
47 periodically hold a public meeting and talk to people  
48 about what Federal regulations say and what the  
49 requirements are. Just periodically. Don't have to go  
50 into details. Just a reminder of what the Federal

1 regulations say in regards to moose and caribou hunts.  
2 If anybody else needs more information, you're there to  
3 answer. So I think periodically an ideal thing to do is  
4 just to hold a public meeting just to communicate things  
5 to find out if people might have some good  
6 recommendations in regards to how things could be  
7 bettered within the refuge system or other areas.

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.

10 Anything else.

11

12 MS. AYRES: No, that ends our  
13 presentation.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I want to thank both of  
16 you for your time and work in that area. You've done a  
17 very good job again this year.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 MR. RAMOTH: Thank you.

22

23 MS. AYRES: Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I know most of you are  
26 getting awful tired and then some of you are going to be  
27 leaving very shortly, so we'll take one more report and  
28 we'll take a break. At this time we'll have Walter  
29 Porter from Northwest Arctic Borough. We'll have him  
30 give his report and we'll take a break.

31

32 MR. PORTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
33 I'm make it short. I'm sure everyone wants to go on a  
34 break. This year is probably our first real year of  
35 being active in area management. As you know, we can't  
36 manage fish and game resources. We can't manage  
37 minerals, but we can manage people. Even though we're  
38 not in the fish and game management business, we take a  
39 lot of pressure and we get a lot of comments from  
40 regional people on issues and they believe we can do  
41 something about it.

42

43 We've created a transporter permit and we  
44 have a waste disposal permit. We actually budgeted  
45 \$20,000 to enforce our new permits this year. Our  
46 response to the transporter permit, I'm not quite sure  
47 how many we sent out, but we sent out a lot of permits  
48 knowing that those people operate in our area. Our  
49 response to those permits are rather small. So, when we  
50 get information in working with the Agency people, you'll

1 probably see our office go to court on a number of  
2 violations to those permitting violations. We anticipate  
3 that anyway.

4  
5 We're working on several fronts. Walter  
6 explained the land selection that the Borough is going  
7 through. In about seven months those selections will be  
8 completed and they'll be under our jurisdiction and the  
9 State informs us that we'll be able to manage those  
10 properties, so we're very optimistic that will have an  
11 impact at least on some areas.

12  
13 We've hired Willie Goodwin to help us put  
14 that together and the progress we're making on it is very  
15 good. We're real pleased about where that's taking us.

16  
17 We're getting a lot of ideas from  
18 transporters, not only our hunters in the area  
19 disappointed, a lot of our regional guides are  
20 disappointed. As far as we know, most of all of our  
21 regional guides have come in and applied for permits from  
22 us. We had the opportunity to sit them down and discuss  
23 the kind of problems we are seeing. They're just as  
24 concerned as we are. The dumping of hunters at high  
25 levels is really a concern to everyone. We see camps  
26 being set totally across corridors where the caribou  
27 migrate through and we're very concerned about those  
28 kinds of issues. That appears to us if these people knew  
29 the habits of the migration patterns they might influence  
30 the hunters they drop off.

31  
32 One of the ideas that's been hitting the  
33 table in recent time is similar to an idea that's on the  
34 Kenai River with the Kenai fishermen there. All of their  
35 guides have to come to an orientation early spring and  
36 they actually educate the guides how to function on the  
37 river, even the old guides. If they don't show up to  
38 that hearing, they don't get a permit to fish on that  
39 river. So we'll be considering those kind of ideas.

40  
41 This thing that happened up there in  
42 Kobuk, when we all went up there for the Dall Creek DOT  
43 permit issue, one of the things that we heard or most of  
44 the things that we heard were people that were coming and  
45 hunting in the area and didn't know how to hunt, didn't  
46 know how to deal with the first of the migrating caribou  
47 through the area and it put a tremendous hardship on the  
48 Kobuk people.

49  
50 When they knock the caribou off their

1 normal migrating routes, they go way upriver or way  
2 downriver and those people are very concerned because  
3 they can't afford to pay \$6 for a gallon of gas to go way  
4 up and find a caribou 30 miles up the river.

5  
6 So we look at those things. They're  
7 really educational issues. Those hunters just don't know  
8 that there's a good way to hunt caribou and a bad way to  
9 hunt caribou. So we're going to seriously look at those  
10 kind of alternatives to actually educate transporters and  
11 hunters when they come in the area so they're not a  
12 tremendous burden on the migration routes of the caribou.

13  
14 So, anyway, there's probably a lot more  
15 specifics. If you have questions about specific things,  
16 we do have Kim Franklin with me here today and if I can't  
17 answer them, certainly Kim can answer them.

18  
19 But I just wanted you to know that the  
20 Borough is becoming very active. One of the things we'll  
21 be doing, we've already had a joint meeting with the  
22 different agencies in mid summer and we've learned a lot  
23 in the last few months and we're looking forward to our  
24 next joint meeting, probably within the next two months.  
25 So, by next spring, you will have seen us make more  
26 positive moves to help out in terms of Unit 23  
27 management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll entertain any  
28 questions if there's any.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for Mr.  
31 Porter. Enoch.

32  
33 ATTAMUK: You said you guys are working  
34 on permits for transporters to drop off clients. Is  
35 there a way you could work a system -- because our land  
36 could take only so much and an area square block should  
37 be able to take only so many people because you're saying  
38 they're dropping off hunters right on the migration route  
39 of the caribou. I think there should be a permit through  
40 you guys or through somebody or an agency how many  
41 clients can be dropped off in a certain area. Just like  
42 taxi service in the big cities. Only so many taxis can  
43 operate in a town and only so many clients could really  
44 damage our country out there and affect us hunters out  
45 there. I think that would be a real big effect saying  
46 how many clients should be in an area. We've got a lot  
47 of land there. We could always put them in little  
48 creeks.

49  
50 MR. PORTER: Thank you, Enoch. I'm glad

1 you brought that up. It's been suggested to us to do  
2 exactly that. One of the things we're going to look at  
3 and see if we can do and that's to require that the  
4 transporters designate a given location for every group  
5 that they bring in. Your angle on it is new though and  
6 I'm glad you brought it up because we'll certainly take  
7 that into consideration and we'll work with the different  
8 Agency people on that.

9  
10 One of the things that Julie Hopkins from  
11 the National Park Service suggested is that we gather all  
12 this information and I'm sure what you're pointing out to  
13 us by too many people on a given location is going to be  
14 something that's going to be part of the agenda when we  
15 meet the next time. We'll see if we can, in fact, do  
16 those kinds of things.

17  
18 It's real interesting to me because one  
19 of the guides actually suggested what you're suggesting,  
20 but not the numbers part. He just suggested that the  
21 transporters should say in their application for each of  
22 their hunting parties where they're going to put them.  
23 That way it's possible in our work in designing this that  
24 if they say they're putting them right in the path of the  
25 caribou, maybe we could work with the other Agencies and  
26 say that's not a location, maybe you could do it over  
27 here. But I'm saying that creatively because we have not  
28 decided that yet and we don't know if we can do those  
29 types of things, but we're certainly going to look at it.

30  
31 What we can do and what we can't do, we  
32 think it's going to be a good combination with the  
33 Agencies because there are some things we can do that the  
34 Agencies can't do. So thank you for that suggestion.  
35 We'll make note of it.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions.

38  
39 MR. BALLOT: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just  
40 wanted to say hats off to the Borough for taking this  
41 issue on. We really appreciate it. You heard Clyde  
42 mention that the hunters only got about 15 caribou this  
43 year in Selawik area. Buckland is not much better.  
44 Deering is not much better. It's very needed help that  
45 we're getting.

46  
47 MR. PORTER: Mr. Chairman. I listened  
48 and I appreciate the Agency people being very careful  
49 about how they present their information. Certainly we  
50 all should be careful. Sometimes when we talk we hear

1 things and we speculate and we appreciate that, so I want  
2 to make these comments. Certainly I'm speculating, but  
3 based on very good information and credible people that  
4 have reported it. I listen to comments about the  
5 Buckland and Deering area and what happened in the last  
6 several years and I appreciate those comments that are  
7 made. But I just want to say that we have heard that  
8 there has been some substantial dumping of hunters in  
9 those areas. People working out of Galena and Bettles  
10 and where it was done and the moose started disappearing  
11 before anybody could really do anything about it. We're  
12 going to look closely at those issues.

13

14 We have strange things happening. We  
15 have hunters coming in where there's landing strips and  
16 they leave their planes right in the middle of the field  
17 so nobody else can land there. I can assure you we're  
18 going to look at those as very serious issues. What that  
19 keeps us from doing, it keeps us from carrying out our  
20 enforcement practices when we need to get down there and  
21 talk to those people. So it's very clever for them to do  
22 that, but I can assure you that we're going to look at  
23 those things very closely. If we have to create  
24 ordinances to stop them from doing those kind of things,  
25 we're going to do that.

26

27 We're going to be very active in the next  
28 few years and from now on working with the Agency people  
29 so we can get a handle on it. We tell all transporters  
30 that get in touch with us that the transporters and  
31 hunters are not our enemies. If they'll work with us and  
32 meet us halfway and be educated on how to work in the  
33 area and work with local people and the Agencies, we're  
34 all going to get along better.

35

36 It should be in their best interest as  
37 well as ours not to destroy the resource out there.  
38 Right now we see things and habits that are actually  
39 destroying numbers of resource, so I assure you we're  
40 going to do everything we can to help out in this area.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you very much.  
43 Very briefly, Willie, you've got something.

44

45 MR. PORTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If  
46 there's no more questions.

47

48 MR. GOODWIN: Just a point of  
49 clarification. I think before you get your hopes too  
50 high, there's got to be some understanding of what some

1 of these Federal Agencies can and cannot do at this  
2 point. Right now we can't in the Park Service limit the  
3 number of transporters. We could with the guides. Or  
4 their clients. I'm not sure how Fish and Wildlife can  
5 also do the same thing.

6  
7                   So there's a process it has to go through  
8 and certainly the Borough does not have the authority to  
9 place any limits anywhere on Federal lands.

10  
11                   MR. MILLS: Do you have two minutes? I'm  
12 going to have to catch a plane.

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

15  
16                   MR. MILLS: I hate to hold you up.  
17 Thanks for your patience. I've got to catch a plane back  
18 to Fairbanks, so if I could just have a couple minutes.

19  
20                   The main reason I came today, I want to  
21 thank everybody, is just to listen and learn and it's  
22 been a while since I've been to Kotzebue, so it's great.  
23 My name is Dave Mills, superintendent for Gates of the  
24 Arctic.

25  
26                   I wanted to share a couple minutes of  
27 information on the management of a part of Gates of the  
28 Arctic, the preserve part. If Walter could turn around.  
29 It's a very small portion of your region. Can you point  
30 out the preserve boot there as we call it. Yeah, it's  
31 that area right there. If there's one thing I learned 15  
32 years ago, living and working in Kotzebue, was how  
33 important that area is to folks and the problems that  
34 have existed there.

35  
36                   In the last 10 years we've tried to focus  
37 some of our energy on helping and hopefully not making  
38 more problems for that area. So I wanted to share a few  
39 things that we're working with our subsistence commission  
40 on in the management of the preserve part of Gates of the  
41 Arctic on the Upper Kobuk River.

42  
43                   I'm really looking forward to work again  
44 with Walter and the Borough. I think a collaborative  
45 approach and a comprehensive approach is really the way  
46 to solve a lot of these problems that we've called user  
47 conflicts through the years.

48  
49                   Number one, we've tried to really focus  
50 on education. Tried to spend some time with people

1 before they go out there, especially if they're from out  
2 of state or not from the region. So both in Bettles,  
3 Coldfoot and Anuktuvuk Pass, we require of our commercial  
4 operators that they get an orientation briefing from one  
5 of our staff before they go out. That's worked very well  
6 with the back-packers and the wilderness travelers.  
7 We're still working on improving that with the sport  
8 hunters, although there's some success with that. So,  
9 education number one.

10

11 In the last 10 years, and each year gets  
12 a little bit better, we spent quite a bit of time  
13 monitoring out in the field and we worked collaboratively  
14 with a number of people, certainly with Raymond Stoney  
15 and his group. We've put rangers on the rivers and we  
16 fly.

17

18 I just wanted to share a little bit of  
19 information from this year. This year is a fairly  
20 typical year of the last few years. When I say this  
21 year, it's the hunting season for moose primarily. We  
22 spend about a month above the Paw River in the preserve  
23 there contacting, we think, about 90 percent of the  
24 people that come through that area. It's never 100  
25 percent, but it's most of them. This year we contacted  
26 44 hunters, which is a little below the normal.  
27 Typically it's 50 to 75 in the last five years. The last  
28 three years has been about 50 hunters and it varies from  
29 maybe 15 to 20 groups of people.

30

31 The best of our knowledge, and we  
32 certainly don't get a complete record at this time, but  
33 two moose were taken, one bear and one wolf. Last year  
34 we had reports that no moose were taken and the year  
35 before I think there was just one. So the harvest is  
36 very low at least with sport hunters coming to the area.  
37 I think it's indicative of a lot of things. There's not  
38 a lot of people going there, number one, and we know the  
39 moose population is pretty low right now. So just  
40 sharing that information with you.

41

42 The other bit of information that I'm  
43 working with our Subsistence Commission on is the renewal  
44 of the one hunting concession permit we have in that  
45 area. That's renewed every five years. It's actually  
46 been seven or eight years since we first gave that  
47 permit. But that comes up this winter. I will continue  
48 as a stipulation of that permit not to -- allow one  
49 concession hunting guide in that area, but we don't allow  
50 them to operate on the river itself. I feel there's

1 plenty of opportunity to provide that kind of service  
2 away from the Kobuk River. There's lakes up there to  
3 land on, so we allow him to operate away from the river,  
4 but not on the river.

5  
6                   So just a heads up. That will go out and  
7 a prospectus will be issued this winter and we'll be  
8 reconsidering a new or the same hunting guide for the  
9 next five years. We're working with our Subsistence  
10 Commission on those issues. So we have a meeting with  
11 the commission in November. They've given us a lot of  
12 great ideas on things we ought to be doing educational-  
13 wise, management-wise, and we're continuing to develop  
14 some of those ideas that they've helped us with here. So  
15 we look forward to your thoughts. I know we have members  
16 from Shungnak and the region on that commission. They  
17 have been very good to work with.

18  
19                   So I wanted to give you a brief update on  
20 those.

21  
22                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions to the  
23 Gates of the Arctic superintendent. Walter.

24  
25                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
26 Not really a question, more of a comment, I guess. The  
27 issue in regards to what you're doing upriver certainly  
28 is something we always look forward to working with, with  
29 Gates of the Arctic folks. Certainly it's something that  
30 we all need to work on. Upper Kobuk being basically  
31 economically depressed because of the very fact that cost  
32 of living is much higher in the Upper Kobuk. I mean a  
33 gallon of gas is over six bucks now. If resources are  
34 being depleted or driven further away from the community,  
35 that means people have to buy additional gas to go even  
36 further to look for resource. It's something that we can  
37 use as an argument to make sure that folks at the local  
38 level be given consideration.

39  
40                   I certainly like that when you put a  
41 stipulation into a permit where those types of people  
42 stay away from the river corridor area for the purpose of  
43 people to hunt within that area. Creating a competition  
44 is something we don't want to do. It puts additional  
45 burden on a family that's in need of food to put on the  
46 table. Like I said, the Upper Kobuk certainly is a  
47 depressed area because of the very fact that cost of  
48 living is much higher. Barges cannot make it to Kobuk.  
49 There's no way you can bring fuel into Kobuk but to fly  
50 it. So when you fly it, that's additional cost to folks.

1  
2                   So I think in regards to the issue of  
3 making statements to the fact in regards to what you're  
4 doing, sure, there's some nice people that love to be  
5 nice, but I think I travel both walks. Sometimes I'm  
6 blunt in regards to making my statements on issues that  
7 people might not want to hear what I say, but that is  
8 also what I say and do because of the very fact that the  
9 people I represent are people that are in need of these  
10 things. So, if I'm blunt, I apologize for being blunt,  
11 but I think it also colors the picture of not all people  
12 are good people. I'm not saying I'm bad, but I try to  
13 paint both sides of the picture sometimes and being blunt  
14 is one of those ways.

15  
16                   So, with that, Dave, I certainly want to  
17 thank you for your report and certainly want to encourage  
18 your folks to work with our park office here in Kotzebue.  
19 And anything that we can do to support, I certainly am  
20 interested in dealing with you folks as well, too. Thank  
21 you very much.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Dave, I certainly want  
24 to thank you for being in the Upper Kobuk this year and  
25 it's a good report. Sometimes the report that we see  
26 from Upper Kobuk is always local people that said, well,  
27 up there that no local hunters coming there and evidently  
28 they do harvest moose and they leave the whole thing up  
29 there and then they get the blame for it. We're pleased  
30 with you being up there this year in the Upper Kobuk  
31 Valley. Again, thank you very much for the work you've  
32 done in the Upper Kobuk.

33  
34                   MR. MILLS: Thanks. I think there's a  
35 lot more we can do, so we'll look forward to improving  
36 what we're doing, certainly with the Borough planning and  
37 your efforts there. Thanks a lot.

38  
39                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you very much.  
40 Let's take a 10-minute break.

41  
42                   (Off record)

43  
44                   (On record)

45  
46                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Everybody find their  
47 seat. We're ready to go. I call the meeting back to  
48 order. We're still on reports. At this time we'll call  
49 the National Park Service for their report.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Ken's the man.

2

3 MR. ADKISSON: Not exactly, Mr. Sampson,  
4 Chair and Council members. We'll actually sort of do a  
5 tag team, I think, but still try to make it pretty quick.  
6 I have a number of things to touch on and I'll go over  
7 them pretty quickly. Sandy had an announcement and then  
8 Willie had a couple projects he wanted to update you  
9 folks on. If we want to touch on law enforcement and  
10 resource, visitor protection, kind of things like that,  
11 Dan Stevenson can give you an update on that and what our  
12 activities were this summer.

13

14 To start out with on the areas I kind of  
15 wanted to quickly touch on, on the fisheries front,  
16 Charlie Lean was up to Kotzebue several times assisting  
17 with a research project that focused on the ecology of  
18 the larger lagoons at Krusenstern. This was a research  
19 project put together by a couple grad students who  
20 actually lived up here for a fair length of time, Terry  
21 and Melinda Reynolds. They're actually graduate  
22 students, I believe, at North Carolina University.  
23 Anyway, Charlie was a major assistant to that project and  
24 doing inventories of aquatic species, working on energy  
25 budgets and the ecology that supports the aquatic life in  
26 the lagoons.

27

28 Also, Charlie continued to be active in  
29 monitoring salmon returns and salmon status up here on  
30 the Kobuk River test fishery and then also on the Noatak  
31 test fishery. Charlie says, especially with regard to  
32 the Noatak, the age composition of the test fishery is  
33 looking pretty good for next year. On the Kobuk test  
34 fishery, Charlie is working with the ADF&G to try to  
35 develop a decision-making model for if and when the  
36 crunch comes or conditions warrant a low escapement,  
37 begin to scale back some of the fisheries activity so we  
38 can have a little bit more predictive model of where  
39 we're going to go at any point in time.

40

41 Charlie was unable to make it this time,  
42 but if you have questions in these areas, this is an  
43 ongoing thing, so perhaps at the next RAC meeting we can  
44 bring that up.

45

46 The sheep hunt that Council endorsed and  
47 made recommendations on for this year. The Dall sheep  
48 hunt is going very good. We've had nine rams reported  
49 taken, eight of those out of the Bairds and one out of  
50 the Delong, so we're still well within quotas. We've

1 still got a number of rams available. As far as that  
2 goes, a lot of the problems seem to have been resolved  
3 and things seem to be going along good on the sheep hunt.

4  
5 On the Seward Peninsula muskox situation,  
6 Fred Tocktoo went to Deering and Buckland again to work  
7 with the IRA's and providing assistance and instruction  
8 and so forth on dealing with the Tier II State permit  
9 applications. I think that was helpful. To the best of  
10 my knowledge, all of the State Tier II permits this year  
11 wound up in Buckland and Deering for that hunt. Six went  
12 to Deering of those nine.

13  
14 When we got around to doing the Federal  
15 permits, of course, we put most of those into Buckland to  
16 compensate and sort of balance it out.

17  
18 With regards to hunting guides, we have  
19 three concession contract regulated guides operating the  
20 Noatak and are in the process of developing a brand-new  
21 prospectus and re-advertising those concession contracts  
22 and we're about to the point where I believe we're about  
23 ready to go out with those prospectuses for those three.

24  
25  
26 With respect to the issue of transporters  
27 and so forth, I have no real solid 2004 data, but for  
28 2003 and I'll just look at the Noatak because that's  
29 where I think most of our heavy activity is. I could dig  
30 up some other data for you if you'd like on the Kobuk and  
31 so forth. With Noatak, we had 19 operators and those 19  
32 operators took in 140 clients, of which about 76 or maybe  
33 a little more were hunting oriented. The others, you  
34 know, birding, rafting, boating, whatever, sightseeing.  
35 By and large, the largest proportion of clients were in  
36 the drop off category. Probably about two or three of  
37 the IBP holders actually accounted for the bulk of those  
38 individuals that were in there hunting.

39  
40 As far as our commercial services  
41 planning goes, that's been kind of put on hold through  
42 the summer activities and we'll try to pick that up again  
43 next fall, I think, with continuing to try to gather  
44 data. I think it's encouraging to see what the Borough  
45 is doing. I think we'll make a lot more progress on some  
46 of these areas trying to work together rather than as an  
47 individual agency trying to struggle along to deal with  
48 it.

49  
50 That's basically all I've got from my

1 report, unless there are questions, and I'll be glad to  
2 try to answer them.

3

4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

5

6 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 In regards to the Noatak, even though it's last year's  
8 report, not this year's report.....

9

10 MR. ADKISSON: Yeah, 2003 data.

11

12 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. In regards to the  
13 IBP holders, have you had any violators?

14

15 MR. ADKISSON: I can't tell you  
16 specifically. You might address that to Dan Stevenson  
17 when he gives his overview. As far as past history, I  
18 don't believe so.

19

20 MR. SAMPSON: Well, the reason why I'm  
21 asking, I sort of heard through the grapevine that there  
22 was possibly some violations that occurred.

23

24 MR. ADKISSON: Again, ask Dan. I believe  
25 a citation was issued this year to an operator.

26

27 MR. SAMPSON: And you cannot say?

28

29 MR. ADKISSON: No, I can't. Nor if it's  
30 an open case, maybe Dan can't say either, but I  
31 understand there was a citation issued this year. He  
32 might be able to tell you what the citation was for.

33

34 MR. SAMPSON: I'm not asking for  
35 specifics. I'm just asking if there was any violation.

36

37 MR. ADKISSON: He'll give you a briefing  
38 on our activities and what range of stuff did happen.

39

40 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any more questions for  
43 Ken from the Council.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Goodwin.

48

49 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman, members of  
50 the Council. A couple things. This past year we had

1 funding to do a cleanup at Cape Krusenstern National  
2 Monument, so it was in cooperation with NANA, KIC, the  
3 Kotzebue IRA and the City of Kotzebue. In kind portions  
4 from NANA and KIC and the IRA were the cost of getting  
5 the trash pickup to the beach where a barge can pick them  
6 up, so we contracted with the owner of the barge and we  
7 went across there and picked up all the heavy metals,  
8 snowmachines, outboards, washing machines, freezers, the  
9 big heavy stuff, and we got a pretty good pile. That one  
10 spot they picked up 10 truck loads. The people were very  
11 happy about that. In fact, the City's bill would have  
12 been about 2,800 bucks, but they waived it for the  
13 cleanup. So it was a good project.

14

15                   Unfortunately, we couldn't get all the  
16 way down the coast, so we're going to seek some more  
17 funding to do the rest of the coast further up. We went  
18 as far as Saklolik, the Yules Camp.

19

20                   The other project that went on and we  
21 reported on was the heavy dust from the Red Dog Road.  
22 The final report that Linda Hasselback completed, we  
23 brought the report to Kivalina and Noatak. The responses  
24 were okay. They didn't have any hard feelings or strong  
25 comments regarding the report. It showed as you get away  
26 from the road, the dust levels were pretty low. In fact,  
27 south of the road there's hardly any contamination. It's  
28 mostly toward the north.

29

30                   The last thing is the muskox study that  
31 we had a person doing the study at Cape Krusenstern.  
32 She's doing the final report, so we haven't seen that  
33 yet. Ken mentioned the commercial services. We decided  
34 internally to do an environmental assessment. So as we  
35 gather information, we'll be able to move forward with  
36 it.

37

38                   Thank you.

39

40                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from the  
41 Council for Willie.

42

43                   MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you.  
44 Two questions. One is I've had some contacts in regards  
45 to an interest in a possible muskox hunt. Even though  
46 there's a State hunt, folks in Kivalina and Noatak have  
47 an interest in possibly creating a Federal hunt up Cape  
48 Thompson area for muskox.

49

50                   At what point in time would be an ideal

1 time to have a dialogue in regards to that possible  
2 muskox hunt?

3

4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Ken.

5

6 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Sampson, Chair,  
7 Council members. What we're talking about right now is  
8 working with the Cape Krusenstern SRC to open a proposal  
9 for Cape Krusenstern. There already is a State Tier II  
10 hunt in place for the area north and west of the Noatak  
11 River and the Federal public lands are not closed, so  
12 people who have those State Tier II permits can hunt on  
13 both State-managed lands and Federally-managed lands  
14 north and west of the Noatak, except for Cape  
15 Krusenstern, which will be under discussion and you'll  
16 see a proposal, I think, at your winter meeting for that.

17

18 Beyond that, to say that some opportunity  
19 already exists would require additional discussion  
20 involving the State on overall population levels and  
21 appropriate harvest quotas and so forth. Surely not  
22 impossible.

23

24 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.  
25 My second question is in regards to cleanup work, Willie.  
26 The issue in regards to the old site there up on the hill  
27 there where there's those poles, is that part of the  
28 cleanup work or is it just along the coastline?

29

30 MR. GOODWIN: It was just along the  
31 coastline where the camps are located. We didn't get  
32 further back. All we did was make the barge available to  
33 people to bring their trash to the beach and then we  
34 picked it up from the beach.

35

36 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you very much. I  
37 understand Sandy might have some additional dollars for  
38 you to finish cleaning up that area.

39

40 MR. RABINOWITCH: Good afternoon, Mr.  
41 Chairman. My name is Sandy Rabinowitch of the Park  
42 Service. I have the unique opportunity here to offer  
43 some good news. I don't think I've ever been given such  
44 a nice opportunity as this, so here goes. It's real  
45 short.

46

47 The Park Service has a new grant program.  
48 This is for real. This isn't a joke. We have a new  
49 grant program. It's small and it's designed to benefit  
50 -- I'm going to just read a few little pieces and then

1 I'm going to give you each a copy of this. It's designed  
2 to benefit the marine and aquatic ecosystems along the  
3 coast of Alaska. It's funded through the National Park  
4 Foundation and it's administered by the National Park  
5 Service. Individual grants can be made in a minimum  
6 amount of 1,000 and a maximum of 10,000 per project, so  
7 that's the scale. They can be single year or multi year.

8  
9 To give you some examples of projects,  
10 research, resource monitoring, environmental protection,  
11 conservation and restoration, fish and wildlife, plant  
12 resources, education, arts, humanities, subsistence,  
13 public lectures and environmental law enforcement, so  
14 it's really broad. You can fit a lot of things in here.

15  
16  
17 There's a two-page application form I've  
18 got right here. This year proposals have to be submitted  
19 by November 1st, so it's getting kind of close. There's  
20 a short evaluation criteria that I'll give you here.  
21 That's kind of it.

22  
23 It's actually funded through some  
24 penalties, a lawsuit settlement, I believe, in the cruise  
25 ship industry down in Southeast Alaska that affected  
26 National Parks. Created a pot of money, it's been turned  
27 into this grant program, and each year we'll be able to  
28 put out grants to people who apply. As I say, it's just  
29 been in existence one year. I'll give you each a copy  
30 and put some on the back table and we'll be happy to have  
31 applications from tribes, IRA's, groups, anybody. That's  
32 it.

33  
34 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I want to  
35 comment. With the way Sandy presented this information,  
36 it just reminded me of the guy advertising from the  
37 Federal side of the picture, you know, wears a suit with  
38 dollar signs. Get free money from the Federal  
39 government. For some reason that thought came to me.

40  
41 But on a more serious note, something  
42 that we maybe should do as an organization is make sure  
43 some of the tribal entities that might have an interest  
44 in doing some of this stuff be notified so they can apply  
45 for grants. Thanks.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin, do you have  
48 something.

49  
50 MR. MOTO: Sandy, before you leave, we

1 got this information from the Park Service just recently.  
2 It was a grant from the National Park Service. We  
3 understand the funding is still available. I'd like you  
4 to see this and verify the fact that we may be able to  
5 use some of these funds for the different projects. I  
6 don't know if you're familiar with that, but that's what  
7 we got from the National Park Service. It's about  
8 crafts, learn how to do different things. Hire certain  
9 people to come in and teach us how to make baskets and  
10 stuff like that.

11  
12 I understand that we were supposed to  
13 have some people come in from Russia sometime during that  
14 period to give us a demonstration on it. We really just  
15 got into it in the last six months, the Elders Council,  
16 and we're very interested in trying to find out whether  
17 the funds are still available for that project and what  
18 can we do. It's the \$24,000 we don't know anything  
19 about.

20  
21 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Calvin, when  
22 you're referring to the Elders Council, are you referring  
23 to the regional Elders Council?

24  
25 MR. MOTO: City.

26  
27 MR. SAMPSON: Or Deering Elders Council?

28  
29 MR. MOTO: Deering IRA Council.

30  
31 MR. RABINOWITCH: In response, I'm not  
32 familiar with what you've handed me here, but I might be  
33 able to go out in the hall and make a phone call and find  
34 out. I do recognize the name of the Park Service person  
35 who signed this. So I might be able to make a phone call  
36 and find out. If I don't get through, I could copy this  
37 and then next week when I'm back in Anchorage I could  
38 check it out and get back to you and give you an answer.

39  
40 MR. MOTO: The reason I brought it here  
41 is we're having a joint City Council, IRA Council and  
42 Elders Council meeting to cover some of the issues that  
43 we have on this.

44  
45 MR. RABINOWITCH: If I could just make a  
46 copy of this and give it back to you, but maybe I can get  
47 an answer with a phone call for you.

48  
49 MR. MOTO: Just so you don't lose it.  
50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter, do you have  
2 anything.

3  
4 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, yes. I think  
5 our protection officer is anxious here to provide us  
6 information.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

9  
10 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11 Dan Stevenson again with the National Park Service. I'll  
12 be real quick. I know it's getting late in the day.

13  
14 We had two officers in the field for most  
15 of the hunting season this year. We contacted  
16 approximately 90 hunters within the field. We gave out  
17 several citations and verbal warnings. Our verbal  
18 warnings are usually given to individuals for failure to  
19 have a hunting license in possession, failure to validate  
20 a harvest tag, signed license, those type of things. We  
21 usually give out verbal warnings. If we have repeat  
22 offenders, then we'll follow that up with a citation  
23 later.

24  
25 The citations were issued for failure to  
26 salvage and also, in response to Walter's question,  
27 illegal access into a controlled use area. We did cite a  
28 transporter for that. There's a lot to talk about, but  
29 basically we did use a helicopter this year for  
30 enforcement work and it was a very effective tool. We  
31 were able to actually land at float plane access sites  
32 and airstrips. In the past, we were limited. So it was  
33 really helpful to us and allowed us to contact more  
34 individuals in different areas.

35  
36 Roughly, we field checked about 200  
37 caribou, eight moose, three brown bears and two dall  
38 sheep. Of that total 90 hunters, this is approximate,  
39 about 50 percent of them were non-residents, 30 percent  
40 were Alaska residents but non-locals, and about 20  
41 percent were from the local Kotzebue region.

42  
43 There's a lot more to talk about, but I  
44 think those are the main things. We again did see a  
45 concentrated use in the Aggie and Ely, as you are aware  
46 of. A lot of hunters throughout the Aggie, on both forks  
47 of the Aggie, and also on the Ely. We're starting to see  
48 an increase -- in the short time I've been here, I'm  
49 starting to see an increase more up on the Nimiuktuk and  
50 farther up on the Upper Noatak and we're getting reports

1 from some of the outfitters that are seeing that increase  
2 as well in the Upper Noatak.

3  
4 I think that's all I have. If there are  
5 any questions. I did want to respond just quickly to  
6 Walter's comment on a check station here in Kotzebue and  
7 just clarify again that we are very concerned about the  
8 same issue on wanton waste on the animals, coming back to  
9 Kotzebue and the meat not being in good condition or not  
10 being salvaged. Some of the confusion is a lot of those  
11 animals are coming off Federal land and we understand  
12 that, but once the animals are back in Kotzebue, we don't  
13 have jurisdiction. The State has jurisdiction once  
14 they're back in Kotzebue, so our hands are really tied.

15  
16 But I think a check station is an  
17 excellent idea. I know we have a lot of committees, but  
18 if there was a way we could get Council members or State  
19 and Federal together to look at that issue of check  
20 stations, I think it's a very good idea.

21  
22 We do have a local law enforcement  
23 advisory group that was set up last year and maybe that's  
24 a good place to look at that issue. It would be very  
25 important to have the State involved, State troopers  
26 along with us and Council members, however you saw fit.

27  
28 That's all I have. Thank you.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

31  
32 MR. SAMPSON: Just a question in regards  
33 to did you hear any complaints, any issues coming from  
34 legal guides competing with drop-off hunters or any of  
35 that going on at all?

36  
37 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, I did. For the  
38 first fall hunting season in five years I am starting to  
39 hear that from some of our authorized outfitters in the  
40 Noatak Preserve. They're starting to have conflicts with  
41 drop-off hunters and transporters, so yes.

42  
43 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Willie.

46  
47 MR. GOODWIN: Mr. Chairman. Just to  
48 spread some light on the check points here, the Kotzebue  
49 IRA administration did talk about it recently and I think  
50 they may pursue something here in Kotzebue during the

1 winter months and see if we can coordinate something to  
2 be opened up for next year.

3

4 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

5

6 ATTAMUK: Yeah, Willie, maybe me or you  
7 could talk to Kotzebue IRA for a Federal grant under  
8 subsistence. We probably could get funding from the  
9 Federal on this one here. I know Manilaaq can't apply  
10 for this funding. I know Kotzebue IRA could because I  
11 checked on it already on this issue we just talked about.

12

13 MR. GOODWIN: I sit on the Council, so I  
14 can push it.

15

16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Mr. Arey.

17

18 MR. AREY: These elders are from Noatak  
19 and they go way up, hunt caribou and every time they go  
20 up they say Fish and Game come around and ask for their  
21 hunting license. They've got permanent hunting license  
22 and they're from the village and all you have to do is  
23 look at them. You don't have to harass them. If you just  
24 ask them and say where are you from, from the village,  
25 they say yeah and they're elders and they've got  
26 permanent license. They shouldn't be harassed.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
29 to the National Park. Walter.

30

31 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. One last  
32 question. In regards to enforcement, environmental type  
33 of enforcement, what is Park Service doing to some of the  
34 needed cleanup work for some of the trash that's being  
35 left in camps and stuff?

36

37 MR. STEVENSON: In the short term, when  
38 we go into some of these sites, we'll stay two or three  
39 days, especially at some of the more popular back-country  
40 strips, we do clean those up ourselves if we have enough  
41 room in the plane and we'll take it out with us.

42

43 In the long term, I think that needs to  
44 be addressed in the commercial service plan that our  
45 staff and Willie is working on. That is something that  
46 really needs to be looked at because we're seeing more  
47 and more of that. It has to be a requirement, I think,  
48 in the IBP permit. Most of our outfitters are good, but  
49 the IBP holders I think is where we're starting to see  
50 that increase. But it is a very serious problem.

1 MR. SAMPSON: Just to follow up, Mr.  
2 Chairman. If the Park Service is going to give the IBP  
3 permits, that ought to be part of the stipulation,  
4 otherwise you're not going to be an enforcement officer,  
5 you're going to become a garbage man for the Park Service  
6 picking up trash out in the field. So I think it's  
7 something that maybe the Park Service can look at and  
8 deal with to make sure that is part of the requirement.  
9 Otherwise you're using our tax dollars to picking up  
10 garbage that somebody else is making profit out of. So I  
11 think it's something you need to consider.

12  
13 Thank you.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
16 from Council for the National Park.

17  
18 (No comments)

19  
20 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, thank you very  
21 much. Keep up the good work being Park Service rangers.  
22 We're down to Bureau of Land Management. Randy Meyers.

23  
24 MS. MEYERS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair  
25 and Council members. My name is Randy Meyers and I work  
26 for the Bureau of Land Management here in Kotzebue and  
27 with me is Kyle Joly and Kyle is the new wildlife  
28 biologist for BLM in Fairbanks and he's been with our  
29 office for about six months. He comes with a lot of  
30 practical experience and research in wildlife issues. He  
31 worked with the biological science center of the US  
32 Geological Survey in Anchorage for about six years before  
33 he joined up with us. One of their main projects was  
34 working with caribou. They were looking at the effects  
35 of fire on winter caribou habitat and caribou  
36 distribution.

37  
38 Kyle is going to give you a brief update  
39 on our resource management plan that we're just starting  
40 on and we had some scoping meetings in the NANA region  
41 and the Bering Straits region this spring. I wanted to  
42 talk to you today about our special recreation permit  
43 guiding activity in the Squirrel this fall.

44  
45 So you all have a copy of the report.  
46 This year Tom Sparks, who is the BLM natural resource  
47 program coordinator in Nome, is doing our recreation  
48 program, so he did the compliance work in the Squirrel  
49 this year. Actually, he's doing compliance work down in  
50 the Bering Straits as well with our recreation program.

1                   So he and the BLM Ranger Mike Billbe flew  
2 in the Squirrel this year on the 12th of September and  
3 they were hoping to get out for at least one other day.  
4 Because they needed to get local transportation and  
5 didn't have their own plane, they were only able to fly  
6 that one day. They flew with Hageland Aviation with Eric  
7 Sieh and they saw a total of 20 camps out in the Squirrel  
8 this year and of those 20 camps 16 were associated with  
9 our special recreation permit guides, base camps and  
10 spike camps, and then four other camps we're not as sure  
11 of. They only landed at the base camps. Possibly two of  
12 them were local people.

13  
14                   We currently have a total of 11 SRP  
15 holders, so these are big game guides that are legally  
16 allowed to operate in the Squirrel. Of those 11, only  
17 eight have been active in the last several years. You've  
18 got the names there of those persons who are active and  
19 inactive in the Squirrel.

20  
21                   They were able to land at seven of the  
22 eight active permittees and the eighth one is on a hilltop  
23 in the southwestern corner of the Squirrel. The wind  
24 conditions have to be right to land there and they  
25 weren't able to land there. When the ranger was making  
26 the rounds, he did not observe any violations. We have a  
27 list of stipulations that should be observed by the  
28 people that we do give the permits out to, so he didn't  
29 see any violations of our SRP stipulations.

30  
31                   The game taken as of the 12th of  
32 September when they talked with the guides and the  
33 assistant guides and the hunters themselves, and this is  
34 just totals from the seven different guides we talked to,  
35 were 17 caribou, 8 moose, 2 black bear and 5 brown bear.

36  
37                   So the thing that I don't have  
38 information for you today on is transporters. We are not  
39 required to permit transporters. They can just come into  
40 the Squirrel and drop people off because they're not  
41 camping there. This year, because the Borough had  
42 started their transporter ordinance program, we thought  
43 that once they get their figures in, we would use their  
44 figures. Their reports will be available January 15th.  
45 Then our own SRP holders, their official reports are due  
46 on the 31st of January. Actually, some of our big game  
47 guides do a little bit of transporting on the side, so  
48 they'll have that information in their report as well.

49  
50                   While Tom was in Kotzebue, he spoke with

1 Kim Franklin at the Borough about the transporter  
2 ordinance and I talked with Kim yesterday just to get a  
3 little more background on their ordinance. So it seems  
4 like they've gotten pretty good compliance with people  
5 putting in their applications. So they'll be coming out  
6 with some information about who was operating where in  
7 the future.

8

9 Any questions? Attamuk.

10

11 ATTAMUK: Yeah, I have a three-part  
12 question. You said there was two from Kotzebue. Who are  
13 they? The other one is BLM. Your numbers for caribou  
14 and moose at the end of the season could change, right?

15

16 MS. MEYERS: Exactly.

17

18 ATTAMUK: And your transporters, they  
19 don't need a permit at the Squirrel River.

20

21 MS. MEYERS: Right.

22

23 ATTAMUK: In order to get a handle on it,  
24 is there a way you could get landing permits just to land  
25 there? That way you could get a handle on how much is  
26 being landed, how many clients are being dropped off, or  
27 does that have to go through the Borough?

28

29 MS. MEYERS: Well, it doesn't have to go  
30 through the Borough. Right now our management plan for  
31 the Squirrel doesn't require that. We are starting a new  
32 resource management plan and Tom Sparks will actually be  
33 writing the section on recreation which will treat the  
34 questions of these issues, so we're hoping to come up  
35 with some ideas in our initial writing of the current  
36 situation and then we'll have meetings with local people  
37 and you'll be able to see what we've come up with for  
38 ideas on ways we could manage the numbers of people going  
39 into the Squirrel, so there will be some alternatives for  
40 people to see and to comment on.

41

42 Tom is looking at some resource  
43 management plans that have been written recently both in  
44 Alaska and also in the Lower 48 where they're talking  
45 about different ways that you can get a handle and having  
46 some management control over the number of people that  
47 use public lands. One way would be figuring out how many  
48 user days your clients, and that would be our guides,  
49 plus their clients, the hunters, how many they have been  
50 racking up in years past and then trying to set some

1 limits on the user days and trying to allocate those user  
2 days to the guides and putting a cap on the number of  
3 guides.

4  
5                   So that's one really important thing that  
6 that plan will do for us, is to enable us to look  
7 critically at this situation and try to figure out what  
8 are some ways we can handle it that would be practical  
9 and effective and that we could afford. It would be  
10 helpful if we could have a few more people in the  
11 Squirrel to observe landing and talk to people over a  
12 broader time frame than just a day, but that's a larger  
13 matter of funding and personnel positions that I don't  
14 have a lot of control over.

15  
16                   ATTAMUK: The other part I had the  
17 question on, those two from Kotzebue, was that Walker and  
18 Taylor?

19  
20                   MS. MEYERS: This I don't know. No,  
21 Walker and Taylor are -- what they meant by local was  
22 someone who was not a special recreation permit guide.  
23 So Walker is one of our guides. It would just be like if  
24 someone in Kotzebue had a plane and went out there to  
25 hunt for themselves or someone took a boat up or someone  
26 came in with Jim Rude from Kotzebue and got dropped off.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

29  
30                   MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
31 You indicated, Randy, in regards to big game guide doing  
32 some transporting, is that legal as well?

33  
34                   MS. MEYERS: It is legal. As long as  
35 they have a transporters license and a guide license,  
36 it's legal.

37  
38                   MR. SAMPSON: Okay. The issue in regards  
39 to number of people going into the Squirrel River  
40 certainly concerns me in regards to moose. You indicated  
41 eight moose taken by the guides. That's eight. Not  
42 counting the number of other hunters that are being  
43 dropped off into the Squirrel is even much higher. I  
44 think some of the issues that were raised in some of the  
45 meetings I certainly have some concerns on. One is that  
46 is it legal to herd with a Cub?

47  
48                   MS. MEYERS: Harassing game is not legal.

49  
50                   MR. SAMPSON: Is that what that is? Is

1 herding caribou with a Cub harassment?

2

3 MS. MEYERS: (Nods affirmatively)

4

5 MR. SAMPSON: If that's the case, then I  
6 think somebody needs to take a look at how the  
7 transporters are using some of these tactics to herd  
8 caribou into some of their clients. Certainly, from what  
9 I understand, some Kiana folks saw that. There's some  
10 people that can testify to that. I think it warrants  
11 somebody talking to some of the folks in Kiana in regards  
12 to who was doing it, where it was happening. If that's  
13 the case, we've got a lot of illegal hunters that are  
14 doing that. If we're not checking into some of these  
15 things, we do need to.

16

17 In regards to the drop-off people, some  
18 of these folks that have been listed I've seen on a video  
19 camera where a lot of trash are being left behind. I  
20 think it's something that needs to be looked at on a  
21 serious side. I think much more so to get some  
22 viewpoints and get some input from the community of Kiana  
23 would be an ideal thing.

24

25 Maybe you could let what's his name know  
26 to make a trip, you and him could make a trip, plus the  
27 individual here, to go to Kiana to get some input and get  
28 some of their concerns raised in regards to some of these  
29 folks using small airplanes to herd some of the caribou  
30 into some of their clients. I'm sure if they're doing it  
31 to caribou, I'm sure they're probably doing it to moose  
32 too. That would be my concern in regards to resource  
33 protection.

34

35 As far as moose is concerned, at some  
36 point in time, it's going to get down to nitty-gritty  
37 where the community of Kiana would not be able to hunt  
38 any moose. It gets to that depletion mode of that  
39 resource. If we don't do something now in regards to how  
40 transporters are being treated, it's going to be worse  
41 than it is.

42

43 In regards to the number of people going  
44 into the Squirrel, as far as transporters are concerned,  
45 you don't know because you just indicated to us. If I  
46 remember, somebody locally told me here that one day that  
47 same airplane took off with seven people at a time five  
48 times. That's 35 people heading up over towards Kiana  
49 and I'm sure they're probably heading up towards  
50 Squirrel. One day. That's a lot of hunters there. I

1 think with that type of activity and people, the 35  
2 people wanting to go out and get their moose, just  
3 imagine what it's doing to that resource on the Squirrel  
4 River.

5  
6 I think it's critical that you get what's  
7 his name from Nome to go up to Kiana.....

8  
9 MS. MEYERS: Tom Sparks.

10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: .....and have a public  
12 meeting and try to get some information regards to those  
13 very things that I stated and people will talk to you,  
14 and I think it's critical that occurs.

15  
16 Now the issue in regards to allowing  
17 people to go into Federal lands, was there a feasibility  
18 study done prior to allowing transporters or guides going  
19 into the Squirrel River?

20  
21 MS. MEYERS: For individual permits for  
22 our guides we do an environmental assessment if that's  
23 what you're referring to.

24  
25 MR. SAMPSON: Is that what you call them,  
26 environmental assessments for the whole BLM lands within  
27 the Squirrel? Maybe I'm not making it clear. What I'm  
28 getting at is that did the agency look at what the  
29 numbers might be in regards to moose are within the  
30 Squirrel River prior to even allowing any transporters or  
31 guides to go into the Squirrel?

32  
33 MS. MEYERS: Each time that we do  
34 evaluate someone's application, so it would be like a  
35 special recreation permit guide asking to operate in the  
36 Squirrel, we would look at issues like moose and the  
37 available data that we have from Fish and Game and other  
38 surveys in '92 and '98 indicates approximately one moose  
39 per square mile and I don't recall the bull/cow ratios,  
40 but they were decent. The bull/cow ratio was 50 bulls to  
41 100 cows.

42  
43 So that is part of the process that we go  
44 through. Based on the evidence that we have and knowing  
45 that the Squirrel is kind of a catch basin that moose are  
46 in the Squirrel, they move out of the Squirrel and they  
47 move back in, they kind of wash through the Squirrel, in  
48 that six-year period the trend was for stability, so we  
49 haven't seen yet a biological problem with moose in the  
50 Squirrel, but we certainly know we have a problem with

1 people, that there are too many people in the Squirrel.  
2 It is a bit crowded. So we're hoping to be able to  
3 address that through our resource management plan.

4  
5 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Do you have  
6 a copy of the numbers that you're looking at?

7  
8 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Sampson.  
9 This is Kyle Joly with the Bureau of Land Management. I  
10 just have my original copy here which I got from Jim Dau  
11 of Fish and Game, but we can make you copies.

12  
13 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. That's fine. If you  
14 can provide that information, I certainly would be  
15 interested. I continue to raise the issue in regards to  
16 the concern on moose. Not much on the caribou. There's  
17 an abundance of caribou. It's the moose that I'm  
18 concerned about. The reason is that if it gets to the  
19 point where moose population starts to get depleted, the  
20 impact is not on the transporters or on the guides, the  
21 impact is on the users, the local folks from Kiana. So I  
22 think it's something that we need to look at in making  
23 sure that we have adequate number of moose for the future  
24 of those folks in that community.

25  
26 MS. MEYERS: Walter, I did want to say  
27 that we did have a scoping meeting in Kiana and Kivalina  
28 and Buckland and when we do our round of meetings to  
29 comment on the rough draft, then we'll definitely go back  
30 to those three communities and Kotzebue as well.

31  
32 Thank you.

33  
34 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. Thank for the  
35 report, Randy. North Fork, is that the Buckland area?

36  
37 MS. MEYERS: No.

38  
39 MR. BALLOT: Was there any fish studies  
40 or surveys done in the Buckland area based out of Koyuk?  
41 This summer we had some people coming up to Buckland and  
42 we were just wondering who was doing what?

43  
44 MS. MEYERS: We did have a small team.  
45 There was a hydrologist and a person who works with Wild  
46 and Scenic Rivers, so neither one of those was a  
47 fisheries biologist, but they did do some flying around  
48 in the Kotzebue area and north. They did operate out of  
49 Nome and I'm not quite sure where they went when they  
50 were in Nome. But they weren't looking at fisheries per

1 se, they were looking at things like stream flow and  
2 looking at possibilities for Wild and Scenic Rivers.

3  
4 MR. BALLOT: So we'll get a report  
5 sometime of what exactly they were doing? We saw a whole  
6 bunch of people in Buckland and they were using  
7 helicopters and stuff, so we just didn't know what they  
8 were up to.

9  
10 MS. MEYERS: That I'm not sure because as  
11 far as I know BLM didn't have any cadastral survey people  
12 in Buckland and we didn't have any fisheries biologist.  
13 I asked the hydrology team if they had even just landed  
14 at Buckland to take a break or anything and they said  
15 they had not.

16  
17 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National  
18 Park Service. There was a State Alaska Department of  
19 Fish and Game fisheries crew doing inventory work across  
20 a large portion of the Seward Peninsula this summer and  
21 they were using a helicopter. I believe they were trying  
22 to concentrate primarily on some of the upper sections of  
23 a number of the drainages to inventory fish and that may  
24 have been what you saw.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Percy.

27  
28 MR. BALLOT: For the record, Mr.  
29 Chairman, I agree with Walter about using planes. I  
30 think it's wrong for the hunters. When the caribou or  
31 even moose, if they run too long, the meat gets funny,  
32 gets tight, so something needs to be done about that kind  
33 of activity.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

36  
37 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
38 Randy, I appreciate your report there and your cohort.  
39 Maybe I would suggest that because BLM issues permits to  
40 certain people within the Squirrel River, I would suggest  
41 maybe you get with the Borough and take a look at their  
42 video in regards to some of the camps that were set up  
43 and what was left behind after the season was over. So  
44 Mr. Porter there has the video and you can get with him  
45 and deal with the issues.

46  
47 MS. MEYERS: When I spoke with Kim  
48 yesterday, she mentioned the video and I didn't have a  
49 chance to go over and see it yesterday, but I definitely  
50 would like to see it. Also, I wanted to look through the

1 information that they had gotten from the transporters  
2 and guides this year to pull out what I could about  
3 operators in the Squirrel.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
6 for the BLM from the Council.

7  
8 MR. BALLOT: I have one. Was there any  
9 activity in the Buckland area? I didn't see anything.

10  
11 MS. MEYERS: We didn't have any special  
12 recreation permit guides operating in the Buckland River  
13 this year.

14  
15 MR. BALLOT: Okay.

16  
17 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman. I just want to  
18 give you a brief update on our resource management plan.  
19 Jeannie Cole is going to be leading that effort and I've  
20 been tasked to replace her while she is working on that  
21 over the next few years. She recently completed the  
22 public scoping meeting, which Randy has mentioned and a  
23 draft report has been summarized and put on the web.  
24 Some of the issues that were raised were issues that you  
25 mentioned here is recreational use and access to  
26 subsistence resources as well as management of the  
27 Western Arctic herd.

28  
29 I strongly recommend you to direct  
30 comments to her, Jeannie Cole. I have her email address  
31 and phone number. The resource management plan is going  
32 on now and this is the opportune time for you to direct  
33 comments. Specifically, in relation to transporter  
34 issues or permitting of the number of guides in different  
35 areas now is the best time to put your comments in,  
36 especially if you have specific ideas you have. Our  
37 resource management plan is designed to direct our  
38 management for the next 15 to 20 years in the area, so  
39 it's a very important document, so your input would be  
40 greatly appreciated.

41  
42 Regarding the herding of caribou with  
43 planes, as far as I know, my understanding is that is  
44 illegal. The sooner you can get that information to us,  
45 specifically our law enforcement people, the better  
46 because that way we can act on it. One of the most  
47 important things you can get is tail numbers off the  
48 planes and that way we can figure out who it is exactly.

49  
50 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I want to

1 thank you again for your report in regards to the scoping  
2 meetings that occurred in Kiana and Buckland. Do you  
3 have any plans to go back to the communities with a draft  
4 so the communities can review the draft with you? I mean  
5 not everybody has a computer at home. It's easy for you  
6 and I to say we have a website, but somebody in Kiana,  
7 for instance Raymond, or somebody like Roger Attoruk  
8 might not have a computer to get into the website. So,  
9 therefore, I think it's only fair that you hold a public  
10 meeting in Kiana to review that first draft with the  
11 community because it's their plan, not ours.

12

13 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Sampson,  
14 thanks for that comment. You know, living in Fairbanks  
15 it's easy to get used to just telling people to surf the  
16 web. I think that's an important comment to pass on to  
17 our upper level management that not everyone has access  
18 to the internet and we need to make that extra effort to  
19 let the local people that are going to be affected know.

20

21 MS. MEYERS: And we certainly will be  
22 having a meeting to talk about the draft of our  
23 management plan in Kiana, Kotzebue, Buckland and  
24 Kivalina. So that will be well publicized and it won't  
25 be for a while. Next year, summer, fall, somewhere in  
26 there.

27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: And further comments,  
29 questions to BLM.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, thank you for  
34 the reports. There was a lot you gave us and it's very  
35 interesting what's happening at the Squirrel this fall.  
36 Randy, thank you very much.

37

38 MS. MEYERS: Oh, you're welcome.

39

40 MR. JOLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

41

42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Next item, Alaska  
43 Department of Fish and Game.

44

45 MR. MAGDANZ: I'm going to start out  
46 today. This is Jim Magdanz with the Division of  
47 Subsistence. I think Jim Dau has much more important  
48 things to say, so I thought we'd cover some of these  
49 things quickly.

50

1 I'm with the Division of Subsistence. I  
2 just wanted to update you on what we're doing and what we  
3 have done in our work. It's already been talked about.  
4 Susan is working on a manuscript for a whitefish report  
5 that should be done the end of the month. A final copy  
6 will be available at the end of the year. I think that's  
7 going to be a fascinating piece of work.

8  
9 Susan is also directing the annual salmon  
10 harvest survey on the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers. That goes  
11 into the field next Monday. They take about three to  
12 four weeks to complete. So we'll have people visiting  
13 the villages for that.

14  
15 Last January I was in Buckland and the  
16 IRA hosted us there. We did a baseline harvest survey in  
17 Buckland. We surveyed, I think, 81 of 84 households.  
18 The IRA was really helpful and they were a partner in  
19 that project. The data from that survey has been entered  
20 into computers. The University of Alaska is doing that  
21 part and it is now ready for analysis and the Park  
22 Service will be doing the analysis on that in the next  
23 month or two. Then we'll be coming back to the village  
24 with a draft report this winter at some point.

25  
26 My field work this winter is mostly in  
27 Norton Sound on a couple fisheries projects. The paper  
28 that I handed out to you is a paper that is just being  
29 published. It's at the printers right now, so you've got  
30 Xerox copies, but we're having reports printed. We'll be  
31 sending it back to Shungnak. We're printing up 50 copies  
32 of it just for Shungnak, so we'll send one to every  
33 household up there.

34  
35 It's a summary of a harvest survey  
36 similar to the one we did in Buckland and I wanted to  
37 briefly give you a report on what we learned. This  
38 survey was conducted in February of 2003. We contacted  
39 51 of 54 households. We estimated the total community  
40 harvest to be 151,911 pounds of wild food, which works  
41 out to 2,813 pounds per household or 610 pounds of wild  
42 food per person in Shungnak. There were 49 different  
43 species harvested.

44  
45 If you look on page 12 of that report,  
46 there's a big table. That table lists all the different  
47 species and how much were harvested. The big three, we  
48 estimate 403 caribou were harvested, a total of 54,000  
49 pounds. We estimated about 19,000 humpback whitefish  
50 were harvested. About 40,000 pounds. And about 3,800

1 chum salmon for a total of 22,000 pounds.

2

3 In that survey we asked questions about  
4 cooperation. We asked not only how many moose or how  
5 many caribou did your household get, we asked who  
6 harvested it, who processed it, who distributed it to  
7 your household. The results of that analysis, the brief  
8 results are summarized in the graph on page 18, which is  
9 a diagram that shows the flow of food through Shungnak.  
10 Each circle represents a household and the lines between  
11 the circles represent the flow of food and other kinds of  
12 support from one household to another.

13

14 Of the 50 households reported, 4,500  
15 reports of cooperation of one kind or another, an average  
16 of about 90 reports of sharing and distribution of food  
17 and other services between households in Shungnak. It  
18 really illustrates to me how cohesive these communities  
19 are, how important sharing is in these communities.

20

21 We're working with the Park Service. We  
22 hope to get some additional funding to do an analysis of  
23 this cooperative harvesting system both for Buckland and  
24 for Shungnak that would look some more at this.

25

26 In future work, besides this network  
27 analysis, we hope to make an application to FIS to study  
28 salmon harvests in this region over the last 10 years,  
29 the retrospective look, that is a historical look at what  
30 we've documented in harvests over time here.

31

32 So I'm going to stop right there. If  
33 there are any questions, I'll be glad to try to answer  
34 them.

35

36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for Jim  
37 from the Council. Walter.

38

39 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
40 Mr. Magdanz, thank you for the report. Certainly it's  
41 something that I know Department of Fish and Game has  
42 been working on, the Subsistence Division. Surprisingly,  
43 to this date, you haven't been written off the paper yet  
44 from the State side, even though you've been getting cuts  
45 on an annual basis. I think you've been able to work  
46 with the Federal side of the picture on using some of  
47 their funding to do some of this stuff. I think  
48 eventually we're going to be hearing Jim Magdanz at the  
49 Federal side.

50

1 (Laughter)

2

3 MR. SAMPSON: But I want to thank you for  
4 the report. This is something we certainly can use as a  
5 basis for argument on our part for making sure the take  
6 and resource and the species needs to be protected for  
7 the future. So thank you very much.

8

9 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chairman. Two or three  
10 months of my salary is State and the rest of it is paid  
11 for by Federal grant projects. The National Park Service  
12 has been a big supporter. Fish and Wildlife Service has  
13 been a big supporter. That's also true of Susan.  
14 Certainly both of us wouldn't be here without Federal  
15 support.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: And Murkowski gets the  
18 credit.

19

20 (Laughter)

21

22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If not, Mr. Dau.

27

28 MR. DAU: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm Jim  
29 Meyers with the Alaska Department of BLM at your service.

30

31 (Laughter)

32

33 MR. DAU: Let's see. I was mostly going  
34 to talk about two things. Earlier, Walter had a  
35 question. You wanted me to describe how guides and  
36 transporters are regulated by the State, so I'll go  
37 through that quickly. Most of what I'm here to talk  
38 about is moose and I have some specific recommendations  
39 for you guys for regulatory proposals. We're already  
40 running a little late. I'll try and go quickly.

41

42 Let's start with guides. Guides are  
43 regulated by the Division of Occupational Licensing.  
44 There's no more Big Game Commercial Services Board, no  
45 more Guide Board. It's Occupational Licensing. To say  
46 they're regulated is really an overstatement. On the  
47 State side, as long as a guide is legally qualified to be  
48 a guide, that is he's done a three-year apprenticeship  
49 with another guide, he has a recommendation by a guide  
50 that he can move up and become registered and he passes a

1 written and an oral test. If he has met all those  
2 criteria and applies for a guide area to Occupational  
3 Licensing, bam, it's rubber stamped. He gets it. They  
4 don't ever refuse to register a guide.

5  
6 Not only do they not refuse to register  
7 guides, they don't talk to us about a guide who wants to  
8 register for a specific area. The way I find out about a  
9 new guide in an area is when his clients start calling me  
10 or when he shows up on the airport. So at least Wildlife  
11 Conservation is not in the loop for registering guides in  
12 the state.

13  
14 Guides are limited to three guide  
15 outfitter areas in the state. Up to two of those can be  
16 in one game management unit. So your average guide, if  
17 he's a registered guide, he can have two different guide  
18 outfitter areas in Unit 23. There's a total of seven in  
19 Unit 23. Plus he could have another one someplace else  
20 in the state.

21  
22 There's some discussion, what they're  
23 trying to do is allow guides to have a fourth area in the  
24 state as long as it would be in one of these intensive  
25 management areas, like around McGrath or Glennallen.  
26 That's not passed yet, but it's being discussed.

27  
28 There are some holes in this regulation  
29 of guides that you can drive a Mack truck through.  
30 There's no limit on the number of clients a guide can  
31 have. There's no limit on the number of animals a guide  
32 can take. There's no limit on the number of assistant  
33 guides that a guide can employ. The only limits are  
34 these numbers of guide outfitter areas they can be  
35 registered for.

36  
37 One of the things we see in the state is  
38 that guides form alliances with other guides and they  
39 pick and choose their areas carefully, so let's say a  
40 guide that's working in southern Unit 23, he's got no  
41 caribou in his area, he's got caribou hunters, if he's  
42 buddies with a guide in the northern part of Unit 23, as  
43 long as the one guide signs the contract with his client,  
44 the other guide becomes his assistant. So, by doing  
45 that, they can get access and actually work in far more  
46 guide outfitter areas than the three they're limited to  
47 legally.

48  
49 So I guess sort of gives the appearance  
50 that they're controlling guides but in reality there's

1 very little control on guides. With transporters, the  
2 State doesn't even bother to give the semblance of trying  
3 to control transporters. If you've got a \$25 business  
4 license and you pony up \$200 to get a transporter  
5 license, you're in business. You don't even need a  
6 transporter license if you're already a charter operator.  
7 As long as they don't specially advertise for hunters,  
8 they don't even need the transporter license. They can  
9 haul hunters just as incidental clients to their regular  
10 fixed base operation business.

11  
12 I think the only thing I see on the  
13 horizon that gives me any reason to be optimistic about  
14 the State controlling guides is that last year Reggie  
15 Jewel introduced legislation to reinstitute the Big Game  
16 Commercial Services Board. Most of you guys are aware of  
17 this. You've been at the meetings. Right now I'll tell  
18 you flat out, from what I see there's no way for the  
19 Department of Fish and Game to administratively bring  
20 relief to places like this that are being overrun by  
21 transporters especially.

22  
23 I think what we need is a legislative  
24 fix. What I would encourage this Council to do is to  
25 write a letter to Reggie Jewel and say dust off that  
26 legislation and let's keep pushing. Because until the  
27 State gets legislation there's nothing that I can do as a  
28 biologist. I've screamed bloody murder for 15 years to  
29 try and get in the loop and they still don't call me.

30  
31 So that's not a real rosy outlook, but  
32 that's kind of the here and now of guides, transporters.  
33 I'll stop there and you can ask me questions if you want  
34 before I move on.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from the  
37 Council of Mr. Dau.

38  
39 (No comments)

40  
41 MR. DAU: Okay. I've handed out this  
42 spreadsheet showing moose census results. Those are all  
43 the censuses that we've conducted in Unit 23 going back  
44 to 1992. Again, I want to stress that this isn't just  
45 Fish and Game data. Fish and Wildlife Service has  
46 results in here where they've done it without us. Park  
47 Service has results in here. There's results of  
48 everything we've done together. This is everybody's data  
49 and I think it's a good thing. I couldn't agree more  
50 with LeeAnne. I'm glad we don't have Fish and Game

1 numbers competing against BLM numbers.

2

3 I highlighted two columns here. I think  
4 they're two important columns and then I'm going to move  
5 on unless there's questions. The things to focus on are  
6 adult density and then on the right it's the calf/adult  
7 ration. The censuses that I would look at when you're  
8 pouring over this that I put the most stock in are the  
9 ones conducted in March, April and May. Those spring  
10 censuses. If you look at those and you look at that  
11 right highlighted column, you're going to see lots of  
12 pretty low numbers.

13

14 I think, to even maintain a stable  
15 population in Unit 23, you've got to be talking about at  
16 least 15 to 20 calves per 100 adults in the spring time.  
17 We're seeing about a 15 percent mortality rate for adult  
18 cow moose in the Noatak. That's based on radio collars.  
19 I think that's why this left-hand column is so low. We  
20 have just not been recruiting enough calves every year to  
21 break even with adult mortality. When you've got more  
22 adults dying than you have calves surviving, the  
23 population goes down.

24

25 The left-hand column, adult density. I  
26 said earlier today that in the interior they're getting  
27 densities of three moose per square mile. If you look  
28 here, the highest density you're going to see for  
29 anywhere, any portion of Unit 23 is about one moose per  
30 square mile. So I'm concerned about moose. I'm worried.  
31 These numbers really concern me. We've had a lot of  
32 years with low calf recruitment.

33

34 In addition to the moose numbers that are  
35 here on this page, I've heard it time and again at this  
36 meeting, I hear it day in and day out, there's lots and  
37 lots of bears out there and you guys know this. You're  
38 looking at them too. Lots of bears, lots of wolves and I  
39 think those two things are related. Lots of our calves  
40 are dying.

41

42 Are there questions about any of this  
43 moose census data? Then I'm going to move on.

44

45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions from the  
46 Council for Jim.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Let's move on, Jim.

1 MR. DAU: Okay. I think the overall  
2 trend is that moose numbers have declined. I think we  
3 had more moose 10 or 15 years ago. It was starvation,  
4 just really tough winters, lots of ice, deep snow, lots  
5 of storms. That's what turned us from an increasing  
6 population into a declining population. It's not  
7 hunting. I think it's natural mortality.

8  
9 Since those years of high starvation, I  
10 think the role of wolves and bears has changed. I think  
11 those things are driving the numbers lower. They're  
12 probably extending the duration of the low, but I think  
13 it was just very tough winters in the '90s that turned  
14 things around. It wasn't predation.

15  
16 Harvest levels. Really, Jim Magdanz can  
17 talk probably better about this than me, but based on  
18 community harvest assessments, we estimate that residents  
19 of Unit 23 are taking about 400 moose per year. If you  
20 combine everybody who doesn't live in Unit 23, I don't  
21 care if they're from Anchorage or Soldotna or Ohio or  
22 California, they're taking about 150 to 200 moose a year.

23  
24 So you can see that the local harvest is  
25 not inconsequential. Local people are taking about twice  
26 as many moose as all these sport hunters combined. One  
27 thing I don't know, I don't know how many moose there are  
28 in the unit. A couple years ago the Board of Game, under  
29 duress, I had to come up with ranges of population size,  
30 and I think in Unit 23 the range of moose numbers in 23  
31 could be anywhere from a low of 3,500 moose all the way  
32 up to a little bit over 9,000 moose in the entire unit.

33  
34 If you say a five percent harvest rate is  
35 sustainable, five percent of 3,500 is 177 moose. That  
36 would be the sustainable harvest. If you take five  
37 percent of 9,200 moose, that's about 460 moose. I think  
38 we're probably closer to the low end of that than we are  
39 to the high end. I don't think we're clear down at  
40 3,500, but we're not up at 9,200 either.

41  
42 I don't know if a five percent harvest  
43 rate is magic. I suspect not. When you're considering  
44 harvest rates, you've got to consider not just how many  
45 moose you're taking, but what sex are the moose. The  
46 five percent harvest rate bulls only has a lot different  
47 effect on the population than with cows.

48  
49 But I think, overall, we're probably  
50 harvesting either right at the sustainable level. I fear

1 that right now we're harvesting slightly more than what's  
2 sustainable. I've felt this way for a long time. You  
3 guys know. You've listened to me for a lot of years.  
4 We've been incrementally restricting moose regulations on  
5 the State side for 10, 12 years. You guys have been part  
6 of those conversations and part of those decisions.

7  
8                   Going all the way back to the early '90s,  
9 the first thing we did was squeeze non-residents down to  
10 a three-week season. They used to be seven months just  
11 like us, but we cut those guys back to the first three  
12 weeks of September. Non-residents can only shoot now  
13 large bulls, 50 inches or four brow tines. No antlerless  
14 season for non-residents.

15  
16                   Last November the Board of Game imposed  
17 some new restrictions on both resident and non-resident  
18 hunters. As you know right now, on the State side,  
19 you've got two options for hunting moose if you're a  
20 resident. You can register to hunt and you get an August  
21 1st through December 31st season, you get a two-month  
22 antlerless season. The catch is you have to register in  
23 person in Unit 23 and we're only going to let you do that  
24 between the 1st of June and the middle of July. The  
25 rationale behind that is we're trying to make it easy for  
26 local people to register. We think that there's not  
27 going to be many people from Anchorage and Fairbanks and  
28 Soldotna that are going to come up here in the summer to  
29 register. I think we had fewer than six guys from  
30 outside Unit 23 register to hunt.

31  
32                   The other thing the Board did last year  
33 was they established a drawing hunt for non-residents and  
34 it didn't go into effect this year, but it will be in  
35 effect next year. I've estimated the number of permits  
36 we're going to issue for non-residents and I cut them  
37 severely. I cut them by probably 60 percent. Next year  
38 there's only going to be a total of 60 permits available  
39 for non-residents for the entire unit.

40  
41                   In two of the guide outfitter areas  
42 there's going to be zero permits issued. One is the  
43 Upper Noatak. Nobody works up there because there's no  
44 moose. The other area is the Seward Peninsula, Buckland  
45 and West. The reason for that is we've had to close the  
46 season for the last three years to everybody. Anyway, I  
47 just wanted to make the point that non-residents are  
48 going to get cut severely next year.

49  
50                   Now, in contrast, the main thing I want

1 to do is I'd like to urge the Regional Advisory Council  
2 to consider restricting Federal regulations too. These  
3 densities are so low that I'm not sure you guys can  
4 really justify, even on the Federal side, having a seven-  
5 month long season where you can kill basically any moose.  
6 The only moose you can't kill is a cow that's got a calf.

7  
8 I didn't draft proposals, but I've got  
9 some things that I'd like to encourage you to think  
10 about. I would encourage you to think about eliminating  
11 the calf harvest. I would encourage you to restrict the  
12 cow season. Maybe make it consistent with the State.  
13 Right now the State has a two-month long cow season for  
14 people who register, that's November, December.

15  
16 I think right now there's no reason for  
17 you guys to close the Noatak for two weeks in September.  
18 Right now the State's not even doing that. I think  
19 that's one thing you could do to make things less  
20 restrictive for people in the Noatak and more consistent  
21 with the State.

22  
23 The last obvious thing to think about for  
24 you guys is just shortening the antlered season too. The  
25 State's done that. Like I say, the antlered season for  
26 resident hunters who register is August 1st through the  
27 end of December. If you guys did that on the Federal  
28 side, I don't think you'd have much impact at all on  
29 local subsistence users. One, there's not many moose  
30 that have antlers after the first of the year anyway.  
31 Two, when I look at the harvest by month, people just  
32 aren't taking that many moose in January, February,  
33 March.

34  
35 So those are all things I think you could  
36 do that would not have a huge impact on subsistence  
37 users, but what it would do, it would do two things. It  
38 would make things less confusing. We all know right now  
39 it's just impossible for the average guy to know what the  
40 heck is legal. So it would make things more consistent  
41 with the State. But mainly where I'm coming from is I  
42 think it's a step in the right direction to start adding  
43 additional protection to moose because numbers are so  
44 low.

45  
46 That's all I was going to say on moose.  
47 I've got just two more things I was going to say that you  
48 guys should consider with regard to regulation proposals.  
49 And they're not with moose, they deal with bears and  
50 wolves. I think right now the State seasons and bag

1 limits on wolves are more liberal than they are on the  
2 Federal side. What the State has done, is we've  
3 incrementally restricted moose regulations. We've also  
4 incrementally liberalized bear and wolf regulations. I  
5 think right now the State is ahead of the Federal regs on  
6 wolves and I think you guys should be at least as liberal  
7 as we are.

8  
9 On bears, I think your regulations read  
10 that you can take a bear a year, but you have to register  
11 to hunt. On the State side, we don't have to register to  
12 hunt anymore. You can just go out, you've got a hunting  
13 license and you see a brown bear, you can kill it. So  
14 that would be another thing that you could do on the  
15 Federal side that would liberalize these predator  
16 regulations. Make them consistent with the State and  
17 afford possibly additional protection to moose.

18  
19 That's all I was going to say about moose  
20 and bear regulations. I don't know if you guys have  
21 questions.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any questions for Jim  
24 Dau. Calvin.

25  
26 MR. MOTO: Jim, this is about bears. The  
27 last two or three years we noticed that the bears have  
28 been, because of the weather, hibernating later and  
29 waking up earlier. We were wondering if that was part of  
30 the problem of some of our moose calves being decimated.  
31 Is there any way the State or Federal could look into  
32 that? We've never seen so many bears before. I'm not  
33 saying that we should eliminate the bears, it's just that  
34 we're trying to find a relation between being able to  
35 harvest the moose.

36  
37 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Calvin. I hadn't  
38 really thought about that, Calvin, but I think you're  
39 right on. The longer bears are out, the longer they're  
40 eating. One thing I have thought about, some of these  
41 years when it's poor fish runs, bears, before they go  
42 into hibernation, go down on the river and just consume  
43 fish like crazy. The big picture, I think you're right  
44 on. I think bears are probably knocking the bejesus out  
45 of moose cows.

46  
47 MR. MOTO: I don't want to see too many  
48 bears taken because they're like our cousins, I guess,  
49 some people say. We are very concerned with this. What  
50 could we do?

1 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Calvin. One comment  
2 and then I'll answer your question. I think the other  
3 thing that's going on in your area and Percy's area is  
4 not just bears, but since 1996, when all those caribou  
5 started moving out there, big numbers, the other thing  
6 that I really noticed is not only is there a lot of  
7 bears, but that's the one part of the unit where I think  
8 wolf numbers have really gone up. I never used to see  
9 wolf packs, denning wolf packs down on the Seward  
10 Peninsula and I see them every year now when I go down  
11 there. So you're getting a double whammy. It's not all  
12 just muskox. I think that influx of caribou is what  
13 brought the wolves in farther into the peninsula.

14  
15 As far as what you can do, good question.  
16 What I've been encouraging local people to do, if they  
17 just need meat, we've got a huge herd of caribou, 490,000  
18 caribou, go get caribou. There's no problem with harvest  
19 levels. Moose are in trouble. Leave the moose alone.  
20 Don't force me to continue to ratchet down on moose  
21 regulations. If you've got options, go to the resource  
22 that's abundant and try and take caribou. That's one  
23 thing I'd say.

24  
25 The other thing I'd say is there's a lot  
26 of bears. At least in parts of the unit, like the Upper  
27 Kobuk, people really like eating bears. But you can't  
28 encourage people to take bears if they don't want to.  
29 But other than that I don't know what else to suggest. I  
30 don't have any magic answer in my back pocket, Calvin.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further comments or  
33 questions to Fish and Game, Jim Dau. Walter.

34  
35 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
36 Jim, thank you very much. Magdanz, thank you very much  
37 for your report. I think, Jim Dau, the reason why the  
38 numbers were so low in regards to the registration in  
39 June, July was because of weather conditions. There's no  
40 way some of these folks are going to catch a moose if  
41 they can't put it in the freezer the same day. It's  
42 pretty hard to try to keep the meat preserved in a way  
43 that it doesn't start to smell right away. I think that  
44 was one of the reasons why your numbers in regards to  
45 registration hunt for June, July were so low.

46  
47 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Walter. The June,  
48 July time was just the time that they could register.  
49 The season didn't open until August.

50

1 MR. SAMPSON: Okay. I apologize. I  
2 misunderstood that. The other thing, Mr. Chairman, we  
3 also need to maybe consider is if there's a way that the  
4 State, Jim Dau, can work with the Park Service in regards  
5 to putting together or draft a regulation to look at a  
6 moose hunt, certainly I'd be interested in getting  
7 something to put together. In fact, I think we have an  
8 SRC meeting coming up here sometime this month. It would  
9 be an ideal thing to put together a draft that can start  
10 that process.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Any further questions  
13 for both Jims from the Council. Mr. Dau.

14  
15 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair. I was just going to  
16 respond to Walter's suggestion. I'd be glad to work with  
17 Federal Staff and work with you guys too and draft some  
18 proposals and then run them by you guys.

19  
20 Help me now. What's on the table? What  
21 can we consider? Would you guys consider eliminating the  
22 calf harvest? Would you consider shortening the cow  
23 season?

24  
25 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think it's  
26 only ethically right and morally right that we've never  
27 hunted, as far as I know, any calves. That's moot. That  
28 shouldn't be the issue. We shouldn't hunt calves at all.

29  
30  
31 Secondly, I think, depending on what the  
32 cow/bull ratios are, based on the information that you  
33 have, then it's something I would support based on the  
34 information that you have. The numbers and data you have  
35 will justify the argument in regards to why that proposal  
36 is being considered.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Mr. Sampson.  
39 I'll follow up on Mr. Sampson's statement to you. For  
40 this proposal, you write a draft. Of course, you know  
41 the numbers anyway, so we'll go along with you.

42  
43 MR. BALLOT: Mr. Chairman. I think  
44 that's a good idea. Are we going to be talking about the  
45 bear and the wolf regs too?

46  
47 MR. SAMPSON: Yes, I will support that  
48 too, Mr. Chairman. I think it's time we start dealing  
49 with some of these, not only bears but also wolves.  
50 We've heard a lot of stories in regards to wolves on the

1 Noatak as well as the Upper Kobuk. Something that I  
2 certainly would support.

3

4 Walter, it's not 5:00 o'clock yet. We'll  
5 be here until 6:00. We might need you. Sit down.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Enoch, before we go any  
10 further, I know that most of you are getting awful tired  
11 and restless, but we're here to do business. If we have  
12 to keep the Federals another night here, we can do that.  
13 That's what we're down here for.  
14 I think Attamuk has another big one.

15

16 ATTAMUK: No. I just want to concur with  
17 what Walter and Percy said. Our people are starting to  
18 rely more on moose every year. They find out that moose  
19 is good meat and that's why we need our numbers  
20 stabilized fast because we're getting hit by predators  
21 big time. If you need my help, you know where I'm at.

22

23 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. You also  
24 know where I work and certainly would like to be part of  
25 that process in putting together a draft proposal.

26

27 MR. DAU: Okay, Mr. Chair. What I'll do  
28 then is draft three regulation proposals to the Federal  
29 Board. There will be one to make wolf regulations  
30 consistent with the State, one to make the brown bear  
31 regulations consistent with the State and one to make  
32 moose at least more consistent.

33

34 I'll tell you right up front what I'll do  
35 as far as the draft now and then you guys can look at it  
36 and think about it, but we'll have a cow season that will  
37 be November/December, just like the State, no harvest of  
38 calves and then I've got one last question to you guys.

39

40 To be consistent with the State and  
41 eliminate confusion, do you want to restrict the antlered  
42 season to the end of the year or do you want to go August  
43 1st through the end of December? That would give  
44 Federally-qualified subsistence users four months to get  
45 a moose. Right now you can go through March. On the  
46 State side we eliminated the January, February, March.  
47 The season closes the end of the year.

48

49 Let me say one thing. If you restrict  
50 the antlerless season to November/December, there's not

1 going to be very many bulls that have antlers after  
2 January anyway. It's a way for you to be consistent with  
3 the State and hardly give up anything. But that's my  
4 question to you.

5  
6 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I don't have  
7 any heartburn with that. I think that's something we can  
8 consider.

9  
10 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chairman.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

13  
14 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I agree with Jim. I  
15 remember when we changed the harvest from December to  
16 March. At that time we had a high abundance of moose at  
17 that time, but now we see the decline. Maybe we better  
18 go back to what you're recommending. I would support  
19 you.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

22  
23 ATTAMUK: Okay. Jim, earlier I stated  
24 that from here we needed to put a proposal together on  
25 the wanton waste. I was corrected that here for our  
26 subsistence users we don't need to have one, but we could  
27 recommend to the State to clarify more on the wanton  
28 waste. So, in return, back us up. That way we could  
29 have more control on the wanton waste recommending from  
30 this Board. It can't come from this Board, but we could  
31 recommend it to the State.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

34  
35 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Attamuk. Actually,  
36 you guys can submit a proposal to the State. Anybody  
37 can. If you guys want to, if we can come to an agreement  
38 on this and I can get headquarters to support it, heck,  
39 we'll co-author the thing together if you want.

40  
41 There's a couple things to do on the  
42 wanton waste. One is we could require people to -- or we  
43 could prevent people from boning out ribs. That's one  
44 thing that often they don't do a very good job on. Some  
45 parts of the state they already do that. That's one  
46 thing we could do with a regulation.

47  
48 The other thing we need with regard to  
49 wanton waste is we just need more enforcement guys out  
50 here. We had the State enforcement guy here for two

1 weeks this year. That's not enough. The sport hunters  
2 were here for six or eight weeks.

3

4                   Maybe what I would ask you, I've been  
5 screaming bloody murder through my chain of command that  
6 we need more enforcement staff out here. I would  
7 encourage you guys to write a letter. Write a letter to  
8 my director and send it to the Bureau of Wildlife  
9 Enforcement and I'll sing harmony with you.

10

11                   MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. That's the  
12 same lines that I was thinking. If regulations are going  
13 to be passed and going to be enforced, then the agencies  
14 need to be upfront putting up the dollars for enforcing  
15 these regulations. Otherwise why even bother to pass  
16 regulations that you can't enforce. I think it's  
17 something that we certainly can push and have the Federal  
18 agencies write that letter regards to that very issue.

19

20                   So, Michelle, I think Raymond probably  
21 will direct you to draft a letter in regards to that very  
22 issue and I will support that as well, too.

23

24                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

25

26                   ATTAMUK: This is just going to be a  
27 recommendation to all the agencies, including the State.  
28 I've been thinking about this enforcement. Maybe all the  
29 agencies, landowners, NANA, KIC, Manilaaq, could put in a  
30 pot of money where we could hire to work for us here as  
31 rangers so no matter whose land it's on, if there's a  
32 breaker out there, they could cite someone instead of  
33 depending only on the State trooper. You could put a  
34 plan together. The reason why I say that, I've been  
35 working on this plan for about nine months now. It's  
36 almost complete. I will approach you guys and see if we  
37 can work on it. I put this out for your thought. It  
38 might work, it might not work, but something we have to  
39 try because we can't depend on one State trooper alone.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else for the  
42 State and Council. Jim.

43

44                   MR. DAU: Just one last thing. I wanted  
45 to thank Walter for the kind words earlier today. That  
46 means a lot coming from you, Walter. It kind of balances  
47 out some of the other comments I get. It always makes me  
48 wonder if Walter has some inside information from the  
49 Murkowski administration that I don't know. It sounds  
50 like I'm on my way out.

1 MR. MAGDANZ: I thought he was talking  
2 about me. I was disappointed to find out he was talking  
3 about Jim.

4  
5 MR. SAMPSON: I guess I was more talking  
6 towards Magdanz operation. It seems like that  
7 Subsistence Division is always the first ones to get the  
8 ax. Every darn year, budget time, Subsistence Division  
9 gets the ax.

10  
11 You heard Mr. Magdanz talking about using  
12 some of the Federal dollars. I think that's been the  
13 savior of that department. I think at some point in time  
14 your uncle is going to ax you off the paper. It's sad to  
15 say that in that way, but that's the direction that the  
16 State of Alaska certainly has been going for several  
17 years. Without the representation from the rural  
18 community, you've already seen it at the Board level, and  
19 that's -- sure, my cousin sits on the Board, but you know  
20 when you have the urban control and the republican  
21 control, then it's hard to change.

22  
23 I think the only other thing that we can  
24 do as a representation from the communities, from this  
25 very body, is to attend the State Game Board meeting and  
26 try to revive that regional board meeting to where public  
27 can participate more through their process.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else to the  
32 State. Jim.

33  
34 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair. I think that's an  
35 excellent suggestion from Walter. I guess I'd encourage  
36 you guys to write another letter and I would direct it to  
37 the Board section or maybe the director of wildlife  
38 conservation. You guys are a powerful voice and I would  
39 say put some pressure on the State and say we want the  
40 next Region 5 board meeting in Kotzebue. You've moved it  
41 twice. The last two times it was scheduled here you  
42 moved it. I think if you guys wrote a letter, it would  
43 help.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

46  
47 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think one  
48 of the arguments that we probably can use is that the  
49 Federal system has been working to even make the  
50 regulations consistent with the State of Alaska, I think

1 that's one of the arguments we can use. If we're going  
2 to be consistent with the State of Alaska, then the State  
3 of Alaska also needs to start looking at working with  
4 entities like this organization or the Federal system.

5  
6 So, with that, I want to thank you.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.  
9 Anything else for the State.

10  
11 (No comments)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN STONEY: If none, I certainly  
14 want to thank both of you for doing a very tremendous job  
15 monitoring our moose population and the caribou.

16  
17 MR. DAU: Thank you.

18  
19 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you.

20  
21 ATTAMUK: Thank you, Jims.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Next item, and I know  
24 it's getting late, but we're going to be here until we  
25 get done. Marlene Moto wants to make a presentation or  
26 speech to the Council here. Marlene Moto from Deering.  
27 And I thank you for having an interest on some of these  
28 regulations for hunting moose and caribou, stuff like  
29 that. I'm glad you're very interested in giving some  
30 information to us.

31  
32 MS. MOTO: Good afternoon. I didn't  
33 expect to come to this meeting, but when I see you guys  
34 all here from all walks of our subsistence way of life, I  
35 am kind of concerned about moose harvest and subsistence.  
36 It's been closing down the last couple years and in the  
37 meantime back home I gather information about the people  
38 sport hunting in Candle and it's just by word of mouth  
39 and I believe them. And now Fish and Game, all these  
40 other people, they won't let us hunt for moose. Our  
41 people don't go after moose. One moose will feed a whole  
42 bunch of families. I wish you guys would kind of ban  
43 moose hunting in the area. We're not used to guides in  
44 the first place there. Our subsistence way of life over  
45 there is more important. Everybody they bring home all  
46 the meat. They never leave anything, but they leave the  
47 guts for the ravens.

48  
49 My other question, since I see Ken  
50 Adkisson here from the National Preserve, are they having

1 fishing and hunting guided opening there in that area  
2 now? About 10 years ago they come to Deering, the same  
3 people, National Park Service from Nome, they want to  
4 know if Deering will allow fishing and hunting guided in  
5 that National Park Service and Deering say no and all  
6 those along that map say no and I hope it's still that  
7 way in the end. Our people are not going after these  
8 animals for the antlers like the guided hunters are.

9  
10 My other question, last one, is on  
11 reindeer. Is that reindeer legal to hunt in our area?  
12 Because recently in the Nome Nugget it say that they  
13 cannot hunt that reindeer unless -- I guess they can't  
14 hunt it. But in our area, our people like to hunt it for  
15 subsistence. Does anybody have any control of the  
16 reindeer for our area?

17  
18 Please try to think of our people in the  
19 villages because we have no control of guided hunters  
20 over there and our subsistence users have got to be  
21 first.

22  
23 Thank you.

24  
25 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Marlene. Ken,  
26 can you answer some of those questions for Marlene.

27  
28 MR. ADKISSON: Not the reindeer, but I  
29 could answer Marlene's question, I think, on the guided  
30 sport hunting for Bering Land Bridge, which does  
31 encompass southern Unit 23. We did go to Deering, as  
32 well as a number of other villages a number of years ago  
33 to scope out the possibility of a commercially guided  
34 sport hunting operation. Marlene is correct. Almost  
35 unanimously in the villages they were opposed to it and  
36 we never did anything with it, so it's still closed to  
37 commercially guided sport hunting.

38  
39 Our problem and dilemma is that under  
40 State law, if you are a non-resident essentially, you  
41 have to have a guide to hunt certain species. The Park  
42 Service has a policy, it's fairly old now, but as far as  
43 I know its never been rescinded, that in order to manage  
44 the resource properly and provide a quality opportunity  
45 under the laws, that we should do that through a  
46 commercially guided sport hunting program, through a  
47 concession program.

48  
49 So I guess we're still thinking about it  
50 for Bering Land Bridge, but we're not pushing the issue

1 at this time and we've kind of gone back to the drawing  
2 board and we're thinking about restricting any program we  
3 do maybe down to simply bear hunting or something and I  
4 don't know whether that would be a commercially viable  
5 thing for a guide or not. Before we do anything, I can  
6 assure folks it will be back to the communities for  
7 additional scoping and to talk about possibilities. So,  
8 right now it's still on hold. There's no commercially  
9 guided sport hunting.

10

11 I would just point out that the Park  
12 Service has a great deal of control over its concession  
13 program and the guides. We have almost no control over  
14 transporters and simply resident hunters. You've heard  
15 people say at this meeting if you're an air taxi  
16 operator, you don't even need a transporter license as  
17 long as you're not advertising.

18

19 As far as numbers and things go, I think  
20 those resident hunters and things -- by resident, I mean  
21 non-local residents like from elsewhere in the state  
22 outside of this region, are probably the real source of  
23 most of the impact and we really, frankly, have very few  
24 tools to deal with that, but we're working on it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN STONEY: I imagine you answered  
27 some of the questions Marlene asked.

28

29 MR. MOTO: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Calvin.

32

33 MR. MOTO: Yeah, I just wanted to  
34 elaborate a little bit on Adkisson's comment about the  
35 muskox. When they first started off, they talked about  
36 using only three or four subsistence and then three  
37 commercial and two guided, but at that time they had  
38 that only in Nome and I just happened to be there. I was  
39 chairman of the Arctic Regional Council at the time and I  
40 told them you guys are doing the wrong thing. I said  
41 you're talking about northern Seward Peninsula. I don't  
42 see anybody from Northern Seward Peninsula here to talk  
43 about these guided things and that's how the permits got  
44 all to Deering, Buckland and Shishmaref and Wales.  
45 That's how the process started and that's where we're at  
46 now. So I thought I'd bring that up. The history of  
47 that, a lot of people forget about it, you know.

48

49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.

50 Next item. Other reports and then written reports,

1 informational items for Council members.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Number 13, Council  
6 charter review. It's in the booklet, page 62.

7

8

MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If  
9 you look in your book on pages 62 through 64 is the  
10 Council charter. This is an official document signed by  
11 the Secretary of the Interior, which describes the name,  
12 the function and the size and duties of each of the  
13 Regional Councils and the Councils cannot function  
14 without this charter.

15

16

Every other year the charters have to be  
17 redone and they have to be signed again by the Secretary  
18 of the Interior. So, at this time, we're looking at the  
19 Councils taking a look at the charters and seeing if --  
20 let me back up. The Councils can make changes to the  
21 charters, but the only things they can make changes to  
22 are the size of the Council, the name of the Council, the  
23 Subsistence Resource Commission appointments and the  
24 criteria for removing a member. What FACA has asked us  
25 to do is to review the Council charter and see if there's  
26 anything that the Council would like to change at this  
27 time.

28

29

The Secretary of the Interior may also  
30 require changes to the Council charters when the laws and  
31 regulations and policies are revised and you can see  
32 that, as Tim pointed out, item number 10 on page 64.  
33 That was a new thing that was added, which we went over  
34 this morning, which was the ethics disclosure, ethics  
35 responsibilities of the members.

36

37

So, at this time, if the Council would  
38 like to make any changes to the name, the size of the  
39 Council, the SRC appointments or the removal of members,  
40 now would be the time to do it if you would like to make  
41 any changes.

42

43

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Attamuk.

44

45

ATTAMUK: I've got a question. If we  
46 want to change the size of our Council and if we don't  
47 increase it, is it going to -- will we have to include  
48 the commercial fisherman and the commercial guided person  
49 here part of the 10 or part of the seven?

50

1 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, Attamuk, it is part of  
2 each Council. They have that 70/30 split there. But  
3 it's just a matter of whether you have those applicants  
4 or not as well. So if you received applications in the  
5 area and there were no commercial or sport interests  
6 applying, then I believe that they would just go ahead  
7 and fill the Council with all subsistence users.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 ATTAMUK: So, in other words, it's our  
12 choice whether we want to keep it seven or 10 is what  
13 you're saying.

14

15 MS. CHIVERS: Actually, currently, the  
16 Council is at 10. But you can make a change to the size.  
17 You can make a recommendation to change the size.

18

19 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, that was the  
20 clarification that I wanted to make. You would provide  
21 input or recommendations in these areas that Michelle  
22 mentioned on your charter. Those would go to the Federal  
23 Subsistence Board, who would consider changes. If they  
24 concurred, those changes would go on ultimately to the  
25 Secretary of Interior. It's a recommendation. If you  
26 make an action today, it's not a done deal yet until it  
27 goes up through to the Secretary. Just wanted to clarify  
28 that.

29

30 ATTAMUK: And still they're worried about  
31 cost increasing. So if we increase our board, we're  
32 going to increase the cost automatically. Still we're  
33 getting cutbacks where it's not going to affect us at all  
34 on the increase.

35

36 MR. JENNINGS: I'm not sure, Attamuk, if  
37 I'm following what you're saying. Right now there's 10  
38 members. If we have a full Council, right now we have  
39 nine members because of a resignation, so if you look  
40 under membership, item nine, on page 63, right now it  
41 says your Council membership would be 10 members.  
42 There's not a proposal coming from the Board or the  
43 Secretary to increase your Council size beyond 10.

44

45 ATTAMUK: What I was really getting at,  
46 in here it says on seven that we're only at \$100,000.  
47 That's for seven. But if we increase it to 10, our  
48 travel budget is really going to hurt if we increase it  
49 or it's not going to affect us at all.

50

1 MR. JENNINGS: The increase to 10 won't  
2 affect the ability to have Council meetings and have 10  
3 members come. What we have been doing is that, as  
4 needed, we've tightened our belts in other areas, but it  
5 won't be the Council operation monies. We might send one  
6 or two less Federal Staff to some of the meetings or  
7 other things we might do in order to meet a larger  
8 portion of our budget going to Council operations. So  
9 don't let that concern you. The Board and the Office of  
10 Subsistence Management recognizes the Council operations  
11 are really the heart of this program and we're going to  
12 do everything we can to keep the Council operations  
13 strong.

14

15 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else. Walter.

16

17 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
18 do have a problem with the charter in the way it's  
19 written. If you look at number three, period of time  
20 necessary for the Council's activities and termination  
21 date. Basically what that tells me is that we can be  
22 written off with a strike of a pen here. I think the way  
23 it's written the Council is expected to exist. To me,  
24 that says we can be written off pretty darn quick with a  
25 strike of a pen.

26

27 Secondly, in regards to the meetings  
28 dates twice a year, with the involvement that we have  
29 with the State of Alaska and with the cycle that the  
30 State of Alaska has and trying to work with the State  
31 cycle and the Federal cycle, at some point if we plan to  
32 work with the State of Alaska on these issues, there's  
33 got to be some sort of a consistency here on the cycle  
34 issue. If we're going to propose regulations from this  
35 body to the Federal Board, our proposals have to work  
36 hopefully with how the State is dealing with theirs to a  
37 point we shouldn't be worrying about the State. I think  
38 I would be worrying about the State's regulations as  
39 well, too, because we have to be consistent with some of  
40 their regulations.

41

42 As far as cycle is concerned, for Unit  
43 23, is it every other year or every year?

44

45 MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Walter. Jim Dau,  
46 Fish and Game. It's every other fall. We were up in  
47 November 2003. We'll be up again in November 2005.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: I think it's something we  
50 need to worry about as far as meeting dates are

1 concerned. I think in regards to the dollar figure if  
2 this body is going to be active and if we're going to  
3 have an effect on how we do business, then there  
4 shouldn't be an issue in regards to how much it's going  
5 to cost us. What I'm saying is that we shouldn't let the  
6 dollar figure guide us in regards to how we operate as a  
7 body. If the Federal government is able to spend  
8 millions of dollars on studying grass by using  
9 helicopters on an annual basis, there's no reason why  
10 this body can't be cut or have to worry about its budget.  
11 I don't think we ought to worry about the budget process.  
12

13 In regards to the termination or removal  
14 of membership, we need to exercise that. It says that if  
15 a Council member appointed has two consecutive unexcused  
16 absences, then we need to exercise that. We have some  
17 members that have not been here no second or third time  
18 now. We need to make sure that we exercise that section  
19 of that.  
20

21 In regards to the ethics responsibility,  
22 I think we can work that out to where we have a one-liner  
23 at each meeting to where if any of the members feel that  
24 they have some ethics problems in regards to the action  
25 that we're going to be taking, then we ought to know that  
26 up front so the Chair can make that determination and  
27 determine that each member who might have a potential  
28 conflict in regards to possible actions that we have to  
29 take can step down during the discussions of that action  
30 we're going to take, can be removed for a period of time  
31 until we take those actions.  
32

33 But I think in regards to number three  
34 and number eight, I do have some problems with. If this  
35 body does not have a problem with that, I certainly can  
36 bring those issues to our -- or I can't because I forgot  
37 Raymond is the Chairman and there's a Chairman's meeting,  
38 which I think certainly the Chairmen from all the bodies  
39 can relate to the Department of Interior those very  
40 concerns. I think Raymond certainly needs to bring these  
41 issues to that Chair's meeting.  
42

43 Is the Chair's meeting coming up here in  
44 Anchorage?  
45

46 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sampson.  
47 The Chairs meet now in public meeting with the Board. It  
48 will be in January. So if there's issues like this that  
49 Raymond or another Chair wants to bring to the Board's  
50 attention, that would be when it would occur, in January.

1 MR. SAMPSON: I guess the Chair that I'm  
2 maybe thinking of is the Chairman's meeting. Maybe  
3 that's what I'm thinking of. But I think if there's a  
4 process that we have to go through to raise these issues,  
5 we ought to raise these very issues to the Federal Board  
6 if that's what it means.

7  
8 But in regards to trying to be consistent  
9 with the State of Alaska's process, then we need to work  
10 on making sure that we work because we just talked about  
11 the proposed regulations that we have to deal with. At  
12 some point in time the State of Alaska is also going to  
13 be reviewing the very proposals that we're going to be  
14 dealing with because their input is going to be part of  
15 that process as well too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else on this  
18 issue.

19  
20 (No comments)

21  
22 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay. New business.  
23 Other business.

24  
25 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Under new  
26 business, I'd probably take at least an hour and a half.  
27 If you don't have any problems with that, I certainly  
28 would like to take some of that time. I mean if you want  
29 to do it after dinner, we could come back and do that.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is some of the Staff  
32 leaving tonight or all of you?

33  
34 MS. ARMSTRONG: Mr. Chair. Helen  
35 Armstrong. Our court reporter has a problem because she  
36 has to be at another meeting tomorrow, the Western  
37 Interior meeting.

38  
39 MR. SAMPSON: I was just testing.

40  
41 (Laughter)

42  
43 MR. JENNINGS: You got our attention.  
44 Mr. Chair, could I summarize for a moment on the charter  
45 action.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Okay.

48  
49 MR. JENNINGS: The Council did not make a  
50 formal recommendation to change the charter. We will

1 note for the Federal Board as we discussed charters we  
2 will go to the Interagency Committee and then up to the  
3 Board in the next several months with proposed changes to  
4 charters. We can bring to their attention on your behalf  
5 the concerns that have been expressed regarding number  
6 three and number eight. Fair enough?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Yes. Thank you. We're  
9 down to 15A, Council topics for January 2005 Board  
10 meeting. Anything on that.

11  
12 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair, this is an item  
13 where the Board is giving the Council an opportunity to  
14 bring forth any topics that they would like have  
15 discussed at the January Board meeting. So if you have  
16 any items to bring up, now is the time to do that.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.

19  
20 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think it's  
21 important that we talk about the process in regards to  
22 the proposed regulations that we talked about. At what  
23 point in time do we want to make that recommendation to  
24 the Federal Board. Since the Board is going to be  
25 meeting in January, would it be appropriate for us to sit  
26 down and go over the proposals that we talked about that  
27 would be drafted so they can be presented to the Federal  
28 Board in January or do we want to wait for a period of  
29 time?

30  
31 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair, I can address  
32 that. The proposals that we work out and submit for  
33 wildlife proposal changes, such as moose or bear or wolf,  
34 whatever is submitted, we will take those up here at the  
35 next winter Council meeting, say in February or March.  
36 The Federal Board meeting in January is to deal with  
37 fisheries issues.

38  
39 MR. SAMPSON: Okay.

40  
41 MR. JENNINGS: And then once we go  
42 through the Council process at the next meeting to hear  
43 and discuss formal recommendations from the Council on  
44 the wildlife proposals, then the Federal Board meets in  
45 May. We'll make a final decision in May and any changes  
46 will be implemented for the 2005 season.

47  
48 MR. SAMPSON: So we will have time then  
49 to go through a process so those recommendations can be  
50 presented to the Federal Board in May. Will that work

1 with you then, Jim?

2

3

MR. DAU: I think so.

4

5

MR. SAMPSON: What we're trying to do here is if we're looking at putting together proposals, that would be effective for next year, then what are we looking at from the time of a presentation to the Federal Board? What's the time frame from there when the Federal Board approves the regulation? When does it become effective?

11

12

13

MR. JENNINGS: If the Board takes an action next May and changes Federal regulations, it will

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16

17

MR. SAMPSON: So it would work then if we work on proposed regulations, that can be presented to the Federal Board in May, then if the Federal Board passes those proposals, then effect would be in time for the next year's 2005 hunt then. I guess I was trying to work on a schedule to where the proposals that we're going to deal with having to come effective prior to the fall hunt of next year is what I'm trying to work on. If things go well from the time we start that process through drafting and presenting that to the Federal Board in May, then it will work for all of us then.

26

27

28

CHAIRMAN STONEY: Jim.

29

30

31

MR. DAU: Mr. Chair, Walter. Jim Dau, Fish and Game. You're right, Walter, they would be consistent then for at least a year. But you made an earlier comment. I would say from this level all the way up to the Board level I would like to see the State and Federal systems work more in conjunction with each other. It's sort of crazy to have advisory committee meetings independent of RAC meetings. Luckily, most of you guys are on advisory committees, so there's consistency there. Boy, any time these issues come up it seems redundant to me to have one separate discussion on the State side and then another one. That way one is always reacting to the other. It would be much better to get everybody to agree up front. This is the direction we're going to take and we're going to do it on both sides. It just seems more productive.

46

47

48

MR. SAMPSON: Maybe that's the message we ought to take to the State of Alaska. I think if the

49

50

State of Alaska can come to an agreement with the folks

1 at the rural level, then it would be an ideal thing. But  
2 it's really sad to see that what Jim has to do at the  
3 State level and having to deal with the State  
4 regulations, but on the other hand we also have Federal  
5 regulations that are not inconsistent with the State. I  
6 see the point that you're making. I think the bottom  
7 line is we create more confusion to the user groups that  
8 have to deal with regulations.

9  
10 At some point in time I certainly would  
11 be willing to sit down and have a good dialogue. That  
12 doesn't mean I'm going to agree with everything the State  
13 puts on the table. So I think it would be an ideal thing  
14 at some point to -- as a member of this body, I'd be  
15 willing to go to the Game Board meeting and say, hey, why  
16 don't we at some point in time have a good dialogue.

17  
18 ATTAMUK: Yeah, but Walter, it will be no  
19 fun if I go hunt, if I get a caribou, I'll tell him to  
20 fall on the Federal side. It will be no fun.

21  
22 MR. SAMPSON: That's why they have  
23 trainings, caribou trainings.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else on this  
26 issue.

27  
28 (No comments)

29  
30 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, gentlemen.  
31 Future meeting plans.

32  
33 MS. CHIVERS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In  
34 the back of your book on page 65 is the schedule for the  
35 winter Regional Advisory Council meetings. The last  
36 meeting the Council opted not to select a meeting date,  
37 so at this time we need to set a meeting date for the  
38 winter meeting. Once we select that, we'll have to  
39 select a date for the fall meeting as well.

40  
41 In looking at the winter calendar, in  
42 terms of meeting dates, we have to keep in mind that  
43 there are regional team staff that also attend other  
44 meetings. Just a recommendation in terms of a meeting  
45 week date, it looks like March 7th through the 11th would  
46 be the optimal meeting date sometime in that week.

47  
48 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. Those  
49 meetings that you have for Naknek, Nome, Yukon,  
50 Petersburg, are those on those dates for those meetings?

1 MS. CHIVERS: Correct. Those are dates  
2 set by those Regional Councils.  
3  
4 MR. SAMPSON: So the coordinator for this  
5 body and the North Slope folks, we need to make sure that  
6 we don't conflict with the Barrow or Norton Sound  
7 meeting.  
8  
9 MS. CHIVERS: Correct.  
10  
11 MR. SAMPSON: So your suggestion would be  
12 sometime in the week of March 6th then.  
13  
14 MS. CHIVERS: Correct.  
15  
16 MR. SAMPSON: Who is WI?  
17  
18 MS. CHIVERS: That's the Western Interior  
19 Regional Advisory Council.  
20  
21 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chair, I would suggest  
22 maybe we could look at March 9th and 10th as a possible  
23 meeting date and leave that to the discretion of the  
24 Chair. If there's a conflict, then we need to look at  
25 another possible date from there.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Is that okay with you,  
28 Michelle?  
29  
30 MS. CHIVERS: Yes, thank you.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Take a look at March  
33 9th and 10th.  
34  
35 MS. CHIVERS: And the meeting location  
36 will be here?  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN STONEY: The location would be  
39 Kotzebue?  
40  
41 MR. SAMPSON: I don't have a problem with  
42 Kotzebue unless other folks want to go somewhere else for  
43 a meeting.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Kotzebue works for me.  
46  
47 MR. SAMPSON: That's fine, Mr. Chair.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Do we need an action on  
50 it?

1 MR. SAMPSON: Just a recommendation. If  
2 those dates don't work, we need to think of another date  
3 because we need to look at our shareholder's meeting and  
4 make sure we don't have a conflict.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN STONEY: In about one month I  
7 should find out about the NANA annual meeting and let you  
8 know.

9  
10 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. There is  
11 another handout that I gave each of the Council members.  
12 It's titled the fall 2005 meeting window. At this time  
13 the meeting locations and dates that are listed there are  
14 the locations and dates set by the Councils that have  
15 already met.

16  
17 In terms of weeks that would not conflict  
18 with other team members attending other meetings, it  
19 looks like the weeks that are open is August 28 through  
20 September 17th or the week of September 25th through  
21 29th.

22  
23 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I think  
24 September is a busy, active time for this region.  
25 October, I think, would be an ideal time to try to set up  
26 a meeting.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: October is good. I  
29 don't know about other Council members.

30  
31 MR. SAMPSON: Maybe October 10th and 11th  
32 would be an ideal time. That's good.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: For next year, I've got  
35 an appointment with the migratory bird. It's yearly  
36 annual October 10th.

37  
38 MR. SAMPSON: So that week you won't be  
39 here then. What about October 17th or 18th?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Open.

42  
43 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. If you don't  
44 mind then, could we plan on the 17th and that would give  
45 us a day in between. Several of us would need to go up  
46 to Barrow later that week.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Let's talk to Michelle.

49  
50 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. A question,

1 I guess. As a member of RAC representing this region and  
2 having to deal with folks to our south, Norton Sound, to  
3 our north, North Slope folks, is there any reason that  
4 would exclude us from sitting in some of their meetings  
5 just to get a feel of what some of the discussions they  
6 might have in regards to some of the resources within  
7 their respective area? Because we're next door  
8 neighbors. We're talking about critters that migrate.  
9 We're talking about moose that go into Norton Sound.  
10 We're talking about caribou going to Norton Sound. Is  
11 there any law that prohibits us from sitting in, at least  
12 some of us, in regards to some of these folks' meetings?  
13

14 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chair. That's  
15 appropriate in the past. There's been joint meetings  
16 between a couple Councils where they've shared resource  
17 concerns, proposals that were important. More common  
18 than a joint meeting would be where there's overlapping  
19 proposals of interest and importance to both regions.  
20 We've had a member or two of a Council attend the other  
21 Council's home regional meeting so that those views could  
22 come in to the home region and be heard or a reciprocal  
23 comes back to the other meeting. I've seen that before.  
24 So there is that flexibility, Walter.  
25

26 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.  
27

28 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything else on the  
29 dates and the location of the next meetings. I know the  
30 last one was October 17th and 18th.  
31

32 (No comments)  
33

34 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Anything on that last  
35 item, topics, issues.  
36

37 MS. CHIVERS: Mr. Chair. If the Council  
38 had any issues regarding future meeting plans, I believe  
39 this is why this is added under future meeting plans.  
40 This is something new that was added to the agenda. If  
41 the Council has any concerns regarding future meeting  
42 plans, now would be the time to address them.  
43

44 Thank you.  
45

46 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Walter.  
47

48 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman. I don't have  
49 any concerns in regards to some of the plans that will be  
50 put in place, but I think in regards to some of the

1 scoping meetings, some of the planned meetings in place,  
2 I certainly would be interested in listening to Randy's  
3 issues on -- was it yours in regards to some of the  
4 planning that's going to occur? And I think in regards  
5 to Amy's planning processes, I think these are some of  
6 the agenda items we ought to place so we can get an  
7 update on these plans.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. One  
10 thing I'll say and I'll ask all of the Council members a  
11 question, how do you like the dates of this October  
12 meeting?

13  
14 MR. SAMPSON: Mr. Chairman, for me, this  
15 is the best time because you know we have very restricted  
16 time for hunting. Hunting is pretty much done this time  
17 of the year for me anyway. But for others there might be  
18 hunting seals and the sort, but I think this is the  
19 slowest time of the year for me.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. Any  
22 other Council members.

23  
24 ATTAMUK: The timing right now, Raymond,  
25 is great for me.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. I'm glad  
28 you guys like it. Anything else before we adjourn.

29  
30 MR. SAMPSON: One other issue before we  
31 adjourn is that I want to -- you know, we've talked about  
32 the processes, we've talked about the Agency doing this  
33 and that. I think one integral part of the Agency that  
34 should have some concerns in regards to what we do  
35 because what we do affects their very livelihood. We  
36 have BIA here that has a trust responsibility to some of  
37 the IRA's throughout this region. I think BIA also needs  
38 you to deal with some of these things and have a  
39 coordinated efforts in regards to having a dialogue with  
40 some of its constituents. I'm talking about some of the  
41 tribal entities that have to deal with BIA. BIA also  
42 sits on the Federal Board. We know that. But they also  
43 need to start dealing with some of its clients throughout  
44 the region.

45  
46 The reason why I'm bringing that out is  
47 that if some of the tribal members cannot make it to  
48 these meetings, we cannot, as a body, represent them in  
49 all we do even though we represent them. We've heard we  
50 don't have the budget to be going out through the

1 villages to listen to some of the concerns. That's why I  
2 raised that issue in regards to the trust responsibility  
3 that BIA has hoping that they can relay to their  
4 constituents who they represent the issues that are being  
5 brought to this body, the issues that will be brought to  
6 the Federal Board from this very body. I think it's only  
7 fair that there's another channel that can be used to  
8 communicate to its constituency.

9  
10 With that, Mr. Chairman, I encourage  
11 fully BIA's role. Maybe he might have some concerns that  
12 he might want to raise. If it's such that we give him  
13 time to raise those things, certainly he ought to take  
14 that seat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter. Go  
17 ahead.

18  
19 MR. MOTO: One last thing. We talked  
20 about land mammals, fisheries in our subsistence meeting,  
21 but one concern I have because I'm on the coast is our  
22 marine mammals. We hardly hear anything about our marine  
23 mammals, like oogruks and seals. This is why when Walter  
24 mentioned that we should have a joint meeting, I think  
25 people like us should be able to sit in with Shishmaref  
26 and Wales where they talk about oogruk, seals and walrus.  
27 Because we're starting to get an influx of oogruks and  
28 walrus now, we're trying to find out a little bit more  
29 about it.

30  
31 I think we have to look at all. We talk  
32 mostly about moose, caribou and fish, not much about the  
33 -- our lifestyle on the coast, we relied on the seal for  
34 years and years. If we didn't have seal, we always went  
35 hungry because we always missed it. I think this is an  
36 issue that should be brought up once in a while in our  
37 regional meeting. What we get from the ocean determines  
38 whether we're going to get stuff from the land.

39  
40 Thank you.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Calvin.  
43 Walter.

44  
45 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
46 Thank you for bringing that issue up, Calvin. I think in  
47 regards to the marine mammal issue I certainly would  
48 support maybe getting a member of the marine mammal  
49 commission member to come give us a report on those  
50 things as well. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act,

1 there's a commission that deals with these very issues.  
2 If you want to, we can request a report periodically from  
3 these folks.

4

5 With that, I want to thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you, Walter.

8 Glenn.

9

10 MR. CHEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Glenn  
11 Chen from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I appreciate the  
12 opportunity, Mr. Sampson, to address this body with  
13 regard to subsistence issues. I'm the subsistence branch  
14 manager and this is a recently created branch within the  
15 Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Alaska Region. Our  
16 regional director recognizes the importance of  
17 subsistence to Alaska Native cultures across the state,  
18 so that is why he has created this separate branch of  
19 subsistence. We used to be part of natural resources.  
20 Now we're our own branch.

21

22 The Bureau also has been divided into two  
23 separate services. One is called Tribal Services and the  
24 other service is called Trust Services. Subsistence,  
25 even though this is not technically a trust function, it  
26 is so integral to the trust functions that the Bureau  
27 provides for Alaska Natives that we have been placed  
28 within the Trust Services branch. So we're working with,  
29 for example, natural resources and developing a strategic  
30 plan for how we're proposing to address Trust Services  
31 for Alaska Natives.

32

33 With regards to things that we're  
34 involved with, and, Mr. Sampson, you talked about the  
35 need to get out to villages and to talk with people and  
36 find out their concerns, especially since not all of them  
37 are able to come to these meetings, we're doing that.  
38 We're doing things that go beyond the Federal Subsistence  
39 Program although that is our primary responsibility.  
40 We're addressing a much broader range of subsistence  
41 issues that are shared by Alaska Natives. We're working  
42 on, for example, marine resources in Cook Inlet. We're  
43 making efforts to visit villages and to talk with people  
44 again about their subsistence issues and concerns and  
45 bring those forth to our regional director.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you. I appreciate  
50 that.

1                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Thank you. Anything  
2 else.

3  
4                   MR. SAMPSON: A couple other items, Mr.  
5 Chairman. I move for adjournment.

6  
7                   MR. MOTO: Second.

8  
9                   CHAIRMAN STONEY: Before it's adjourned,  
10 before we really go, I really want to thank the Council  
11 members even though it's a long day for all of us, but  
12 that's what we're down here to do, business with all the  
13 government agencies. Jim, thank you for your hard work  
14 in the Park Service and BLM and BIA and Gates of the  
15 Arctic. Thank you very much and have a good trip home.  
16 Meeting is adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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18                   (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 147 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTHWEST ARCTIC FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically by Salena Hile on the 8th day of October 2004, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Kotzebue, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of October 2004.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph P. Kolasinski  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08 \_