

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Fairbanks, Alaska
9 March 11, 2000
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Sue Entsminger, Chairman
16 Andy Bassich
17 Richard Carroll
18 Lester Erhart
19 Andrew Firmin
20 William Glanz
21 Frank Gurtler
22 Virgil Umphenour

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29 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/11/2009)

(On record)

MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll call the meeting back to order. There was a couple things that we needed to clean up from yesterday. One was on the Fish Board proposals. I heard from the Council members that you were interested in a hard cap on the commercial take of fish on the river and I thought it might be a proposal to the Fish Board to do that. Would anyone like to take that up.

Andy, go ahead.

MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair. What I'd like to get from you is your perception or your thoughts on how this would work and the feasibility, being the manager of this fishery, how catches are reported and maybe some insights.

I guess what I'm struggling with a little bit, we never know exactly what our chinook total run is going to be, but the concept behind this thought for me is that this would only be in place on years of conservation. What are we looking at as far as numbers. When we start getting into fall chum bycatch of chinook, are we consistently up around 5,000? Can you give us some kind of a history of where we've been in the last 10 years on that and then maybe a lower end and an upper end of what those averages are. That might be a good starting point.

MR. BUE: Madam Chair. I don't have the numbers in front of me, but in the fall season this past year the chinook run was low and I think part of that you're going to have less fish carrying over into the fall, the chinook. In our commercial harvest where they're actually being paid for the chinook harvested during the fall season there was around 200 chinook, 260 maybe, something like that for the fall season. The summer season was around 4,000, I believe was the total chinook commercial harvest last year that was taken incidental to the chum directed fisheries.

On a bigger chinook year, you're probably going to have the tail of that run carry over into the fall season a little bit longer and every year

1 the timing is a little different. Last year the way we
2 fished, we probably fished more on the front end of the
3 fall run than we ever have. Usually we wait until
4 maybe the quarter point or after that for commercial
5 fishing. We delayed the summer chum openings until
6 late and we had a pretty good outlook for fall chum.
7 We continued that fishing pretty much uninterrupted
8 from summer to fall in that transition time. In fact,
9 we probably fished more during that time period where
10 we'd normally have a break. Typically we don't catch
11 very many in the fall is what I'm saying.

12
13 Summer season, as far as reporting on
14 fish tickets, we do that in the upper river. We
15 require people when they're harvesting chum salmon or
16 coho salmon. A lot of the market is interested in only
17 females sometimes and sometimes in males or large kings
18 or small kings. So we require them to report what was
19 harvested but they took home for their personal use if
20 it was harvested during a commercial period.

21
22 It can work, but we don't have
23 observers on board all the vessels. So what they take
24 home, it's hard to tell. There's not an incentive to
25 report a good number. There's no commercial value in
26 it. It's a difficult one. People may cooperate. It's
27 more a voluntary.

28
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
30 Virgil.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Fred, do you know how
33 many summer chums were taken in the commercial fishery
34 in the lower river last year?

35
36 MR. BUE: I'm not very clear. It's
37 around 150,000.

38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And it was
40 around 130,000 fall, right?

41
42 MR. BUE: Yeah, 120,000 in the lower
43 river.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. We have two
46 choices. A hard cap, just a number, or a percent.
47 What Fred said about the fish tickets in the upper
48 Yukon, when the fish ticket is made out by the
49 processor or the buyer, there's a space on the ticket
50 for number of fish caught but not sold. If they

1 require them to use the same kind of fish ticket that
2 the upper Yukon has, then the buyer would be required
3 to put that on the fish ticket. If the fisherman gets
4 a copy of the fish ticket, if he's already delivered
5 his fish and he has king salmon in his boat and they're
6 not logged on the fish ticket that's supposed to be in
7 his possession and an enforcement officer stops him,
8 then he would be in violation of the regulation. To
9 me, they would be getting treated the same way we are
10 in the upper Yukon. I don't really see a problem with
11 that.

12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that on the
14 fish ticket on the south end?

15
16 MR. BUE: It's down on the bottom.
17 It's the same fish ticket.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's right on the fish
20 ticket. You have to put down the number of fish caught
21 but not sold and the buyer is responsible to do that.
22 If the buyer doesn't do that, they could get a
23 citation.

24
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My question to
26 Fish and Game would be what's the chance of somebody
27 being boarded after they delivered?

28
29 MR. BUE: In the lower river, there's
30 substantially more enforcement than the upper river. I
31 think last year they had 150 contacts. It's quite a
32 bit compared to upriver. Upriver people are upset if
33 they see a trooper go by once in a season.

34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the
36 regulation for the commercial fishermen and downriver
37 if you're pulling in your nets and a king salmon is in
38 your net, do you have to bring it on board?

39
40 MR. BUE: No, there's nothing that says
41 you have to bring it no board. You can hook and
42 release fish all day long.

43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But that's a
45 dead fish when it's in the gillnet, right?

46
47 MR. BUE: Not necessarily. Our tagging
48 projects are done with gillnets.

49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It just

1 depends on how bad they're caught.

2

3 MR. BUE: The care that's taken.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you guys
6 want to come up with a number or have a concept.

7

8 MR. CARROLL: How far back to the
9 records go on incidental catch?

10

11 MR. BUE: We have 30 years or more.
12 We've had periods where we have unrestricted gear and
13 periods with restricted gear where we allow only six
14 inch web out there. We have to tease it out.

15

16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
19 I think at this point in time, as the maker of the
20 motion, I'd like to see if we could table this to later
21 in the meeting. I think it would be better to try to
22 get more information. I think clearly we're not ready
23 to fully discuss this.

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
26 suggestion. I suggest that we do like we do other
27 proposals. Let's have a committee to write the
28 proposal and if everybody's in agreement of the concept
29 of a cap for the commercial take downriver. Let the
30 proposal go to the Fish Board and discuss it at the
31 next meeting.

32

33 What's the wishes of the Council.

34

35 MR. GURTLE: Is this proposal for the
36 whole Yukon and Tanana River.

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, it is.
39 It's for the whole Yukon, right?

40

41 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. That's why
42 I'd like to table this a little more and put a little
43 more thought into writing the motion. My main concern
44 and idea behind this is to protect Canadian bound
45 chinook and that's why I'm thinking a little bit more
46 time. What's the final date to get a proposal in on
47 the books for the Board of Fish?

48

49 MR. MATHEWS: April 10th for the Board
50 of Fish.

1 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
2
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
4 just see us do something that we don't have to spend
5 most of the time here at this meeting because we have a
6 lot on the agenda.
7
8 MR. BASSICH: That's what I'm saying.
9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Dr. Bromaghin did an
11 analysis where he examined over 90,000 king salmon in
12 the test fishery at Pilot Station. If my memory is
13 correct, approximately 5 percent of the fish caught --
14 I'm not wording it right. If they catch 20 chum
15 salmon, they're going to catch one king salmon. It's a
16 ratio of about 1 to 20, which would be 5 percent of the
17 catch. That's in a chum salmon directed fishery where
18 they can sell the king salmon.
19
20 What we could do procedurally is we
21 could vote either up or down to put forward a proposal
22 to put a hard cap on chinook bycatch and when the
23 proposal gets written we could have a percent of
24 whatever the average has been in these unrestricted
25 mesh fisheries where they could sell the chinook salmon
26 and I guarantee when they're fishing a chum directed
27 fishery and they're getting 30 cents a pound for
28 chums.....
29
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't need
31 to go into the discussion.....
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR:and 4.50 or \$5 a
34 pound for kings, they're trying to catch kings.
35
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't need
37 to go into discussion. I just want to see if we can
38 get a proposal forward. Do you want to table it until
39 the end of the meeting or have a committee write the
40 proposal.
41
42 MR. BASSICH: I think a committee would
43 be fine and maybe that would speed the process up.
44
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right
46
47 MR. BASSICH: We clearly need more
48 information and a little more time to write this up.
49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. What

1 about the same committee that was working on the other
2 language. I would ask the rest of the Council if they
3 would agree to that. It's coming from the Council,
4 something that the committee comes up, a proposal to
5 the Fish Board, if we would be in agreement to that on
6 this concept of a cap.

7

8 MR. GURTLER: When are we going to vote
9 on it?

10

11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We would be
12 voting on this idea. They write the proposal and it
13 would go to the Fish Board. We would be voting on it
14 today. We're not going to see the proposal. We would
15 have to let them write it. Would you be in agreement
16 to that?

17

18 MR. GURTLER: I have a problem with
19 more regulations.

20

21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

22

23 MR. GURTLER: I think who is it going
24 to hurt. Who is it going to benefit. Canada, us?
25 We've got to look at that part of it.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's just a
28 proposal.

29

30 MR. GURTLER: yeah.

31

32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But if you
33 don't agree that it would go to a committee to write
34 the proposal, it goes into the Board book, and then we
35 look at it again in our October meeting.

36

37 MR. GURTLER: Let me think about it.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want to
40 think about it. Okay. Anyone else have thoughts on
41 this.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. The other
44 thing, once a proposal is in the book, you can always
45 -- in the fall time, if we're not happy with it or if
46 our Council doesn't want to forward it, we can withdraw
47 it at that point in time.

48

49 MR. GURTLER: Okay. Sounds good.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would
2 everybody of the Council agree to that.
3
4 (Council nods affirmatively)
5
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any disagree.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's how
11 we'll handle that one.
12
13 MR. MATHEWS: That's the vote on the
14 motion, was unanimous consent, to put it into
15 committee.
16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Now
18 Vince had a couple things he wanted to hand out to us
19 this morning before we start with the wood bison. He's
20 got some sample letters that can go out to the National
21 Marine Fisheries. Am I saying that right?
22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yes and no. It's a
24 sample letter that Becca or Jill talked about
25 yesterday. It goes to the North Pacific Fisheries
26 Management Council.
27
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's going to
29 pass that out. There's going to be four pieces of
30 paper. Two regarding this letter to the National
31 Marine Fisheries and then two regarding the migratory
32 bird thing. Hopefully Mike Smith shows up and we can
33 talk to him about that and possibly put a proposal in.
34
35 Now we're doing updates on the wood
36 bison.
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: I talked to Rita
39 yesterday about that and she indicated that your Fish
40 and Game planner would be here. I don't see him. That
41 would be Randy Rogers.
42
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'd like to
44 hear about that, so we'll wait until he gets here.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Fred may have an update.
47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
49
50 MR. BUE: I'm sorry, Madam Chair. This

1 is purely my own self interest. Are you done with
2 fisheries? If you're going to go on to wildlife, I'd
3 ask to be excused. But if you think you have
4 additional business coming up, then I can be reached at
5 the office.

6

7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
8 members, do you see anything else coming up on
9 fisheries.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We don't.
14 Thanks, Fred.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Fred, you'll be at the
21 Panel meeting?

22

23 MR. BUE: Yes.

24

25 MR. BASSICH: Could you maybe see if
26 some of this information on the salmon bycatch
27 historical data could be brought to us for our
28 committee. I guess what we would be looking at is like
29 the last 10 or 15 years history of salmon bycatch in
30 the chum and coho fisheries. Along with that would be
31 our estimated total runs of chinook on those years as
32 well.

33

34 MR. BUE: Madam Chair. Andy. We'll
35 try. A lot of this is not very well organized along
36 those lines and there's not very much time knowing that
37 there's a few other meetings and that's a week from
38 now. I think quite a bit is available and we can work
39 on it. Also keep in mind there are some people
40 targeting chinook depending on how abundant they are in
41 those time periods.

42

43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Fred.
44 The next would be this wildlife survey update if
45 available.

46

47 MR. MATHEWS: If you turn to Page 36.
48 That gives you the moose survey data for Yukon Flats
49 and I see that Staff has arrived. Rob Jess and Paul
50 Williams has that material.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Rob.

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Paul
4 Williams. I'm from Beaver. I work sometimes as
5 village liaison or interpreter or information tech.
6 The moose population in the lower 25D has been really
7 low for a good number of years, maybe 10, 15 years.
8 When I was younger, there used to be a lot of moose.
9 What we did was intensive management, but we don't do
10 that today. That's the reason the predators are
11 overwhelmingly getting the moose. Just a couple days
12 ago we were out there tracking the wolves and seven
13 wolves was just about to catch up on a tired cow moose.
14 This time of the year the snow is deep and the cow is
15 fat and pregnant and she's going to have a hard time.
16 You know that cow is history, it's gone.

17

18 They used to go to the wolf den and
19 take out the young ones and wait for the parents to
20 come back and they kill those off too. In them days
21 they had \$50 bounty for wolf if you brought the femur
22 of the left leg.

23

24 For the bear, when you get done
25 trapping muskrat in the spring time around your camp
26 you put up a snare and a lot of the older people
27 remember we did that. Now that's not happening and
28 there's a lot of problems because of the way management
29 has changed over the years and it's not being effective
30 in predator control.

31

32 One of the early days, if I could take
33 time to relate back to what we did because of low moose
34 population in 25D, we had meetings in the villages,
35 Randy Rogers, Bob Stephenson, myself, we all gathered
36 here in Fairbanks and we decided how are we going to
37 talk about these things. We put a lot of suggestions
38 together and went to the villages and had people
39 testify how we could increase the moose numbers in
40 Yukon Flats. So that's how we came up with the Yukon
41 Flats Moose Management Plan.

42

43 How many people are aware that we did
44 this? I know Richard does. About two, three years
45 went by and nothing happened. I called CATG, Bob
46 Stephenson, Randy Rogers and I said we should get
47 together and review this and possibly put in for a
48 grant from tribal wildlife and we put in for a grant
49 and the first year we didn't get it, the second year we
50 didn't get it. Finally we found out somebody else put

1 in a proposal similar to ours, so we resubmitted it
2 again. We got a grant that time. That was two years
3 ago for 211,000 for work on increasing the moose
4 numbers.

5
6 Finally it's coming through. The
7 latest report on the moose survey this fall, done the
8 3rd of November to the 7th or 8th, in four days we
9 counted -- well, the number of moose was pretty much
10 the same, .22, less than a quarter a moose per square
11 mile. That's a really low number, one moose every
12 square mile you might say. But the composition looks
13 good, like there's more young ones, more calves and
14 cows compared to bulls. There was 250 cows. There was
15 210 young moose. These are survivors. We don't see
16 that kind before. They're surviving into November. It
17 looks promising.

18
19 Like I mentioned before, the old ways
20 of management is gone now. We'll probably never go back
21 to it. Maybe sometime they break the law. I used to
22 do that myself until they hired me, you know.

23
24 MR. JESS: Why do you think we hired
25 you, Paul?

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. WILLIAMS: So I could eat more
30 hamburger and chicken, I guess. Anyway, we're really
31 happy. We created a committee made of Fish and
32 Wildlife Service and Department and some people from
33 the Yukon Flats, including myself, and we got this
34 committee going and I think sometime this spring we're
35 going to have another meeting to review what we're
36 going to do and to streamline the existing permit
37 system, both Federal moose permits. The way we do
38 surveys actually is going to be revisited and look at
39 it and make it fit what we're doing.

40
41 My suggestion was to give it back to
42 the Native people in Yukon Flats. Give them
43 responsibility on the local level so that we can manage
44 with their assistance. We hear people say yesterday
45 that patrolling is non-existent. It's due to several
46 factors. There's only one guy and myself and we've got
47 one airplane and sometimes the weather don't agree and
48 the days are short and not good to fly. We all agree
49 that anybody can go out and get a moose and get away
50 with it out of season, but giving people responsibility

1 on the local level I think is going to be more of what
2 we should do to really cooperate together instead of
3 fighting with each other. We should be cooperating
4 because everybody is interested in more moose.

5
6 People should try to work together
7 more. If they've got a problem, they should talk about
8 it until they fix it. That's the way people used to do
9 it a long time ago, the elders, you know. People got
10 along good.

11
12 That's about all I have, Madam Chair.
13 That's the end of my report.

14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
16 Any questions.

17
18 (No comments)

19
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

21
22 MR. JESS: My name is Rob Jess. I'm
23 the refuge manager for the Yukon Flats Refuge and I
24 apologize we were late. We were dealing with an issue
25 at the office. Just to conclude on the moose
26 populations. Although this year it showed our numbers
27 went up and we do have good twin calving rates, it's
28 fairly much a blip on the radar screen. Our numbers
29 are steadily declining on the Flats.

30
31 There's a number of efforts that we're
32 working on relative to the moose populations, but the
33 reality is that we feel we've got excellent habitat out
34 there for moose populations. That place should be
35 booming with moose and it's not.

36
37 It's really a three-pronged issue
38 that's decline of moose. First and foremost we've got
39 wolf numbers out there that are sufficient to take down
40 moose numbers. Black bear numbers are on the increase.
41 So the wolves are taking the cows in the winter and
42 bears taking the calves in the spring. We've got
43 approximately 80 percent mortality rate on calves. The
44 primary issue is black bear. Some grizzly, but mainly
45 black bear. The reality is that we've got five
46 villages out there and the third prong is the poaching
47 and taking of cow moose.

48
49 We've got an intensive education
50 program that's going on within the villages. I've got

1 an education specialist that goes out to the five
2 schools in the villages or four schools and we try to
3 hit the kids as heavy and hard as we can, educating
4 their parents. We realize that parent to refuge
5 connection isn't always going to be there, so the next
6 best thing is to work on the younger generation.

7
8 This spring we'll be working on getting
9 a better assessment on bear numbers and population
10 estimates out there. Relative to wolves, here's the
11 official report from our biologist in November 2008; 14
12 wolves from seven packs were captured and collared in
13 an area around the village of Beaver in order to
14 estimate the kill rate by wolves on moose. We
15 currently do not have any data on kill rates, meaning
16 age versus cow versus adult or gender, male versus
17 female of killed moose.

18
19 Understanding the kill rate in an area
20 with such a low density prey population will enhance
21 our understanding of whether the kill rate is related
22 to prey density. In other words, does kill rate
23 increase with increasing prey densities. Such a result
24 has implications for the dynamics of the moose
25 population on the refuge and will allow us as managers
26 to make a more informed decision. Kill rate is
27 estimated by aerial tracking wolves daily or bi-daily
28 and recording the number of killed moose in a 14-day
29 period.

30
31 We completed the first tracking period
32 in February. Preliminary data indicates a longer
33 interval between kills for smaller wolf packs. Being
34 up in the air during this survey, we have three
35 instances in a one-week period where we watched a
36 single wolf for five miles track a cow moose down.
37 It's every bit that you see on National Geographic on
38 TV. Even in a plane and we were doing tight circles
39 and in between me throwing up in a five-gallon plastic
40 bag and watching this wolf track this moose down, it
41 was just absolutely amazing. Very humbling. The wolf
42 is 500 yards behind the cow and she's running, keeps
43 looking back, and he's just on a full pant, tongue
44 hanging out, her tongue is hanging out. He gets within
45 three feet of her and I think he just realized he bit
46 off more than he could chew, so he just sits down, then
47 the cow goes about 20 yards and lays down and they just
48 both lay there. It was pretty humbling.

49
50 The other two instances we did watch a

1 large pack take a cow down. If you've never seen this,
2 it's probably one of the most grizzly things you could
3 ever witness, but it's a fact of life and that's the
4 way it is. They do begin eating them while that cow is
5 alive.

6
7 We completed the first tracking period
8 in February and then the preliminary data indicates a
9 longer interval between kills for smaller pack wolves.
10 Our data collection is ongoing and the study is planned
11 for three years.

12
13 We are doing everything we can on the
14 refuge to reduce this three-pronged approach relative
15 to the decline of the moose populations. But we alone
16 aren't going to be able to handle or divert this
17 problem. Poaching is obviously an issue.

18
19 As Paul mentioned, historical taking to
20 keeping populations of wolves and bears down, we are
21 limited by our own policies as to what we can do. I
22 have looked at it and evaluated aerial gunning. Right
23 now, although the perception is that it's illegal to do
24 on National Wildlife Refuges, it is a management tool.
25 To be able to do that would probably take me millions
26 of dollars in lawsuits to overcome perceptions and
27 issues in the Lower 48 about aerial gunning, as you can
28 see what Governor Palin went through this past year.
29 So that management tool is probably not available to
30 us. So we're dependant upon the villages, trappers,
31 these exterior factors to help us to keep these
32 population numbers in check.

33
34 This brings up the introduction of
35 moose onto Yukon Flats. The official position of the
36 Service is that we are receptive to it, but we are
37 somewhat neutral. We are waiting for the State. The
38 unofficial position is that I am supportive of a
39 reintroduction effort onto the Yukon Flats. We have
40 done our homework. We are doing our science to back
41 this up. I believe this is an effort worth fighting
42 for. It's not going to be easy. There's a myriad of
43 reasons why I support it. Biologically, I think it's
44 viable. There are things we have to evaluate. You
45 look at studies down in the Lower 48 relative to
46 similar ungulates. Elk species, for instance, with
47 wolf and bear predation rates.

48
49 One of the things we have to look at is
50 if we were to reintroduce wood bison and they were to

1 establish themselves, do the predators such as wolf and
2 bear with specific emphasis on wolf do their numbers
3 increase because now there's a secondary prey available
4 and will that further impact or further decline the
5 existing moose populations. Those are things we have
6 to evaluate. We don't want to tank our current numbers
7 worse than they already are relative to moose.

8

9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I
10 interrupt you.

11

12 MR. JESS: Yes, ma'am.

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a
15 question for you. As volunteers you can't get in as
16 deep as you guys do, but as a local person looking at
17 this situation, here you are, the State, I know they
18 spent probably 15 years wanting to reintroduce these
19 wood bison and they spent all this money to get these
20 animals that they are holding to release and now
21 there's all these silly little things going on, to me.
22 I mean why didn't this get worked out before we buy
23 bison?

24

25 MR. JESS: That's a good question,
26 Madam Chair. It's not one I can answer, one, in a
27 simple context and, two, I've only been on the Refuge
28 for 16 months and I've gone through three file cabinets
29 worth of documentation and information. Why it hasn't
30 happened? I think because the State of Alaska was
31 going down one road called the 10(j) rule. It's an
32 exemption clause for lack of better words within the
33 Endangered Species Act and what it does is it allows
34 for X animal, regardless of the animal, that it be
35 considered an experimental population and all these
36 factors that play into the Endangered Species Act to
37 protect that species, what it does is kind of shed a
38 lot of those things off, the rights of a landowner are
39 limited at times or used to be very restricted, now
40 they've been loosed a little bit under the previous
41 administration. The bottom line is that it allows for
42 exemptions and provisions relative to that endangered
43 species on that piece of land and that's where the
44 State was going down, hoping that that would happen.

45

46 What's happened with the Fish and
47 Wildlife Service, and I don't know the details of this
48 and it would further need explanation, bottom line was
49 that I think that that was kind of pulled back, for
50 lack of better words. The 10(j) rule was not clearly

1 defined. Essentially the Fish and Wildlife Service in
2 the ecological services divisions, which does
3 interpretation of policy, bottom line is that they were
4 going down one road, the State was going down another
5 and for some reason the two didn't marry or meet, so
6 there's this conflict on the interpretation of the
7 10(j) rule right now. It's being handled and we do
8 have an official position, which I won't go into. I
9 hope that muddied the water for you. Did that?

10

11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm baffled
12 that government can work so hard on something and then
13 not have taken care of.....

14

15 MR. JESS: I'll be honest. I am too.
16 It's kind of sad because I think it's a worthwhile
17 effort.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can you
20 project how long you guys are going to have to work on
21 it to make it happen?

22

23 MR. JESS: Absolutely. I don't have a
24 clue.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We won't get
27 bogged down on that. Go ahead with your report.

28

29 MR. FIRMIN: I have a question.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

32

33 MR. FIRMIN: Do you think recently,
34 wasn't it like the next year or so, they were supposed
35 to reintroduce the wood bison to Minto Flats and
36 they're having that same conflict with the gas
37 development and stuff, is that going to speed up or
38 slow down any of that reintroduction in Yukon Flats?
39 They still need a place for those bison to go or are
40 they just going to keep them in Portage?

41

42 MR. JESS: Andrew, it's a tough
43 situation right now. I know the legalities are being
44 worked out between solicitors of the State and the
45 solicitors of the Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm
46 hoping the issue will resolve itself here fairly quick,
47 within the next year. We've got an administration
48 that's going in a new direction, that is more receptive
49 to conservation and biological needs of the people.
50 State's rights are more valued and more protected under

1 this new administration. I'm hoping that this will
2 move forward within the next year. I think it will. I
3 know that there's a lot of people working on it.

4

5 MR. FIRMIN: One other question on the
6 moose. I know poaching is a big problem, but is there
7 any correlation with the low moose population and
8 selective hunting or trophy hunting basically?

9

10 MR. JESS: That's a good question. If
11 you look within 25D west you've got Fort Yukon, Birch
12 Creek, Stevens, Beaver, you've got two things going on
13 there. Public hunting is very limited, Andrew. You've
14 got Tier II permits and then subsistence hunting. The
15 drop camps, things like that, from outsiders is really
16 not an impact. There's more of an impact on poaching.
17 We did talk to our law enforcement officer this morning
18 because of the question you brought up yesterday about
19 the lack of law enforcement, a very valid question. We
20 have one law enforcement officer who is also a
21 biologist and also a pilot, so we have limited
22 resources. We work with the state troopers and a
23 number of other people, Officer Hernandez, but the
24 reality is we don't have the resources. Our highest
25 priority is to get another law enforcement officer on
26 if given the funding and opportunity.

27

28 We are highly dependant on the people
29 of the villages, our eyes and ears. We've got great
30 rapport in my mind with the villages. Obviously
31 there's people in there that don't like us because
32 ANILCA and ANCSA. I very much respect these lands were
33 theirs 30,000 years ago and here we are as a Federal
34 entity, Big Brother, taking over Native lands. I'm
35 very respectful of that. But we do have a lot of
36 people that call in and every call we get on a poaching
37 report we investigate that immediately. We only wrote
38 two tickets. It's a needle in a haystack to be able to
39 go out there and prosecute. When people give us
40 evidence, we follow up on it. I hope that answered
41 your question from yesterday.

42

43 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, it did.

44

45 MR. GLANZ: I have one. A couple years
46 ago you had an great number of cows you found killed
47 around the villages. Do you have a count from this
48 year or last year? You're talking poaching. Is there
49 any count available on that?

50

1 MR. JESS: The estimates from two years
2 ago, it was in the 20's. The number has gone down
3 significantly. One thing I want to applaud the
4 villages on, I can't give them enough credit -- you
5 know, coming into these -- for lack of better words,
6 our European rules, the English way of doing things.
7 Never having to have a hunting license or anything like
8 that, up until even last year, for example, Venetie,
9 we'd go up there and nobody would buy a hunting permit
10 or a duck stamp. We're going through books of duck
11 stamps and hunting licenses now. People are
12 understanding that these things are needed and they do
13 serve a purpose.

14
15 Here's an example. We showed a map of
16 the power that these villages have relative to duck
17 hunting. It shows 2.1 million ducks on the Yukon Flat
18 Refuge and then it showed all the states within the
19 union, the 48 states below, where all these ducks are
20 harvested at and we showed them that your duck stamp
21 goes to these dollars and they didn't understand the
22 meaning of this focus point of the Yukon Flats and all
23 these villages therein of the power they had until they
24 started to see that the numbers by them abiding by the
25 laws allows us to limit and regulate hunting down in
26 the Lower 48.

27
28 The point I'm trying to get at is that
29 these villages have a lot of power. If they're abiding
30 by the laws, we're able to regulate duck hunting in the
31 Lower 48 and restrict numbers based on what they get
32 for harvest reports. They've never seen that
33 connection of how important it is for us to get harvest
34 numbers. Once they realize that, our harvest number
35 surveys are shooting up as high as we've ever had them
36 in the villages that are within the Flats. The bottom
37 line is I'm very proud of the villagers. They are
38 being receptive to buying the duck stamps, buying the
39 hunting licenses, helping us with the harvest survey
40 and the data.

41
42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We kind of
43 interrupted you there. Did you have other things on
44 your report?

45
46 MR. JESS: I have no idea.

47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Vince.

49
50 MR. MATHEWS: Just to give you an

1 update on the wood bison. The State approached Western
2 Interior at their meeting in February about looking at
3 reintroducing them in the GASH area, Unit 21 E, and the
4 Western Interior supported that reintroduction there.
5 So that is another alternate site that the State is
6 looking at, just to give you an update.

7
8 MR. JESS: And relative to the wood
9 bison, Madam Chair, Doyon Ltd. came out recently with a
10 position that's very much opposed to it because of the
11 impacts. Very respective and understanding of that
12 relative to the natural gas and oil in these Minto
13 Flats, Yukon Flats, and how it could impact these
14 projects.

15
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Because of the
17 endangered species?

18
19 MR. JESS: Correct. The bottom line is
20 the Fish and Wildlife Service has a specific mandate.
21 It is not natural gas and oil. It's the protection of
22 these natural resources and these lands.

23
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But if this
25 10(j) rule applied, then it wouldn't affect Doyon.

26
27 MR. JESS: Yes, you're absolutely
28 right. It wouldn't affect the development of natural
29 gas and oil at least on these State lands.

30
31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I don't
32 understand what you had said earlier is why is the
33 State going down one avenue assuming and the Fish and
34 Wildlife going down another avenue.

35
36 MR. JESS: If you would like, I'll get
37 the various positions and I'll get that information to
38 you as a Council.

39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you see
41 like a logical sensible minds would say why didn't we
42 think of that first?

43
44 MR. JESS: I think it was. I just
45 think the dynamics of the game changed for lack of
46 better words. I can get that information to you.

47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

49
50 MR. GLANZ: I believe I got some

1 mailing that Fish and Wildlife was not going to put the
2 bison into the endangered species act or did I misread
3 that?

4

5 MR. JESS: Well, again, Bill, that's
6 the official position at this point in time. Given the
7 new administration and the directions that we've been
8 mandated and charged with, I think that based on the
9 previous administration there's some changes that are
10 in play.

11

12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Richard.

13

14 MR. CARROLL: Is there action needed
15 here? Are you looking for support from the Council
16 here?

17

18 MR. JESS: I don't think so at this
19 point in time. I appreciate that. Relative to the
20 wood bison, I think we need to get our official
21 position changed in a direction that will be more
22 receptive towards reintroduction on the Flats as a
23 primary place. Once we do that, we would hope the
24 Council would be in support of that. I'm just curious,
25 does the Council see this as a viable project?

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we've
28 been supporting it for a long time. Yes.

29

30 Go ahead, Frank.

31

32 MR. GURTLER: Yeah, it is, but the only
33 thing I'm worried about is whether they call it an
34 endangered species or not.

35

36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the
37 hang up.

38

39 MR. GURTLER: That's my hang up.

40

41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

42

43 MR. JESS: Frank, just for
44 clarification, would that be relative to State lands or
45 Federal lands.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any of them.

48

49 MR. GURTLER: Well, for both.

50

1 MR. JESS: For wood bison to be
2 considered an endangered species on State lands or on
3 Federal because looking at our mandates we have very
4 similar mandates and direction that both the State and
5 Federal government are going in, but then you have the
6 politics that are involved with the governor relative
7 to oil and gas development on State lands. On the
8 Federal government, we're not into oil and gas
9 development. Is that still a concern with you as well,
10 that the wood bison not be classified as an endangered
11 species on Federal lands then?

12
13 MR. GURTLER: Yes, and State. That's my
14 position on that one.

15
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think he's
17 clearly telling you that if it's an endangered species
18 and we want to hunt them, we're not going to be able
19 to.

20
21 MR. JESS: Relative to that, and it
22 gets very technical on that, the bottom line is,
23 obviously why the State is pushing this is because
24 they're hoping to get a huntable species. That's why
25 you have support from Safari Club International. On
26 the Federal lands, once we get sufficient population
27 numbers -- and that's the one thing that's never come
28 out with the wood bison. We talk about the
29 introduction hypothetically on the Minto Flats. When
30 is it going to be viable to be a huntable population.
31 Our estimates are that it could be as much as 10 to 15
32 years before there's sufficient numbers before they're
33 huntable. I've always been curious what the State is
34 and I don't have that answer myself.

35
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
37 Paul.

38
39 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
40 Beaver Village Council, about 10, 15 years has
41 supported this reintroduction of the wood bison in
42 Yukon Flats. The reason we did that is we see certain
43 long-range benefits. Not only the low moose numbers,
44 but also unemployment and other benefits that could
45 become available to us because we own quite a bit of
46 land over there. We could take tourists or hunters out
47 there. We're looking for the long-range economic
48 benefit for our people. Thank you, Madam Chair.

49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,

1 guys. Any other questions or discussion with these
2 guys.

3

4 (No comments)

5

6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just before
7 you go. I was really interested when you said about
8 predator control or management could occur on Fish and
9 Wildlife Service lands, but you said that you felt that
10 it would be millions of dollars of lawsuits. Don't you
11 feel like you have solicitors that could write things
12 that wouldn't create those lawsuits?

13

14 MR. JESS: If you look at history,
15 here's the example I have for you. As a manager, I
16 look at something such as aerial gunning of wolves --
17 if you look at the mentality in the Lower 48 relative
18 to the Defenders of Wildlife.....

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're all
21 aware of that, yeah.

22

23 MR. JESS: That whole issue. To me,
24 trapping is a much more.....

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You think it's
27 more acceptable?

28

29 MR. JESS: Right now we allow trapping
30 on National Wildlife Refuges, but we don't allow aerial
31 gunning. To me, aerial gunning is more humane than an
32 animal laying out for a week starving to death
33 potentially on a trap.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can snare
36 them.

37

38 MR. JESS: We can snare them, but
39 sometimes you get foot traps, et cetera. But yet
40 that's a more acceptable behavior than aerial gunning,
41 which to me is hypocrisy at its finest. I don't
42 understand that.

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We know the
45 deal. All I was trying to bring out is if Fish and
46 Wildlife Service is willing, you've got someone like
47 yourself that knows the situation in Yukon Flats -- I
48 mean I wouldn't want to be negative and constantly go,
49 oh, yeah, we can't do that, when you have a mechanism
50 that probably you could work on it.

1 MR. JESS: It's the perception of the
2 mechanism still that we're having trouble with even
3 internally. I have biologists that say, oh, my gosh,
4 there's no way we would ever want to aerial gun as a
5 means of control.

6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it sounds
8 like the Service could do a little education to the
9 American public.

10
11 MR. JESS: We need to start with
12 ourselves, but it's also a long-term financial
13 investment as well. Once we start down that road we've
14 got to continue on with that. The bottom line is that
15 you look at the Yukon Flats relative to the State. It
16 is not a high priority area for hunting to the State
17 because we don't get numbers out there. So they're not
18 going to invest the amount of money they would like 20D
19 or 20B areas where you have higher populations of moose
20 and accessibility. The bottom line is that there's a
21 lot of programmatic issues that we run into.

22
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand.
24 Thank you. It's nice to have that refreshing news.
25 Virgil.

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: BLM basically goes
28 along with whatever the State regulations are. Our RAC
29 has put several proposals forward and I've put some
30 forward and the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory
31 Committee has put some forward that have been passed.
32 An example is the Board three years ago or five years
33 ago, I'm not sure when, in Unit 21, 24, I think all of
34 Eastern Interior RAC now you can position yourself to
35 hunt wolves with a snowmachine. They put it right in
36 the regulation book except on National Wildlife
37 Refuges, but you can do it on BLM land.

38
39 That's a little different than aerial
40 gunning; however, aerial gunning BLM has said if the
41 State passes that, then it can take place on BLM land.
42 So what change needs to be made so it can be done in
43 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Refuge lands?

44
45 MR. JESS: I was hoping to get away
46 from a question from you, Virgil.

47
48 (Laughter)

49
50 MR. JESS: The biggest issue that we

1 have within the Fish and Wildlife Service is that our
2 mandates and missions are different from the Park
3 Service than they are from the BLM. Where we get into
4 is the thought of species specific management rather
5 than ecosystem management and the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service is much like these other entities as well, is
7 very primarily focused on ecosystem management. So
8 when we go into species specific management like this,
9 we run into all kinds of different issues within our
10 own mandates that conflict. With that conflict people
11 are able to rest their laurels on that and say this is
12 why we can't do it. But if you look at specific
13 regulations and the specific mandates of the Fish and
14 Wildlife Service, legally we are allowed to and able to
15 do that. It's that we've got so many people resting
16 their laurels on what they perceive to be the mandates
17 and policies of the service. Getting those people that
18 allow me as a manager to make those decisions changed
19 around is not an easy thing. Legally, in my mind, we
20 are able to do that. I hope that makes sense.

21

22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think that
23 was coming out at the Subsistence Board a year ago.
24 Greg Roczicka really pushed hard to the Federal Board
25 that they do have -- I can't give you all the argument.
26 He was very articulate about it. They had to say,
27 yeah, you're making some good points. What I'd like to
28 see from you is maybe you could help us out. What is
29 question was is how do you go about it. If we can talk
30 about that as a Council. We sent out letters to three
31 Federal agencies about doing predator control on their
32 lands. I'd like to hear more about that.

33

34 MR. JESS: If you're officially asking
35 me, Virgil, in that context, then, yes, I'll report
36 back to you on that and give you our guidance.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. There's an
39 old saying, nothing ventured, nothing gained. Whatever
40 we can do to move in a direction of more responsible
41 management, we would surely encourage. I just want to
42 speak to the ecosystem management idea. You have so
43 many people that basically have tunnel vision for
44 ecosystem management and what they're saying basically,
45 or this is my idea, you should just let Mother Nature
46 take its course, but I don't see that as the mandate.

47

48 To kind of demonstrate that, our
49 ecosystem management, our two Boards don't seem to want
50 to address the ecosystem management concept when it

1 comes to predators. If we have a real shortage of
2 salmon like we've had in recent times, then the
3 indirect result is that the wolves and the bears that
4 would normally be eating those salmon don't have the
5 salmon to eat, so the next easiest thing to catch and
6 eat is moose calves. The National Park Service has
7 been doing a study on what the diet of wolves are and
8 they've shown that some wolves, up to 40 percent of
9 their annual diet, is Toklat River chum salmon.

10

11 I don't know if any of this can be
12 used, but I've attempted to use stuff like this at
13 regulatory meetings and history. We need to look more
14 at that and that it does fit into ecosystem management,
15 relating the different resources that we're supposed to
16 maintain healthy populations of, that when one of those
17 resources such as the chum salmon does have a definite
18 impact on the populations of some of these other
19 species that we're supposed to be maintaining within
20 the refuge systems.

21

22 I just wanted to point that out that we
23 need to examine all avenues in attacking these people
24 with the tunnel vision. Thank you.

25

26 MR. JESS: Virgil, you're absolutely on
27 the right track with that. I have plenty of examples
28 where we say we're supposed to be ecosystem managers.
29 I moved from a refuge down in Florida where we had an
30 ecosystem yet we manage for manatee. You've got the
31 National Elk Refuge, National Bison Refuge that were
32 specie specific management.

33

34 Up here relative to your salmon, we
35 have a study that's been done on decline of salmon
36 populations as far as the energy impacts into the
37 ecosystem because that die-off of salmon releases
38 energy into the system and you have a change of plants
39 that are dependant upon that energy release every year
40 that no longer get it, so they're dying off and that
41 impacts other species. There's this cause and effect
42 that goes on relative to all animals that are dependant
43 on those salmon.

44

45 So absolutely you're on the right track
46 and I wholeheartedly agree with you.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're
49 going to help us do this, get on the right track.

50

1 MR. JESS: We'll see.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I really
4 appreciate what you've brought to the Council.

5

6 Richard.

7

8 MR. CARROLL: Paul, I've been asked by
9 Madam Chair to offer our condolences to you in the loss
10 of your wife last fall and we appreciate your continued
11 efforts to support and manage wildlife issues in Yukon
12 Flats and continue with your service. We sure
13 appreciate you. Once again our condolences to you.

14

15 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Thank you,
16 Madam Chair. I appreciate it.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just lost my
19 mother, so I really appreciate what you're going
20 through. They were asking for a break, so we'll break
21 for 10 minutes and come back.

22

23 (Off record)

24

25 (On record)

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In an effort
28 not to make us drag out wood bison, but to continue
29 this discussion on the Endangered Species Act that kind
30 of put a weird twist to the whole matter, I asked Randy
31 Rogers from Fish and Game to come up now.

32

33 MR. ROGERS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
34 Members of the Council. I appreciate the opportunity
35 to say a few words about the current situation with the
36 wood bison project. I was trying to time it to get
37 here for the Department of Fish and Game planning
38 report and I knew the letter was on the agenda, so I
39 apologize for not being here earlier.

40

41 What I was intending to do was to give
42 you an update on what we're not planning now instead of
43 what we are planning. Had we not had this controversy
44 come up over the Endangered Species Act, we would be
45 initiating the site specific planning for Minto Flats
46 this spring and hoping to put wood bison out there
47 March 2010. So, we're very close.

48

49 At any rate, I provided some
50 information to members of the Council. Hopefully all

1 of you are on our mailing list and have seen the most
2 recent issue of Wood Bison News. Some new members
3 might not be on the list and I'd like to get your
4 addresses.

5
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can get
7 that from Vince.

8
9 MR. ROGERS: Okay. Sometimes Vince
10 says that they're not really authorized to give out
11 addresses a lot.

12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll talk
14 about that later.

15
16 MR. ROGERS: I will focus on the
17 Endangered Species Act and this other information I've
18 given you is on the yellow sheet. At the top is Alaska
19 Wood Bison Restoration Project Update, which I needed
20 to send out to supplement the newsletter that went out
21 in January. Then I have a short sheet, which is a
22 summary of points about what's going on with wood bison
23 and the Endangered Species Act and the efforts of the
24 Department of Fish and Game and actually State
25 government as a whole is taking to address the
26 Endangered Species Act.

27
28 There's a copy of a guest opinion that
29 was printed in the Anchorage Daily News Miner written
30 by Mike Miller, who is executive director of the Alaska
31 Wildlife Conservation Center, where the wood bison
32 stock we have are now being kept and maintained.

33
34 I try to keep this short, but to
35 explain all of this Endangered Species Act stuff gets
36 extremely complex. It's not a short and easy
37 explanation. I'll try to give the short version
38 though.

39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Please.

41
42 MR. ROGERS: I have a hard time with
43 that at times. For many years, while we had been
44 working on the wood bison project, wood bison are
45 listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as
46 endangered in Canada. They never existed in the U.S.
47 So, as we were working towards importing bison and
48 moving this project forward, our commission wrote to
49 the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004
50 and said how are you going to treat wood bison under

1 the Endangered Species Act if we establish them in
2 Alaska. At that time the Director replied that wood
3 bison are endangered in Canada, they're foreign listed,
4 they will have no status in Alaska, so no provisions of
5 the Endangered Species Act.

6
7 So we worked under that premise for
8 several years and what was written up in our wood bison
9 environmental review, the thick EIS type document we
10 put out in 2007. All along we've worked with Doyon,
11 Safari Club International and others on this whole
12 question of the Endangered Species status. In comments
13 on that environmental review, Doyon expressed concerns
14 about that and they were basically afraid that if wood
15 bison weren't considered endangered that a third party,
16 an environmental group or something like that, would
17 file a petition to force them to be listed. If the
18 Service didn't list them, they would be sued and then
19 eventually they would end up being considered an
20 endangered species.

21
22 Our Department of Law carefully
23 reviewed that and actually agreed with Doyon on that
24 matter. We didn't see the clear legal basis for the
25 position that they're on the list but they wouldn't be
26 considered endangered in Alaska.

27
28 When we put in our request for an
29 endangered species import permit, that triggered the
30 Fish and Wildlife Service to re-evaluate the whole
31 situation. The folks in the Interior, solicitors in
32 Washington, D.C., the Division of Management Authority,
33 they reviewed it and they said -- and they were wanting
34 to be very careful because they get sued over every
35 step they take with the Endangered Species Act and did
36 not want to get litigation going. So, with further
37 review, they said we'd be on much more solid legal
38 ground if we say wood bison are endangered wherever
39 they occur.

40
41 So that's the current interpretation.
42 You guys had the letter in your packet that I believe
43 was the focus of the discussion before break, which
44 basically was another letter from the Director of the
45 Fish and Wildlife Service to our Commissioner pointing
46 out that they would be considered endangered wherever
47 they occur, but the Service supports Alaska's efforts
48 to restore wood bison and is willing to work with us to
49 develop this special rule under the Endangered Species
50 Act to address these concerns.

1 In actuality, the Fish and Wildlife
2 Service has been very helpful and cooperative and we're
3 working better with them than we have in the entire
4 history of this project and we appreciate that.

5
6 Just January 16th we had a meeting with
7 the Fish and Wildlife Service to talk about who's going
8 to do what to develop this special rule, get it in
9 place to get the protections we need. We're taking the
10 lead on that, drafting that rule. They're going to
11 then take that, work it over, make sure it complies
12 with their policies, get it published in the Federal
13 Register, et cetera.

14
15 Let me emphasize that this special rule
16 we're talking about is under Section 10(j) of the ESA.
17 In 1982, Congress added that provision to the ESA
18 specifically because in places where the Service had
19 sought to reintroduce endangered species into their
20 historic range, places where they didn't occur
21 presently but was historic range, is our exact
22 situation here, many times land owners and developers
23 would be opposed to those reintroductions because of
24 the potential restrictions through the ESA. So
25 Congress put this provision into the law specifically
26 to provide a mechanism to remove most all those
27 restrictions so that people would be more willing to
28 accept reintroduction of endangered species and help
29 further the cause of the Act.

30
31 So that's what we're pursuing, is a
32 rule under Section 10(j) that will designate wood bison
33 in Alaska as a non-essential experimental population.
34 With that designation it eliminates a lot of the
35 regulatory stuff, consultation with the Fish and
36 Wildlife Service. It specifically prohibits
37 designation of critical habitat and that's an issue
38 that can slow down potentially other resource
39 development. There's several things that this rule can
40 do. Even if wood bison doesn't prosper in Alaska, if
41 they were to decline and eventually disappear, this
42 rule would stay in place, so it provides a permanent
43 protection.

44
45 We have been working with Doyon and
46 hoping that they would accept this rule as providing
47 sufficient protection. This is not Department of Fish
48 and Game at this point putting this information out.
49 This is our work that we're doing in cooperation with
50 Department of Law. We have a special attorney hired to

1 focus just on the Endangered Species Act. We have the
2 Commissioner's office endangered species coordinator.
3 We have the Department of Natural Resources involved
4 and right up to the governor's chief of staff. So
5 everybody is involved in these decisions.
6

7 In January, Doyon produced these two
8 reports, which they gave to the Governor's Office and
9 the Legislature, which alleged that this wood bison
10 restoration program was going to stop oil and gas
11 development. Well, we have put together a paper to
12 respond to those concerns and explained how we're
13 addressing it. This is a summary. I've got copies of
14 our complete report and I believe you were on the email
15 distribution for that. I also have the information
16 Doyon put out because I want you to have access to all
17 sides of this.
18

19 At any rate, we really believe that
20 this regulation, when in place, will resolve these
21 concerns, provide sufficient protection to oil and gas
22 and mineral development. The current situation, we're
23 kind of on hold with the project. We made the
24 commitment that we're not going to release wood bison
25 anywhere until the special rule is developed and until
26 people have a chance to do an objective evaluation of
27 that and hopefully come to the conclusion that
28 sufficient protections are in place.
29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there a
31 time frame on this special rule and what time it would
32 be completed?
33

34 MR. ROGERS: When we met with the Fish
35 and Wildlife Service in January, we laid out a timeline
36 to try to get that completed essentially by December of
37 this year so that we could proceed with the first
38 reintroduction on Minto Flats next March. That was a
39 very ambitious schedule and that would be probably
40 close to a record for developing such a rule, but the
41 Fish and Wildlife Service committed to work with us and
42 try to expedite it and work with their Washington D.C.
43 offices to get that done.
44

45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we have
46 cause to believe that can happen or do we look at more
47 roadblocks?
48

49 MR. ROGERS: My personal thought is we
50 don't want to give up on next spring, but with this

1 controversy -- and we have a commitment to work with
2 the local communities and develop site specific plans
3 for wood bison before we go put them out there and with
4 all the work that we're doing on endangered species I
5 find it very doubtful that we can keep up with that
6 timeline. So I would say more realistically we would
7 be looking at the first reintroduction in the spring of
8 2011. That will allow time to complete this rule, give
9 everybody a chance to fully evaluate it, continue to
10 work with local communities.

11
12 Doyon has come out and said they're
13 adamantly opposed to both Minto Flats and Yukon Flats
14 because of their oil and gas interests. They're less
15 opposed -- and, in fact, if their local communities
16 support it, would be willing to cooperate with wood
17 bison reintroduction on the lower Yukon/Innoko site.

18
19 That's our third choice in terms of the
20 habitat capabilities. The folks down in that area are
21 actually quite enthusiastic and they're more than happy
22 to jump up to the top of the list there.
23 Unfortunately, Doyon has raised enough of an issue
24 about this that they've got people in our Department of
25 Natural Resources concerned and they're not sure that
26 they're willing to go along with the Yukon/Innoko site
27 right now.

28
29 Most recently, our Commissioner of
30 Department of Natural Resources told our Commissioner,
31 and this is with involvement of the Governor's Office,
32 that they're willing to hold tight and work with the
33 Department of Fish and Game to develop this special
34 rule and make sure that we get all the provisions in it
35 that are necessary to protect other resource
36 development.

37
38 So we're basically in a wait and hold
39 mode to see how that works out. You look at all the
40 cases of this in other states where this has been
41 applied with wolves reintroduced to Yellow Stone,
42 black-footed ferrets, many other species. These rules
43 have never been legally challenged or overturned.
44 There's lots of controversy with wolves, but it's not
45 over this special rule. That rule has been upheld.
46 Every legal example that Doyon cited has been refuted
47 by our Department of Law. So we're basically talking
48 about whipping up some hysteria over the ESA.

49
50 Now Doyon has well-founded concerns and

1 they do have a fiduciary duty to develop resources for
2 the benefit of their shareholders and I don't question
3 their motivations there. Really, if people work
4 together, we can find a way to accommodate wood bison
5 and oil and gas. If we get through this special rule
6 and the conclusion is it won't work, the wood bison
7 project is dead. That's basically where we sit.

8
9 In response to a question you asked
10 before the break, the special rule we're developing,
11 once we do the 10(j) rule, then that basically reduces
12 the status of wood bison down to being treated as
13 threatened. As threatened, you can apply a 4(d) rule,
14 which that authorizes the State to take the lead in
15 management of wood bison. In that rule, we're
16 specifically going to put in there the intent to
17 provide for future harvest.

18
19 As was pointed out by Rob Jess, that is
20 part of the State's intent, I mean obviously we want
21 benefits for wildlife viewing and local and non-local
22 harvest and there is a mechanism that we'll provide for
23 that. So we're not disregarding the intent for
24 harvest. We do have the Safari Club working very
25 diligently with this. They've been meeting with Doyon
26 attorneys in Washington D.C. in the last week or so.
27 Senator Begich's office is working on this and hoping
28 to work with Doyon.

29
30 I remain optimistic that eventually we
31 can agree that there's a way to proceed. Maybe it will
32 make sense that we go to the lower Yukon/Innoko first.
33 Whether it is less immediate plans for oil and gas
34 development. We do not want to lose the option to
35 move forward on Minto Flats and Yukon Flats. Yukon
36 Flats, as you all know, has the best habitat probably
37 in North America for wood bison. We've worked with
38 folks on Yukon Flats for over 15 years and we feel a
39 personal obligation to follow through on that site if
40 there's any way we possibly can.

41
42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess what
43 gives me heartburn is how you can work 15 years on a
44 project and then suddenly -- why didn't this come up
45 sooner?

46
47 MR. ROGERS: Well, it has been an
48 evolving issue. Doyon has been consistent in
49 expressing these concerns. It was just a question of
50 when they raised the profile and the visibility of it.

1 We were hopeful that we might be able to work with
2 them. In fact, a week before they had given this
3 report to the governor I contacted their vice president
4 to give them an update on our efforts to develop this
5 special rule and invite them to have their attorneys
6 review it and make sure we provided every provision in
7 there we can to help protect their interest.

8

9 They've basically taken the position so
10 far that just the threat of an endangered species, even
11 if we get rid of all the regulatory requirements.....

12

13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Randy, help me
14 out here. Just the threat. It just cropped up here
15 recently. Just the threat. Are you putting the monkey
16 on the Fish and Wildlife's back for just the threat?

17

18 MR. ROGERS: No, I'm not putting the
19 monkey on anyone's back. There was a change in the
20 view, the legal status, which the Fish and Wildlife
21 Service did, but there was no evil intent behind that.
22 I think initially their interpretation they were trying
23 to help facilitate wood bison and keep the regulatory
24 issues to a minimum. They said there's legal risk
25 here. Maybe they agreed with Doyon to some extent too
26 and they wanted to provide a more solid basis to
27 proceed with wood bison.

28

29 So it's kind of counter-intuitive that
30 bringing it under the ESA actually makes it easier to
31 address the regulatory requirements and minimize
32 restrictions, but as that.....

33

34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It seems weird
35 that these weren't taken and finished prior to bringing
36 bison into Portage. You know what, I'm not going to
37 beat it up. I want to ask the Council, do we have any
38 further questions. What I'm thinking about here after
39 listening to this is maybe we need a support letter to
40 our legislators. I want some input from the Council on
41 that. Go ahead.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. The Hatch
44 Act comes in, so you can write a letter to the
45 Commissioner of Fish and Game. You can write a letter
46 to the Federal Subsistence Board on this issue, but
47 once you go to a senator or representative, then the
48 Hatch Act comes in and you're not allowed to lobby the
49 legislature.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So OSM
2 and.....
3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Obviously it would be
5 best to go to the Federal Subsistence Board and then
6 the Commissioner.
7
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we've
9 already sent letters to them, right?
10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Earlier, but now you have
12 new speed bumps.
13
14 MR. ROGERS: I think it would be
15 particularly helpful to do the Governor's Office and
16 the legislature.
17
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can't do
19 that.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: I'd have to check on
22 that. I know when Western Interior wanted to send a
23 letter to all the State Representatives they were not
24 allowed to because it's considered lobbying.
25
26 MR. ROGERS: The easy route, I think,
27 is just to send it to the Commissioner's Office because
28 we're working to try to make sure that all the
29 information is shared with everybody.
30
31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
32
33 MR. ROGERS: So keep it simple. Don't
34 violate any laws.
35
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: First I have
37 to understand if the Council wants to do that.
38
39 (Council nods affirmatively)
40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're
42 shaking their heads. Now I need a motion. Richard.
43
44 MR. CARROLL: I move that we send a
45 letter of support to the State Commissioner of Fish and
46 Game and support the continued efforts of the
47 Department of Fish and Game to reintroduce wood bison
48 into traditionally occupied areas on those lands.
49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I have a

1 second.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any

6 discussion.

7

8 MR. GURTLER: These bison, would they

9 be on Doyon land in Fish and Wildlife area and the

10 Refuge?

11

12 MR. ROGERS: Through the Chair. The

13 basic plan has been to work with the villages and Yukon

14 Flats in particular. The best sites are at Birch Creek

15 and Beaver. Chalkyitsik and other locations are

16 possible.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The short

19 answer is yes?

20

21 MR. ROGERS: Yes. But they would go

22 first on where we could have access and then as the

23 herd expands they would be on Doyon, Fish and Wildlife

24 Service and potentially all lands. Eventually would be

25 just another species of wildlife, like moose.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the answer

28 is yes.

29

30 MR. ROGERS: Yes.

31

32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Frank.

33

34 MR. GURTLER: Another question. On

35 Refuge lands, then you can't hunt the bison then once

36 you're allowed to hunt it on the Native lands or on

37 State land or how would that work?

38

39 MR. ROGERS: As was indicated in the

40 discussion before, first of all there would be

41 restrictions on hunting until the herd grows enough.

42 Once that happens then we would work with both the

43 State Board of Game initially, but also our idea would

44 be cooperative plans endorsed by both the State Board

45 of Game and Federal Board to manage harvest on both

46 Federal and State lands. There's questions to work out

47 on whether it would be subsistence species or not.

48 What we want to make sure is that regardless of the

49 decisions of the Boards that we make sure that both

50 local people and others get an opportunity to share in

1 benefits of the resource.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Frank, this
4 Council has heard a lot on this. The whole time I've
5 been on this Council and we've always supported it. I
6 think we'll end up with roadblocks again on different
7 things that happened on hunting and all that, but
8 they're looking at many years out before there would be
9 a hunting season. Would you be in favor of sending
10 this letter of support?

11

12 MR. GURTLER: Yes.

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
15 ask -- did I get a second.

16

17 MR. GLANZ: I seconded it.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
20 discussion.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: I was just talking to
23 Richard about it. We ought to make this also to the
24 Federal Subsistence Board, this letter be sent there.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would the
27 maker of the motion agree?

28

29 MR. CARROLL: Oh, yes.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we have two
32 letters go out, one to OSM and one to the Commissioner
33 of our continued support and to work out -- you know, I
34 don't want to complicate the letter, but I think that's
35 important that we work it out through the 10(j) rule.
36 Can you rephrase your motion.

37

38 MR. CARROLL: Without getting technical
39 and bringing up the rules, I would keep it a pretty
40 generic letter of support. The continued efforts.
41 They've got 15 years into this. Let's see it through
42 and we've always held a position of support.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: I concur with that,
45 Richard.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. ROGERS: Just one minor suggestion
50 is to focus on the importance of the areas within your

1 region because the Yukon Flats and Minto Flats are
2 really at risk right now as far as ever proceeding
3 there, so you might emphasize that.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: The record reflects that
8 the mover of the motion agrees with that and I believe
9 the second would agree with that, focusing on areas
10 within your region.

11

12 MR. GLANZ: Right.

13

14 MR. CARROLL: (Nods affirmatively)

15

16 MR. MATHEWS: Again, for everyone, what
17 we're doing here is they're giving me the intent to
18 write this letter and then it's reviewed by the Chair.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
21 discussion. I'm asking for unanimous consent to send
22 the letter.

23

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any

27 opposition.

28

29 (No opposing votes)

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So done.

32 Thank you, Randy.

33

34 MR. ROGERS: Thank you very much. We
35 really appreciate the continued support of the Council.

36

37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. I don't
40 want to back you up, but there is another presentation
41 on wildlife surveys by Caroline Brown. She is here
42 now.

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That'll be
45 fine. Let's call her up.

46

47 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madam Chair and
48 Council members. Thank you for this opportunity. I'll
49 try to keep this pretty brief. My name is Caroline
50 Brown. Most of you know me. I'm the subsistence

1 resource specialist for the Interior for the Alaska
2 Department of Fish and Game, Department of Subsistence.
3

4 To my right is Jamie Vanlanen. We just
5 hired him. He's a new employee at the division. He
6 and I will be working together on a project that I'm
7 going to describe to you today. What I'd like to talk
8 to you about today is cooperative effort between Fish
9 and Game, CATG, Beaver Tribal Council, the Refuge and
10 Fish and Wildlife to update big game surveys in seven
11 communities in the Yukon Flats.

12
13 This project came about as a
14 cooperative effort between all these organizations both
15 in terms of effort and funding. All of those
16 organizations are kicking into the pot to try to make
17 this project happen. In Yukon Flats, we have very
18 little information on a community level of wildlife
19 harvest and use. At a meeting last July that was
20 called by Beaver Tribal Council, we all met to talk
21 about reinstating wildlife surveys in order to get a
22 better handle on community estimates and work together
23 to make that happen and find the money. We all kicked
24 in some money and then we were able to get some
25 additional funds from OSM from the ANILCA 809 project.

26
27 Currently CATG works cooperatively with
28 the Refuge to produce some harvest figures, which are
29 primarily reported harvest right now. So we're going
30 to try to do is work all together to redesign the
31 project so that we're actually producing community
32 estimates, which will be much more useful in a
33 regulatory arena and can be useful also to the
34 community levels on Board issues.

35
36 We worked together throughout the whole
37 project to design it down to the survey and the
38 schedule. The project is slated to begin in April, so
39 next month. Surveys will be kicked off immediately and
40 there will be a final report available this time next
41 year.

42
43 We hope to continue the project for
44 several years in order to produce a time series, which
45 tend to be most useful. All the organizations are
46 committed to find the funds to work cooperatively on
47 this. In terms of who will be conducting the project,
48 what we've initially decided is that in the redesign
49 Fish and Game Staff will work closely with CATG staff
50 and then in coordination with all the other

1 organizations to redesign the project and then
2 hopefully hand it back over to CATG so that they will
3 be the lead on the project and the other organizations
4 will support them financially.

5
6 The idea is to have CATG emerge as the
7 lead on conducting the research and collecting the data
8 and analyzing it. We're also committed to help. So
9 that's the general idea of conducting these surveys and
10 I think it will be useful for any potential intensive
11 planning efforts in the Yukon Flats as well as just
12 filling a great big hole that we have in terms of
13 community estimates of wildlife use.

14
15 I would personally like to recognize
16 the Refuge Staff and Beaver Tribal Council, CATG Staff
17 and OSM for really working hard to get this project
18 going. That's all I have.

19
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
21 Welcome on board.

22
23 Go ahead, Andrew.

24
25 MR. FIRMIN: Are these the same surveys
26 that CATG has been conducting on fish, bears, birds?
27

28 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. Yes.
29 It's sort of. CATG has been conducting a survey
30 project with Refuge help, but mostly what that's been
31 producing is reported harvest because CATG have been
32 working mostly with trying to get a sense of what the
33 reported harvest is by contacting individual hunters
34 and/or fishermen. The idea behind this, those numbers
35 can be useful, but community estimates are far more
36 useful, so the idea behind this project was to
37 transform that project into a project that will
38 actually produce community estimates. The primary
39 differences are that I believe right now CATG staff
40 conducts that survey quarterly.

41
42 What we will be doing is once a year.
43 It will be primarily big game; moose, caribou, black
44 bear, brown bear, wolves, two trapping species. Birds
45 are covered under the migratory bird survey. Fish are
46 under the Fish and Game post-season survey. The same
47 coverage is going to happen, but we're going to try to
48 make it in a one-year collection effort that will
49 produce community estimates for the seven communities,
50 excluding Arctic Village.

1 MR. FIRMIN: Are they anonymous
2 surveys? I know some people are scared to put their
3 name down to what they actually do.

4
5 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. That's
6 a great question. They are confidential surveys. The
7 only identifying thing it has on there is a household
8 number and that is attached to a name in one place on a
9 tracking sheet. We work with tribes all the time to
10 determine who has that tracking sheet so it can stay
11 confidential. Results are reported on a community
12 level only.

13
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
15 Richard.

16
17 MR. CARROLL: It's a real good project.
18 I commend you. It's very important. Something that I
19 brought up a few years ago with the oil and gas
20 development and the impact it might eventually have,
21 good or bad. At least we'll have some baseline
22 information.

23
24 A little tidbit here. The Canadian
25 village of Old Crow, you know they're allocated or
26 they've proven that they need 5,000 caribou a year.
27 Think about it. So it will be surprising just what the
28 need is. This will prove that there is a need for
29 greater management. I want to thank you, Caroline, and
30 welcome aboard, Jamie.

31
32 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. One
33 last comment I'd like to add is that with all these
34 organizations cooperating together both in terms of
35 effort and funding, the thing that we're going to try
36 to do on top of this survey effort is sort of an
37 ethnographic study of primarily moose hunting in the
38 Yukon Flats. One of the things that we're hoping to
39 catch there or really capture is a good description
40 from local communities about their experience with big
41 game over their hunting lifetimes such that we can
42 capture concerns about populations, about resource
43 populations, animal populations that a one-year survey
44 cannot capture. So we're going to really try to
45 augment that and have a good full description of those
46 kinds of things from a local perspective.

47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm glad you
49 said that because I was going to ask that. That's
50 really important.

1 Go ahead.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: I was wondering if you
4 could educate me a little bit. Do the people in the
5 Fort Yukon, Beaver, Birch Creek area traditionally eat
6 black bear?

7

8 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. That
9 might actually be a better question for Paul Williams.
10 I don't usually like to speak for local folks and what
11 they do or don't do in a particular area. I, myself,
12 am not as familiar, but there are people who can answer
13 that in a better educated fashion than I can.

14

15 MR. BASSICH: Paul, can you educate us
16 on that.

17

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Madam Chair. Council
19 members. Paul Williams from Beaver. During this
20 morning I said the way we did it a long time ago, but
21 you can't do it today. As far as people eating black
22 bear, they do that all over. We have certain beliefs
23 which is kind of religious that does not allow certain
24 people to harvest bears. This is kind of a unique
25 situation. But most people do eat black bear,
26 including folks from Salmon Village and Chalkyitsik,
27 Fort Yukon, Circle, Beaver and downriver from there.

28

29 One of the things I'd like to point out
30 is that people live in their old ways, like myself.
31 I'm 72 years old and I remember how we lived a long
32 time ago. My next generation behind me live that way
33 too. They grow up shooters, but they don't have no
34 permit in their pocket. The uncle, who's steering the
35 boat, got the permit and he's shooting for his uncle.
36 Now it says in the print that the shooter has to have a
37 permit too. There is a clash between our way of life
38 and the laws they make down in Juneau. I just want to
39 point that out. So black bears are widely eaten and so
40 is brown bear.

41

42 I'd like to point out long time ago
43 when I was young food was kind of hard to get.
44 Sometimes you're forced to eat food you're not supposed
45 to, but we'd do it anyway. Thank you, Madam Chair.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Paul. It just
48 seems as a part of the educational process that you
49 described earlier in the Refuge taking place in the
50 communities it might be something to encourage people

1 to do if it's not a spiritual or religious taboo to
2 them to focus on black bear. I know in our region some
3 of the Native people have that belief and do not
4 partake, but there are others in the community that do.

5

6

7 Thank you for your comments. I
8 appreciate it.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: My observation
11 would be to add that to the survey as how many people
12 are utilizing bear meat for food.

13

14 MS. BROWN: Through the Chair. That is
15 actually on the survey. We collect information about
16 harvest and we also collect information about numbers
17 and location and whether or not bear meat is shared and
18 how the different parts of the bear are used.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

25

26 MS. BROWN: Thank you.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince, you
29 have your finger on the trigger.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: I'm just getting you back
32 on schedule here. The next thing would be closure
33 reviews, which is on Page 43, which Pete DeMatteo would
34 talk about. Pete, are you still here.

35

36 MR. DEMATTEO: I'm still here.

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pete, go
39 ahead.

40

41 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair and Members
42 of the Council. This is Pete DeMatteo with the Office
43 of Subsistence Management. If you turn your Council
44 books to Page 38, you'll see the wildlife closure
45 review briefing. I'll say as called for in the closure
46 policy, the Office of Subsistence Management is
47 reviewing existing wildlife closures to determine
48 whether the original justifications for the closures
49 continue to apply. These reviews are being conducted
50 in accordance with guidance found in the Federal

1 Subsistence Board s Policy on Closures to Hunting,
2 Trapping and Fishing on Federal Public Lands and Waters
3 in Alaska, which was adopted in 2007. According to the
4 policy, existing closures will be reviewed on a
5 three-year rotational schedule. All of the closures
6 being reviewed this cycle were last reviewed by the
7 Federal Subsistence Board in 2006.

8
9 Section .815(3) of ANILCA allows
10 closures when necessary for the conservation of healthy
11 populations of fish and wildlife, and to continue
12 subsistence uses of such populations.

13
14 Councils are asked to consider the OSM
15 preliminary recommendation and share their views on the
16 issue. Input from the Councils is critical to the
17 development of regulatory proposals needed to address
18 adjustments to regulations. Any regulatory proposals
19 that may result from this review process will be
20 considered through the normal regulatory cycle. The
21 current window for wildlife proposals closes on April
22 30, 2009. Councils may choose to work with OSM Staff to
23 develop a proposal; however, proposals addressing these
24 issues can be submitted by anyone.

25
26 Madam Chair, I'll stop there and see if
27 there are any questions.

28
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear any
30 questions at this time. Andy.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Pete, just a
33 point of clarification on the second paragraph.
34 There's a sentence that says, Unit 2 deer closure was
35 adopted because rural residents provided substantial
36 evidence that they were unable to meet their
37 subsistence needs because of competition from other
38 users of the resource. Did they fully close the deer
39 hunt for both rural and nonrural residents in that
40 situation or was that a situation where they closed it
41 to nonrural residents?

42
43 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair. Andy.
44 This is just one example. You asked a question of
45 something I'm not familiar with that's out of my area.
46 There might be other Staff that can answer that for
47 you.

48
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Someone is
50 standing up that knows the answer to that.

1 MR. CASIPIT: Thank you, Madam Chair.
2 My name is Calvin Casipit. I'm with the Forest
3 Service. I'm the acting InterAgency Staff Committee
4 member. Yes, Unit 2 is in with the Federal public
5 lands. It's Tongass National Forest. I'm pretty
6 familiar with the issue. Actually, the action that was
7 taken there was several different things. One, there
8 was a closure to Federally non-qualified users for a
9 portion of Unit 2 that was important to the rural users
10 in Unit 2. There were other areas of Unit 2 that were
11 not closed to non-Federally qualified users, areas that
12 were important to non-qualified users in Ketchikan
13 basically. There was also at the same time an early
14 season that was put into Federal regulations that was
15 basically a one-week head start for Federally qualified
16 users on Prince of Wales Island for a portion of Unit
17 2. There was a bunch of things happening at the same
18 time.

19
20 It was a long process to get there.
21 There was a special committee, subcommittee of the
22 Southeast Regional Advisory Council. They operated for
23 about a year and a half to come up with these
24 compromises that's in the regs right now.

25
26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And all the
27 users were involved?

28
29 MR. CASIPIT: All the users, the State
30 Fish and Game, Forest Service. It was a big task and I
31 thought it was a very successful process. It worked
32 really well. It's taken away a lot of controversy on
33 Unit 2 deer.

34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Something we
36 might have to consider when we come up with similar
37 issues here. Any other questions to Pete.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.
42 Are there some other things that Pete is going to go
43 over with us.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair. He's
46 going to take up a closure review that you need to be
47 aware of.

48
49 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair. Vince.
50 Before we go to that, Pages 39 through 42 is a copy of

1 the actual board's policy on closures. The hunting,
2 trapping and fishing on Federal public lands and waters
3 of Alaska. In short, we call this the Board's closure
4 policy. You can see it was adopted in August of 2007.

5
6 For time constraints, I'm not going to
7 read it line by line, but hitting the highlights.
8 Decision-making process. If the Board is going to
9 establish a closure or eliminate a closure, the Board
10 wants the Council's recommendation before it makes a
11 regulatory action. We'll see this today as we go
12 through a closure review that I'm going to cover next.

13
14 If you flip the page to Page 43 of your
15 Council books you'll see Federal Wildlife Closure
16 Review WCR08-22. This was written in January of this
17 year and affects your region. The closure review deals
18 with Unit 25D west and it deals with moose and the
19 current Federal regulation for Unit 25D west, season
20 August 25 to February 28. If you look on Page 43,
21 halfway down the page in italics, the third paragraph
22 there, the closure is listed as moose hunting on
23 Federal public land in Unit 25D West is
24 closed at all times except for residents of Unit 25D
25 West during seasons identified above. The three
26 villages of 25D West, which are Beaver, Birch Creek and
27 Stevens Village, have a priority there.

28
29 Looking further down the page under
30 current State regulations, the State regulations are
31 for residents one bull by Tier II permit with the same
32 season as the Federal season, August 25 through
33 February 28th and there was no non-resident season.
34 This closure was put in place by the Federal Board for
35 the 1993-1994 regulatory year. The proposal that the
36 Board took action on to close this area was P93-60.
37 The closure was last reviewed by the Eastern Interior
38 Council in 2006, three years ago.

39
40 Unit 25D West moose population back in
41 1993 when the closure was first established was low
42 numbers and low densities. Because of this, in '93,
43 the Federal Board, along with the Alaska Board of Game,
44 adopted a combined quota of 30 antlered bulls for the
45 communities of Beaver, Birch Creek and Stevens Village.
46 This was done under a community permit and allocation
47 system. Since then that quota has been increased to 60
48 bulls. The priority served to allow for traditional
49 community harvest of moose and to ensure that residents
50 of the three villages could obtain a Federal permit

1 should they have failed to obtain a State Tier II
2 permit.
3 Keep in mind the State Tier II permits are applied for
4 and awarded to other residents of the state.

5
6 Again, the density of moose in the
7 Western Yukon Flats, Unit 25D West at this time in 2009
8 remain low and also low density. The affected
9 population has seen declines since 1995. More
10 recently, results from a 2008 moose population survey
11 reflect a 57 percent decline in total moose since that
12 was seen in the 1999 survey.

13
14 The reported harvest for the three
15 communities that I mentioned has shown some
16 fluctuations during the 1993-94 to 2002-2003 regulatory
17 years, but has not reached the harvest quota of the 60
18 moose that are allocated for the three villages.

19
20 If you turn to Page 45 in your books
21 there's a very small table, Table 1. You can see the
22 harvest by the three villages from 2003 to 2007. It's
23 nowhere near the 60 moose allocation.

24
25 Madam Chair, I think Staff feels
26 strongly it's important to point out to the Council
27 that the State and the Federal permit system, the
28 number of State and Federal permits and the combined
29 State/Federal harvest quota of 60 bull moose, are the
30 end results of 15 years of a co-management effort
31 between the State and Federal Boards, ADF&G, FWS,
32 Interior Regional Fish and Game Advisory Committee,
33 Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Eastern
34 Interior Advisory Council, and local residents. Leaving
35 the closure in place in conjunction with the community
36 harvest management system allows for the continued
37 cooperative management necessary to reduce antlerless
38 moose harvest and to improve harvest reporting. These
39 cooperative efforts are crucial to meeting the existing
40 management objectives and local subsistence needs.

41
42 Madam Chair. With that, the Office of
43 Subsistence Management's recommendation is to maintain
44 the status quo to retain the existing closure. With
45 that, I'll stop there and answer any questions the
46 Council may have.

47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pete, I have a
49 quick question. This needs to be taken up at this
50 meeting, correct, and it doesn't come up again with

1 wildlife next meeting.

2

3 MR. DEMATTEO: Yes, this is your
4 opportunity to talk about this at this meeting and make
5 a recommendation to the Board to either retain the
6 existing closure or do you see some reason from the
7 information before you to eliminate the closure. The
8 Board does want the opinion of the Council, yes.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
11 members.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to maintain the
14 closure.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: Seconded.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discussion.
19 Virgil.

20

21 MR. UMPHENOUR: If you look at Page 46
22 and you see what the population has done, over the last
23 10 years it went from 862 to 490. That does not
24 justify liberalizing the harvest of the moose. Madam
25 Chair.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More
28 discussion.

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 MR. BASSICH: Question.

33

34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
35 has been called for. All in favor.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
40 opposed.

41

42 (No opposing votes)

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The motion
45 passes unanimously. Pete, before you go on, I was just
46 curious, on that closure policy are you also looking
47 for us to do an action.

48

49 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair. The answer
50 to that is no. The closure policy was just provided

1 today as an informational.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Are you
4 up next for Federal Subsistence Board call for
5 proposals?

6

7 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair. No, I'm
8 not.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a new
11 procedure for submitting the proposals.

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair. There
14 is a new procedure for submitting it. If you look at
15 Page 47. Basically it goes through there and there's
16 some government-wide requirements on rule-making
17 procedures that have recently changed. Basically we're
18 now part of the big Department of Interior on this. OSM
19 has worked closely with the policy and management
20 directives and developed a process that would keep our
21 program in compliance.

22

23 We've been granted a special permission
24 to accept comments to our proposed rules and
25 subsistence proposals by the following methods.
26 Really, it's not much change to you guys, but I'll just
27 cover that for the record.

28

29 The Federal erulemaking Portal is
30 listed there, so you could go through that, U.S. mail
31 or hand-delivery to USFWS, and then hand delivery to
32 me, the Designated Federal Official. So nothing
33 really has changed.

34

35 We used to be lenient on the due dates.
36 Say it was April 1st. We may accept them till after
37 that time. I think that's only on public comments that
38 that has changed on the proposed rule. When the
39 proposed rule is out, which says all the regulations
40 are up, when it says April 1st, it must be in on April
41 1st.

42

43 With that, there's enough Staff
44 Committee people if I didn't cover it correctly. It's
45 just to give you an idea that we're now part of a
46 bigger system.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If it doesn't
49 change what we're doing, I don't know that we need to
50 get into it. Any questions.

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Now we have
4 the call for wildlife proposals for 2010/2012. And
5 then looking over this do we -- and can I get a
6 timeline on that, when must they be in and evaluated.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: I'll cover when they are
9 due and Pete can cover the timeline on analysis. But
10 proposals due for wildlife program for Federal
11 Subsistence Program is April 30th.

12

13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Of this year.

14

15 MR. MATHEWS: Of this year, correct.
16 They can go over the timeline, but there may be some
17 additional questions on the timing of that. I'll turn
18 it over to Pete DeMatteo or Pete Probasco.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
21 we need that. I just wanted to know when the deadlines
22 for proposals are. I'm going to ask the Council if
23 anyone has any proposals for the next wildlife cycle.
24 Bill.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: I have a proposal and it
27 all came about when we were looking if it was okay to
28 hunt on Federal mining claims. We noticed on 25C south
29 bank of the Yukon River is not open for hunting during
30 subsistence season on 25B, which is part of Yukon
31 Charley.

32

33 I'd like to make the proposal that 25C
34 Federal lands on 25C run at the same seasons as 20E and
35 25B.

36

37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have
38 the dates?

39

40 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I do have. At the
41 present time you can hunt moose on Federal grounds in
42 25C September 1st to September 15th. 20E you can hunt
43 moose August 20th to September 30th. I'd like to make
44 those seasons in 25C commingle with the same dates as
45 25B and 20E.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's simple.
48 You're going to take 25C and extend the season August
49 20 to September 30.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: The same season as Yukon
2 Charley has.
3
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's like a
5 justification.
6
7 MR. GLANZ: Right. What happens there
8 is we're all subsistence qualified on 25C, but there's
9 no Federal grounds on 25C that allows us to hunt until
10 September 5th to 15th. If you really like seeing
11 thousands of GI's and everybody from the big cities up
12 there, you have a really enjoyable hunt. So what I'm
13 trying to do is get where the subsistence people can
14 get a subsistence hunt out of this. I was talking with
15 Ruth Gronquist in doing the surveys and the moose
16 population is up there enough to sustain those
17 harvestable dates and times.
18
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I have a
20 motion.
21
22 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make a motion
23 of that, yes.
24
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
26 second.
27
28 MR. GURTLER: I'll second.
29
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More
31 discussion. Andy.
32
33 MR. BASSICH: Bill, if you were to
34 bring that in alignment under 25B, they have a December
35 1st through 10th hunt. Are you including that in as
36 well?
37
38 MR. GLANZ: We have no winter moose
39 hunt for 25C at the present time.
40
41 MR. BASSICH: Right. That's what I'm
42 asking, is if this proposal is asking to open up that
43 winter hunt for you.
44
45 MR. GLANZ: No, I don't think so. I
46 would just say no at this time.
47
48 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the

1 proposal is August 20 to September 30 in 25C.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Somebody stole my map.

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hate when
6 that happens.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: Here it is. Yes, that's
9 it. You'll notice on the map there's a tremendous
10 amount of 25C that we cannot even hunt there until
11 September 1st. Whereas in north bank and all of 20E we
12 can hunt that from August 22nd on. And part of this is
13 the Wild and Scenic River, which encompasses a great
14 amount of acreage around our area and other Federal
15 areas.

16

17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So 25C
18 includes that Steese National Conservation area.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: And Wild and Scenic River.

21

22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the
23 boundary is that also 25C, the White Mountains.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: No, not the White
26 Mountains. Here comes Ruth. Yes, it does take in that
27 site. I'm sorry.

28

29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the
30 Federal lands.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, and the Steese White
33 Mountains. Yes.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Ruth, you
36 might as well hang out for a second. Maybe I should
37 ask you a quick question. Do you see a conservation
38 issue?

39

40 MS. GRONQUIST: Madam Chair. Council.
41 I'm Ruth Gronquist with BLM wildlife biologist for the
42 Eastern Interior field office. Bill and I have talked
43 about this and I don't see anything at this point that
44 is an obvious concern.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
47 discussion.

48

49 MR. CARROLL: And this is just
50 pertaining to moose.

1 MR. GLANZ: The caribou season they
2 already allow us one month ahead of the influx of
3 general hunters. Some of the moose hunting is limited
4 to Dot Lake and Circle, Central. Different
5 communities. I'd have to look it up.
6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dot Lake is
8 25C?
9
10 MR. GLANZ: No, but Dot Lake is part of
11 the qualifier for moose hunting in the Yukon Charley.
12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Okay.
14
15 MR. GLANZ: So they'd be also qualified
16 through any Federal as far as I can see.
17
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More
19 discussion.
20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
22
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor
24 of putting this motion to the Federal Board say aye.
25
26 IN UNISON: Aye.
27
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.
29
30 (No opposing votes)
31
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
33
34 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.
35
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
37 proposals under wildlife. Go ahead.
38
39 MS. PUTERA: Madam Chair. Members of
40 the Council. My name is Judy Putera and I'm a wildlife
41 biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. I was
42 going to present some information later under agency
43 reports, but I think this might be a better time to do
44 that in regards to the Chisana Caribou Herd.
45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
47 ahead.
48
49 MS. PUTERA: Can I give you a handout.
50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure. Go
2 ahead.

3
4 MS. PUTERA: Just a little background
5 for those who may not be up to speed, but the Chisana
6 Caribou Herd has not been harvested since probably 1994
7 due to low population numbers. They reside primarily
8 in Game Management Unit 12 and it's a small herd within
9 the preserve of Wrangell-St. Elias and also crosses the
10 border into the Yukon. I think primarily winters in
11 the Yukon. So it's a transboundary species.

12
13 I believe last cycle there was a
14 proposal before the Board of Game to open up the
15 harvest to the Chisana Caribou Herd and I believe at
16 that time it was denied with the hopes that the
17 responsible agencies would get together and develop a
18 herd management plan. So basically that did happen
19 last month in Tok. Several agency representatives
20 including myself met to start this management planning
21 effort. Part of the discussion was the fact that we
22 feel the herd is beginning to stabilize enough to the
23 point that it could sustain a small harvest in the near
24 future.

25
26 I'm not personally proposing a
27 proposal, but I wanted to make this information
28 available to you all. The group would want to see
29 certain population parameters, such as a minimum
30 bull/cow ratio and possibly calf/cow ratio sustained
31 for a number of years and we haven't decided all the
32 specifics on that before the group would recommend a
33 harvest.

34
35 This plan should be available for
36 public review probably late spring, early summer this
37 year. What I'm bringing to you today is that a
38 proposal to open the harvest may be coming up again to
39 the Board of Game and I just want to let you know that.
40 If the Federal side of things would want to think about
41 a proposal to coincide with whatever might come up
42 before the Board of Game.

43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have a
45 copy of their proposal?

46
47 MS. PUTERA: I don't.

48
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did they put
50 forward a proposal?

1 MS. PUTERA: There was one a couple
2 years ago. I'm fairly new to the region, so I wasn't
3 involved in that. I don't know if anybody remembers
4 that.

5
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I go to that
7 advisory committee. My husband and son are on that
8 committee.

9
10 MS. PUTERA: I can't imagine that it
11 wouldn't come up again. With the management plan
12 coming out, it might recommend a limited harvest. I
13 just wanted to make this known to the Council. I'll be
14 bringing this up at the local SRC meeting next week and
15 at our government-to-government meetings later in the
16 month.

17
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you say
19 you met with the advisory committee there or the
20 advisory group was part of it that you met in Tok?

21
22 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, this group consists
23 of biologists from the agencies that are responsible
24 for managing the herd. It hasn't gone anywhere. This
25 is an internal kind of management plan that we're
26 developing.

27
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it's not
29 complete.

30
31 MS. PUTERA: It's not complete. That's
32 right. We just met in February. We'll be reviewing it
33 probably later this month. I just wanted to give you a
34 heads up.

35
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's real
37 close to my home and family and people in the Tok area
38 are interested in that. I'll tell you as a Council
39 what had occurred at the advisory committee was there
40 was a long discussion about how they would open that
41 season and they found out that the historic use of the
42 herd was guides, 50 percent. It became what do you do
43 to make it fair. I think for us to put forth a
44 proposal might be premature.

45
46 Did you have something to add, Virgil.

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a couple
49 questions based on this report. These are the Woodland
50 Caribou, correct?

1 MS. PUTERA: I think right now, based
2 on genetics, that is what is decided right now. I
3 think it's still a little bit up in the air from what I
4 understand. I have to apologize. I'm not quite up to
5 speed on it. I think there's still some discussion
6 going on about that.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, thank you. From
9 looking at Table 2, it appears in 2006 was the last
10 year they had to catch the pregnant cow program and
11 release them after the calf is a month old or whatever
12 it was.

13
14 MS. PUTERA: That's correct. I know it
15 was 2003 to 2005. This wasn't my table. Those were
16 the captive rearing years, so you do see a bit of an
17 increase in the cow/calf ratio.

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: I see the calf to cow
20 ratio dropped way off in 2007. What's interesting to
21 me and I just want to ask if there's any explanation
22 for it, is why the sex ratio and the calves, why
23 there's so many more males and females in the five
24 years that shows it. When I first looked at it, I
25 thought it was percent. I guess there's more females
26 than male calves. Explain that better so I understand
27 it, please.

28
29 MS. PUTERA: I believe you're correct
30 in what you just said. It's a ratio.

31
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Per 100
33 calves.

34
35 MS. PUTERA: Per 100 females. Sorry.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Virgil, the way I
38 interpret that is for every 100 females calves there
39 would be 59 male calves and it moves down the page like
40 that. The next year for every 100 it would be 94
41 males. Is that correct?

42
43 MS. PUTERA: Yes.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I
46 understand it better now. That's all I have, Madam
47 Chair.

48
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One of the
50 things I think I heard at the advisory committee later

1 that I need to ask the Park Service. The Park Service
2 went to the State Board and said some things about you
3 wanted to talk to local subsistence people before you
4 would allow an opening.

5
6 MS. PUTERA: I wasn't around at that
7 time, but my understanding is that -- I mean that could
8 be true. My understanding we just at that time weren't
9 sure what the herd was going to do. We wanted to have
10 a management plan in place before we would open up any
11 harvest.

12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the
14 position of the Park Service right now. You want a
15 management plan in place before a harvest.

16
17 MS. PUTERA: I think all the agencies
18 are on the same page with that.

19
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you going
21 to have more of a report on anything else or is this
22 it?

23
24 MS. PUTERA: For our agency report,
25 I'll have a report on the ORV EIS.

26
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you want
28 to do that now or later.

29
30 MS. PUTERA: It's up to you guys.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Let's take a break.

33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're going to
35 take a break.

36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: It's 12:00.

38
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Lunchtime
40 break. We'll take a break. If it's okay with you, can
41 you go under your regular schedule.

42
43 MS. PUTERA: Sure.

44
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: An hour.
46 1:00.

47
48 (Off record)

49
50 (On record)

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: While Vince is
2 gathering signatures, we'll call it back to order.
3 Okay. The next thing on the agenda is -- unless anyone
4 had any wildlife proposals they come up with at lunch,
5 I will report to you guys the Wrangell-St.Elias
6 Subsistence Resource Commission meets next week and we
7 might be talking about putting something forward, so we
8 can talk about it when it comes out.

9
10 Now it's Board of Game proposals.
11 Vince, you said December 1st is when the call for the
12 Board of Game proposals.

13
14 MR. MATHEWS: I met with Fish and Game
15 Staff and they said it's after your fall meeting and
16 they said it would probably be in December would be the
17 call. The one you have listed on here is from your
18 last meeting that you wanted a draft proposal on black
19 bear as furbearers, so we have Staff ready to assist
20 you with that or, like you mentioned, it could wait
21 until the next meeting.

22
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the
24 wishes of the Council. For the new members, at a
25 meeting last spring a year ago the locals brought up
26 this topic and we voted. There was only six RAC
27 members there, but we voted to support this. So it
28 would be just putting forth a proposal to the Board of
29 Game to reclassify black bears as furbearer. Do you
30 want to do it right now?

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. Is that a
33 statewide proposal?

34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a good
36 question.

37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)

39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was for the
41 Eastern Interior. I'd have to look back. Do you
42 remember, Vince?

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: What was the question?

45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Statewide or
47 for our.....

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: That's what I'm looking
50 up. Maybe Pete knows while I'm looking. I believe it

1 is as a statewide component and I don't know the due
2 dates on that. Pete, would you know?

3

4 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair. Vince. I
5 believe it is for the statewide, but I'm not totally
6 certain. If you can give Staff a second to research
7 this, I can get back to you.

8

9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I guess my
12 thoughts on this is it would probably carry more clout
13 from the Eastern RAC if it was to deal with the units
14 in our area. It seems like.....

15

16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is Board
17 of Game now.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: I know. But it's still
20 our region. What I assume we're trying to do is
21 encourage harvest of black bears due to the predation
22 on moose populations in our region that we're dealing
23 with. I would make the recommendation that we limit it
24 to 25A, B, C, Unit 20 and possibly into Unit 12. What
25 I hear most of the comments there's a couple of
26 particular areas in 20E and 25 that we're having
27 difficulties with predation on moose. I would feel
28 much more comfortable.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For our three
31 units then?

32

33 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually we
36 have 12.....

37

38 MR. BASSICH: Mainly 20, 25 and
39 possibly unit 12. I can't remember hearing a lot of
40 concerns about black bear predation on moose in 12.

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we
43 have it too. It's just not as visible.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: So I would make that
46 recommendation to the Council.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need to ask
49 Staff. When you talked to Christy, was that the
50 statewide -- see, there's a statewide Board meeting and

1 then there's -- what's the region that they have for
2 the Interior, Region 3?

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: Interior is Region 3.
5 As Vince said, normally the call for proposals -- it's
6 every other year, of course, for Board of Game, but
7 it's normally the first week or so of December is when
8 the proposals have to be submitted by.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But if
11 they had a statewide, it would be a different call I
12 would think.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. If it's
15 statewide, the statewide meeting is usually in January,
16 so the call would be probably in the first part of
17 November, I imagine. I agree with Andy. I think we
18 should stick with our region.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
21 guess I'd have to entertain a motion. Virgil.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to address this
24 at our fall meeting.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
27 second.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other
32 discussion on it.

33

34 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair.

35

36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: I think if we're going to
39 make this proposal we need to show our reasons
40 obviously for this proposal and I think it would be
41 prudent to ask for staff to provide us with data on
42 bear predation and moose density populations in our
43 region at that time when we're going to discuss it so
44 that we can support this proposal with biological data.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we're take
47 it up at our next meeting. Do I have a consensus from
48 the committee to take it up at the next meeting.

49

50 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

1 (Council nods affirmatively)

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there any
4 other proposals that anyone wanted to submit to the
5 Board of Game.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm not
10 hearing. Okay, we're going to move on. Now we're into
11 Office of Subsistence Management. There's some
12 informational stuff in our book. A, Memorandum of
13 Understanding, page 48. I'm going to talk about that
14 slightly because this is something I learned at the
15 Federal Board meeting, unless Pete wants to speak to
16 it.

17

18 MR. PROBASCO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
19 I think everybody, with the exception of maybe some of
20 our newer Council members, is familiar that for quite a
21 while, since the Federal program has been in place,
22 we've been working with the State under a memorandum of
23 agreement at that time that was initialed. It wasn't
24 signed by the commissioners or the Board chairs from
25 the Board of Fish, Board of Game or the directors.

26

27 As directed by both the Commissioner of
28 Fish and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board, myself
29 and my State counterpart was charged with trying to
30 reach towards a signed document and that became the
31 Memorandum of Understanding. It was through a process
32 that probably spanned about a year and a half that we
33 finally got to this point. We have a Memorandum of
34 Understanding with the State that's signed. It clearly
35 lays out how the two respective entities will work
36 together. It encapsulates the importance of the
37 Regional Advisory Council's in our process and makes
38 that very clear on how we do business when we deal with
39 proposals. This document was sent out prior to being
40 signed as an informational document to all Council
41 members and then it was signed in December of 2008.

42

43 So, Madam Chair, unless there's some
44 specific questions or comments, I have a more detailed
45 presentation, but I know your time is getting short
46 here. Wishes of the Board.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want to
49 add to that how important this is through the process
50 of trying to make it easier on the user and it's really

1 nice to see that because sometimes at the Federal
2 Subsistence Board meeting I'm attending that the State
3 had so many proposals before the Board that could have
4 been taken care of prior to by using this Memorandum of
5 Understanding, so I think it will simplify a lot of the
6 work that the Federal Board does and I really applaud
7 that.

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: I think one important
10 fact I want to point out is that this is a living
11 document and if there is issues that come to light
12 working under this memorandum of understanding it can
13 -- proposed changes can be made to the Board and the
14 Board and the State have agreed they will review these
15 on an annual basis. So it's a living document. It's
16 going to continue to evolve as we work through our
17 processes.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Pete.

24 This Chistochina case, is there anything we need to
25 cover on that besides us reading?

26

27 MR. PROBASCO: There's a lot of
28 questions around the Chistochina case. I think the key
29 is that now that this case has been finalized, the key
30 is that within the Chistochina decision nothing will
31 change because of that decision on how we do business
32 dealing with C&T determinations. In other words, the
33 courts upheld the process that Regional Advisory
34 Councils and the Board use to make those
35 determinations. So that part of the case was very
36 important because we were uncertain because of this
37 long, drawn-out court case if we were on solid ground
38 and we found out that we were.

39

40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pete, it was
41 my understanding if it did anything it made the work
42 that the OSM does to be more precise.

43

44 MR. PROBASCO: From the State's
45 perspective, how they deal with customary and
46 traditional use versus the Federal, the State has a
47 much more rigid process where they look at the criteria
48 and they evaluate it individually on each criteria.
49 Our process looks at holistic. We don't have to meet
50 all eight to make a C&T. It's how we look at how the

1 eight apply to the user.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

4 All right. We'll move along here. Thanks again.

5 Tracking bear claws. I believe we'll have you address

6 that, Pete.

7

8 MR. PROBASCO: I'm going to bring Liz

9 up on this.

10

11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

12

13 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

14 Members of the Council. The State of Alaska over

15 several years has submitted proposals to rescind the

16 bear claw handicraft regulation. We discussed the most

17 recent one at our spring 2008 meeting. The Federal

18 Subsistence Board tabled that because the State

19 requested that we form a working group on tracking bear

20 claws.

21

22 The working group finally met in

23 January of this year and they sort of set out the

24 parameters of what they're going to look at, what

25 they're going to agree on. Nothing was decided yet,

26 but just that that's all we're going to talk about is a

27 tracking mechanism and the Board would like a

28 representative from several Councils, including this

29 one, to participate in that working group. We're only

30 talking about brown bear claws and the State's

31 proposals have changed over the years, but this most

32 recent one that the Board tabled is stopping the trade

33 or the sale of bear claws to non-rural residents, so

34 people wouldn't be able to sell them to a whole market,

35 just locally. So that was one way the State wanted to

36 start tracking the sales.

37

38 Our law enforcement people say that

39 it's just not a problem in their eyes, but the State is

40 concerned about CITES, the Convention on International

41 Trade of Endangered Species. That trade is mostly

42 gallbladders and paws, not including the claws, and

43 that's for the Asian medicinal market.

44

45 So that's some of their concerns and

46 that's not really applicable here, so that's why we

47 have had this disagreement. But as of now there is a

48 working group and we would like Council members to

49 participate.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Council
2 members. This is where I'll volunteer.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Just a question. What
5 are the time frames for this and what's involved? Are
6 you doing it via teleconference or face to face or
7 what's the process?

8
9 MS. WILLIAMS: That hasn't been
10 determined yet, but I'm sure we could do it by
11 teleconference. Face to face, of course, is always
12 better, but it's usually not possible. We haven't
13 followed up yet with the State about the date because
14 we're going through the Council cycle to try to
15 identify Council members and then once we do that we'll
16 set a time for another meeting.

17
18 MR. PROBASCO: I'll just add to what
19 Liz said. If a Council member wants to participate and
20 is unable to travel for whatever reason, even though it
21 is a face to face meeting, we'd make arrangements so
22 you could teleconference in.

23
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
25 something, Virgil?

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a question.

28
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is only going to
32 be for brown bear/grizzly bear claws or black bear
33 included?

34
35 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm having a fuzzy
36 memory because it was last fall, but it was pretty much
37 the State's iteration was brown bear.

38
39 MR. PROBASCO: Slash grizzly.

40
41 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah, brown/grizzly,
42 both.

43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's only
45 three of the RACs that -- did the other one pass it at
46 Seward Pen, so there's four now?

47
48 MS. WILLIAMS: Southcentral did not
49 pass it, but Seward Pen and then.....

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Southeast.
2
3 MS. WILLIAMS:North Slope. Is
4 that the one, North Slope, that has Anaktuvuk Pass?
5 Yeah, that was the one. Those two.
6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were added?
8
9 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah.
10
11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So there's
12 five now out of 10.
13
14 MS. WILLIAMS: Yeah. That have opted
15 to. And Southcentral specifically opted not to.
16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How many
18 people from each RAC are you looking at?
19
20 MS. WILLIAMS: Just one. One is best.
21
22 MR. PROBASCO: One and no more than two
23 because of budget.
24
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Unless
26 somebody wanted to teleconference, Pete?
27
28 MR. PROBASCO: Right.
29
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
31 interested in being a part of this? You're interested?
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)
34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
36 would probably volunteer and maybe be willing to
37 travel. If I couldn't, maybe Virgil could. Everybody
38 in agreement to that? Okay. Thank you.
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. Then you
41 would be traveling to it and then Virgil would be by
42 teleconference, is that the outcome?
43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the
45 first priority, yes. Yes, Frank.
46
47 MR. GURTLER: This bear claws, is that
48 a problem with having bear claws made into a necklace
49 or whatever?
50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It isn't right
2 now. What we need to do is get you a copy of that bear
3 claw handout. It will help you to understand what's
4 legal.

5
6 MR. GURTLER: What I'm wondering, is
7 that with gallbladders too?

8
9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. This is
10 just claws.

11
12 MR. GURTLER: Okay. There is a problem
13 with that then of making necklaces out of claws and
14 stuff like that?

15
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There is not
17 right now.

18
19 MS. WILLIAMS: We just have to make
20 sure that it's a bear harvested under Federal
21 subsistence regulations because it's not legal under
22 State regulations and only in the regions that the RACs
23 have approved it, so this region is one of those.
24 People in southcentral have opted not to, but it has to
25 be under Federal regs harvested brown bear.

26
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can answer
28 more questions with you later. There is a bear handout
29 and it really helps you to identify what it can do.

30
31 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair.

32
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Pete.

34
35 MR. DEMATTEO: This is Pete DeMatteo.
36 Sorry to butt in, but I told you I'd research the
37 answer to your question regarding the Board of Game.
38 The proposal that you talked about before submitting to
39 the Board of Game, which is reclassifying black bear as
40 a furbearer. That would be taken up under their
41 statewide cycle A proposals. The deadline to submit
42 that proposal is November the 6th, 2009 of this year.
43 The Board of Game would take that proposal up in
44 January 29th, 2010.

45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Pete. I
47 don't know if you heard us, but we're kind of pushing
48 to where it would be just for our region, so that
49 deadline -- did you research our notes on what we had
50 voted on in Tok that time? I guess that's what I was

1 interested in. It doesn't matter, I think. We voted
2 here to take it up at our next meeting. We have time
3 to get it in, so we won't worry about that. Thank you
4 for the information.

5
6 We're going to review the upcoming two-
7 year cycle on Page 61. The order of the meetings that
8 are about upon us. Go ahead, Pete.

9
10 MR. DEMATTEO: Madam Chair. The
11 purpose of this, the two-year cycle is new to all of
12 us, so we just want to keep the Councils up to speed on
13 what's ahead of us. I think this table that's been
14 laid out by Staff clearly articulates upcoming events
15 that will affect your Council. It's just FYI.

16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I encourage
18 all of the Council members to look at this because the
19 call for proposals is right there and you know when we
20 would be having our meetings in front of them. The
21 upcoming one is wildlife. Is the Federal Board meeting
22 this fall for any reason or winter?

23
24 MR. PROBASCO: The Board will be
25 meeting January 2010. The Board does have the
26 prerogative of meeting when necessary, but their next
27 scheduled meeting is January 2010.

28
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When they take
30 up wildlife.

31
32 MR. PROBASCO: Correct.

33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

35
36
37 MR. PROBASCO: I have one more issue.
38 The last issue before I step down, you asked earlier in
39 the meeting about submitting proposals on migratory
40 birds. They have to be handed in to the Region 7
41 office in Anchorage by December 15, 2009. So you have
42 some time. You would send them to Fred Armstrong.

43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a
45 handout that was handed out earlier this morning. The
46 guide for proposals and then there was a proposal form.
47 Is that information on there that you just said?

48
49 MR. PROBASCO: I don't believe so. I
50 contacted the lead for migratory birds in Anchorage and

1 this is information he relayed.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
4 members, the concerns that you brought forth early on
5 from Fort Yukon I would like you to look at this and
6 maybe think of a proposal that you would put in for the
7 next meeting.

8

9 MR. PROBASCO: Madam Chair. We could,
10 at your request, work with the migratory office to have
11 a person here that would be much more knowledgeable
12 than myself to answer your questions and to guide you
13 in developing that proposal.

14

15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's the
16 wishes of the Council. Do you want to request that for
17 the next meeting?

18

19 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make a motion
20 to request it for the next meeting.

21

22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
23 we need a motion. It's an agreement that person will
24 come to that meeting. Thanks. Vince.

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: The only thing that's
27 different than what Pete said is that in there it
28 doesn't say send to Fred Armstrong, but his date is
29 more current. If the villages want to submit
30 proposals, they can get a hold of me and we can give
31 them the address for Fred Armstrong, who is in charge
32 of the whole migratory bird management program. Thank
33 you.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That will take
36 care of that. So now we're at the annual report.
37 Vince.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair.

40

41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One minute.

42 Yes, Andy.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: I saw when we did our
45 amendments to the agenda we had under E the hunter
46 education, rural versus urban.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's right
49 there, too. And the Hatch Act. I guess Pete wasn't
50 done.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. On the
2 hunter education thing, I think we would have to allow
3 more research. I think what you wanted to know is what
4 each of the agencies was doing with hunter education.
5 Pete will be talking to you about how the Hatch Act
6 applies to this Council.

7
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pete, just a
9 second here. Andy had some more to add to hunter ed.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: This has been pretty
12 paramount in my mind for quite a number of years and I
13 know I've brought it up at other Council meetings over
14 the years and I really think OSM needs to partner with
15 the Department of Fish and Game and begin to do some
16 public outreach on the impacts to rural subsistence
17 users by urban hunters and fishers. We've heard quite
18 a bit of comment in the past two days about some of
19 these conflicts that take place and how it's impacting
20 some of these rural communities. I think it's going to
21 continue given the economic problems that rural
22 communities are having. With some of the declines of
23 the fish and wildlife resources in the regions, I think
24 it's very appropriate for both of these entities to
25 begin to work together to develop a public program.

26
27 What I had envisioned was it's not
28 something that's just a written handout. People don't
29 really learn from that. I think what's really needed
30 is a statewide effort through the media, whether it be
31 commercials or whatever. I realize this is expensive,
32 but the overall expense over time compared to what some
33 of these conflicts might eventually turn into. I think
34 it would be money well spent. We have a lot of
35 situations around the state where communities are
36 struggling to meet their needs and they are very
37 heavily impacted by urban hunters and others and I
38 think it's time to start getting some awareness out
39 there as to what these impacts are to these people so
40 that we can begin to address this.

41
42 I think it's going to take some time.
43 It's not something that's going to happen right away as
44 far as getting that knowledge and that education out
45 there. The longer we delay this I think the quicker
46 we're going to come to a head on this. In our region
47 it's very obvious in the fall hunting season, not quite
48 as much in the fishing, but as I've heard other Council
49 members speak, similar conflicts taking place.

50

1 I would really like to see maybe at our
2 next meeting if we could have some kind of a Staff
3 presentation or ask the OSM to look into doing this and
4 get moving on this. I know I've brought it up two or
5 three years and it seems like it's just getting washed
6 away.

7
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, are you
9 looking at educating the new hunters, urban hunters or
10 something that might be a conflict in rural Alaska or
11 are you asking for rural Alaska to have hunter ed?

12
13 MR. BASSICH: I think it's both, but I
14 think the first thing that needs to happen is the
15 people in the urban areas need to understand what their
16 impacts are when they go hunting and fishing outside
17 their homes and enter into the rural regions. That's
18 primarily what I see is the biggest need right now.
19 Secondary to that the rural people need to understand
20 that under State law they need to be educated that
21 everybody has equal access to the fish and game on
22 State lands.

23
24 I think there's a lot of
25 misunderstandings out there and that's what causes a
26 lot of that and I think that needs to be addressed
27 here. A few media commercials during a news broadcast
28 throughout the year, some well-designed radio
29 broadcasts at key times, they go a long way to getting
30 people to understand and realize.

31
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see it as a
33 cooperative effort between Fish and Game and OSM.
34 There is a hunter education program out there under the
35 State. That's different than what you're talking
36 about. You're talking about how to reach people. It
37 sounds like funding to do TV and radio, but there is
38 public service announcements that go out free.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: I think it needs to be
41 explored, but I would love to see some effort put into
42 this. I realize that funding for OSM and Fish and Game
43 is getting strapped and they have a lot on their
44 plates, but I do feel like this is something that is
45 strongly warranted for the future of both people in the
46 urban and rural areas.

47
48 Now people basically go out and they
49 buy a gun and they hunt and they have very little
50 training on it, very little knowledge. The way I see

1 people taking care of meat, it's appalling. They shoot
2 meat, throw it in a black plastic bag and they throw it
3 in the back of their truck and then they wonder why
4 it's green and then it ends up in dumps.

5
6 I have friends, and I've put this on
7 public record before, they're dog mushers and they
8 spend all fall long going through the dumps in
9 Fairbanks here because they can feed their dog teams
10 for a month or two on the wasted meat that ends up in
11 the dumps in Fairbanks for moose. That's absolutely
12 appalling. That needs to stop. There's no excuse for
13 that behavior. That's ignorance and that's what needs
14 to be addressed here.

15
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, I'm
17 going to ask Pete to address that strictly on the way
18 to accomplish such a request.

19
20 MR. PROBASCO: Yes, ma'am. Thank you,
21 Andy. The proper way to address this, and it's not
22 OSM, it would be the respective four agencies, the land
23 agencies that have the management authority; the Park
24 Service, BIA, US Fish and Wildlife Service and the
25 Forest Service.

26
27 The way to accomplish getting the
28 Federal program to look at that is for your Council --
29 maybe have Andy draft his ideas, his concepts, and you
30 would send a letter to Chairman Fleagle voicing your
31 concerns and exploring the idea of how to tackle this
32 issue. That would be the start.

33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, is that
35 a motion.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I don't
38 know if we need a motion. Do we need a motion to do
39 this?

40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To write a
42 letter.

43
44 MR. BASSICH: I guess I wouldn't mind
45 hearing what other Council members have to say because
46 I certainly don't want to spend time and energy
47 pursuing this if we don't have the full backing of the
48 Council.

49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think

1 you'll have any trouble there. Frank, do you want to
2 speak to this and then Virgil.

3

4 MR. GURTLER: Is there any way, when
5 they go get their hunting license, to put in a little
6 booklet in the area they're hunting to notify them of
7 what to do and how to do it in that area.

8

9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
10 try to answer that just based on what I know and that
11 is if you're hunting on State regs, you get a State
12 regulation booklet. When you buy your hunting license,
13 you can hunt all over the state, so it's hard to ask
14 them exactly where they're going to be hunting to give
15 them just that.

16

17 Would the Council members agree that
18 you'd like to pursue this?

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me speak to this.

21

22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

23

24 MR. UMPHENOUR: The State has a
25 website. They have a lot on care of game meat in the
26 field. They have a lot of educational pamphlets and
27 they do have handouts on proper care of meat. All that
28 is available. I don't know how, Andy, to emphasize it
29 more. I know that in our business we cut up in the
30 neighborhood of 110,000 pounds of game meat between the
31 middle of August and the first week in October over at
32 our place.

33

34 We see everything you can imagine, from
35 perfectly clean meat to people trying to get us to take
36 meat with maggots in it and everything in between. I'd
37 say that most hunters try to take care of their meat
38 properly.

39

40 This is a two-prong issue that you
41 brought up. One of them is people not respecting other
42 people's rights and et cetera and the Interior AC's,
43 Fairbanks, Delta, Middle Nenana and Nenana-Minto AC's,
44 have had three joint meetings to address moose hunting
45 in Unit 20A and we had a horrible problem with people
46 not respecting other people's property and the area.
47 It's due to a specific ethnic group, one of these
48 commune type groups out of Wasilla that caused all
49 these problems.

50

1 I do know that the Department of Fish
2 and Game is attempting to address this problem.
3 Whether we can help any or not or the various agencies,
4 maybe they can help some, but I think this is something
5 that's always going to be there, myself, personally,
6 because some people are not going to consider other
7 people's feelings and be respectful, no matter what you
8 do. Thank you.

9
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew and
11 then Frank.

12
13 MR. FIRMIN: I agree with what Andy
14 just said about the hunter education. Maybe one other
15 thing with the salvageable meat, get that definition
16 changed. Some of the big game animals they'd actually
17 have to haul more of it out, like the bones.

18
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I've
20 noticed in the Board of Game is that they have come up
21 with individual areas specific that the bone has to be
22 left in. Do you have any idea of a proposal that you'd
23 like to put forth?

24
25 MR. FIRMIN: I was trying to think how
26 to word something.

27
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you have
29 anything down there in language?

30
31 MR. FIRMIN: Not really, other than
32 changing the definition of salvageable meat to specify
33 bones in particular.

34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
36 call on Frank and then I'd like to interject an idea.

37
38 MR. GURTLER: I think the village
39 corporations have pamphlets out like for around Manley
40 and they post it in the paper the regulations they have
41 on hunting on their property. They have maps and I
42 don't know if Fish and Game has it in their office. I
43 think they cover a lot of it on the Native lands.

44
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do they have
46 care of meat also?

47
48 MR. GURTLER: Oh, no, just for hunters
49 coming into the area to hunt.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For land
2 ownership.
3
4 MR. GURTLER: Land ownership, yes. I
5 think that's one of the things. I don't know about all
6 of the corporations.
7
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
9 ask the villages that are here, do you see any way you
10 could work with the hunters coming into your area that
11 you could share your knowledge with them on how the
12 villages care for their meat?
13
14 MR. CARROLL: If I may, Madam Chair.
15
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
17
18 MR. CARROLL: I think it's do-able and
19 I fully agree with what's being said, what Andy brought
20 up, education of hunters, both urban and rural.
21 Attitudes of young village men and women and people in
22 general, it's just not off to a very good start because
23 of the very reasons Andy stated. It's just a whole
24 different type of hunters out there.
25
26 It's the same thing we were talking
27 over lunch about the fishermen. They've seen abundance
28 of fish in a certain area, a certain generation.
29 Younger fishermen than me are more easy to work and
30 train. It's the same principal. Money well spent in
31 education will go a long ways. Yes, I think that every
32 village should be encouraged and I think they are
33 willing to -- one of the scariest things about living
34 out in rural Alaska is the unknown, a stranger. When
35 anybody sees a stranger in the village, if he's with a
36 local person, fine. You walk alone, you meet 10 people
37 on the street, 10 people are going to ask him what he's
38 doing, who are they, where do they come from. All in
39 friendliness, but still want to know. They almost get
40 badgered.
41
42 But, yes, there's very good avenues. I
43 don't know where we're going to go except what we can
44 do with a letter.
45
46 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I agree
47 with you, Virgil. The idea behind this is to try to
48 minimize these types of conflicts, minimize these types
49 of events where people are wasting. The only way I see
50 it happening is through the media. Pamphlets are good

1 if people want to learn. People are lazy, so you have
2 to jam it down their throat. The only way is to do it
3 via television or radio. That's the only way it's
4 going to work in my view. I've thought about this for
5 many years now and I've had a lot of experience with
6 trying to do public outreach and that is the conclusion
7 I've come to. Anything short of that isn't going to be
8 effective.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I really
11 appreciate this discussion and our concerns and I'd
12 like to see us do something tangible about the
13 discussion. Virgil.

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's actually three
16 different types of people.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's
21 Virgil. No, I'm sorry.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, I didn't get to
26 finish.

27

28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry, Virgil.
29 Go ahead.

30

31 MR. UMPHENOUR: Three different types
32 of people problems in this issue based on where they're
33 hunting. You take Fort Yukon. It's primarily people
34 that are going to be flying in and out. Up at Andy's,
35 they're driving up the Taylor Highway. Then you have
36 the villages that are more accessible to boats, the
37 third group. So three types of hunters; the flying
38 hunters, road hunters and the boat hunters.

39

40 You can get to all the flying hunters
41 real easy because there's not that many air taxi
42 operators and small airlines that fly people to these
43 places. You can get information to those people easy.
44 The ones Andy is addressing and the Interior agencies
45 have had problems with have been the road accessible
46 people. Then you have people mainly downriver from the
47 Yukon River bridge there's a separate set of problems
48 associated with people that run around in boats.

49

50 The boat people can be addressed easy

1 and they are currently being addressed by Fish and Game
2 and BLM both. That's because they can only put their
3 boats in the river in a certain place. It's the road
4 people that are hardest to deal with. The troopers
5 have to do that.

6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do you have
8 a solution?

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah. More outreach
11 education, like Andy is saying, but it has to be
12 directed at the specific group of people. That's my
13 point I was bringing up.

14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you agree
16 with Andy we can do it through some type of education.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, we can help
19 because these certain groups of people are not going to
20 -- no matter what you do.....

21
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're still
23 going to bring in maggots.

24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. But other
26 people it will work with. Like Tok Fish and Game, you
27 can have them have a handout there. I think they have
28 to stop there anyway. I think that's a registration
29 hunt that Andy is talking about. It depends on the
30 type of hunt it is and the access, so you can kind of
31 target those problems based on those things.

32
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We brought up
34 a lot of stuff here and I'm trying to, as Chair,
35 pinpoint what to do about it.

36
37 MR. BASSICH: I have a suggestion.

38
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go for
40 it.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Pete. Do you think it
43 would be a feasible exercise to have a meeting with all
44 of the different land holder representatives that do
45 the educational outreach of their perspective units and
46 brainstorm about the most effective method to do this.
47 Also, at that time, if they would be prepared to say
48 what type of funding they might be able to throw. I
49 see this as a money problem more than anything else. I
50 don't think it's that hard to craft a message to get

1 out to the general public, i.e., the road hunters. The
2 problem is the funding for it and then identifying an
3 entity that will work with an agency to produce
4 something of a good enough quality that it's effective.

5
6 MR. PROBASCO: Madam Chair. Andy. I
7 think if we're talking about the Eastern Interior area,
8 definitely that's feasible. If we're talking
9 statewide, then we complicate our problem. I think our
10 approach -- you're looking for a tangible way to move
11 on this -- is to draft a letter, even articulate a
12 potential solution as you said. Are there people that
13 are trained for each of these respective agencies?
14 Yes. I have a person on my Staff that's her specialty,
15 is outreach and educating people. You saw the video
16 today explaining the Partners Program. So it's do-
17 able.

18
19 I think the process we need to do is
20 articulate the concern, a possible solution, get it to
21 the Board Chair, the heads of who sit on the Board, the
22 regional directors, and they have the power. I can't
23 speak for them. Then we'll take it from there.

24
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they have
26 the Staff in each of their agencies to do outreach.

27
28 MR. PROBASCO: I can facilitate it. I
29 can't direct.

30
31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy. I'm
32 looking for a motion.

33
34 MR. BASSICH: I'll make this very
35 simple. I make a motion that we draft a letter to OSM
36 and all of the land holders within the Eastern RAC
37 region and the Board Chairs.....

38
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Board
40 Chair of Federal Subsistence Board.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Right.

43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: And this letter would be
47 to address the discussion that we've just had on rural
48 versus urban conflicts and the proper care of wildlife
49 when it's being harvested.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
2 second.
3
4 MR. CARROLL: I'll second it.
5
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
7 doubt we need any more discussion.
8
9 MR. BASSICH: No.
10
11 MR. GLANZ: No discussion.
12
13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
16 has been called for. Do I hear any opposition to
17 writing this letter.
18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: As long as Andy writes
20 the letter.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was getting
25 to that after it passed. We'll just assign him.
26 That's what happens when you speak out, you get the
27 job. You write the letter, Andy, with the help of
28 Vince, run it by me and if I see any additions, because
29 I know exactly what you're talking about. Any other
30 Council members want to see the letter before it goes
31 out?
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: I wouldn't mind reading
34 it.
35
36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Why
37 don't we share it with the whole Council. If anybody
38 has any concerns they'd like to add, they can do so.
39
40 (Council nods affirmatively)
41
42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think that's
43 a great start. Yes, sir.
44
45 MR. PROBASCO: The Hatch Act, how I
46 would like to propose dealing with that, it's a very
47 complicated act as far as what we can and can't do.
48 I'm not the expert as far as being able to answer you
49 as volunteers as you share capacity as a Council versus
50 what you do outside of that. What I would do is I

1 would go back and sit down with Ken Lord, our
2 solicitor, and we would draft a letter to each one of
3 you that lays out what you can and can't do under the
4 Hatch Act and we'd send that to you and have that
5 completed probably within the next couple weeks.

6

7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can do
8 that for us.

9

10 MR. PROBASCO: Okay.

11

12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks so
13 much, Pete. That will be helpful.

14

15 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair. I need to ask
16 Pete one question.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: Last year I go to the dump
21 and there's some people throwing caribou in the dump
22 and I said what the heck you doing, didn't really say
23 it that way, but they said you read the regulations, it
24 just says salvage the meat in the field. I said whoa.

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have to say something
27 to this subject.

28

29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, we're
30 going to get carried away again. Not you, Bill.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: I'm just saying that might
33 need to be addressed sometime. They weren't locals.
34 They were from the city out hunting. There was three
35 of them and they had two caribou. I was going to call
36 the trooper. We went back to the corner, looked at the
37 book and, you're right, it don't have to be salvaged,
38 just has to be salvaged in the field.

39

40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was in
41 the State regs that you looked?

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

44

45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Instead of
46 getting wrapped around this real tight, did you address
47 Pete specifically?

48

49 MR. GLANZ: I just asked if we could
50 put something in this book someday.

1 MR. PROBASCO: Madam Chair. Bill. The
2 salvage laws has always been very challenging. You
3 characterized it very correctly. You, as a hunter, are
4 responsible to get your meat out of the field to your
5 home. Once you get it to your home you've met that
6 obligation. If your freezer breaks down, you left it
7 too long in your shed, I mean you've met the
8 requirement of the law.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I just want to clear
11 something up.

12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what
14 angers us. Virgil, if it's okay, I don't think we need
15 to cover it more.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want to add to
18 something that Pete said.

19
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, add.
21 Keep it brief. Short version.

22
23 MR. UMPHENOUR: It used to be all they
24 had to do was get it to the house like Pete said and
25 they've met the requirement. However, and I got this
26 from Col. Folger in person, who's head game warden for
27 the State of Alaska, he told me -- because him and I
28 had worked on a case once before and it was a guide
29 that brought the meat in between Christmas and New
30 Years from September and the State lost in court
31 because he said that he was going to eat it. So now
32 they've got it changed so that they can be prosecuted
33 if the meat is not in an edible condition when it gets
34 to the house. They can be prosecuted for not taking
35 diligent care of the meat to prevent it from spoiling
36 in the field. Of course, there's things beyond your
37 control that can happen. That's all I wanted to add to
38 that.

39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: But the law has been
43 changed so that they can now prosecute them for letting
44 the meat spoil.

45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What I'd like
47 to request of you, Andy, is that you give some examples
48 like have been brought out at this meeting. Especially
49 what Bill just brought up, that would be perfect.
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Well, in addition to that
2 I would encourage some of you from your villages to
3 maybe ask your councils to write a letter or give me a
4 call and share some of the experiences that have
5 happened in your communities. More than the wanton
6 waste, what I see is a big issue is the conflict of
7 people coming in and taking meat away from people out
8 in these villages that really need it.

9
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, I would
11 add to that that we're going to encourage the villages
12 to write their own letter to OSM and the Fish and Game
13 Commissioner and say, hey, we're tired of wanton waste,
14 let's work on some solutions here and we suggest these
15 types of solutions.

16
17 Andrew, did you have any other thing
18 that you wanted to do?

19
20 MR. FIRMIN: I have some wording for a
21 proposal on that if you want.

22
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do we need to
24 take a break or do you guys want to hear that.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Short five minutes.

27
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's take a
29 short five minutes and I want to see that.

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Calling us
36 back in. Just before we broke Andrew has a proposal
37 that he wants to put before us for the Game Board and I
38 think we can do it rather short. I've talked to most
39 of the Council members and they agree. Andrew, do you
40 want to try to make that into a motion.

41
42 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
43 propose that Unit 25 have a special meat salvage
44 requirement for moose and that would include the edible
45 meat of the front quarters, hind quarters and the ribs
46 must remain naturally attached to the bone until the
47 meat has been transported from the field or is
48 processed for human consumption.

49
50 MR. GLANZ: What book is he reading off

1 of?

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is the
4 State Board of Game proposals. He was reading out of
5 the State regulation booklet, Page 33. Basically what
6 it does is add 25 to the last two sentences where it
7 says Units 13, 21, 23 and 24. It would be and 25.
8 That is my understanding.

9

10 So this is a proposal to the Game
11 Board. Do I hear a second.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: I'll be glad to second that
14 one.

15

16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I think
17 we've had enough discussion on it. Is there any
18 others.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I would ask
23 for unanimous consent that we send this to the Game
24 Board. All in favor.

25

26 (Council nods affirmatively)

27

28 MR. UMPHENOUR: I wanted to clarify
29 something.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
32 Virgil.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is just
35 clarification. There's two different meat salvage
36 requirements there and the one he wants is the one
37 that's right at -- just add 25 right after Unit 24.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that
40 carries. Thanks, Andrew. Where am I? Oh, annual
41 report, number 10. Vince is going to handle that.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair. It's
44 in your green folder and looks like this. It's dated
45 February 25th. It's your annual report 2008. For the
46 new members, we didn't talk much about this during your
47 training, but you can submit an annual report each
48 year. You had one topic, local hire provision, so this
49 is now before you for final approval and signature by
50 your Chair. I won't go through it all. It's in front

1 of you.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We didn't
4 approve this last meeting?

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: You approved the topic.
7 I wrote up the draft and now it's before you for final
8 approval.

9

10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The deadline
11 to get this in?

12

13 MR. MATHEWS: My deadline is -- I'm
14 drawing a blank, but basically you get an answer this
15 fall and the Board takes it up usually in June, July.
16 So I have to get it in the process probably by the
17 middle of April. It's already done.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So many topics
20 we go over and this is probably a pretty important one.
21 We've already voted on this last meeting and it's
22 basically just to review.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: To let you know, a
25 similar one is coming in from Western Interior, so it's
26 not just your region. You're correct. This is the
27 language I thought would reflect your intents.

28

29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I guess
30 we count on you a lot, Vince, when we have concerns
31 that you make sure we don't miss topics that go in the
32 annual report. What you're looking for is approval
33 right now?

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. That would grant me
36 to put your signature on there and submit it.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Make a motion to approve
39 it.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.

42

43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.

44

45 MR. GURTLE: I'll second it.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll take
48 Frank for that second. Discussion. Virgil

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: I just want to say

1 Vince does an outstanding job putting the annual report
2 together. Regarding local hire, we reaffirm that we
3 are concerned about that issue and we want to encourage
4 the department to comply with it and to actively try to
5 hire people from the local area. Thank you, Madam
6 Chair.

7

8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
9 discussion. I'm going to ask for unanimous consent to
10 approve the letter.

11

12 (Council unanimously approves)

13

14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
15 opposed.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passed
20 unanimous. Okay. Organization reports. Native
21 corporations, regional, tribal councils.

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Alaska
26 Department of Fish and Game.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't see
31 anybody left and I think we covered it. Bureau of Land
32 Management. Did Ruth leave? Oh, she's right there.
33 She's hiding.

34

35 MS. GRONQUIST: Madam Chair. Members
36 of the Council. My name is Ruth Gronquist and I'm a
37 wildlife biologist with the Eastern Interior Field
38 Office with the Bureau of Land Management. I just
39 wanted to clarify, hopefully clarify, something that
40 came up earlier today during the report from Yukon
41 Flats and that is that BLM is a multiple use agency and
42 that our main mission in terms of wildlife related
43 things is as habitat managers. I just wanted to remind
44 you that we have a broader focus and we don't have the
45 wildlife mandate that Fish and Wildlife Service talked
46 about earlier today.

47

48 The thing that's probably the biggest
49 issue on the docket for us right now that concerns the
50 Council is the continuing development of our Eastern

1 Interior resource management plans. I asked Tina to
2 hand out a newsletter on our progress to date. Thanks,
3 Tina. At your last meeting in Nenana I reported we
4 finished the scoping meetings and that is on our
5 website. For anyone that can't access that through the
6 website, you can contact us. Jeannie Cole, who is our
7 planning and environmental coordinator, her name and
8 contact number is also in that newsletter and she can
9 get you a copy of the scoping report.

10

11 As you can see from the timeline in
12 that handout, we are currently developing the
13 alternatives and the alternative development is driven
14 by those scoping meetings. We're going to begin
15 preparation of the draft this spring and through the
16 fall and have the draft out for comment hopefully in
17 January of 2010. We asked for an extension on getting
18 the draft out.

19

20 I know this Council is really
21 interested in what's happening with resource management
22 plans, so we hope that you will have an opportunity to
23 look at our plans and make comments. At this point
24 we're in alternative development, so I don't have
25 anything specific to say about that. Our planning
26 coordinator, Jeannie, would be happy to talk with the
27 Council a year from now to talk about the alternatives
28 in the draft plan.

29

30 The other thing that would be really
31 helpful to us specifically would be any information
32 that you folks have or people in your villages have
33 about resource use. A lot of the information we have
34 available is through the reports that ADF&G Division of
35 Subsistence did, and they're good reports, but there
36 are some areas that we don't have a lot of information
37 about even given those reports.

38

39 I'll just ask you if you have any
40 questions about the plan and then move on to a couple
41 other things.

42

43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

44

(No comments)

45

46

MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

47

48

49

50

MS. GRONQUIST: I had hoped to give you
some information about conveyances and the progress

1 we've made on conveyances to villages and regional
2 corporations, but, unfortunately, I don't have a very
3 good update. Rather than say something that's wrong,
4 I'm going to pass over the conveyances to villages and
5 regional corporations. The State did file its final
6 priorities for conveyance on December 10, 2008. The
7 priority number one selections are being processed at
8 this time.

9
10 Many of the State's number one
11 priorities are on land that are not available for State
12 selection. So BLM is in the process of sorting the top
13 filings from the selections ready for conveyance.
14 Until the process is completed, we will not be able to
15 estimate what lands will be conveyed to the State and
16 what lands will remain under Federal management. So it
17 may take us another year to sort this out and to start
18 conveying those lands to the State. That's a report
19 from our realty specialist. That's about my entire
20 knowledge of the conveyances.

21
22 Our fisheries biologist, Jason Post,
23 was here yesterday. Did he give you a brief update on
24 his plans for the summer? I'll read a brief paragraph
25 to you that he gave to me. In Eastern Interior the
26 fisheries folks will perform surveys on the salmon fork
27 of the Black River and the upper Black River drainage
28 during the summer of 2009. Surveys will focus on
29 juvenile and adult salmon as well as other game and
30 non-game fish species.

31
32 Sheefish are known to use the salmon
33 fork of the Black River for summer feeding and indirect
34 evidence suggests that sheefish may spawn in the river.
35 BLM will attempt to document if sheefish spawning
36 occurs on the BLM managed portions of the salmon fork
37 of the Black River during September of the survey.

38
39 We have very little information about
40 the Black River. It's not a designated area. It's BLM
41 managed land. There hasn't been a planning effort done
42 in that area before, so we're kind of data poor for
43 that area. It hasn't been a real priority.

44
45 I don't have any updates on the
46 Fortymile Caribou other than as most of you who are
47 close to that herd and harvest from it. We did close
48 that hunt for the winter season. It opened as usual on
49 the first of November. I think I'm looking at the
50 wrong notes. If you have any questions about specific

1 things.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

4 Go ahead.

5

6 MR. CARROLL: Nothing specific to the
7 Eastern Interior. Just for general information for
8 myself. Is BLM doing this resource management plan in
9 other parts of the state of Alaska, do you know?

10

11 MS. GRONQUIST: There's a schedule for
12 resource management plans and I don't have it off the
13 top of my head. I can get that to the Council. I
14 think we provided it in the past. Sometimes those
15 schedules change. There were going to be some planning
16 efforts launched in the central Yukon area. They were
17 going to re-open and do a new plan for the central
18 Yukon area and then one for the Dalton area, but those
19 have been put on hold, so I don't know when those will
20 be happening. We've been doing a lot of planning right
21 along. Glennallen just finished one. There's a couple
22 that have just been completed in the Anchorage area.
23 It's an ongoing process.

24

25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: I know Jason is not
28 here today, but do you know if they have got the weir
29 data analyzed yet for this year as far as the ASL data
30 for the Tozitna weir?

31

32 MS. GRONQUIST: I suspect they do, but
33 I don't have that information. I can get it for you.
34 Probably not before you adjourn today.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: I just want it before I
37 go to Whitehorse, which is about 10 days from now.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

40

41 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you. I just wanted
42 to know are your surveys of the Black River and the
43 salmon fork, is that going to be species specific just
44 for sheefish or are you guys still continuing your
45 studies of other fish in those rivers?

46

47 MS. GRONQUIST: My understanding from
48 Jason is that it will be all fish species, but he
49 brought up sheefish in particular because they're going
50 to look specifically in the fall for sheefish spawning

1 areas.

2

3

MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

4

5

MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.

6 I don't know that I really have as much of a question

7 as just a comment. At the beginning of our meeting I

8 expressed under the topic of concerns the lack of

9 hunting success in our area on the Fortymile Caribou

10 Herd in American Summit and it's due to a couple

11 different factors. Some of them are if the burns had

12 happened and some are the social pressures that are

13 coming in from the outside that I described a little

14 earlier.

15

16 I guess the only thing I wanted to make

17 the Council aware of is that this is going to be kind

18 of a top priority for our local AC. Unfortunately the

19 areas that are really important to us are State lands,

20 so I don't know how much this Council is going to be

21 able to do, but I do hope that in the future you'll be

22 able to offer whatever support we can come up with to

23 work on this issue. It's a real tough situation for us

24 because we rely on king salmon and caribou. This year

25 I know of only one local resident that harvested a

26 caribou. Heads up anyway is all I'm saying.

27

28 Ruth and I have spoken a little bit

29 about this and she's been supportive of our situation

30 in the past. She's been really good at contacting our

31 community when we do have a closure coming up to

32 communicate with us. Ultimately, as a community, we

33 believe that the conservation is the most important

34 thing on the herd. So even though we didn't harvest we

35 were fine with closing it down to protect the herd for

36 future use.

37

38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Andy, I

39 know that this land ownership is a big issue where you

40 can go and all. I guess when we were discussing

41 earlier with Southeast, where they come up with the --

42 of course it was primarily Federal land. I was looking

43 at Eagle, working on something like that, but then I

44 see your land status around Eagle where your access is,

45 it's State land. It makes it hard. That's the part

46 about the Federal and State that makes it hard.

47

48

MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair.

49

50

MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

1 MR. GLANZ: At the State Game Board
2 meeting I was at that one time we put a provision in
3 there for Eagle for you guys to have a two-week season.
4 Did that wash away?

5
6 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. The problem
7 that we are having right now is the habitat was
8 severely burned, so it's going to take a while for the
9 regeneration. It's my opinion through my observations
10 that our biggest problem is that the early summer hunts
11 starting August 10th there's an incredible influx of
12 hunters into the area, so the caribou never have the
13 opportunity to actually move into that area. So we
14 don't have those lead caribou putting down any scent
15 into the area which in the past is what brought the
16 caribou in a little bit later in the season, which
17 would allow us to have an opportunity to hunt them in
18 that special provision hunt. This year we had no
19 caribou on the summit the entire winter.

20
21 I've kind of warned our community that
22 we're probably going to be dealing with that for a
23 couple years unless we can come up with a way of
24 allowing some of those early caribou to migrate through
25 so that the others will follow. It's State land and
26 short of Doyon saying nobody can go on their lands --
27 the biggest problem that we have is that it's all
28 patchwork quilt there. It's really tough to know what
29 land you're on when you're out there.

30
31 We were hoping for that opportunity,
32 Bill, and we will continue to try to use that where
33 possible, but I don't expect it to happen for a few
34 years.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: I know Tom Seeton, the
37 State biologist, he said it takes up to 50 years for
38 your growth to come back in that area, so it will be a
39 long time before you guys see a lot of caribou like
40 you've seen prior to this.

41
42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
43 questions of Ruth.

44
45 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to thank Ruth for
46 her help with our local AC and our local areas.

47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
49 Ruth.

50

1 MS. GRONQUIST: You're welcome and
2 thank you for the opportunity to address you.

3
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right now we
5 don't have an action, right, on your report?

6
7 MS. GRONQUIST: (Shakes head
8 negatively)

9
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next is
11 Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tetlin National Wildlife
12 Refuge.

13
14 MR. KELLER: My name is Peter Keller.
15 I'm the wildlife biologist for the Tetlin National
16 Wildlife Refuge and I'm here to give you our report.
17 It's all in your books.

18
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Page 62.

20
21 MR. KELLER: Page 62 and 63. We had a
22 winter subsistence moose hunt on the Refuge from
23 November 20 to December 10. There were 48 permits
24 issued, 29 individuals reported that they hunted. No
25 harvest reports have come in yet.

26
27 The caribou hunt is ongoing for
28 probably another month or so. We've issued over 100
29 permits and 7 caribou have been reported harvested so
30 far.

31
32 Last fall we completed an aerial moose
33 population survey in November 2008. The harvest
34 actually was up by half from what it has been in the
35 past since 2004. This year the population density was
36 up by over half, from .4 moose per square mile to .6
37 moose per square mile. The bull/cow ratios a little
38 lower but still roughly the same. Calf/cow ratio is a
39 big lower as well.

40
41 We still have a moose telemetry project
42 ongoing. Another cow died this past October. We
43 collected the collar but we weren't able to see the
44 moose. Everything was covered with snow. We had to
45 wait a few months to get a helicopter.

46
47 The Tetlin Village Council has had a
48 Moose Management Plan in the works. They've designated
49 an area on their lands a Moose Sanctuary on
50 approximately 4,700 acres of their lands located north

1 of the Alaska Highway between the Tanana River and 6
2 miles east of Tok. They've done some willow crushing
3 there, about 600 acres, and they're posting signs along
4 the highway to notify people of this. There is no
5 hunting in that area per resolution of the tribal
6 council both to members and non-members of the tribe
7 for the next 20 years. So we've been meeting with them
8 along with the State and other agencies every month
9 they have a meeting for this. The Management Plan is
10 not in place yet. They're still working on it.

11 As Judy Putera said, there was a
12 Chisana Caribou Herd Working Group that got together in
13 Tok. I was not able to be there, but she gave you a
14 good overview of what happened and what is planning on
15 happening.

16
17 The last thing is that we recently got
18 a new Deputy Manager, Greg Risdahl at the Refuge. He
19 was previously at OSM. He received his master's degree
20 from Montana State University in Fish and Wildlife
21 Management. He was working as a biologist in the
22 InterAgency Brown Bear Study Team on the Kenai
23 Peninsula in 1984 and 1985. He worked in Montana with
24 the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for
25 about 15 years. He also served a brief term in
26 Washington, D.C. where he lobbied Congress for the
27 State Wildlife Grants Program and Conservation Trust
28 Fund. He moved back to Alaska in 2004 and he came just
29 before Christmas to Tok.

30
31 That's my report. Any questions.

32
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: How did they flatten
36 the willows?

37
38 MR. KELLER: A Cat.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's just drive the
41 Cat around with the blade up or did they.....

42
43 MR. KELLER: I'm not exactly sure.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

46
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
48 questions.

49
50 (No comments)

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
2 Peter. I think Yukon Flats was finished unless
3 somebody wanted to say anything else.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Arctic
8 National Wildlife Refuge. No one here.

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. They just
11 gave you a summary that's in your book of their
12 activities.

13
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a
15 handout of that in our green folder. Next is the
16 National Park Service, Yukon Charley.

17
18 MR. KRUPA: Madam Chair. Council
19 members. Just for the record, Dave Krupa, National
20 Park Service. We submitted two written reports, one
21 for Yukon Charley and the other one for Denali. You
22 should have that in front of you here. Amy Craver was
23 unable to make it. She's at the Southcentral RAC
24 meeting this week. She's the subsistence coordinator
25 for Denali as I am for Yukon Charley.

26
27 I'm not going to go through the full
28 suite of materials that are there, but I did want to
29 hit a couple of real quick highlights. One is on moose
30 density. We have an upcoming survey in November of
31 '09. The last count we have is somewhere around .25
32 per square mile, which is obviously pretty low density.
33 That's lean country between Circle and Eagle. These
34 are aerial surveys.

35
36 Sheep, we don't have good numbers at
37 the moment. We have a scheduled survey in June of this
38 year. The last survey was mostly focused on the
39 Charley River basin. There seems to be some anecdotal
40 evidence just from people in the area and observations
41 from overflights by our biologists that those sheep
42 numbers are a little bit in decline, but we don't have
43 hard numbers.

44
45 Wolves, eight packs in the Yukon
46 Charley area, those have been monitored pretty closely
47 since I believe 1993. The numbers are low and a fair
48 amount of mortality, but very few from human harvest.
49 The control programs don't seem to be having a direct
50 effect on those pack numbers.

1 For furbearers we started a pilot
2 project just this year by snowmachine out of Circle,
3 heading up to Cole Creek and then up the Charley River.
4 It was very successful, conditions were good this year
5 for counting tracks. This is a visual survey. Those
6 numbers are being tallied up and will be available by
7 your next meeting.

8
9 The other thing I wanted to mention in
10 case I didn't say it explicitly yesterday was the TEK
11 report that I gave you yesterday. The final report
12 itself is currently under review at OSM, so it's not
13 yet available on their website. Typically once those
14 are finally approved, then they'll be available via the
15 web and we also have a small publication fund to put
16 out hard copies of that report along with a DVD that
17 has a number of appendices that add to that.

18
19 There's a statewide effort through the
20 National Park Service to produce an EA on the issue of
21 shed horns, antlers and the collection of plant
22 materials. I know the Eastern RAC had submitted a
23 request for that for the use of collected horns and
24 antlers to be made into handicrafts for sale. The next
25 step in that process is getting feedback on what kinds
26 of species are used and what are some of the uses. At
27 least at the SRC level we'll be collecting any
28 information people can provide from their area about
29 what kinds of plant materials in particular. In some
30 cases they want to name the species.

31
32 Another item is that Pat Sanders, who
33 many may know from the Eagle area, she's an
34 interpretive ranger out there for years, as a part of
35 trying to build our subsistence program and outreach to
36 local communities she's been promoted now into a
37 subsistence liaison position to get better information
38 out to our area communities and take feedback as well.

39
40 Then the last thing is along the same
41 lines. We are right in the process of publishing our
42 first biannual newsletter to area residents on Park
43 Service activities, both for Gates of the Arctic and
44 for Yukon Charley Preserve. We'd like to include the
45 relevant RACs in that mailing list. It's a way of
46 notifying you of what we're up to in the coming season
47 for the spring issue and then in the following fall
48 we'll follow up with results of the various projects or
49 at least updates on multi-year projects.

50

1 For the rest of the time we have here
2 for our part, I'd like to invite our chief ranger Gary
3 Youngblood up to give a little background on the
4 enforcement program and the ranger patrols. Maybe I
5 should first ask if there's any questions relative to
6 what I reported.

7

8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, David. On
11 your aerial moose surveys, I looked at this in the past
12 and they don't always do surveys in the exact same grid
13 and I'm just wondering this year's surveys what areas
14 were they doing?

15

16 MR. KRUPA: We happen to have Tom
17 Liebscher, our chief of Natural and Cultural Resource.
18 Maybe Tom could speak to that.

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Gary, you can
21 come up.

22

23 MR. LIEBSCHER: Madam Chair. Members
24 of the Council. Andy, we have looked at those grids.
25 It's the old Gasaway technique that's pretty well
26 documented for wildlife surveys. We've modified it
27 somewhat to try to reflect that variability in trying
28 to determine with the low numbers that occur and places
29 to try to capture numbers such that we can create some
30 good metrics on population parameters. The survey
31 design is not complete yet for this fall. If your
32 question was relative to the last moose survey, we did
33 more work in the Yukon Corridor than we did on some of
34 the side drainages, so that's what we're needing to
35 look at this year as we do some preliminary
36 stratification.

37

38 MR. BASSICH: I guess the reason I
39 asked is that it's my understanding and observation
40 that probably 80 to 90 percent of the harvest of moose
41 in Yukon Charley happens right along that Yukon
42 Corridor, so that would be the area of the biggest
43 concern. However, I do recognize that there is moose
44 moving from other drainages into that corridor to fill
45 those gaps.

46

47 MR. LIEBSCHER: It's a good barometer,
48 the corridor, but with the few numbers of caribou in
49 Yukon Charley this winter, most of the predation by
50 wolves has been on moose in some of the upper

1 drainages, so that's part of our strata we'll try to
2 capture and see if we can tease something out in our
3 survey this fall.

4

5 MR. BASSICH: One other comment I
6 wanted to make and I mentioned to you in a break, is my
7 observations of being in the preserve this winter was
8 that I've been seeing a lot more wolves down on the
9 Yukon Corridor than I have in other years and in
10 particular around the mouth of the Seventymile River
11 and the Nation River area with very few moose tracks
12 sighted by me. I don't know how much you've been
13 really looking at that this winter, but that was a
14 local observation I made. I'm in the preserve quite a
15 bit in the winter time and this year I'm definitely
16 seeing a lot more activity of the wolves. It seemed a
17 little strange to me because I am not seeing much in
18 the way of moose signs. I'm just wondering what the
19 heck they're eating. I'm seeing an awful lot of bunny
20 rabbits. Just curious.

21

22 MR. LIEBSCHER: A couple of things
23 going on there. What we've found is obviously the big
24 caribou numbers are not there this year and they're
25 over on the head of the Good Pastor and Salcha. I just
26 got the updated GPS map this morning and hanging out on
27 that perimeter and pretty reliably so with the food
28 base there. The other thing we've noticed is that the
29 moose that have been predated this winter, instead of
30 just whacking them and moving on they're camping on
31 them and they're eating everything.

32

33 In conjunction with that, we picked up
34 four morts collars on mortalities of wolves this year.
35 Two of those for sure, the color of the blood on the
36 collars, indicates between pack aggression. So they're
37 fighting for what they've got out there. I think
38 that's about it for that.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I'm just
41 wondering if those wolves have an upriver/downriver
42 conflict going on as well.

43

44 (Laughter)

45

46 MR. LIEBSCHER: They don't tell us
47 that, Andy.

48

49 MR. BASSICH: One more question. Under
50 your salmon rearing, I'm familiar with the work that

1 Dave has been doing there, but I see you stated the
2 upper Yukon River Basin as identified new rearing areas
3 in Alaska. I guess maybe just a point of
4 clarification. I think the salmon have probably been
5 rearing in these areas. These are just newly
6 documented areas.

7

8 The other question I had is this
9 comment in here that these are the furthest documented
10 dispersal distances recorded for chinook salmon in all
11 of North America. Could you elaborate a little more on
12 that. Are you saying that once they're hatched that
13 they're dispersing?

14

15 MR. LIEBSCHER: That's correct. It
16 appears to be three drainages in Canada that are close
17 to 90 percent of the juveniles are coming from, so
18 that's the length of the documented path as they head
19 towards the ocean.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: That would be primarily
22 the main stem spawners in the Carmax area then is the
23 primary genetic?

24

25 MR. LIEBSCHER: That's correct.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: That would make sense
28 though that they would be flushed. Thanks.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
31 questions.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
36 Gary.

37

38 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: Madam Chair. Council
39 members. I'm Gary Youngblood. I'm the chief ranger
40 for Yukon Charley Rivers and I took over that duty this
41 last year. I've been the chief ranger in Gates of the
42 Arctic for five seasons and this was just added to my
43 duty. I understand there were some conflicts and
44 concerns and that's the reason I came to the Council,
45 is to be available to talk to people and see what the
46 concerns are.

47

48 I just wanted to share with you a
49 couple success things that I think deal directly with
50 what the Council has been concerned about here today.

1 The first thing is the salmon issue. In 2007, on our
2 normal routine patrol, rangers discovered a suction
3 dredge mining operation going in on the Charley River
4 and we got that to halt and dealt with that. So that
5 was the first issue. In 2008, rangers on patrol
6 contacting people up and down the river contacted a
7 group of people who were headed up to put a suction
8 dredge in a river and we talked to them and went over
9 the regulations with them and convinced them that
10 wasn't a wise thing to do.

11
12 This ties in directly with what Andy
13 was talking about. These streams that they were going
14 to put these suction dredges on were identified as
15 salmon rearing streams. So we think our patrols out
16 there are actually contributing to protecting the
17 salmon population by protecting those rearing salmon
18 while they're in the streams.

19
20 This last year, which is the year that
21 I have the most information on, we made approximately
22 130 contacts up and down the river. From discussions
23 I've had with Andy and Bill, we need to work on the
24 tone and tenor of how we introduce ourselves on the
25 river, but most of those were done during the moose and
26 sheep season because one of our primary goals is
27 protecting those resources.

28
29 Anecdotally, we had an interesting
30 contact on the river in which an inholder downstream
31 from Slavens was firing rounds over the heads of a
32 group of visitors who were floating the river and we
33 got drawn into that conflict. It was on private
34 property and we chose to have the Alaska State Troopers
35 come deal with it and they did. An interesting
36 addition to that, about two weeks after that event I
37 got a letter with photographs from another visitor who
38 had been floating the river by this same inholding and
39 had shots fired at them and this individual happened to
40 have a picture of it.

41
42 So over the past two years the three
43 major events that we've dealt with on the river, one of
44 them was a life/safety kind of issue for visitors and
45 the other two that I think were the highlights for the
46 year was protecting the salmon rearing streams. We
47 were actually called out by David Dahm to introduce us
48 to this documentation that they were salmon rearing
49 streams and he expressed a concern to us and we made
50 that a focus of some of our patrols.

1 So that's what we're doing out there.
2 I understand our tenor and tone and some new people
3 coming on and not knowing people in the river we may
4 have ruffled a few feathers. We definitely increased
5 our presence downstream from Slavens towards Circle
6 just because we had new people out and they wanted to
7 learn the whole river.

8
9 Our plans are to have a similar program
10 this year and I wanted to get the word out. We're
11 trying to meet people and let them know what we're
12 doing. I want to hear your concerns. We're going to
13 talk to our Staff and try to alleviate those issues.

14
15 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair.

16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Earlier in
20 our meeting there was some discussion in regards to
21 fishery closures and the tying up of nets. That's been
22 expressed at all of our AC meetings at Eagle that
23 people want to comply with closures but they feel they
24 would like to work out a system where they would be
25 able to tie up the nets and I was wondering if you have
26 any thoughts on that or if you would be willing to meet
27 with our community. It's my opinion that once law
28 enforcement people meet the fishermen and get a rapport
29 going with them, they would learn to trust the fact
30 that these people would tie up their nets if they've
31 been informed. Unfortunately some of the people that
32 live in the preserve are fairly remote and don't have
33 real great access to communications as to when there
34 are openings and closures. They express the same
35 concerns that tying up nets dealing with a very small
36 boat can be a real dangerous operation.

37
38 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: Madam Chair. I was
39 made aware of this issue recently and we've talked
40 about it earlier today. My Staff would be more than
41 willing inside the preserve to make those contacts and
42 confirm for the other agencies that regulate that that,
43 yes, the nets are up. In other words, we're more than
44 willing in the preserve area to do that. I would not
45 have a problem discussing us doing the same thing for
46 nets from Eagle downstream to Circle because that's a
47 route outside of our jurisdiction that we cover.

48
49 One thing I would want to make clear is
50 that we are not seeking to have any regulatory

1 authority outside of the preserve and for us to do that
2 we would need to be requested to do that. So, as a
3 favor, if we can work it out with the State agencies
4 that regulate that, that they say we will be
5 responsible for checking those areas of the river and
6 communicating with them and, therefore, they'll allow
7 the nets to stay in the river unusable. I think that's
8 something that we can work on through an MOU and we'd
9 be happy to do that because it's a win-win situation.
10 It gives us an opportunity to work together, it
11 increases safety for the people in the preserve and if
12 we can work it out so there are no major complaints
13 about us checking things outside of our jurisdiction, I
14 think we can work on that.

15
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
17 important to me.

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. I was going
20 to say I'll make sure you are invited to our next AC
21 and can meet the locals and if you could pursue that as
22 far as whomever you need to contact at the State, I
23 would love to work in a cooperative manner with you on
24 that. I think all the people in our Eagle area would
25 be very happy to work with you guys on that.

26
27 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: Who would be the State
28 agency?

29
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Public safety.
31 Probably just Brent.

32
33 MR. BASSICH: I guess when there's
34 fishery closures is that still public safety or would
35 that be conservation?

36
37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I see a really
38 strong mind here coming forward that might be able to
39 help us.

40
41 MR. PROBASCO: And I think, Andy, you
42 realize that these type of regulations as they pertain
43 to how gear are stored during closures, that is a
44 regulation that would have to be passed by the Board of
45 Fish and/or the Federal Subsistence Board for
46 subsistence gear in Federal waters. You'd have to go
47 through a proposal process to get that to occur.

48
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
50 kind of how I remember it.

1 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: But if the issue is
2 people are not able to check on the nets and confirm
3 that they are indeed not in a useable state and are
4 still in the river, we'd be more than happy to supply
5 the documentation that they are checked and the status
6 of those if that helps with getting the regulation
7 through.

8

9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pete.

10

11 MR. PROBASCO: Andy, if your advisory
12 committee and/or this RAC is looking at developing a
13 proposal, there are areas in the state, Alaska
14 Peninsula, Nelson Lagoon, where gear is allowed to
15 remain in the water during closures and it's tied up.
16 So you have some references that you could use to
17 structure a proposal. Madam Chair.

18

19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
20 Looking at the schedule, this is a fisheries proposal
21 and that would be a year out, correct. You're okay
22 with taking up the process at hand, right, Andy?

23

24 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair. That's our
25 only choice at this point in time. I live in a little
26 bit different world than a lot of people. I believe
27 people should just be able to work things out and I
28 realize there's regulatory processes and all that.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I live in that
31 same world.

32

33 MR. BASSICH: I think a lot of us in
34 this room do. That's sometimes often the conflict we
35 have that we kind of live on an honor system. I would
36 have kind of hoped that we could just work with law
37 enforcement and have the rapport with them and they
38 would know we're going to work with them. We'll say,
39 hey, we'll tie up our gear if you want to come by and
40 check it, but just kind of look the other way when it
41 comes time to doing that. I know it doesn't happen --
42 it's not going to happen in a legal basis like that.

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They have to
45 use common sense if they want to pinch you or not.
46 Common sense is a very important element.

47

48 MR. BASSICH: I think you get the idea
49 of what I'm saying. Getting tied up in all this
50 bureaucracy oftentimes defeats the entire intent of

1 what you're trying to do. This is important enough to
2 us that it's probably worth going through the work.

3

4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you want us
5 to do a proposal, we're a year out is what I'm looking
6 at. If there's some working together, that's where
7 it's going to start because that's your only option
8 unless we do some special action and I don't think
9 we're into that right now.

10

11 MR. BASSICH: Right.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Sue.

14

15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
16 Virgil.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: All you got to do is
19 submit the proposal. We need to do it at this meeting
20 though because the call for proposals deadline is the
21 10th for the State.

22

23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For the State.

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: When I was on the Board
26 of Fisheries, we made special regulations for different
27 areas on the Yukon, like down by Ruby a place called
28 Big Eddie. We changed the regulation there so that
29 fishing gear could be closer than the rest of the Yukon
30 River, which is 200 feet apart. I can't remember how
31 far we made it. But it's a reasonable proposal to put
32 in, so someone needs to make the motion right now
33 today if you want to do it.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: April 10th is
36 the deadline.

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: And then once the
39 proposal is made, I don't know if the area manager
40 could issue an emergency order to do the same thing for
41 this season or not, but it's possible. Pete probably
42 knows the answer to that.

43

44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Like I said,
45 common sense has to come into play at some point here.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: Common sense does not
48 always come into play.

49

50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be

1 my argument in court. All joking aside. Andy, do you
2 want to deal with that now? We certainly can.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

5

6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you want to
7 get it started, that's what we have to do.

8

9 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move that we submit a
10 proposal to the Board of Fisheries removing the nets
11 from the water, that the nets be tied up and maybe
12 model it after the wording that's used in Nelson Cove,
13 I suppose.

14

15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
16 second.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that if we move
19 it along.

20

21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
22 we need a lot of discussion unless the Council wants to
23 do that. We could put it right into the same committee
24 that's doing the other proposals for the Fish Board.
25 Is that agreeable with everyone?

26

27 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

28

29 (Council nods affirmatively)

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For me, the
32 jurisdiction between working with the State, I like the
33 idea that we work together and not step on toes and
34 ruffle feathers when it comes to that type of thing.

35

36 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: I agree, Madam
37 Chairman. I just had one of our rangers in Yukon
38 Charley just went through and is a designated state
39 trooper authority through a training he attended last
40 week. We have an MOU with the Alaska State Troopers
41 and it just helps when they can't get someone on the
42 ground and we can. One of the things that we're
43 concentrating a lot on is we're trying to stay within
44 our jurisdiction except when there's an emergency
45 situation or when we're asked to do so to make things
46 work, like you said, with common sense. So we do have
47 some abilities there and would be glad to work with you
48 on that.

49

50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

1 MR. LIEBSCHER: Are you at closure with
2 the.....

3
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I believe so.
5

6 MR. GLANZ: I have one more question,
7 Gary. Last fall they were going around and they were
8 putting stickers on five gallon caches of fuel here and
9 there and they said you must have secondary containment
10 and so forth and so on.

11
12 MR. YOUNGBLOOD: One of the problems
13 that we've had is - there's two reasons for secondary
14 containment. One is in case whatever it is starts to
15 leak, which can just happen from being out there. The
16 other issue is that bears seem to have an affinity for
17 petroleum products and we've had a lot of people that
18 have fuel stored and they count on it and aviation fuel
19 in Gates of the Arctic bears come by and bite a hole in
20 it. We've got a clean-up issue depending on what the
21 product is and also the product you're counting on
22 aren't there. So as part of our protecting the
23 landscape to try to keep gas and oil out of the streams
24 and rivers we ask for secondary containment. So that's
25 the reason for that.

26
27 MR. GLANZ: A lot of them were telling
28 me about them and showing me the stickers that they had
29 on their little gas supplies. I myself had that happen
30 on the Coleen River. I kept my cache up there and I
31 land and the bears were all anti-bugged by the time I
32 got there. They had rolled in it. So we just burned
33 it off and left, but it's okay.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 MR. GLANZ: We rectified the situation
38 real quick.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

43
44 MR. LIEBSCHER: Madam Chair. Members
45 of the Council. I wanted to share some information
46 with you that hopefully we'll have a final form of this
47 by the next meeting, but over the past eight years
48 we've had several funded studies by the Air Force
49 overflights on impacts to resources, including
50 songbirds, post-calving caribou, peregrine falcon, dall

1 sheep, impact assessments. That document is getting
2 close to having an agency review draft to share with
3 the Air Force in the next two months. It should be
4 something worthwhile. There is a great discussion on
5 mitigation of overflights and the impacts or not, but
6 the effectiveness of the mitigation. So that's what
7 we're looking at.

8

9 The other part of the equation, as
10 you're all aware, is the evolution of the aircraft has
11 changed and we now have the F-22's, which are louder
12 sooner, but then they're out of sight quicker. The C-
13 17's replacing the C-130's. So we've got a piece of
14 the puzzle and I think this final synthesis will
15 identify some of those gaps and lend itself to further
16 studies we need to do.

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: I videoed them doing
21 this stuff in the Alaska Range and the video got shown
22 because I was on the Board of Fisheries at the time
23 when they had one of these mitigation meetings and I
24 was wondering what was ever going to come of that. Me
25 being a former infantry officer and having a lot of
26 friends that were pilots and we were all young back
27 then and I know what they do and having them fly
28 underneath me while I'm sheep hunting in 810s, I don't
29 know what the mortality is on dall sheep, but I suspect
30 it could be very high at times because it about causes
31 you to have a heart attack whenever one of those things
32 flies within 100 to 150 feet over you. Were there any
33 studies done or just those meetings that they had with
34 the different Air Force people primarily, the deputy
35 commissioner for Fish and Game and you folks.

36

37 MR. LIEBSCHER: No, there were actual
38 studies done. In fact, we had an observer while the
39 aircraft went over the post-calving caribou on the
40 edges of the preserve and observing the responses.
41 Similarly, there were collars on 10 sheep, I believe,
42 in the upper Charley and the west fork. Interestingly
43 enough, trying to determine a cause and effect didn't
44 appear it was there. The 20/20 hindsight would have
45 been we probably needed 20 animals collared versus 10
46 to tease out that effect. In the statistical analysis,
47 it did not appear to be a major impact. It's just one
48 piece of the puzzle. But there were generally good
49 studies performed.

50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: The reason I asked that
2 is because I got in some pretty heated arguments over
3 this issue and the Air Force was claiming they were
4 3,000 feet off the ground, but that's because they were
5 flying beside a tall mountain. But they were below me
6 and they weren't always forthright because I've had the
7 810's fly over me not more than 100 feet above me.
8 What I'm saying is they weren't always forthright in
9 what was going on out there. What I wanted them to do
10 was have an indoctrination session because they have
11 pilots come up and train in this Yukon training area
12 from all over the world and I wanted them to have an
13 indoctrination on the potential mortality of them being
14 -- I can't use the word we used to use, but joy-riding
15 out there in those high-performance aircraft. They
16 call it flying nap of the earth at times.

17
18 Anyway, do you think whenever these
19 sheep were being observed did they have jet aircraft
20 flying right beside them, maybe 100 feet, 150 feet from
21 them or right over them or were they 3,000 feet up?

22
23 MR. LIEBSCHER: Madam Chair. Some of
24 that information is in the final report and it will be
25 in the final synthesis, but we were able to determine
26 the elevations at which the aircraft were flying at
27 locations of the collared sheep. Again, there didn't
28 appear to be a dramatic response to that, but that's
29 just one piece of the puzzle on those events.

30
31 The other part of this equation, since
32 we've gone past the five-year post de-listing of the
33 American peregrine falcon on the main Yukon stem, the
34 only current aircraft sideboards are the 2000 AGL above
35 the main stem Yukon. We no longer have the 500 feet or
36 300 feet or 100 feet or seasonal restrictions we had in
37 the five-year post de-listing period of the American
38 peregrine falcon. So it's a good reason to get back to
39 the table with the Air Force.

40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just
42 curious. Ten collars. How many died?

43
44 MR. LIEBSCHER: I don't believe we had
45 any morts on the sheep.

46
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
48 you.

49
50 MR. BASSICH: How many of the guides

1 died?
2
3 (Laughter)
4
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil is
6 still here.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He's tough
11 though. Okay. Thank you. It's 3:30. Do you guys
12 want to keep going?
13
14 MR. MATHEWS: Madam Chair. Just to
15 give you a handout on Denali, there's no Staff here
16 from Denali. It was already pointed out that the
17 subsistence coordinator for Denali Park is at the
18 Southcentral meeting. Salena is passing out a summary
19 of their events. We may want to say goodbye to Pete
20 Probasco. I think he has to catch a plane.
21
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
23 Wrangell-St. Elias again. I heard the Southeast Chair
24 makes people pay -- is it 50 cents?
25
26 REPORTER: Five dollars.
27
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Five dollars!
29 If the cell phone rings, if you can't remember
30 somebody's name. What else is it?
31
32 MR. CASIPIT: There's also a fine for
33 not turning on your microphone.
34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Where does the
36 money go? Bert Adams does this. He sometimes raises
37 40 bucks.
38
39 REPORTER: Four hundred.
40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Four hundred.
42
43 MR. CASIPIT: Most of the time it's
44 local dance groups and Girl Scout groups and what have
45 you.
46
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's pretty
48 awesome. We might want to do that. Okay. Wrangell-
49 St. Elias.
50

1 MS. PUTERA: Madam Chair. Members of
2 the Council. For the record, my name is Judy Putera
3 and I'm a wildlife biologist with Wrangell-St. Elias
4 National Park and Preserve. I did hand out earlier
5 some information on Chisana Caribou, but I also wanted
6 to point out there were a couple tables attached to
7 that previous handout that are just harvest results for
8 wildlife and fish. I really don't have anything to say
9 about them other than to bring them to your attention.

10
11 The handouts I've just handed out are
12 in relation to the environmental impact statement that
13 is being developed for management of off road vehicles
14 in the Nabesna district. Bruce Rogers is the person
15 working on this project and he couldn't be here today,
16 so he asked me to present these handouts to you and
17 just go over a few points.

18
19 Wrangell-St. Elias is developing an
20 environmental impact statement considering impacts and
21 management of off road vehicles in the Nabesna
22 district. This is in response to a lawsuit and
23 settlement that occurred in 2006 and 2007. We
24 distributed draft alternative packages in December of
25 2008 for public review and comment. We received 30
26 comments on the draft alternatives. The next step in
27 the process is writing the draft EIS, which should be
28 out for public review this time next year.

29
30 Based on public comments and on the
31 need to address the resource impacts associated with
32 degraded trails, the park is expanding the scope of the
33 project to include subsistence ORV use. This means
34 that impacts associated with all ORV use will be
35 displayed and alternatives will be considered that
36 monitor resource impacts on degraded trails.

37
38 It is Wrangell's intent to provide
39 access for sport hunting in the preserve, back-country
40 recreational activities and subsistence activities on
41 good trails. The range of alternatives considers trail
42 reconstruction or re-routing to fix or replace most
43 degraded, very degraded or severely degraded trail
44 segments and associated resource impacts. This will
45 cost money and take time.

46
47 In the meantime, some alternatives
48 consider not permitting recreational ORV use on
49 degraded trails where resource impacts are occurring
50 and some alternatives would monitor resource impacts

1 on unimproved trails. If, over time, monitoring shows
2 that resource impacts are increasing on these trails or
3 trail segments where only subsistence ORV use is
4 occurring, management action would be considered.
5 These actions would include trail maintenance targeted
6 for a particular resource problem. For example,
7 hardening of stream crossing, reducing the use on
8 degraded trails or trail closures under 36 CFR 13.46.

9
10 I just want to make sure that under the
11 current range of alternatives to be analyzed in a draft
12 EIS there would be no change to subsistence ORV use or
13 access in the park at the signing of the record of
14 decision. Reasonable regulation of subsistence ORV use
15 would occur only if monitoring over time shows that
16 resource impacts associated with degraded trails are
17 increasing on unimproved trails with only subsistence
18 ORV use. In this case, management actions would be
19 targeted in only the trail segments or trails where
20 increased impacts are occurring.

21
22 NPS regulations allow reasonable
23 regulation of subsistence ORV use if resource damage is
24 occurring as a result of that use. The analysis in the
25 EIS will quantify impacts associated with ORV use.

26
27 Those were some important points that
28 Bruce wanted me to get across to you folks. I don't
29 know if I can answer any of your questions, but if you
30 do have questions or you need more information, I
31 believe Bruce's phone number is on the handout I gave
32 to you.

33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is Bruce going
35 to be at the SRC meeting next week?

36
37 MS. PUTERA: Thank you, Madam Chair.
38 Yes, Bruce is going to be at the SRC meeting next week
39 and may present a little more detailed information.

40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The timeline
42 on these alternatives, you don't have that information?

43
44 MS. PUTERA: It says the draft EIS
45 should be out this time next year.

46
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we're
48 commenting right now on it.

49
50 MS. PUTERA: I'm not sure if the

1 current comment session is closed. I could find out
2 from Bruce before the SRC if you're interested in that.
3

4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess that's
5 what we like to do is comment on these things and it's
6 getting late in the day.

7
8 MS. PUTERA: I don't know if there
9 would be another opportunity to come in on the draft
10 EIS.

11
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
13 we've done anything on this.

14
15 MR. MATHEWS: You've been kept informed
16 of it, but you have not taken any action on the ORV to
17 my knowledge.

18
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess just a
20 report to the Council and since the SRC is meeting and
21 this is what we'll be talking about, if there's
22 anything we've missed here that we have a timeline.

23
24 MS. PUTERA: I'm sorry. I should
25 really know the answer to that, whether that comment
26 period is still open or not. I honestly haven't been
27 involved in this very much at all.

28
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it's
30 still open, but I can't be sure. But the SRC will take
31 it up and then hopefully it is open and we can comment
32 on it and bring it back to you guys at the next
33 meeting.

34
35 Yes, go ahead.

36
37 MR. FIRMIN: I have a quick question,
38 Madam Chair. I was just wondering what was the lawsuit
39 over and did somebody get hurt or is it just
40 environmental resource damage?

41
42 MS. PUTERA: I believe it's resource
43 damage. I'm not sure who brought the lawsuit. I'm
44 sorry.

45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a
47 little handle on what we call the anti's. It was them.
48 The Sierra Club.

49
50 MS. PUTERA: Like I said, I'm fairly

1 new to the Park, so I don't have a good background on
2 everything that's been going on. Madam Chair, I think
3 the main point of this is originally subsistence ORV
4 use was not going to be considered, but based on public
5 comments.....

6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It doesn't
8 affect, but then I'm looking at the second page, next
9 to the bottom where it's talking about all the
10 alternatives and they're saying if 70 percent was
11 recreational and 30 percent subsistence and then 30
12 percent recreational and 70 percent subsistence, if
13 they're going to do something like improve the trail.
14 These are ranges it says. I think this is new, all
15 these alternatives.

16
17 MS. PUTERA: Yes. With respect to
18 subsistence I think they are.

19
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's all I
21 can offer that I know. I think we don't have a
22 timeline. I'm hoping we don't have to deal with this
23 at this meeting. Vince.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: We're putting a call in
26 to the office in Wrangell to see. Maybe it's back
27 before you this fall. If not, then the Council may
28 empower you to carry the water.

29
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, sounds
31 good.

32
33 MS. PUTERA: Thank you.

34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
36 questions.

37
38 (No comments)

39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

41
42 MS. PUTERA: Thank you very much. It
43 was a pleasure being here at the meeting and I think I
44 learned a lot in the last couple days. Hopefully I'll
45 get to come back again.

46
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Cool, thank
48 you. Are we up for a break or do you want to continue.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let's take a break.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A five-minute
2 break.
3
4 (Off record)
5
6 (On record)
7
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I guess
9 we're back.
10
11 MR. CARROLL: Yes.
12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just got a
14 report, Vince, Dave gave me the report that the -- the
15 comment period is closed on this Wrangell ORV.
16
17 Knock. Knock. Knock.
18
19 (Pause)
20
21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: At any rate
22 the way I'm looking at it this is for recreational use
23 and subsistence use is not -- will not change is my
24 understanding so I think we'll -- we've been kept up to
25 speed on what's been going on and we'll just continue
26 on that path and we don't have to take something up
27 here today that will take a little more time to just --
28 get up to speed on it. If that's okay with everybody.
29
30 Okay, we're moving on to the next
31 topic, and that is Vince, has Council charter
32 review, I'm going to let you handle it, Vince, we can
33 make it short. It probably isn't something we're going
34 to do.
35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it's just basically
37 your organic document that formulates your group. Each
38 group needs to have a charter. This is your charter,
39 it hasn't changed pretty much since day one other than
40 the, you know, the balance of viewpoints. So you have
41 the option of changing the name, number of members and
42 removal of members but as your coordinator I don't
43 really see any need for that.
44
45 So it's before you to approve at this
46 time. If you want to make changes this would be the
47 time to make it, to the name, the removal of members,
48 and number of members.
49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

1 MR. CARROLL: I don't know what it is,
2 I haven't seen it or if I did I don't remember -- oh,
3 it's back here, okay. Is there a place for those that
4 miss -- most Councils or Boards that I sit on, you
5 know, two or three unexcused absences, you know, you're
6 not a very effective representative of your area and
7 stuff and I really think if it's not in there I think
8 we should put it in there.

9

10 MR. BASSICH: It is in there.

11

12 MR. GLANZ: It's in there.

13

14 MR. CARROLL: It is in there, good,
15 okay.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Two unexcused.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: Two meetings.

20

21 MR. BASSICH: Two unexcused.

22

23 MR. CARROLL: Unexcused, okay, just
24 want to make sure.

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that in the
27 charter or is that in the handbook.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Both.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: I'm looking for it in the
32 charter but it is in the handbook. No, it's in the
33 charter, paragraph nine, two consecutive unexcused
34 absences, so it's on Page 65, bottom paragraph.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Two consecutive unexcused
37 absences.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: So it is in there.

40

41 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

42

43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 65, bottom
44 paragraph.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Right.

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Let's take a
49 quick look at that.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Right.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: And for new members, it's
4 the Secretary that removes your member. You would send
5 a letter to the Board, the Board would send it to the
6 Secretary and then removal. The way we've dealt with
7 removal of Council members in the past that weren't as
8 dedicated to the process was to talk to them on the
9 side about voluntary resigning and that's pretty much
10 how it's been handled in the past.
11
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I guess you
13 want to report in that.....
14
15 MR. GLANZ: Yep, there you go.
16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I understand
18 from Vince that Matt Frenzl has resigned.
19
20 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Matt Frenzl
21 resigned. He made it clear to me that he wasn't going
22 to reapply and then it's hard to get a hold of him
23 because of his work schedule and then this past week, I
24 think it was, or last week he said that he would
25 resign, he did reapply, he would serve until next fall
26 and so he did resign which helped you with your quorum.
27
28 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, what
29 you're saying then that we're a nine member Council
30 when somebody resigns, okay.
31
32 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair.
33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question.
35
36 MR. GLANZ: What about Matt Gilbert. I
37 see he hasn't been here for two or three meetings.
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Matt, I'm in
40 communication with, and I probably have an email back
41 in my office that will answer that question.
42
43 MR. GLANZ: All right.
44
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So then
46 there'll be two more up if he did the same.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: Right. And the timing of
49 these is good because we're right in the middle of our
50 nomination selection process so right now the panel

1 that's going to be handling that has to look at four
2 open seats with Matthew Frenzl's resignation and if
3 Matt Gilbert resigns then we'll have five, if I've got
4 the number rights.

5
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Okay.

7
8
9 MR. MATHEWS: So basically there's
10 really no action on your charter unless you want some
11 kind of change.

12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
14 members.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: No action.

17
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm hearing no
19 action. So no point -- unless somebody has something
20 they see that needs to be done they need to
21 to bring it up by the end of the meeting.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, the next
26 thing under the agenda is election of officers.

27
28 So how do we want to handle that?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Well, different Councils
31 have handled it different ways. You do have an open --
32 there's no one in your secretary's position. For the
33 new members, I think I mentioned that to you, that's
34 basically third in line, it's not that you take the
35 minutes and do all the secretarial stuff. So right now
36 you have a Chair and Vice Chair, which you already know
37 is Sue Entsminger is your Chair and Virgil's your Vice-
38 Chair.

39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought Andy
41 Bassich was our secretary.

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: Who?

44
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy Bassich.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: No, it was Donald
48 Woodruff.

49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.

1 MR. MATHEWS: And then it slipped and
2 slipped, some.....
3
4 MR. GLANZ: I was under the assumption
5 that he was our Secretary.
6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought --
8 didn't Richard get it?
9
10 MR. BASSICH: Uh-huh.
11
12 MR. MATHEWS: I -- maybe my notes are
13 wrong.....
14
15 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS:but if Richard is,
18 then Richard is. Richard is?
19
20 MR. BASSICH: He is.
21
22 (Laughter)
23
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that --
25 that's what I thought, yeah.
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then that slipped
28 through my notes.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He is the
33 Secretary.
34
35 MR. CARROLL: I know my spot.
36
37 (Laughter)
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Okay, then that was my
40 oversight so you do have three and then each Council's
41 done it differently. The Chair gives the meeting
42 management to someone else and then there's
43 nominations, others have gone through a motion of the
44 current slate.
45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So do i need
47 to step down?
48
49 MR. BASSICH: No.
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: You don't have to, some
2 other ones do.
3
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
5 ask the Council how they like to do it.
6
7 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to make a motion
8 that we stay with all of our officers.
9
10 MR. BASSICH: As stands.
11
12 MR. ERHART: I second that.
13
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
15 that's one -- well, any discussion.
16
17 MR. CARROLL: I have discussion.
18
19 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Richard.
20
21 MR. CARROLL: Well, you know the motion
22 is to retain who's all seated right now?
23
24 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
25
26 MR. CARROLL: I've been very happy with
27 your Boardmanship and Virgil and I've never had to step
28 into your place yet but if that goes I'm willing to,
29 you know, if you don't make it or Virgil, that's fine.
30 But I've been happy with the way you've been conducting
31 meetings and everybody's been getting a fair -- a fair
32 say, it might take a little bit longer or whatever but
33 I think the public has been well served and I don't
34 think we should hear a complaint about anybody that
35 didn't have a chance to say -- have their say. That's
36 one of the things that I've been pleased about this
37 Council.
38
39 Thank you.
40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well,
42 appreciate that. Thank you.
43
44 MR. BASSICH: Question.
45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
47 has been called for. All in favor.
48
49 IN UNISON: Aye.
50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, that was
6 short and sweet.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
11 Richard. I have to say the same for both of these
12 guys, too. We love you Virgil. Sometimes we like to
13 calm you down so your blood pressure doesn't go
14 skyrocketing but you do have.....
15
16 (Laughter)
17
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER:a lot of
19 knowledge that you bring to us and we really appreciate
20 that and I really appreciate what all of you are doing.
21 I think it's awesome.
22
23 And I really would like to interject
24 thoughts to the new members, I really appreciate you
25 guys, it's great, great to have you on.
26
27 Okay, so next is the future meeting
28 plans, dates and locations including alternates.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: And, Madam Chair there's
31 an error in your agenda, those dates are October 13th
32 and 14th, I hope.
33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it says
35 fall 2009, okay, October, what, 13th and 14th?
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there's a calendar
38 on Page 67 which may help you. We need to confirm the
39 dates and then location. But the agenda's wrong, it's
40 not 17th and 18th, because you generally don't meet on
41 a weekend unless you want to.
42
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, and it
44 says in the upper Tanana Fortymile area.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: That was the wishes at
47 your last meeting.
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
49
50 MR. MATHEWS: You didn't set a

1 location, you just indicated you wanted to.....

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I see,
4 we're stuck to the road system, that's what's coming
5 into play here.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Well, for the new members
8 your hubs are Fairbanks and the road system and you can
9 petition for another location and that's why I was
10 hoping Pete would still be here if you did select
11 another location. I would do a cost analysis and then
12 it goes to him to decide that, say you wanted to meet
13 in Arctic Village again and then the justification and
14 cost would be factors that he would look at on saying
15 yes to Arctic Village or no. That's just an example,
16 I'm not saying.....

17

18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Virgil
19 [sic], why don't you tell us why we didn't go to
20 Central.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: Central was a -- he
23 expressed concerns about the weather of getting people
24 up and over Twelvemile and Eagle Summit was the main
25 concerns he had, and so those were the reasons and I
26 did talk to Bill on that and so that was the reasons
27 that Pete Probasco decided not to authorize Central.
28 Central is on the road system.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, what's
31 the odds of not getting through this time of year?

32

33 MR. GLANZ: Pretty heavy.

34

35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, it is?

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: It was closed -- the odds
42 are pretty bad about getting over -- it was closed
43 Thursday and Friday, Saturday they opened it
44 intermittently and Sunday morning they called me and
45 said if you want to get to that meeting be up there by
46 such and such time a time and follow the blower over so
47 that's how I got in and out.

48

49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, geez.

50

1 MR. GLANZ: So I think it was -- you
2 know not every year that way but this year it is.

3
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Frank.

5
6 MR. GURTLER: I'm pretty happy with the
7 meetings here in Fairbanks, myself, because we have
8 everything here and we don't have to put a hardship on
9 anybody in the villages, if it's all right. I mean
10 that's just a suggestion.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
15 appreciate that, Frank. You know, really it is easy to
16 come to Fairbanks for all of us and it does take extra
17 travel to go to the villages but in the past the
18 Council felt pretty strongly about being able to go
19 into the villages and talk to people.

20
21 MR. GURTLER: Okay.

22
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that
24 part's gone from what I understand.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, it seems to be
27 according to travel.

28
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince is
30 telling us we can petition.

31
32 MR. MATHEWS: Right. Those are almost
33 exact words from Pete Probasco on that, is that, you
34 can ask for another location with justification, and
35 then it'll be a case by case. But right now it's the
36 road system or Fairbanks.

37
38 So for example if you had a major,
39 major issue up in Yukon Flats area and you wanted to
40 meet in Beaver, then you would ask and then it would go
41 through the process and then see.

42
43 Western Interior has already gone
44 through this process and was granted a different
45 location.

46
47 But it's a case by case.

48
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I understand all
2 that and I agree with it to a point. I think the point
3 that Sue brought up is a pretty valid one, though, not
4 every meeting do we have areas where there's, you know,
5 some fairly serious issues going on but I think it
6 would be good to keep that in mind in the future and if
7 we have an area where there's some issues to wrestle
8 with, to try and make the effort to do the petition.

9
10 And I guess the other thing I would
11 throw out there, Vince, is what's the position on the
12 Department for funding one or two individuals from an
13 area where there may be a pretty strong concern to come
14 to us. Because one of the things that I always look
15 forward to in these meetings is the public comment
16 period when we can hear from locals, and if we do have
17 people from a region that's not on the road system that
18 want to address us on an upcoming concern in their
19 area, would they -- would there be funding to bring
20 them in for that and how could we address that?

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I'm going through
23 my memory banks, we've not not funded, say, since
24 Northway's on my mind, we've not funded somebody to
25 come in from Northway on a Tetlin issue that is
26 important before the Council, but Mr. Probasco
27 indicated it in conversation that we did fund local
28 advisory committee's to send a representative and I
29 don't know the status of that.

30
31 So I don't want to muddy the water up,
32 but there was funding to bring in -- Western Interior
33 has brought in several times, through different ways
34 the Ruby Advisory Committee Chair, so I don't know if
35 that's available. But as far as the other, I don't
36 remember any and flows back to Matt Gilbert, that was
37 his main concern with this meeting and why he possibly
38 didn't attend.

39
40 But, again, we can ask for that if you
41 have an issue, I'm quickly looking at your fall meeting
42 and that's to develop recommendations on proposals to
43 change subsistence wildlife regulations and that would
44 be your meeting, yes, before the Board of Game, so your
45 main issues, as far as actions, if I got it right,
46 would be wildlife proposals, this coming October. So I
47 won't even attempt, my mind's a little scrambled here,
48 where your main wildlife issues were.....

49
50 MR. GLANZ: Madam Chair.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: I talked with Pete earlier
4 today and he was under the assumption, too, that if we
5 wanted to have it October in Central, he'd be fine with
6 that because the road is no problem in October.
7
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
9 what I always like to do is try to go where we last
10 tried to go.
11
12 MR. GLANZ: The last time we had it in
13 Central was in 1990, if I looked at it right.
14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, what
16 bothers me is the ability to not to go to some of the
17 villages, it makes it harder for them to have input.
18
19 And, you know, we can take up subject
20 at a time here. Where the meeting will be and then I'd
21 like to talk slightly about how we can -- I was just
22 writing down some notes, outreach, if there's
23 outreaches by the different agencies, we might want to
24 see if there's funding to get, you know, just like you
25 suggested, a couple of people to go to some of these
26 places at times when there's issues that we should be
27 part of.
28
29 So, Virgil.
30
31 MR. UMPHENOUR: We should be able to
32 get to Central in October.
33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
35 what he just said.
36
37 MR. UMPHENOUR: And, let's see we were
38 at Circle Hot Springs in, what, 2001.
39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: You and I's first
43 meeting.
44
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, is that
46 when it was, 2001?
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think so.
49
50 MR. GLANZ: Okay, I stand corrected,

1 okay.

2

3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: A long time
4 ago.

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Not to interrupt you, Madam
7 Chair, we got -- the school said that we could utilize
8 their facilities and I asked them, well, how much we
9 have to pay and they said just make a donation to the
10 children's fund or something, and there's lodging
11 across the street, the BLM for 8 to 12 people, I
12 believe, and they have lodging for at least 12 at the
13 Central Roadhouse, that's just without being crowded,
14 we can put a lot more in there and there's homes
15 available, too, for people, if they'd like.

16

17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: I got a motorhome that
20 would do eight or so.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS: And I talked to the field
23 manager for BLM and we could get access to that
24 building and it would be heated. So it was a safety
25 not logistics of the village that prevented it from
26 this meeting being there.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: Excuse me, the BLM
29 building, a safety thing -- concern you say?

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: No, no, no, no, I meant
32 that this meeting, the reason we didn't meet in Central
33 was because of Safety, of getting over the Pass, it
34 wasn't lodging, it wasn't like there wasn't enough beds
35 or whatever.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Thank you.

38

39 MR. BASSICH: Do you need a motion for
40 this?

41

42 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

43

44 MR. FIRMIN: Madam Chair.

45

46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to ask all
49 the other members if the end of September, is that
50 pretty much a busy month for everybody in this room,

1 uh?
2
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, it is.
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: All right.
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.
8
9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: People are in
10 the field. And what do we have the 13th and 14th,
11 first are we happy with those dates?
12
13 MR. BASSICH: I have a question.
14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
16
17 MR. BASSICH: The only other question I
18 have, I see in the calendar it says, holiday, is that
19 going to stop some of the airlines from flying at all?
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: No, it hasn't in the
22 past.
23
24 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Because I know
25 some of them are kind of funny like that if they're
26 carrying mail only or primarily mail, sometimes they
27 won't come in on those Federal holidays if there's no
28 mail.
29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Well, for your community
31 it might be.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't cross that
36 bridge. And in respect to Craig Fleener I have to put
37 this in there, that's Black Monday -- it's Columbus
38 Day.
39
40 So, no, I don't know for the other
41 travel, but when we arranged in the past -- you've
42 bucked up to holidays practically most of your
43 meetings, we've not had transportation problems.
44
45 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, if it
46 was a problem you could just move it to 14 and 15,
47 right?
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Correct, we would move it
50 a day. What we're trying to do is get it in the middle

1 of the week because Andy doesn't -- and others don't
2 have travel on Sunday or Saturday and it gets messy.
3
4 MR. BASSICH: Right.
5
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that doable
7 for you, Andy?
8
9 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Oh, yeah.
10
11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
12 right, then.....
13
14 MR. BASSICH: Central.
15
16 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have Central
17 on the table and anybody object.
18
19 Go ahead, Frank.
20
21 MR. GURTLER: Would it be a detriment
22 if we were to have it up there rather than here because
23 of all the people that live here in town, to get
24 information, or does it make any difference?
25
26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know what
27 I can predict that if they don't like it, we'll end up
28 in town anyway, but, no, I think we're all right to
29 have it up there, is that what you're asking?
30
31 MR. GURTLER: Yeah.
32
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The Staff
34 usually makes their way -- we've gone all over in the
35 past so, yeah.
36
37 MR. GURTLER: Yeah.
38
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.
40 All right. Hearing no objection it will be Central and
41 then we will be flexible, if there's any travel
42 problems because of the holiday, we'll just move it up
43 a day, okay.
44
45 (Council nods affirmatively)
46
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
48
49 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.
50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And now the
2 other thing I wanted to ask and I guess it's going to
3 have to go to OSM Staff or Pete, because there's a few
4 of the Federal agencies left, that we had talked
5 earlier about outreach, there's a lot of funding for
6 outreach and when they get into some of these hot
7 issues, if a couple Council members as part of the
8 outreach, you know, if it's BLM land, if it's the
9 Refuge up in the Arctic or wherever, get a couple
10 Council members to go to some of these places with
11 these people, so they're informed one on one if people
12 are willing to do that.

13

14 Go ahead, Richard.

15

16 MR. CARROLL: Well, I was wondering,
17 you know, it's one of the -- one of the purposes, you
18 know, to hear public comment and, well, Lester is from
19 Tanana.....

20

21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

22

23 MR. CARROLL:that's the very
24 extreme end of our area.....

25

26 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's me.

27

28 MR. CARROLL:and you're way down
29 there, and the rest of us are pretty centrally located.

30

31 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

32

33 MR. CARROLL: With the issues I'd like
34 to see somebody from Minto, if you have to send them a
35 special invitation, you know, they're -- Minto is --
36 it'd just be nice to hear from them because I don't
37 think the -- the bison reintroduction and the Minto
38 Flat, whatever development they got down there is going
39 to just go away, I mean I'd just like to hear what they
40 say and, you know, even though we have our own opinion,
41 I don't live there, you know. I know how we feel back
42 in Fort Yukon with bison running around close to us,
43 you know, we don't mind, but I don't know how they
44 feel. It'd just be nice to extend the invitation or
45 find some transportation expenses for them, if they got
46 an Advisory Council down there, you know.

47

48 That's all I wanted to say.

49

50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're

1 asking that if they could come to our meeting, if we
2 extend an invitation to them.....
3
4 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.
5
6 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we want
7 to hear from them how they feel about the bison
8 reintroduction or.....
9
10 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.
11
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER:any
13 issues.....
14
15 MR. CARROLL: Any issue.
16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER:before
18 the Council?
19
20 MR. CARROLL: Yes. Yeah, like this
21 end's been real quiet, you know.
22
23 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
24
25 MR. CARROLL: It's been awful quiet,
26 you know, it's good to see Lester.
27
28 (Laughter)
29
30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's good to
31 see you Lester, uh-huh.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do we
36 handle that, Vince?
37
38 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think you have
39 two questions here. One is Advisory Committee's and
40 that, and that we could work with the State on that.
41 That was bringing information in. You also said
42 sending Council members out.
43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's true.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: So the in one I think is
47 in negotiations with the State, I'm not sure of that
48 but I'm feeling that there is -- there is movement to
49 get close relationship with the Advisory Committee's.
50 How that's going to be done, I don't know the details.

1 Sending out -- the reason I called up
2 Cal Casipit from Southeast to see how they did it in
3 Southeast, because they've got island and ferries and a
4 lot more transportation challenges in some ways, the
5 way they've done it is if they have a subcommittee on
6 an issue that requires that subcommittee to do its work
7 and then report back to the Council, so that's how they
8 do it. So that's how they do it.

9
10 I think what you need to do and my
11 recommendation is to send a letter into Pete Probasco
12 asking if there's a conservation concern and/or user
13 conflict concern, would OSM fund Council members to go
14 out to these communities to solicit input and then ask
15 him to reply.

16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or the Federal
18 agencies that are involved because he spoke earlier
19 about funding through the outreach programs in a
20 specific conservation unit.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, I think -- I
23 understand what you're saying, that if it happens to be
24 for Tetlin Refuge then why doesn't Tetlin Refuge -- go
25 to Tetlin Refuge to fund Council members, they're going
26 to turn it back to OSM, so it might be better to go to
27 who you respond to, which is the Federal Subsistence
28 Board and OSM. And then from there they can funnel it
29 out and say, well, okay -- well, they'll just respond
30 to your request and then see if the agencies would say,
31 yes, we're willing to deal with that.

32
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would the
34 Council members agree that we should pursue this type
35 of interaction by -- we'll just do it by letter?

36
37 (Council nods affirmatively)

38
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm seeing
40 nodding of heads.

41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, like this
47 meeting, but the State paid for him, but the Chair of
48 the Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC came to our meeting, Stan
49 did, and we've got two AC Chairs on our RAC, myself and
50 Andy.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're on
2 an AC?
3
4 MR. GLANZ: I'm an AC Chair also.
5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: And you're an AC Chair
7 also so we got three AC Chairs on our RAC.
8
9 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are any of you
10 guys on the ACs locally, that's the State Advisory
11 Committees.
12
13 MR. ERHART: I'm on the Rampart one.
14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're on the
16 Rampart Advisory Committee.
17
18 MR. ERHART: Yeah, Rampart and Manley.
19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.
21
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, so we've
23 got a lot of representation here.
24
25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Four of us.
26
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you on
28 any?
29
30 MR. CARROLL: No.
31
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.
33
34 MR. BASSICH: Get with it.
35
36 (Laughter)
37
38 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, well, there's
41 four of us on ACs and three of us are AC Chairs, so we
42 have a fair amount of AC representation as it is.
43
44 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's kind of
45 a neat thing to look for for new members, is to
46 have.....
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: It is looked into. I
49 mean that's one of the things that helps the panel if
50 they're involved with other groups. It's not the only

1 factor but it is looked at.
2
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
4
5 MR. BASSICH: Madam Chair.
6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
8
9 MR. BASSICH: I think that the point,
10 though, that I think I'm hearing Richard say, too, is
11 that there are some outlying areas, I mean I can hardly
12 remember ever hearing much from Arctic Village or
13 Chandalar or Healy or any of these places, Anderson.
14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we went
16 to Arctic Village.....
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
19
20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and we
21 heard a lot when we got there.
22
23 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, we did.
24
25 MR. BASSICH: Well, I'm sorry, I missed
26 that meeting.
27
28 MR. GLANZ: I even went without my gear.
29
30 (Laughter)
31
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep.
33
34 MR. BASSICH: But I think the point he
35 was making is there are some areas that we hear very
36 seldom from and to put the effort into those areas,
37 some kind of outreach or invitation to attend or to go
38 to them is warranted. As Virgil pointed out.....
39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How do you
41 want to do it?
42
43 MR. BASSICH: I think initially contact
44 them through letter is good and then see if they're
45 receptive, if they're interested. We can't jam it down
46 their throats.
47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.
49
50 MR. BASSICH: You know, let's just

1 offer the invitation and then work with them and see if
2 they're interested, if they are then we can move with
3 it, if they're not.....

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So a letter to
6 OSM to try to reach out to Advisory Committees?

7

8 MR. BASSICH: I think it could be just
9 a letter directly from our RAC, can't it, to their
10 Advisory Committee and/or their village council. Why
11 do we have to go through OSM, why can't it just be a
12 letter, you know, why involve OSM Staff to draft a
13 letter.....

14

15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

16

17 MR. BASSICH:or make a contact
18 when we.....

19

20 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just give all
21 the work to Vince.

22

23 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

24

25 (Laughter)

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: I mean it can be a letter
30 from our.....

31

32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He needs to
33 work a little harder.

34

35 MR. BASSICH:RAC.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Yes, Madam Chair, like Rita
38 St.Lewis, she's in charge of the Interior Boards, I
39 mean a letter to her probably wouldn't hurt either.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: No longer.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: No longer, oh.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: No longer.

46

47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Rita's no
48 longer the coordinator.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: No, she is now in the

1 planning department and I don't know the status of
2 filling her position.

3
4 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But there is
5 -- there will be a person.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: There will be one.

8
9 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, right.

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Maybe six months.

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand there'll
14 be a letter to the Advisory Groups and villages to see
15 if there's an interest in this.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: Great.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Now, the next one that
20 came up, is Sue brought up on a break, if you look at
21 Healy and that area there, you have an SRC -- for new
22 members that's Subsistence Resource Commission, we
23 didn't talk about that in your training, but Sue.....

24
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did I
26 overlook.....

27
28 MR. MATHEWS:button-holed me that
29 maybe the member that is appointed by this Council to
30 that SRC, through -- with help from the Park Service,
31 report to this Council on what's going on.

32
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Especially if
34 they're not on the Council.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Right, they're not on the
37 Council.

38
39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

40
41 MR. MATHEWS: Paul Starr is not. So
42 you're blessed that Sue is on the SRC for Wrangell so
43 you have input from that. Yukon Charley doesn't have
44 an SRC. So the issues that are on Denali generally are
45 handled -- I'm not giving them the full authority, but
46 they're generally handled within the SRC, so they would
47 report to you.

48
49 And in a nutshell, without going into
50 detail, which I can't remember and maybe Pete could,

1 the people who qualify to hunt in Denali National Park
2 is a very, very small group of people, so the Advisory
3 Committee may be interested in talking to you.

4
5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's why,
6 yeah.

7
8 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it's 1344 and we
9 won't go down that path today.

10
11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Right.
12 I understand.

13
14 Okay, but getting back to what we're
15 asking you, we're going to do a letter and it's going
16 to -- and we have enough information, now, Vince?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, we're asking for
19 their level of interest and participating in these
20 meetings, and that's it.

21
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think
23 with this memorandum of understanding between the State
24 and the Federal we're probably going to see more
25 coordination between the State coordinators of the ACs
26 and Vince.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Well, in full respect to
29 Rita and everyone, we've had excellent level, it's the
30 funding question that's really behind all this. Rita
31 has just been super to work with. There's no
32 reservation on her level at all on interaction, it's
33 the funding -- paying the ticket for someone to come in
34 from the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee, for example,
35 is the question.

36
37 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we're
38 going to start with a letter and then we'll end up --
39 I'm sure we'll end up talking about this again.

40
41 Okay, I had something on my mind and it
42 just escaped me, maybe it'll come back.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: One option for you, Madam
45 Chair, and, again I know it's way off in the distance,
46 but this may be a topic to bring up to the Board when
47 the Chairs have their Chair's topics.

48
49 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Because I would guess in
2 other regions they're struggling with the same thing.
3 Because -- well, Western, I know it's very clear, they
4 are very hesitant to move forward without direction or
5 input from the local Advisory Committees, and so
6 without the Advisory Committees being active they get
7 really uncomfortable or not knowing what the Advisory
8 Committee is doing, and they have a similar make up.
9 They have like three or four Chairs on their Council
10 but they can meet and, et cetera, so I think other
11 regions are -- and I'm seeing other Staff shake their
12 heads, they're in the same boat that they would like
13 more involvement with the Advisory Committees.

14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'd like
16 to see more involvement with the Advisory Committees.

17
18 And, you remember, Vince, what happened
19 was the RAC stuff wasn't sent to the ACs, yeah, has
20 that been.....

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's -- the
23 basics of it has been cleared up.

24
25 The basics is, is that the materials
26 that you get, this proposal analysis and that is sent
27 to the Chair of the Advisory Committee, you empowered
28 me that when I see all these proposals, and I see
29 Proposal 62 affects Unit 25D, then I need to activate
30 and make sure copies of that is given to the affected
31 Advisory Committee, so it's been somewhat cleared up
32 but it's not automatic that the proposal book goes out
33 to the entire affected Advisory Committees, it only
34 goes to the Chairs to my knowledge, and you've already
35 expressed it on the record that that's not effective,
36 the Chair is busy, the Chair may not have an interest,
37 the Chair doesn't get it, mail has really changed a
38 lot; then it's a dead end.

39
40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But
41 see another problem, Council members, that we run into,
42 is that some of these communities are surrounded by
43 State land so they're involvement might not be as much
44 as places where it's all Federal land. So that's some
45 of the problem where -- I know at that Tok meeting
46 people came up and they wanted to talk to us about
47 State land and it wasn't our purview. Yeah, so that's
48 the kind of things we have to separate out.

49
50 Yeah, okay, I guess we'll start it that

1 way and go from there.

2

3 (Council nods affirmatively)

4

5 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, now
6 we have Regional Council appointments. Did you say
7 that there was one seat up and it was for Denali.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madam Chair, your
10 seat for Wrangell-St. Elias is current, it doesn't need
11 reappointment. For the new members she is your
12 appointee to the SRC. For the new members, they have
13 to either be an Advisory Committee member or Regional
14 Council member, that's a very small group of people
15 that are there so you're blessed to have Sue on there
16 to wear both hats because it speeds up a lot of things.

17

18 You also appoint to the Denali
19 Subsistence Resource Commission and that's been Paul
20 Starr and my recommendation to you is to reappoint him
21 with the understanding we need to confirm that he still
22 has an interest in serving on that SRC. I wasn't able
23 to get a response from Denali National Park on his
24 interest on continuing. His lapses November 11th, '09,
25 so you could take it up at fall but it might just be
26 better to have this cautionary step and then I'm almost
27 certain he's interested but I would like the Park
28 Service or myself to contact him directly.

29

30 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I talked to
31 somebody, was it you, Vince, that the Park Service
32 Staff has said he's very involved.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: I think it was me but we
35 need to confirm that. They've been having difficulties
36 meeting so it would just be a phone call or two to find
37 out.

38

39 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we have
40 until next meeting.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: You have until next
43 meeting if you want to wait then. He serves until your
44 -- he serves at your pleasure.....

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: Until he's replaced so
49 it's not a big deal.

50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
2
3 MR. MATHEWS: We could wait until the
4 next meeting and do this background and see if the Park
5 Service.....
6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That would be
8 great, I think we should do that.
9
10 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
11
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
13 agree.
14
15 (Council nods affirmatively)
16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
18 sounds good. Next is -- what did I miss there, SRC,
19 what's this Coordinating Fisheries Committees and
20 planning groups?
21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Well, that's just to
23 reconfirm that your coordinating fishery committee
24 members are Virgil and Richard Carroll, I believe, and
25 you're going to be busy this summer if the Federal in-
26 season manager would like a sounding board on potential
27 actions.
28
29 So in the past Virgil's been involved
30 with this. We scramble around and have a very quick
31 teleconference between the two of Eastern, two of
32 Western and two of YK, with the in-season manager and
33 go from there. My projection is, yeah, there'll be at
34 least two or three of those this summer. So you just
35 need to find out if Virgil and Richard still want to
36 serve on that committee.
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I serve -- I
39 listen to one teleconference a week if I'm in town,
40 which has been most of the summer. Every Tuesday's the
41 teleconference at 1:00 o'clock. And then like Vince
42 said, once in awhile we have a special teleconference
43 meeting when we have to do some type of controversial
44 management decision.
45
46 MR. MATHEWS: And then.....
47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's to
49 YRDFA and anything else that's happening?
50

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Those weekly
2 teleconferences are the YRDFA teleconferences, but
3 that's paid for by the Yukon River Panel, is what it
4 is, but it's not just YRDFA that's on the
5 teleconferences, it's whoever wants to be on the
6 teleconference.
7
8 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But is that
9 what you were speaking to earlier?
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, that's what I'm
12 speaking to.
13
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, uh-huh.
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: But I'm on almost --
17 well, if I'm in town I'm on those teleconferences
18 almost every day -- or every time, if I'm not there my
19 wife sits in on them.
20
21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. And
22 this standing committee of you and Richard, there's
23 other things they get involved in besides that?
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: No, it's basically a
26 sounding board for the Federal in-season manager. The
27 Council's did not want to delegate their authority to
28 this committee when they were formed, so they're
29 basically a sounding board. And for the new members,
30 the Chair is always welcome to attend. I didn't want
31 to leave that out. But the Chairs are very busy so --
32 no, it's -- they're basically sounding boards at this
33 point.
34
35 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I
36 would be involved in that if I was living on the Yukon
37 River and had all the expertise as all you, but I'm not
38 so if anyone would like to do that that's not --
39 Richard, do you end up getting on?
40
41 MR. CARROLL: Yeah.
42
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you'll
44 stay?
45
46 MR. CARROLL: Yes, I'll be -- all
47 summer I won't leave Fort Yukon. I've had calls from
48 Russ and he's called, and I've straightened him out.
49
50 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good.

1 (Laughter)
2
3 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm sure you
4 do, I'm glad to hear that.
5
6 Anyone else like to be on that?
7
8 MR. GLANZ: No.
9
10 (Laughter)
11
12 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's a
13 sounding no over here.
14
15 (Laughter)
16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, anyone
18 else over here?
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you on
23 those anyway?
24
25 MR. ERHART: What?
26
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Those weekly
28 teleconferences, you are, right?
29
30 MR. ERHART: With YRDFA.
31
32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Yeah.
33 Okay, so we actually have three of you on there anyway,
34 yeah, great. And if anyone ever wants to be on, as far
35 as I'm concerned they can do it.
36
37 And now, planning groups, is there
38 anything else that we are concerned about?
39
40 MR. MATHEWS: No, that's a placekeeper.
41 Ruth talked about the Fortymile Planning Process, for
42 example, you had appointees to that. There's no
43 planning processes that I know of that should have
44 appointments to at this point.
45
46 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Except we'd
47 like to create some.
48
49 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
50

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All
2 right, more from Vince, correspondence received and
3 sent.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: That's just for you to
6 know what's going on. It's a list on Page 68. You can
7 look at it. You receive all the copies, I try to mark
8 them for your information or whatever, but you receive
9 all the copies and then different articles and then
10 things like that. That's just an accounting. I just
11 feel it's important for tracking that you know what's
12 been sent and received. So that's all that is, there's
13 nothing more.

14
15 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I see
16 something -- so all Council members get these -- the
17 correspondence, copies of it sent to them?

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Correct.

20
21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: They do.....

24
25 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
26 getting it all along during the year.

27
28 (Council nods affirmatively)

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: And if you -- well, no,
31 never mind.

32
33 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's enough,
34 yeah.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: If you don't get it, tell
37 me.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
42 Vince, what's this recognition award.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: Our program has been
45 moving into recognition awards and I was hoping Pete
46 would be here but he had to leave. We now have a
47 program [sic] of giving recognition to Council members
48 on your years of service. So we have three awards and
49 we'll give those out and try to get some pictures of
50 them, so let me get the awards here.

1 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: While he's
2 getting the awards, he gave awards out at the tri-
3 Council meeting, that was just great Vince.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: What's that?
6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: When you did
8 your little Boy Scout thing.
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: That was my own effort,
11 this is.....
12
13 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was
14 precious, remember that?
15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I got the angler
17 award.
18
19 MR. GLANZ: Vince, not to change the
20 subject but I see the Western Interior's having their
21 meeting the same time we're having ours, is that going
22 to be a conflict with you, here on this map here, the
23 dates?
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: No, the answer, Bill,
26 that's Southcentral that's having the same meeting.
27
28 MR. GLANZ: Oh, okay, I must have
29 misread, I'm sorry, okay.
30
31 MR. MATHEWS: And that will only affect
32 Wrangell-St. Elias and Denali's attendance.
33
34 I think you can hear me on the mic, I
35 hope.
36
37 Pete would be better at doing this but
38 these are for five years of service awards. The first
39 one goes to Andy Bassich for his recognition of years
40 of service to the Federal Subsistence Management
41 Program as a member of the Eastern Interior Subsistence
42 Regional Advisory Council, and it comes with a mug
43 that's unused.
44
45 (Laughter)
46
47 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And unwashed.
48
49 (Laughter)
50

1 (Applause)
2
3 (Award recognition)
4
5 (Photo session)
6
7 MR. MATHEWS: Some of these may be more
8 years than five years, but they're five year
9 increments. Anyways, this goes to Virgil Umphenour and
10 his recognition of service, obviously on the Eastern
11 Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council,
12 and this is signed by Mike Fleagle, the Chair.
13
14 MR. UMPHENOUR: Great.
15
16 (Award recognition)
17
18 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yea, Virgil.
19
20 (Applause)
21
22 MR. BASSICH: I think that's multiples
23 of fives for Virgil.
24
25 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I think so.
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Are you ready?
28
29 REPORTER: Oh, I got it, okay, let me
30 get it with this one too.
31
32 (Photo session)
33
34 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's quite
35 the camera you have.
36
37 MR. MATHEWS: And you guys don't
38 realize how much work goes in as Chair, and I don't
39 want to discourage anybody because there's a lot of
40 benefits with it.
41
42 (Laughter)
43
44 MR. MATHEWS: But the Chair does carry
45 a lot, there's a lot of phone calls, a lot of emails,
46 and there's a lot of interaction from other agencies.
47 So this goes to Sue Entsminger for her years of service
48 to the Federal Subsistence Management Program as a
49 member of Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
50 and all those other duties as Chair, and I think you

1 guys already recognized it, but it is a lot of work.
2
3 So with that we have this for Sue.
4
5 (Applause)
6
7 (Award recognition)
8
9 (Photo session)
10
11 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
12 Thank you very much.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: They'll give you another
15 one of those in five more years so.....
16
17 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
18
19 (Laughter)
20
21 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I got
22 one of these from the Park Service, too, Wrangell-St.
23 Elias at my last meeting, so I'll have my little
24 collection of mugs.
25
26 MR. MATHEWS: That's all the awards I
27 know of. But for the new members continuity and
28 continuing participation is important. In all respect
29 to the two new members, you've really moved into this
30 meeting very well and I hope the others recognize that.
31 Other new members, which have been good members, don't
32 get me wrong, it takes them a meeting or two before
33 they actually get in there and actually end up
34 disagreeing, and so I monitor disagreement because that
35 shows that there's diversity of views as well as
36 willingness to openly discuss. The worst thing for a
37 meeting is to have actions happen with no discussion.
38 And the worst part of that is, is that then the Board,
39 who makes the decision, doesn't really have an
40 understanding of why, and so when you openly discuss
41 the fact that it affects sporthunters or whatever on
42 that, then the Board understands you've weighed out the
43 issues. Just saying, you know, I make a motion,
44 second, question, the Board has no idea what you're
45 doing. So I applaud both new members as well as the
46 standing members for your level of interaction.
47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
49 And thank you for these great mugs. I might keep it in
50 my car so I can have hot coffee as I'm traveling.

1 And I just want to reiterate, I really
2 welcome you guys and I think the fact that you've dealt
3 with the Yukon River fish so long helps you to be on
4 board with us here because for me it took a long time
5 to be on board with the Yukon fish, it's very
6 complicated, so it's really great to have that history
7 from you guys.

8
9 Now, Council, closing comments. We'll
10 start with Bill again so that new members have a
11 feeling, this is your feelings of just talking about
12 the meeting, how it went, and your comments.

13
14 Bill.

15
16 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to thank the Chair
17 for such a wonderful job again. And I'd like to thank
18 everybody here with the participation and we had a lot
19 of different views on a lot of things and I'm sorry we
20 didn't vote the way that everybody liked but that's
21 what this is -- what Vince just said, that's what we're
22 here for. And I look forward to six more months from
23 now, we'll have another meeting, especially up in
24 Central.

25
26 Thanks again, guys, that's about all I
27 got.

28
29 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madam Chair.
32 I guess I want to extend thanks to Vince and Tina for
33 all of their assistance. And, of course, the Chair, I
34 think you do a wonderful job of running the meeting.
35 You're very fair and open and I like the relatively
36 informal method that you use for running the meeting, I
37 think it makes people feel really comfortable and I
38 think that's really important.

39
40 And I wanted to say, especially, thanks
41 to Frank for coming and I appreciate his views on the
42 subsistence -- on subsistence or lifestyle as you call
43 it, and we have a lot in common there as far as our
44 ideas, but I really appreciate him voicing those. And
45 Lester, bringing all of his knowledge with the
46 fisheries down in the Tanana region. Andrew from the
47 Fort Yukon area. So I think one of the things that I
48 really enjoy about this is just meeting the different
49 people from the different regions and learning how they
50 live.

1 And then thanks for all the Staff that
2 have come and share their time. I know it's not easy
3 to just sit there for a couple of days but we can't do
4 our job without you presenting to us. So thanks for
5 your time, too.

6
7 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Richard.

8
9 MR. CARROLL: Thank you very much
10 Council members. I think we get along pretty good, we
11 may not agree all the time 100 percent but I think we
12 reach a consensus and can accept each other's
13 differences. And I especially like my elders, Lester,
14 and Frank, thank you very much for your attendance and
15 participation right off the get-go. And young Andy is
16 coming -- oops, Andrew, is coming out and making
17 proposals, right on, Andrew, right on. And that's a
18 very encouraging thing for me to see, since he's as old
19 as my kids, you know, and my nephew.

20
21 And thank you, Madam Chair, for your
22 fine job, and Staff, thank you.

23
24 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
25 Richard. Virgil.

26
27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, thank you. You
28 guys have pretty much said about everything. Except I
29 think we had a real good meeting this time. We've
30 addressed head on the problems that we have with our
31 king salmon on the Yukon River. We're putting forward
32 the proposals to both the Federal Board and the State
33 Board that I think will -- is -- would actually solve
34 our problem, the problem is it's going to take 25 to 30
35 years or so to see much improvement, even if everything
36 we come up with does get passed. But we made a good
37 step in the right direction. It's going to cause the
38 other two Boards above us to have a serious look at the
39 issues.

40
41 But you did a good job Chairing the
42 meeting, I appreciate all the input and all the
43 discussion about all the issues. And that's about all
44 I've got to say.

45
46 Madam Chair.

47
48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
49 Virgil. And Lester.

50

1 MR. ERHART: Yeah, this was a very
2 interesting meeting for me. I got a little upset too
3 there a few times, but that's probably the way it goes
4 over the fish issue. I'd kind of like to see it
5 solved, you know, so my grandkids can see king salmon,
6 too.

7
8 I think this was a very good meeting
9 and I want to thank all of you, and the Chair and
10 Virgil and everybody, this was great.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: I thought we had a good
17 meeting, too. Like Vince said, it's a little slow
18 starting out, I was a little nervous to sit up here in
19 front of 30 people and say stuff at first but just glad
20 for everybody's encouragement and help and like you
21 said, the fish issue is a complicated one and I know
22 the more I read and listen, the more I learn, so
23 hopefully I'm here for a lot longer.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Frank.

28
29 MR. GURTLER: Very interesting.

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 MR. GURTLER: Well, I sure enjoyed
34 meeting all you people and working with you. I think
35 we accomplished a lot today with arguing and different
36 opinions on stuff, but that's the way it works, the way
37 it's supposed to work. If it went smooth we wouldn't
38 have any problems, we wouldn't be here.

39
40 And thanks for having me be on the
41 Board and we'll see you all again this fall.

42
43 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
44 I'd like to thank all of you and I'm going to start
45 with the youngest in the crew, I'm kind of like you,
46 I've got a son about the same age and this is good,
47 this is good, this is what -- because you guys will be
48 the next generation to carry on and I really appreciate
49 you sitting there thinking about things and writing
50 them down. So if we ever overlook you, don't let us do

1 it, okay, because it's real important to hear it from
2 everyone. I really appreciate it.

3

4 And I spoke to you guys earlier, so
5 it's just really a pleasure to have the elders here
6 also. And all of you guys, I really appreciate
7 learning about the other areas, it's awesome to get --
8 I think we're pretty diverse actually in this Council
9 because we -- if you look at the map and look at all
10 that Federal land, it's pretty amazing how different it
11 is in Arctic Village and down in Tok or Mentasta or
12 Nabesna, who is in Unit 12 also. So I really thank you
13 guys and look forward to working with you in the
14 future.

15

16 Thank you, so much. Thank you, Vince,
17 and thank you for the great job all of you guys.
18 Thanks to all the people for the reports. I know these
19 meetings get long and sometimes very taxing but we have
20 to keep smiling and joking once in awhile.

21

22 And so we're left with an adjournment,
23 so we need a motion unless.....

24

25 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adjourn.

26

27 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER:there's
28 anything else. Motion to adjourn.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adjourn.

31

32 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second?

33

34 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

35

36 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right, see
41 you in Central, let's hope.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Wait a minute, there
44 wasn't any discussion.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 MADAM CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Adjourned.

49

50 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

