

**EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**VOLUME I
PUBLIC MEETING**
October 19, 1994
Tok Civic Center
6:45 o'clock p.m.
Tok, Alaska

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COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

**LEE A. TITUS, CHAIRMAN
BILL FLIRIS, VICE CHAIRMAN
JEFFREY ROACH, SECRETARY
STEVEN GINNIS, MEMBER
RANDY MAYO, MEMBER
CHARLES MILLER, SR., MEMBER
SELINA PETRUSKA, MEMBER
JOHN STARR, JR., MEMBER
VINCE MATHEWS, COORDINATOR**

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(On record; 6:45 o'clock p.m.)

MR. TITUS: We're going to call the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting to order. October 19th at 6:45. I'll ask Vince to take the roll call, please.

MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can everyone hear me? Okay. I gather everyone's kind of still there. Okay. Mr. Chairman, Lee Titus?

MR. TITUS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Jeffrey Roach?

MR. ROACH: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Bill Fliris?

MR. FLIRIS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Charles Miller, Sr.?

MR. MILLER: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Charlie Titus, Jr.? Mr. Chairman, he called me and had a conflict with work and asked for an excused absence. John Starr, Jr.?

MR. STARR: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Randy Mayo?

MR. MAYO: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Selina Petruska?

MS. PETRUSKA: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: And Steven Ginnis?

MR. GINNIS: Here.

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have a quorum. You have eight people present out of nine.

MR. TITUS: Thank you. Now, for the -- we're going to the -- next on the agenda is the introduction of council

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members, agency staff, and guests. I think just for the people that have never been to our council meetings before, we'll just go around the table this way, and just give your name and where you're from or if you're working for an agency, whatever you're doing for that agency.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Vince Mathews. I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management out of Anchorage. I'm a staff assistant to assist with coordinating your meeting here tonight. Thank you.

11

12 MR. STARR: My name is John Starr and I'm a new member of the board. I'm also a member on the Tanana/Manley/Rampart Advisory Committee.

15

16 MR. MILLER: Charles Miller. I'm also a new member on the board. I'm from Dot Lake. I work in Tok here for the Tanana Chiefs, Tok subregion.

19

20 MS. PETRUSKA: Selina Petruska from Beaver.

21

22 MR. GINNIS: I'm Steve Ginnis. I'm from Fort Yukon. I'm a newly appointed member.

24

25 MR. TITUS: Lee Titus from Northway, chairman of the board. I also sit on the Upper Tanana Fish and Game Advisory Board.

28

29 MR. FLIRIS: Bill Fliris from Tanana. I'm on the TRM Advisory Committee.

31

32 MR. MAYO: Randy Mayo, newly appointed to the board. Stevens Village.

34

35 MR. ROACH: I'm Jeff Roach from here in Tok.

36

37 MR. TITUS: Oh, that's it, right? Anybody from the staff wants to introduce themselves or....

39

40 MR. YASKA: George Yaska, director of wildlife for Tanana Chiefs Conference.

42

43 MR. KURTH: My name is Jim Kurth. I'm the manager of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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46 MR. GUENTHER: I'm Conrad Guenther. I'm a biologist with the subsistence division in Anchorage.

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1 MR. PAUL: Tanancross Village Council. Franklin Paul.

2 MR. DEINES: Fred Deines, assistant refuge manager,
3 Yukon Flats Refuge.

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6 MR. JAMES: David James, subsistence coordinator for
7 the Kanuti, Yukon Flats and Arctic Wildlife Refuge.

8

9 MR. TIMM: I'm Hank Timm. I'm subsistence coordinator
10 for Tetlin Refuge.

11

12 MR. HERRIGES: Jim Herriges. I'm a wildlife biologist
13 for the Bureau of Land Management, Steese-White Mountains.

14

15 MR. YOKEL: Dave Yokel. Wildlife biologist for Arctic
16 District, Bureau of Land Management.

17

18 MS. FIELD: I'm Sharie Field. I'm with the Office of
19 Subsistence Management in Anchorage, and I'd just like to
20 remind everybody that we have sign-in sheets so that we can
21 get the correct spelling of each council member and all
22 participants in the meeting.

23

24 MR. SHERROD: I'm George Sherrod. I'm with the Office
25 of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

26

27 MR. SCHWARBER: I'm Jim Schwarber. I work with the
28 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

29

30 MR. HAYNES: Terry Haynes with Fish and Game
31 Subsistence Division, and I'm a statewide coordinator.

32

33 MR. TITUS: Anybody else?

34

35 MR. NED: Stanley Ned. Wildlife and Parks (inaudible)
36 Tanana Chiefs.

37

38 MR. ENTSMINGER: I'm just a private citizen, but
39 Chairman of the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Advisory Committee.

40

41 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Frank.

42

43 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think there are some
44 other staff that need to introduce themselves.

45

46 MS. MATTHEWS: I'm Sue Matthews. I'm the refuge
47 manager for the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.

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1 MR. ROUTE: Bill Route, National Park Service
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

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3 MS. MELDRUM: Janis Meldrum, National Park Service,
Subsistence.

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5 MR. CALLOWAY: Don Calloway, Subsistence Division,
National Park Service.

6

7 MR. TITUS: Cherie? Cherie?

8

9 MS. MARUNDE: Cherie Marunde, RIT for the Tetlin
Refuge.

10

11 MR. TITUS: Anybody else? All right. Thank you.
Next is additions or corrections to the agenda.

12

13 MR. ROACH: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 MR. TITUS: Yes?

16

17 MR. ROACH: I would like to make a motion that we move
the Cooperative Fortymile Caribou Management Plan Development,
presented by Craig Gardner, from a non-agenda item to an
agenda item for this evening.

18

19 MR. TITUS: It's been moved.

20

21 MR. GINNIS: Second.

22

23 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

24

25 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

26

27 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) Eight o'clock.
Anything else? Any more additions?

28

29 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to request a
couple of additions to the agenda. One thing I'd like to add
to the agenda is the Council Member Concerns. I looked at
this agenda and I don't see where it's inserted anywhere,
unless you're doing it at the end of the agenda where the --
where you have the Closing Remarks. I'm not sure. Maybe
Vance can help us out on that one.

30

31 MR. TITUS: Do you have something specific?

32

33 MR. GINNIS: Well, I have some concerns about the

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Yukon Flats Refuge that I would like to bring to the attention of the council, and I think this is the appropriate place to do it. And it is a concern of mine and I'd like to, you know, be able to express it. The other thing I'd like to request, Mr. Chairman, is I would like to have a -- I don't know if Fisheries or something that's dealt with by this council here, but I'm very interested in finding out the fall chum management plan for the Yukon River. Basically, I'd like to know what their escapement goals are and that type of information.

10

11 MR. TITUS: I don't know, would the Yukon Flats concern be -- put it under New Business?

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, if I understand Mr. Ginnis, I think he's making a motion to add Fisheries on the Upper Yukon onto the agenda. We have materials for that, but I'd rather wait until you have a second and decide what you're going to do with that....

19

20 MR. TITUS: Okay.

21

22 MR. MATHEWS:before we discuss....

23

24 MR. FLIRIS: I'll second it.

25

26 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

28

29 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

30

31 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) Okay. Now, we need to figure out where we're going to put it.

33

34 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Mr. Chairman, it would probably fit fairly nicely under New Business. And I have been in contact with Commercial Fisheries through John Morrison and it's possible they'll show up. If not, we have copies of the proposals that contain the plan from the Board of Fisheries book. As you probably already know, that is a State jurisdiction area, but you can, as a council, draft some kind of comments on that and if you do do that and charge me to do that, then I'll submit them to the Board of Fisheries.

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44 MR. TITUS: So, under New Business, we'll sneak it somewhere between A and B, or provide a C?

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47 MR. MATHEWS: It'd probably be cleaner to make it a C.

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MR. TITUS: Okay.

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2 MR. MATHEWS: And, Mr. Chairman, I apologize; I didn't
capture Mr. Ginnis' first discussion point and if he would
repeat it, maybe I can respond to it.

5
6 MR. GINNIS: What I was requesting was I didn't see
anywhere on this agenda of council member concerns and I just
said I'd like to address some areas I have concern about in
the Yukon Flats Refuge.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think if the member has
specific concerns, he can make a motion to add them to the
agenda or if he wants to wait to have a section, we can put
that throughout. As you know, the council members are there
to express their concerns on any issues that are up before the
council. So, I would either recommend he makes motions to the
effect -- to the issues or he makes a motion to set aside a
specific period of time for that. Thank you.

19
20 MR. GINNIS: In that case, where would we -- if I
can't have that item on the agenda, then, where would we
discuss it? I mean, there's no -- I don't see anything here
on Yukon Flats Refuge anywhere.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: I think it's in my court.
26. Chairman,....

27
28 MR. TITUS: Yes?

29
30 MR. MATHEWS:depending on the issue, it can fall
under Old Business or New Business. I think the person --
Mr. Ginnis has to decide if you want to bring them up early in
the meeting so people can think about them or if you'd rather
bring them up under New Business. I think everyone realizes,
and the crowd also, this is a quite crowded agenda; not to
push that off, but to realize it's a crowded agenda. We need
to put it where it's most convenient to gather the concerns he
wants. Thank you.

39
40 MR. TITUS: Yes, Bill?

41
42 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if it would be
appropriate, since we've already created a category C under
New Business, if we just included Council Member Concerns
along with the Fishery Yukon Concerns as a general category
for C under New Business.

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48 MR. TITUS: Okay. We can do that. So, that will be

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before noon tomorrow.

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2 MR. GINNIS: Where it might be appropriate is right
Here, under Other Old Business.

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5 MR. TITUS: Other Old Business?

6

7 MR. GINNIS: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move
8 that we move the Council Member Concerns under F, Other Old
Business, number one.

10

11 MR. FLIRIS: Second.

12

13 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
14 Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

15

16 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

17

18 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) Council Concerns. Any
19 more additions to the agenda? Vince?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think you may want to
22 inform the public that they can also voice any agenda
23 additions they would like, and then the council can decide to
24 add it or subtract it. I'm not sure they're aware of that.

25

26 MR. TITUS: Okay. One of the -- I was wondering if we
27 can squeeze in a time after the Fortymile Caribou Management
28 Plan for public testimony. The Chair entertains a motion to
29 that effect.

30

31 MR. FLIRIS: I move so.

32

33 MR. TITUS: It's been moved by Bill.

34

35 MR. MILLER: Second.

36

37 MR. TITUS: It's been seconded by Chuck. Discussion?

38

39 MR. ROACH: My only concern, Mr. Chair, is that's
40 going to be -- I mean, we're going to be running into some
41 pretty late time there if we put in public presentations after
42 that. That's going to be ten o'clock at night and that's -- I
43 don't know, that's just my concern. It's pretty late to have
44 public comment. It might be more considerate to the public to
45 put it in first thing in the morning on Saturday.

46

47 MR. TITUS: One of the -- I think one of the -- the
48 reason I was looking at squeezing it in tonight was that we

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were going to -- I believe that most of the testimony was going to be presented concerning the C&T determinations and we're going to be discussing that tomorrow. And I think if we're going to discuss it and take some kind of action as a council and then have the public testimony after the effect is....(pause) Any more discussions? Bill?

6

7 MR. FLIRIS: Lee, let me see if I understood what you said. You would prefer to have some public testimony before the staff reports on the customary and traditional use report?

10

11 MR. TITUS: Yeah. I mean just -- I know I got some calls saying that some of the people were working and they didn't have time to make it tomorrow or the next day, and we're going to be discussing C&T determinations tomorrow, all day tomorrow, and I just wanted to leave a little space tonight for people that -- I don't know if we're going to get any public testimony tonight, but just, you know, if there's anybody that wants to testify, that they have an opportunity to. Any more discussions? Vince?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just need clarification. The motion is to allow public testimony after the second on Cooperative Fortymile Management Plan, public testimony on the Upper Tanana C&T determination process?

25

26 MR. TITUS: (Nods head.)

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you.

29

30 MR. TITUS: Any more discussions? Hearing none, all in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

32

33 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

34

35 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) The Chair entertains the motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

37

38 MR. ROACH: So moved.

39

40 MR. GINNIS: Second.

41

42 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded.

43

44 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, sorry to stop you in addition there. If you agree that the section, Proposal Development, would include -- I received some proposals from Eagle that desire the council to take a look at them and comment on. So, if you feel that falls under H, Proposal

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Development, then we're okay, but if you feel it needs to be an added agenda item, I'm asking if you want to add it at this time. You can agree that it falls underneath that proposal one, and then we're okay.

4

5 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Thank you.

8

9 MR. TITUS: Any more discussions on the agenda as amended? (Pause) Hearing none, all in favor of the agenda, say aye.

12

13 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

14

15 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) We have an agenda. Orientation for new council members. Take off your coats and start running.

18

19 (General laughter)

20

21 MR. TITUS: Turn up the heat. I don't know how to go about this. Maybe we can just kind of like do the same thing we did when we had our first meeting; give them a background of why the regional councils were formed, about ANILCA, and all that stuff. Vince?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for cornering me, but we'll go through that. The new members and the standing members should have received the older -- the senior members should already have received a book like this and for the public there's one for you to view on the public table. This is your member reference materials. I can kind of walk you through that, but, in general, what you need to look at for how this council operates - and I will get to your history background - but first I'd like to walk through this, if that's okay, Mr. Chairman.

37

38 MR. TITUS: Sure.

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. Your way of working and what you're -- you know, kind of how you are to perform is under Tab No. 1 which is Regional Council Operations Manual. I would recommend that you take a look at that, the new members and the standing members, and that will give you an idea if you have questions on different areas. I will not go through at this time, but this gives you an idea how this council is to function. Okay. Then, we get into what you're really asking about which is Tab 2 which goes through your charter.

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Now, I won't discuss the charter either because that's on the agenda item later. But, essentially, that lays out why the council is here, on this charter. We also have a flyer in here that explains the Federal Subsistence Program which is also available at the public desk. Okay. The key one to look at is, and the lighting here is kind of poor, it's a gray sheet that looks like this. It's under Tab 2, and I'll just briefly go over that. This is the roles and responsibilities of the Regional Advisory Council in the Federal Subsistence Program.

10

11 The council members, as you already know, are appointed by the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture. The duties of the council are: (1) review and evaluate and make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters relating to subsistence taking of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region; (2) is to provide a public forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations by persons interested in any matter relating to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public lands within the region; (3) is to encourage local and regional participation and decision-making process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife. We will discuss this later, but for the public and the new members, the council in Title 8 is to draft an Annual Report to the Federal Subsistence Board and, briefly, that's to identify current and anticipated subsistence uses. It's an evaluation of current and anticipated subsistence needs, and come up with a recommended strategy for management of fish and wildlife populations, and then recommendation concerning policy, standards and guidelines. I would like it noted I'm not reading the full text here; it's available in the public documents.

33

34 You also appoint members to the National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commissions and, I'll probably leave one out, but Wrangell-St. Elias would be one, and you would also appoint the Denali National Park and Preserve, and I don't think I've left any out. If I did, someone will correct me. Make recommendations on determinations for customary and additional use. Obviously, you're doing that all day tomorrow -- no, excuse me, you're commenting tomorrow. At our next meeting, you'll be making recommendations. Pardon. But, essentially, you're a key component in the customary and additional use determination process. Make recommendations on determination of rural status. Make recommendations regarding allocation of subsistence uses among rural Alaskans, and develop proposals which is the core reason for this meeting in general; most fall meetings are for that. Develop

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proposals pertaining to the subsistence taking of fish and wildlife, and then to review other proposals submitted by other sources, and then provide recommendations on establishment and membership of Federal local advisory committees. You are to meet twice a year or upon-needed meetings. And administrative support for these activities will be provided by Fish and Wildlife Service or Forest Service. Well, we're not in Southeast, so it will be Fish and Wildlife Service.

9

10 Okay. That goes through the official part of the rules of the councils. For those in the public and the council members, there are ten councils. You are Council No. 9; the other ten councils are in your book and so if you're interested in that....(pause). The coordinator for your council is vacant at this time. The coordinators for the other regions, real quickly, are Carol Jorgensen for Southeast, Helga Eakon for Southcentral and Bristol Bay, Moses Marks for Kodiak-Aleutian Islands, John Andrew for Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, and Barbara Armstrong for Seward Peninsula, North Slope, and Northwest Arctic. Both in your council book for this meeting and somewhere in your new member orientation is a listing of the phone numbers. Okay. The phone numbers is something we need to discuss. Until the position is filled, your regional coordinator position is filled, you can call the numbers that were David James' number in Fairbanks, you so desire, but those messages will be transferred to me. So, if you want to shorten it by one step, it'd be easier to call me at 1-800-478-1456 which is the general 800 number for the Federal Subsistence Office in Anchorage. Okay. So, it'd be best if you'd call on that, but the other numbers will still exist to maintain -- so the public doesn't end up with all these changes in phone numbers. Okay.

33

34 Now, I'll answer your question, I hope, about where do the regional advisory councils come from. They came from Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act which passed in 1980. They're established under Section 805 and, essentially, that section addressed what I talked about earlier: essentially, review and evaluate proposals, provide a forum for expression of opinions and recommendations, and encourage local and regional participation, and then the Annual Report. So, you are directly linked to that which is called ANILCA and you are under the Federal Subsistence Program which the jurisdiction falls on Federal public lands. Mr. Chairman, did that, in a very condensed, rush manner meet your question?

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48 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Vince.

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1 MR. MATHEWS: And one last thing for the new members,
2 I'm not doing this in a hurry to put you off, but I'm hoping
3 that I can talk to you individually either at this meeting or
4 on the phone - more material here - but because of the crowded
5 agenda, I felt I needed to abbreviate that. But if you have
6 any questions, ask myself, your former coordinator is here,
7 David James, and any of the other Federal Subsistence Office
8 staff. If you have questions, please ask us, but I will be in
9 contact with you on more details like travel nightmare and
10 flight arrangements and all that kind of stuff that we need to
11 walk through. But if there are other things, please bring
12 them up. Remember, you are a forum for collecting subsistence
13 concerns and knowledge. Thank you.

14

15 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Vince. At this time, I'd just
16 like to welcome all the new council members to the board and I
17 know all of them -- I met all of them before and I've worked
18 with them in different -- doing different things together. I
19 know there's going to be a lot of questions and a lot of
20 decisions that we, as a board, are going to have to make and
21 if you guys have any questions or you're not certain about
22 anything, just feel free to stop me or interrupt me or ask a
23 question or something.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, I didn't
26 explain how this council book is set up which may save some
27 time, if you'd like me to quickly go through this council
28 book. This was set up to make the meeting more efficient.

29

30 MR. TITUS: Okay.

31

32 MR. MATHEWS: Okay. There is one for the public
33 here, also. There's only one of them, but you can share.

34

35 (General laughter)

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: But, beyond that, there is -- any
38 document that's in here, is available in single copies there.
39 Okay. Now, Mr. Chairman, it's set up with a table of
40 contents on the first page so you can find out where it is.
41 Tab 1 is the agenda, Tab 2 - is the reason I reminded myself
42 to tell you this - is a listing of your fellow council
43 members, their seat number and when they expire, and their
44 phone numbers. That's only in your council book because I
45 wasn't sure who had agreed to release their phone number or
46 not. So, that way you guys can -- the council members can
47 network with each other. Next to that is our organizational
48 chart for the Office of Subsistence Management, and then the

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thing that's kind of critical there which is available on the public table. You have to be flexible in this program, like today with the planes not arriving and planes not going and et cetera. The Office of Subsistence Management is moving over to the Regional Office. Due to that move, we have all new phone numbers, other than that 800 number that I gave you. The new list is in your book, so if you wanted to get a hold of your biologist for this region which is Conrad Guenther, his number is somewhere on here, 786- et cetera. So, you can look that up under Tab 2. Tab 3 is your minutes which you're almost approaching approving. Tab 4 is C&T Federal Register dealing with general policies and initial priorities. It's also a summary of what happened with proposals you commented on last cycle back in March. It's also a listing of what the Board has done on special actions which are similar to petitions in the State system but kind of emergency actions, and also Requests for Reconsiderations which are asking the Board to reconsider its actions, the council charter, the Federal Register on same-day airborne hunting, I believe it is, and then there will be letters that were mentioned in past agendas and past council actions. And then there will be annual reports under 5, report materials. No. 6 is cooperative agreements, et cetera. You can go down the list, but this is organized in the order of the way the meeting went. I would encourage you to keep this when you leave the meeting because this should hopefully be everything you need to remember about this meeting so we can build on your past actions. For the public, the public copy is over there, and as I mentioned earlier additional copies are available. If they are not, please get a hold of myself or Sharie or George and we will get your name and address or provide copies some way or another today or we'll send them to you. Thank you,
 32. Chairman.

33

34 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Vince. Now, where were we?
 35 approval of the February 3rd and 4th minutes?

36

37 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion
 38 that we approve the minutes as written.

39

40 MR. TITUS: It's been moved.

41

42 MS. PETRUSKA: Second.

43

44 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion?
 45 All in favor, say aye.

46

47 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

48

49

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MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) The minutes have been adopted.

2
3 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I didn't know how to handle your mini-meeting or subcommittee meeting that was a teleconference on May 20th, so that is following your minutes of February 3rd and 4th. I don't know if you want to do anything with that, but I put them in there under Minutes in case you wanted to address that for some reason. You were all sent a copy of that.

10
11 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that -- I'd like to make a motion that we accept the minutes from the May 20th meeting.

14
15 MR. TITUS: The minutes have already been adopted. You're making a motion about the letter dated May 31st, right?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, maybe you don't need to do anything with it. I just added it there to make sure -- since we addressed what we're discussing tomorrow, I added it under the Minutes section. You may not need to adopt it or whatever. I know you have a motion on the floor, but I....

23
24 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to withdraw that motion.

26
27 MR. TITUS: Thank you. Next on the agenda is the election of officers. Oh, for the new members, I'm the Chairman and Jeff Roach is the vice chair. I believe Jim Gustafson was the secretary, but he was replaced by one of you guys. Anyway, we need to make nominations for chair, vice chair, and a secretary. So, right now I'll open up the nominations for chair. Bill?

34
35 MR. FLIRIS: I nominate you again, Lee Titus.

36
37 MR. MILLER: I'll second.

38
39 MR. TITUS: Any more nominations for chair? (Pause) Well,....

41
42 MS. PETRUSKA: I move that we close nominations for chair.

44
45 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor of the nomination, say aye.

47
48 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

49
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1 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) Nominations are now
open for vice chair.

3

4 MR. STARR: I nominate Bill Fliris.

5

6 MR. TITUS: Bill Fliris has been nominated.

7

8 MR. FLIRIS: I nominate Jeff Roach.

9

10 MR. TITUS: Jeff Roach has been nominated. Any more
nominations?

12

13 MR. GINNIS: I move to close the nominations.

14

15 MR. TITUS: Nominations -- moved to close. Second?

16

17 MR. STARR: I'll second it.

18

19 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. All in
favor say aye.

21

22 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

23

24 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) I don't know how
this -- write their names down on paper, I guess.

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I'll pass around some
yellow sticky-notes if you want to have the members vote for
one of the two and then I'll tally the....

30

31 MR. GINNIS: Official ballot.

32

33 MR. TITUS: Hmm?

34

35 MR. GINNIS: It's an official ballot.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, we have for the vice chair
seat five votes for Bill Fliris and three votes for Jeff
Roach.

40

41 MR. TITUS: Congratulations, Bill.

42

43 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I accept with some
reservations. I guess the reason that I nominated Jeff was
because I'm a little bit nervous about taking over your
responsibilities in the case that you are not able to. I'm
spread a little bit thin, but thank you anyway. I appreciate
the nomination and votes.

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1 MR. TITUS: At this time I'd like to thank Jeff Roach
2 for sitting in for me the last year. Sometimes I couldn't
3 make it to Anchorage for meetings and I'd just like to say
4 that he did a good job on our behalf. Thanks, Jeff.
5
6 MR. ROACH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7
8 MR. MATHEWS: We still have the position of secretary.
9
10 MR. TITUS: Yeah.
11
12 MS. PETRUSKA: I nominate Jeff.
13
14 MR. TITUS: Secretary. Jeff. Jeff's been nominated.
15 Any more nominations? (Pause) Any more nominations?
16
17 MR. MILLER: I move to close the nominations.
18
19 MR. TITUS: It's been moved to close the nominations.
20
21 MS. PETRUSKA: Second.
22
23 MR. TITUS: Seconded by Selina. All in favor, say
24 aye.
25
26 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.
27
28 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause) Jeff is the secretary.
29 Next on....
30
31 MR. ROACH: Thank you.
32
33 MR. TITUS: Oh. Oh, okay.
34
35 MR. ROACH: I said thank you, Mr. Chairman.
36
37 MR. TITUS: Oh, sure.
38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just so it's clear to the
40 audience and to the council, now the officers that have been
41 elected are now in power to run this meeting. It didn't
42 change much, but -- as far as the chair, but the new vice
43 chair now sits as vice chair and secretary as secretary.
44
45 MR. TITUS: Okay. Thank you. Next on the agenda is
46 the Customary and Traditional Use Determinations (A)
47 statewide.
48
49
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MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, George Sherrod will discuss that. For the new members, I've discussed with some of the new members I road up with, you have a team that serves your council. That team is made up of a biologist, an anthropologist or social scientist, and a coordinator. Your biologist is Conrad Guenther, your anthropologist is George Sherrod, and we've already discussed about your coordinator. Thank you.

8

9

MR. TITUS: Thank you.

10

MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When the Federal Government took over management of subsistence resources in Alaska, it, as a matter of practicality and having no other option, initially adopted the regulations that were in place. This also included the customary and traditional use determinations that the State had concluded at the time. When the Federal Government took over management, they did recognize that there were problems with many of these determinations and that in many areas the determinations were not complete. And in establishing the EIS and so on, they came up with a set of eight factors, similar to the eight criteria that the State used to allow the staff to develop customary and traditional use guidelines. The significance, of course, of customary and traditional use guidelines is to have access to resources. As a subsistence user in Alaska, you first have to be rural and then you have to actually have a positive C&T determination. Of course, the next step within that, those groups that have positive C&T determinations if resources become scarce, go through what we refer to as an 804 process similar to the Tier II step.

31

The C&T determination process has been ongoing and, as of yet, there has not been one that has reached determination and, to some degree, the information you will receive here today and tomorrow is sort of at the cutting edge and the outcome of which is somewhat speculative in that we don't know how things are going to go because we don't have the history to deal with it. Earlier this year, there was a Federal Register published notice outlining a general procedure for dealing with C&T determinations and I believe you have a copy of that. It's Federal Register Volume 59, No. 135, published July 15th, 1994. Basically, the process as outlined, and this is a fairly generic overview, is fairly lengthy and has many avenues of which this body and public has access and comments the document. The general process is that the consultations will be held with local residents once an area has been set up. And I guess I should say that the State has been divided into a number of regions for C&T studies to be

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conducted, and those regions are identified in the back of this Federal Register document in a loose priority as to in what order at least the first seven will be undertaken, what order the remaining are thought to be undertaken, and some estimates at least on the first seven as to the timing of when it will be complete. Once an area is set up and once the Federal agency that has taken on the role of conducting the studies, and this was determined by staff committee, basically it's dividing up the State between the different land management entities - Fish and Wildlife Service, Park Service, Forest Service, and BLM - that that agency will consult with local residents in scoping meetings. They will also consult -- the staff of that agency will consult with local land managers and they will write a C&T report. And tomorrow you will review one such report. This report is basically the compilation of data relevant to the question of the eight factors that were identified. For the most part, this data has been derived from existing data sources as opposed to original research, but that's not solely the case.

19

20 Once a report has been documented or written, it goes through some internal reviews, there are revisions to the document to correct for potentially wrong material, it goes to 23 Federal agency review of all of the managers, and then it winds up going out to the regional councils for their review. 24 After the regional councils review the report and revisions are made to accommodate that new information that the regional 25 councils might have, the report is sent to the staff committee for review and the staff committee then takes this and 26 develops a draft proposed rule. Tomorrow, you will be going through the regional council review step; from there, the document goes on to the staff committee, the proposed rule is 27 developed and the proposed rule forwarded to the board for adoption. And then further, once it's adopted, it's published 28 the same way that the proposed rule for Regulation Seasons and Bag Limits Subpart D is published and set out for public 29 review comment. Again, we go through another round of regional council meetings and the public review comment is 30 reviewed and considered, and, finally, this terminates with the development of a final rule and then this rule is sent on 31 to Washington for publishing.

41

42 The process is somewhat, of actually documenting the data, is somewhat flexible and there have been differences in the way that, say, the Upper Tanana C&T study, the one you'll 43 reviewing tomorrow was done and the one that was done on the Lower Kenai was done. In part, this is to accommodate 44 various local differences and variation. Currently, we have 45 46 studies underway in the process of actually working

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towards a proposed rule and being put in front of the board this spring and that is, of course, the Upper Tanana and the Kenai. We have two other -- well, actually, three other C&T studies that are in -- they are beyond the planning stage in that the researchers are actually starting to amass information and those are Copper River, Eastern Arctic, and the Yukon Delta. And at this stage, we're also gearing up for the Yukon Flats to start developing a process to start engaging in that study. I believe that the Copper River and the Eastern Arctic, in theory, should be up for review and action by the board next spring.

11

12 And I guess that's about a brief history of where we're at with the State. If there's questions -- some of you have heard this before. If you've got questions, I'll entertain those.

16

17 MR. TITUS: Vince?

18

19 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, you have in your packet Order No. 4 what he discussed about the listing of the C&T priorities and, for the public, that's available - Public Comment - on the table with the big "X's" on it. So, if you would like to see that, and that follows up with what George was saying. Thank you.

25

26 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Vince. Bill?

27

28 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering, is there a reason why certain areas are -- is there a priority that's set on areas throughout the State for C&T determinations?

31

32 MR. SHERROD: That priority is published in the back of the Federal Register document that Vince just -- I forget what tab he said. It's on the last page. To a large extent, that priority was established in my absence before I came aboard. I think it focused primarily on areas in which there was a large amount of interest put by the public to have changes. We regularly receive a number of proposals that would come under the seasons and bag limits requesting changes to C&T determinations. The volume and sort of the intensity of those, I think, was a factor in setting this priority because we basically, the Federal Board, can't deal with the C&T requests or requests to change C&T under the Subpart D process, and those were deferred. And I think that helped establish this priority. Another aspect of it is - and I'll add this - is the ability for the different agencies to staff the analytical process. While Fish and Wildlife Service and the Park Service have anthropologists on staff or people with

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the expertise capable of doing this and have assigned them these chores as sort of extra duty, BLM lacks such personnel, as does Forest Service.

3

4 MR. FLIRIS: The reason I ask is because it seemed to me that, maybe it was coincidental, but most of the C&T determinations that are underway and are in the planning stages are for areas that are close by - parks, refuges, and so on - and some of the areas that are out there, for instance my area, Tanana, are not considered. I just wondered if there was a plan to do the parks and wildlife refuges, those areas close to those first, and get those out of the way or, you know,....

13

14 MR. SHERROD: That may....

15

16 MR. FLIRIS:are there other considerations?

17

18 MR. SHERROD: Yeah, that might have been a consideration. I think that what you're seeing is the reality of just the availability of staffing. And I will be doing the Upper -- excuse me, I will be doing the Yukon Flats; I will also commence on the Central Yukon basically in the same time. So, even though there's a different priority, I think we'll see Tanana occur faster than what is reflected in the timing on the documents simply because of staffing. As I say, the Forest Service hasn't indicated at any time - and I'm not picking on the Forest Service - when they will commence work. So, I think part of it has to do with just availability of manpower.

30

31 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah, I just brought it up because I think there are a lot of people that would like to see these things progress a little bit faster in all areas of the State.

34

35 MR. TITUS: Any more questions?

36

37 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman?

38

39 MR. TITUS: Steve?

40

41 MR. GINNIS: I just wanted to ask you, when you're doing this, do you meet with the local people to -- I mean, is that part of the process?

44

45 MR. SHERROD: We....

46

47 MR. GINNIS: Like in the -- I'm referring to the Yukon Flats right now.

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1 MR. SHERROD: I suspect I will be having scoping
2 meetings with the Yukon Flats. I'll deal with the cooperative
3 agreements. I administer to the cooperative agreements. Part
4 of the cooperative agreement with CATG calls for them to
5 actually be collecting some information relating to the C&T
6 determinations. So, in this case, we're going to have active
7 participation. I know that the Park Service has had fairly
8 extensive public meetings involving at least the Upper Tanana.
9 The Kenai had limited public meetings because of the temporal
10 fame and because of, as I say, to a large extent these have
11 been taken on as extra duties as opposed to having an
12 allocated budget and a staff dedicated to simply doing those.
13 But in the case of Yukon Flats, yes, there will be public
14 meetings and there is fairly heavy involvement by local people
15 this process.

16

17 MR. GINNIS: Thank you.

18

19 MR. TITUS: Any more questions?

20

21 MR. MAYO: Mr. Chairman?

22

23 MR. TITUS: Randy?

24

25 MR. MAYO: Yeah, you know, also under the Yukon Flats,
26 says, "Year of completion: 1995." So, these meetings will
27 be starting up pretty shortly there?

28

29 MR. SHERROD: I don't think we'll make the '95
30 deadline. The research should start commencing early this
31 spring and the meetings at about that time, either -- I can't
32 imagine us being able to get together by December, but I would
33 think January and February, the meetings will start commencing
34 and the actual research project will commence taking place. I
35 think we're looking at, realistically, a '96 deadline on
36 completion of the project. And, in part, this was to
37 accommodate more local involvement in the data collection
38 process.

39

40 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, on these scoping meetings,
41 it seems to me like January wouldn't be a very good time to do
42 that, at least out in the Yukon Flats. You know, it gets
43 pretty cold during that time. I don't know, is this as a
44 result of getting funding late or, I mean, was there some
45 planning that took place prior to determining when you're
46 going to do these scoping meetings?

47

48 MR. SHERROD: This is not set in stone, Mr. Ginnis,

49

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and it's possible to change them. Part of it is, again as I say, that the staff that is assigned to work on these also will work on the regulatory reviews. Between now and spring, we're going to be pretty tied up with reviewing proposed regulatory changes and other aspects. But it's not a process that is set in stone and we'll certainly try to meet at the most convenient time to the villages to get the most out of these meetings, and your input would be greatly appreciated.

8
9 MR. GINNIS: Just for your information, I do work for Tanana Chiefs Conference and we're going to be having a -- I work for a board out there, the Yukon Flats Subregional Board. We'll be meeting in Circle on the 3rd and 4th of November and if you want to do some presentation there, you're more than welcome to be there....

15
16 MR. SHERROD: Thank you, Mr.....

17
18 MR. GINNIS:on this scoping meeting, and maybe start the process a little earlier than January. This is what I'm suggesting. Thank you.

21
22 MR. TITUS: Any more questions? Are you going to just go into the -- are you going to do the -- who's going to do the review?

25
26 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, the review which is next on the Upper Tanana Customary and Traditional Use Determinations is going to be by Janis Meldrum and it'll be a brief overview up to this point. And that'll be Janis' presentation.

31
32 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay. Thank you.

33
34 MS. MELDRUM: I just want to make some opening comments this evening to try and set the stage for tomorrow which I think might be a fairly busy day. But before I talk about the history of this whole project, I would like to make sure that each of the council members have all the materials that will be discussed tomorrow. They were sent out in the mail, but just in case they didn't arrive or you weren't able to bring them, the documents I'm talking about are this final report, it's in blue, the proposed conclusions in purple, and then there are some single-page sheets and these are on the table for the public as well: a schedule and another form, a summary of the recommendations which turned out to be magenta pink. Do any of the council members need these documents?
47(Pause)

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For the new council members, my name is Janis Meldrum and I work for the National Park Service, Division of Subsistence in Anchorage, and they call me a subsistence Resource specialist. This white paper that I'm sending around is something new I just developed today. We did recognize that there were some mistakes in some of the documents I sent out, so if you'd just hang onto this, we'll go through some of these comments tomorrow.

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just so everyone knows, we're not making the meeting cooler than it needs to be, but we're having trouble with the furnace. And, for the public, if you need to warm up with coffee, it's behind the table over here. So, just please come up if you need to, but be quiet about it so we can proceed. Thank you.

15

16 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Vince.

17

18 MS. MELDRUM: For those people who haven't been involved in this process previously or who are interested in joining in, I thought I'd do a brief overview of what's happened so far. Last January, a draft document called a similar name to this one, "The Upper Tanana Region Customary and Traditional Use Eligibility Report," was sent out to the communities that are affected by this determination. That would be Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, Northway, and Tok. A lot of individuals who were interested in this process and some of the local -- the local advisory committee was given copies as well as the regional council members. Beginning at the end of January when that draft report was released, we opened a comment period so that people could look at the report that had been compiled based on a lot of ADF&G studies - primarily ADF&G studies - so that people could give us their comments on what was in that report. We conducted some meetings, one with this Eastern Interior Regional Council, one with the Southcentral Regional Council, and then a couple of meetings with the Upper Tanana-Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee. And the Tetlin Refuge visited each of the communities to explain the process to them.

39

40 By the end of April when the comment period closed, we had received a great deal of comments on the report, and I brought only one set of those comments with me, but I'd be happy to make some more if it's required. And these were all of the comments that were sent in; it was quite a bit. I took these comments and I tried to incorporate them into this final -- what's called "The Final Report" now. In some cases where it was possible, I went back to the people that gave me the comments and sent the portions of the report that had been

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revised to them to see whether they agreed with how I had represented them in this report. But that was not possible for all of the people that submitted comments. So, I don't believe that -- well, I think it's possible that some of the people that commented on the draft report may have some additional information they want to submit on this final report or may wish to have their comments revised, feeling that they hadn't been well-represented here. So, one of the tasks that I would recommend be undertaken tomorrow is that the regional council look through this final report and identify any problems with it or any gaps in information that should be brought out to the Federal Board and perhaps allow those people that submitted comments to comment on the sections that have been revised.

14

15 So, what happened, we had a series of meetings last late winter and spring and then after the comments from the public were incorporated into this final report, a proposed conclusion was prepared which is this purple document which explains how we used that information to arrive at conclusions for customary and traditional use eligibility for these five communities. And that's what's written up in this document. Tomorrow, this council will have the opportunity to provide review comments on this document in whatever form you choose the staff committee and Federal Subsistence Board who will be making decisions on the customary and traditional use eligibility for the five communities. On November 4th, the staff committee which is the group of interagency people who are staff advisors to the Federal Subsistence Board will take a look at this document and whatever comments that this council sends in and make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board. And that happens on November 4th. Then, on the 17th of November, the Federal Board will meet in a public meeting and come up with what they're going to call a proposed rule that will be published in the Federal Register, and that will say, by community and by species, what the customary and traditional use eligibility will be for these five communities. Once that Federal Register document is published, there will be 60 days in which the public can submit comments on that proposed rule and then the regional council will meet as well to make recommendations to the board before a final decision is made.

42

43 So, to make a long story short, the task tomorrow I think is very large if you will go through the final report and make whatever comments you want to on this, additions or corrections, and then review this and decide whether you want to provide review comments on this or come up with your own proposed conclusion, or however you choose to deal with this.

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And I think that's probably not a small task. And there's one additional part of this whole process that hasn't been addressed at all today, and that is the issue of what constitutes these five communities. In other words, where are the boundaries between Northway and Tok and Tok and Tanacross and Tanacross and Dot Lake? Tomorrow morning I'll provide you with the document that will take a first look at that and try and describe some boundaries on these communities, and I'd like you to take a look at that, if you would, and say whether that is what you'd like to see go to the board.

10

11 That's all I had prepared for this evening, unless there's any questions.

13

14 MR. TITUS: Questions? Yeah.

15

16 MR. HOSKEN: This might seem a little rushed, but for the last eight years I've been trying to get some determination. I realize that this is a long process, but....

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Excuse me. You'll have to come up to the mike if the chair recognizes you.

22

23 MR. HOSKEN: Oh, sure.

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

26

27 MR. TITUS: For the record, please state your name.

28

29 MR. HOSKEN: Doug Hosken. I reside in Tok. My question, it may be premature for this evening, but for the last eight years I've been trying to get an answer as far as access to the Wrangell-St. Elias. And I see your recommendations for determination and looking at the areas 11, 12, 13, et cetera, can you determine that on the map for us this evening?

36

37 MS. MELDRUM: Where those units are?

38

39 MR. HOSKEN: For sheep, yeah. Does it mean that I can go to the -- by this it says for sheep, Unit 11. Does that mean I can go to the Copper Basin, Copper Glacier, Copper River?

43

44 MS. MELDRUM: We'll have to get....

45

46 MR. HOSKEN: Recommendation?

47

48 MS. MELDRUM: I'll have to get the map out to show you

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where that area in Unit 11 has been defined. I didn't bring the map in, but I can do that.

2

3 MR. HOSKEN: Because tomorrow I don't have the luxury
4 of being here. I was hoping you'd have the map here this
5 evening because I wasn't sure of this, your determinations
6 from that.

7

8 MS. MELDRUM: I do have a map. I didn't bring in. I
9 could set that up if you'd like me to.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think you need to remind
12 the people in attendance that there will be time for public
13 testimony after the Fortymile Caribou Management Plan where
14 people can testify. I know it's -- this was recognized, but
15 just so others that have come in that once Mr. Gardner
16 finishes his presentation, that there will be time for the
17 public to submit their comments.

18

19 MR. HOSKEN: Tonight?

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: Tonight.

22

23 MR. HOSKEN: Okay. Thank you.

24

25 MR. TITUS: In the meantime, any more questions? Yes,
26 Jeff?

27

28 MR. ROACH: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, just as a
29 suggestion, if Janis could bring in the map and place it
30 somewhere near the back of the room so that it is available
31 during the Fortymile presentation for people to take a look at
32 with their booklets and then they can come and make public
33 comment after the Fortymile presentation.

34

35 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Jeff.

36

37 MS. MELDRUM: I will do that.

38

39 MR. TITUS: Any more questions? (Pause) Thank you,
40 Janis.

41

42 MS. MELDRUM: Thank you.

43

44 MR. TITUS: Boy, we're right on time.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,....

47

48 MR. TITUS: Yes, Vince?

49

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1 MR. MATHEWS:maybe I could make a suggestion
 2 while you're going to the next item. Maybe you'll want to
 3 take a three-, four-minute break so we can move the air around
 4 and kind of warm the place up, and people can come up for
 5 coffee and then Craig Gardner could set up.

6

7 MR. TITUS: Okay. We'll take a short break
 8 while....(pause)

9

10 (Off record)

11 (On record)

12

13 MR. TITUS: All the council members please be seated.
 14 At this time we'll have Craig Gardner, he's the area
 15 biologist for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, give
 16 presentation on the Cooperative Fortymile Caribou Management
 17 Plan. Craig?

18

19 MR. GARDNER: Thanks. I hope everybody can hear me
 20 back there. Okay. Here we go. The reason why we kind of
 21 asked people to show up tonight is kind of a continuation of a
 22 process that actually the people in the Upper Tanana started.
 23 Last February, actually, through the advisory committee and
 24 other people requested the people from the State and Federal
 25 agencies that all have somewhat of a part in Fortymile caribou
 26 management to get together and really kind of discuss kind of
 27 where we're going with management. You know, people -- you
 28 know, I mean, I hear it a lot sitting in the office over there
 29 and during this meeting, there's a lot of dissatisfaction
 30 voiced in, really, how the hunt was going, you know, how low
 31 the quotas are, how really little management was occurring,
 32 the conflict in roles, you know, it seemed like the agencies
 33 have, the -- almost a lack of communication between the
 34 agencies. And so, you know, during that meeting, basically,
 35 the Federal agencies and myself and also the Canadians sat up
 36 front and people pretty much were voicing, you know, their
 37 feelings of where Fortymile management had to go. And it
 38 became really obvious that under the present system, there was
 39 no way that we could actually reach almost any of those wants,
 40 you know, either through the subsistence user or any type of
 41 person looking for Fortymile caribou. You know, under the
 42 State, I have certain mandates and policies I have to follow.
 43 You know, the Federal agencies had their mandates and
 44 policies they had to follow. And it became really obvious
 45 that, you know, the real sufferer was kind of the user and
 46 also it became -- management programs were being requested,
 47 you know, from this area for the past ten, fifteen years and,
 48 really, none of them are being implemented. And, again, it

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came out to because, you know, with so many players in the Fortymile management game, that it's really difficult to get anything going because of kind of the fragmented land ownership.

4

5 And so probably the best thing that came out of that meeting was, other than that people got mad at us, was that it became obvious that a cooperative plan had to actually be created. And, actually, it was kind of fun because it pretty much put the Federal agencies and me, representing Fish and Game, kind of on the spot; that by March of '95, that everybody wanted a management plan developed that actually dealt with these issues. You know, harvest quotas, allocations, management techniques, land use. I mean all the things that's been bothering people in Tok and Tanacross and Northway forever in the Fortymile country. They want to be included in this plan, and so that's what we started. In fact, we started it in kind of July and we started first asking for topics. You know, what kind of issues do people feel is important and necessary to be included in this plan. And then what we also want to do through the public meetings is not only identify these topics, but to kind of fill in the blanks, you know, like if we're going to talk about herd management or herd population size. Well, what does that really mean to you? I mean, what do you want to see in herd management size? And then when you get to herd management size, what kind of management, you know, techniques do you feel necessary that should be at least considered that could be used, you know, to help the herd get to that, you know, population objective?

30

31 So, that's kind of what we're hoping to do in this meeting, is that people now -- what we're hoping for is that we can get your comments on what needs to go into this plan and why. And so most of this -- like I said, this meeting is kind of coming from, you know, the last February meeting. It's mostly up to you. You know, Margo Mathews over there, she'll kind of explain how we started the plan process kind of almost like legal -- kind of legal steps we have to go through because, you know, this plan is not going to work if we don't go through the legal exercises, this goes to the court, or it gets derailed because we don't follow some policy or we go against, let's say, a Federal policy or a State policy just, you know, through ignorance or because we just didn't pay attention. So, Margo here, she'll kind of explain that. Then we can, like I said, we'll just throw it open and we'll start talking about Fortymile caribou management and what -- how you want to see -- include in this plan.

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This plan will have some power. It will have some teeth because the Federal Subsistence Board, through that February meeting result, asked for this plan. They said give us a plan that deals with harvest allocation and shows that the Federal subsistence users can still get their preference and they can actually start going with an agreed-upon quota and actually stop the hunt if that quota is exceeded. You know, so give that herd even greater protection. So, it's not just what I would think is just a plan with no teeth or public participation with no, you know, kind of no big, you know, benefit for you guys. So, where was I going? So, I guess the first thing I'd do, most of you know, you know, quite a bit about the Fortymile herd. You know where it's kind of been and you know kind of where the State wanted to take it. But just to fill you in on probably the last year of what the herd has done, you know, just to give you kind of, you know, more information to kind of come up with some management ideas. But, you know, as you knew between the eighties, conditions were favorable for caribou growth across the State and it was no different for the Fortymile and the herd, you know, grew through the eighties and it was growing anywhere from, you know, between 5% and 10% and got up to just below 23,000 by 1990. Well, after 1990, those conditions haven't been so good and, you know, weather patterns haven't been good, predators have jumped on their backs, and the herd has pretty much stayed the same or even slightly declined during some of those years. We just finished the census in July this year and the herd is around 22,000. So, about 1,000 less than what it was in 1990. The herd is growing. As I say, right now it needs some better conditions to start growing in any kind of more rapid -- but we -- you know, right now I think that herd can keep increasing at a slow rate as long as the environmental conditions - weather, particularly - is favorable on it. It is not going to grow very fast because still predators is its main limiting factor.

35

36 So, actually, you know, I'm not going to really dive into the herd very much other than that. So, if there are questions on, you know, what, you know, the herd is doing population-wise, you know, just go ahead and ask me or we can just jump off it.

41

42 MR. ENTSMINGER: I'd be interested to know what the calf survival rate was this last summer or how many calves were born or how many are still there right now. Do you have those figures?

46

47 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Actually, I'll start a year back because last year was following the kind of real early winter

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we had, you know, the two feet of snow on the 9th of September. And what we saw then last year was the pregnancy rates were down to like 65% and the calving success was really low. And so, actually, the herd by calving was not going to increase and what really benefitted that herd then -- we had that incredibly mild winter last year. And, for whatever reasons, adult survival and also the few calves that were born, they almost all survived. I mean, it was one of the better survival years. So, the herd actually even showed a slight increase last year. When they went in this year, actually, the pregnancy rate was right back to normal. It was around 80% and the normal kind of cohort was -- you know, calf cohort was born. We actually did a calf mortality study this year, too, and we collared 50 calves: 29 had been killed, all but five of those were by predators and bears and wolves were the two leading predators that got those calves. I just finished the fall counts and we're around 32 calves per 100 which is actually one of the better calf crops the Fortymile has shown in the last five or six years. If we get that kind of survival rate or a normal survival rate over the past winter, the herd should grow, you know, I'd say -- I'd bet a \$1 next year.

22

23 MR. MATHEWS: Craig, if you could either repeat the questions when they're asked, or if people could use the microphone.

26

27 MR. GARDNER: Oh.

28

29 MR. MATHEWS: These meetings are transcribed and we'd like to capture their questions. Thank you.

31

32 MR. HAGSTROM: Yeah. You said that the calf and caribou survival rate dropped in 1990. Wasn't that about the time that they put the \$25.00 tag back on the grizzlies? And, if so, why don't they take it back off? I know it wasn't off in 1989.

37

38 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, actually -- oh, he asked if the calf survival in 1990 went down kind of at the same time that we pulled the \$25.00 or made the \$25.00 trophy tag on grizzly bears back into effect. By timing, yes, you're right, but actually on the type of predation that was occurring during 1990-91, it was actually more wolves during that time. I mean, bears definitely take a lot of calves; there's no doubt about that. But I don't think it was because of a decreased harvest due to the \$25.00 tag that made, you know, like calf survival go down. You know, actually, what we saw was more wolf predation was kicking in during that '90, '91, and it

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appeared -- it was somewhat interesting because wolves in this area seem to be more moose -- they select from moose a lot more than caribou at times for their main prey. But for whatever reason in '90, '91, '92 when the herd actually was -- it appeared a little nutritionally stressed, you know, from longer winters, you know, the bad winters - and there's a theory, the bad summers - that they were actually more vulnerable to predation. And actually wolves started -- actually, the moose calf survival went up and the calf/adult survival went down and adult -- and caribou calf mortality went up also. The bears actually, in most of the calving area, have decreased through harvest by maybe up to 30%. So, actually, you know, harvest has made a big impact on the bears.

14

15 MR. HAGSTROM: But isn't it true, Craig, that up until that time the tag was off the caribou was increasing?

17

18 MR. GARDNER: Yeah. His question was, Was it true that when the tag was off that the caribou herd was increasing? And you're right, you know, it does follow that.

21

22 MR. HAGSTROM: I don't think you see all the bear kills because with a calf, a bear isn't going to leave anything.

25

26 MR. GARDNER: No -- yeah, that's correct, too. A grizzly bear, once it kills a calf, it'll be off in a couple hours and there's just a few bone fragments left. But, actually, I think in the time of the eighties when the tag was off, I think the main reason why we're seeing that herd grow -- I mean, obviously, the bear harvest helped in that area. How much, I don't think any of us know. But caribou herds across the state grew. I mean, environmentally, you know, climatically or whatever reasons, it was good for caribou during the eighties. And I don't think actually the change over in 1990 with the bear tag, even though the bear harvest went down a little bit but not significantly, so maybe just two or three bears, you know, overall had the big impact on the caribou calf survival.

40

41 MR. ENTSMINGER: Craig, there was some wolf control done in the early eighties, wasn't there? And do you think that had any significant effect on the herd -- the herd's increase?

45

46 MR. GARDNER: Okay. Frank asked, you know, if there was a wolf control program in the 1980s in this area and what was the effect on the caribou -- you know, Fortymile caribou

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herd. Is that about right? Yeah. The 80 -- kind of '81, 182, and partially '83, there was a control program held north of Tok in an area that actually didn't include any of the Fortymile calving grounds. It was actually a control program designed more to benefit moose, but there has been much debate on what effects there was on caribou. And it turns out that even though it didn't touch any of the caribou calving grounds and it probably had almost no effect on calf survival during those years - early calf survival, the summertime - almost the entire herd wintered right where they did wolf control. That's kind of an interesting fate. And adult mortality went way down. I mean it actually was comparable to adult mortality that was happening over in the Delta range where they were doing, you know, wolf control at the same time. We were seeing adult mortality actually -- or survival improve to like 94% those two winters. So, in that way, wolf control did benefit the Fortymile herd. You know, in actual numeric increase, it'd be hard to, you know, really put a number on it, but obviously, you know, their survival increased probably by 3%, 4% on the average.

20

21 MR. ENTSMINGER: I don't want to take up the floor here, but just as a follow-up on that, I know that the State had planned to do -- it was an incomplete control program. They were basically shut down by the environmental groups. They weren't really able to finish that control program. Just as like an asterisk or whatever.

27

28 MR. GARDNER: Yeah. Frank made the comment that the control program was shut down prematurely and it was shut down prematurely really due to political, you know, decisions. You know, it wasn't cut down biologically. It was from the, you know, more the governor's office.

33

34 MR. ENTSMINGER: Craig, just to expound a little bit on what Dale was talking about, and I'm not real versed on exactly what this new proposal, C&T determination is, but what is your view if there's a new C&T determination on some of these areas and it actually decreases the size of that particular area? What is your view of what that's actually going to do?

41

42 MR. GARDNER: Can I ask you like a clarification question? Are we talking like all like the herds or are we talking Fortymile in particular?

45

46 MR. ENTSMINGER: For subsistence uses, yes. What -- in other words, if those areas are decreased to subsistence use for hunting? In other words, there's not going to be as

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many bears taken out of that area, obviously, if it's not open to hunting through subsistence use. What is your view of approximately what the impact is going to be on the increase or decrease of the herd?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Repeat the question.

6

7 MS. MATHEWS: Repeat the question.

8

9 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, I was trying to paraphrase that one. Okay. He was asking what I felt would happen, I guess, to the caribou population growth potential due to a lower bear harvest because of more restrictions on subsistence hunting regulations. Right? That's a tough question. You know, bears probably in, you know, like in this year for us in the calf mortality, as I was saying, they're our leading predator. You know, they took 12 of the 29 calves that we had collared, so they're, what, 40%, you know, due -- 40% of predation. I guess I would have to look at, you know, what would be the overall decrease in the bear harvest. Would it still -- you know, would the bear harvest still be taking up slack from, you know, outside people coming into the area? It's still the most liberal bear hunting regulations in the state, really. You know, it's a bear-per-year regulation under State regulations. And I guess if they're shrinking the C&T where outside hunters can't hunt, you know, let's say on Park lands, would think overall you could have a bigger effect, you know, especially on the caribou populations. I'll just speak for the one that I'm more familiar with, the Chisana herd where it has such few calves and the predator:prey ratio is so small. I mean the number of predators to each calf, you know, is very high compared to like, say, the Fortymile herd that has thousands and thousands of calves, you know, the number of predators to that ratio is a small ratio. So, yeah, they could have a much greater influence.

35

36 MR. ENTSMINGER: Basically, then, it would be more leaning toward the significant than insignificant?

38

39 MR. GARDNER: Well, right now in those areas predation is definitely significant, you know, so you just would continue it.

42

43 MR. TITUS: Craig, I think we're getting off the -- detracked here on questions. The Cooperative Fortymile Caribou Management Plan, you discussed it earlier. Are you talking about a management plan between the State and the Federal agencies, right, in managing the Fortymile herd, right?

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1 MR. GARDNER: Right.

2
3 MR. TITUS: Is there names of a committee or what is
4 it? Do you have a committee to manage or it's in the planning
5 stage now or do you have names of people that are sitting on a
6 planning committee or whatever it is?

7
8 MR. GARDNER: Yeah. Thanks, Lee. Actually, Margo
9 will probably touch more of this. But, yeah, we kind of
10 created a working group and within that is, you know,
11 representatives from the Federal agencies, U.S. Fish and
12 Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National
13 Park Service, you know, they have a rep from each one.
14 Actually, they're all sitting out here. But, also in this
15 working group are people, you know, that represent Tanana
16 Chiefs. They represent the Outdoor Council, the four advisory
17 committees that the herd, you know, actually surrounds: the
18 Eagle Advisory Committee, Delta, Fairbanks, and the Upper
19 Tanana. The Eastern -- you know, your group is represented
20 with one member. I'm sure I'm forgetting some. Canada --
21 Yukon has two members, you know, that will be part of it. Who
22 am I forgetting?

23
24 MS. MATHEWS: Dawson First Nation and the
25 Environmental Center.

26
27 MR. GARDNER: Right.

28
29 MR. TITUS: Vince?

30
31 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I just want to remind that
32 it might be easier if the public has questions or comments
33 -- we have an extra mike up here. Some of the council
34 members are having a hard time hearing the discussion and it'd
35 be appropriate if they'd use a mike. Thank you.

36
37 MR. TITUS: Any more questions for Craig? Was there
38 somebody else that was going to....

39
40 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. If I could
41 just finish off. Like I said, Margo will kind of explain the
42 kind of process, you know, so we kind of follow, hopefully,
43 kind of the legal-beagle stuff. But, really, what we're
44 hoping for is to get the ideas for management from the people
45 here, and that's all I've got to say.

46
47 MS. MATHEWS: Thanks, Craig.

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MR. TITUS: Please state your name and your....

1

2 MS. MATHEWS: Yes. I'm Margo Mathews, Alaska
Department of Fish and Game and I'm with the Division of
Wildlife Conservation. And what I wanted to do tonight was to
explain to you a little bit more about the planning process
that we're using just to explain what's going on here now.
Also, we have started a sign-up sheet which is going around, I
think. Is it going? Yeah. And so we'd like it if you'd sign
up on that and if you want to put your mailing address down on
there, then we can add you to the mailing list to keep you
informed about the plan. So, that might be a good thing to
do.

13

14 I think Craig gave you a pretty good idea of the
background and history, and I think a lot of you were already
pretty well aware of that, too. I'm just coming into this
process now. I think probably a fair number of you were here
at the meeting that Craig referred to that took place in
February when quite a few people from a number of different
organizations and agencies and the general public got together
and first talked about the idea of doing some kind of an
interagency management plan for the Fortymile caribou herd.
So, my role in this is to try and help that process along and
get it going. So, I just wanted to explain how this is
happening.

26

27 We're just at the very beginning of that process right
now. The way we've put this together is that we've gotten the
state which -- the Department of Fish and Game and within that
we have Craig from the Division of Conservation, and Terry
Haynes from the Subsistence Division and then we put together
this, what we're calling a "working team" which consists of
those two folks plus several Federal agencies that have land
management or other jurisdiction and that's mainly BLM, Fish
and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. We have
representatives from the advisory committees, the State
advisory committees that Craig mentioned from this body here,
the Subsistence Resource Advisory Council, a couple of
different private groups - the Alaska Outdoor Council, the
Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Dawson First Nation, and
Yukon Department of Renewable Resources - and was there anyone
else, Craig, that I missed? In any event, what we're doing is
putting this team together. This meeting here tonight is the
beginning of a series of public meetings that we're having to
give the public a chance to tell the team what they'd like to
see in the management plan. Now, the way we're going to put
this plan together is it's not going to be just a Fish and
Game plan; it'll actually be a cooperative plan that will be

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jointly produced by all of the people sitting on this team. So, the plan will actually be a product of the working team and, in that sense, it's very much a cooperative venture between all of the different groups and organizations that I mentioned, plus the general public because we will also be getting input from the public at large.

6

7 So, what we plan to do is have this series of public meetings tonight here in Tok and then we have Delta and Fairbanks and Eagle. We have meetings scheduled there. The team will consider all of the input and bring all of their ideas in, too, and we'll go through a series of meetings to get all of those ideas woven into a draft plan which we hope to have out by the first of the year. We're going to have to work fast, but we hope to have some kind of a draft plan out by the first of the year that we can send back out to all of you, all of the interested organizations, agencies, the public at large, and allow a month for review of that plan. And then we'll have another series of public meetings in all of the affected communities at that time to give people a chance to see the draft plan and comment on it and get comments back to the team. And then we hope to have the final plan which will incorporate all those comments done by -- right now we're shooting for the first of March, so that we can have it done a time for the State Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board meetings which will be in the latter part of March and the first part of April.

27

28 So, that's kind of the schedule and the process that we're using. Let's see, the other thing I wanted to mention is that I think a number of you were probably here at the February meeting and I know that there was quite a bit of discussion at that meeting already about what should go into this management plan, what it should look like, what it should say, and so on. What we're doing tonight since we've now actually formally initiated this planning process is giving you another chance to say what you'd like in that plan. And if you've already made comments in February, that's fine, but this meeting here tonight is another chance for you to iterate comments that you may have made in February or to add new comments or ideas, concerns, anything you have that you would like to see addressed in this management plan, and let all of us on the team know what you'd like to see in there. And I should mention, also, that there are a number of the team members who are here in the audience tonight, so they'll be hearing what you say directly and then the people who are not, we will be producing a written summary of the meeting. So, all of the team members will get your comments.

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So, anyway, that's pretty much what we're up to and what I'd like to do at this point is go ahead and open it -- open the meeting up for your comments and ideas and concerns. And we'll try to get these written down on flip charts with help from Dale Hagstrom who is going to write these things down so that we make sure we get them right and get them the way you say them. I guess what I can do, Mr. Chairman, is since everyone doesn't have a mike out there and it's a little hard to pass one around, but if you want to go ahead and say things, then I can repeat them so that they get into the tape.

10

11 MR. TITUS: (Nods head)

12

13 MS. MATHEWS: Okay.

14

15 MR. ROACH: Excuse me, Margo.

16

17 MS. MATHEWS: Yes?

18

19 MR. ROACH: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I sat in on the first working team meeting today and I have been receiving and going over some of the material that Craig Gardner has put out and I would like to, with you willing, represent the council at the working team meeting.

24

25 MR. TITUS: Okay. Bill?

26

27 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, is it appropriate that I make a motion that we have Jeff be our representative....

29

30 MS. MATHEWS: You'd probably like your mike back for that.

32

33 MR. FLIRIS:for that?

34

35 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

36

37 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I make the motion that we have Jeff be our representative at the Fortymile Caribou working group.

40

41 MR. GINNIS: Second the motion.

42

43 MR. TITUS: It's been moved and seconded. Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

45

46 ALL MEMBERS: Aye.

47

48 MR. TITUS: Opposed? (Pause)

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1 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman,....

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3 MR. TITUS: Yes?

4

5 MR. MATHEWS:I'd like to request that Jeff
Roach -- I can -- our office can provide the distribution of
material that you would feel is appropriate to the council
members. So, you can route it through me or we can work out
some arrangement with Fish and Game, but I would prefer that
you would also keep our office informed of that information.

11

12 MR. ROACH: Certainly. I can do that.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

15

16 MR. TITUS: Any more questions?

17

18 MR. HOSKEN: Another comment. I would wish....

19

20 MR. TITUS: Please use the mike.

21

22 MR. HOSKEN: She said she'd repeat the question.

23

24 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay.

25

26 MS. MATHEWS: Would you rather -- what's your
preference?

28

29 MR. HOSKEN: What I would wish -- I mentioned at your
last meeting, I think to have incorporated in your management
plan is that the decision to harvest the animals are directed
by the local biologist, not by Anchorage people that are not
aware of what's going on.

34

35 MS. MATHEWS: Okay. The comment was that harvest
allocations....

37

38 MR. HOSKEN: Are determined by the local biologists in
cooperation with the Federal and State.

40

41 MS. MATHEWS:in the plan should be determined by
the local biologists rather than someone far away in
Anchorage.

44

45 MR. HOSKEN: Historically, in the past, it was the
Federal people (inaudible) in the Fortymile country when it's
been determined they've already pulled the harvest per year.
And I'm not talking about the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. The

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people here or Federal people or State have gone ahead and (inaudible) let it be open.

2

3 MS. MATHEWS: Let me see if I can paraphrase that. The concern is that in the past that with managers who were not in the local area, that they weren't in touch with the harvest and that over-harvest was occurring?

7

8 MR. HOSKEN: Yes.

9

10 MR. TITUS: Did you answer the question or....

11

12 MS. MATHEWS: Oh, excuse me. I guess at this point we're not necessarily going to be able to provide answers to questions. At this point what we're looking for is concerns of issues or ideas or comments on things that should be included in the management plan, and then these are things that will need to be addressed in the plan. But we don't necessarily have answers to all of the questions tonight. You know, we can't say right now who is going to make these allocations. I would comment, though, that when it comes to allocations, those are made by the Federal Subsistence Board and the State Board of Game. Just a point of clarification.

23

24 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman?

25

26 MR. TITUS: Yes?

27

28 MR. GINNIS: I need some clarification on what we're doing here. My initial understanding of this is that we were to be provided the kind of overview of this Cooperative Portymile Caribou Management Plan and that we just, through a motion, just appointed one of our people here to represent us as part of this management group. And I'm just curious, Mr. Chairman, that I'm not sure that we're here to take testimony on this issue. So, I just need some clarification on that. If that's what the intent of this thing is, we do have a representative, like I said, that we just appointed. And as far as I'm concerned, I feel that I -- I don't think it's part of our agenda, I guess is what I'm trying to say.

40

41 MR. TITUS: Bill?

42

43 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I think I agree with what Steve is trying to say here, is that we included this as a non-agenda item and I think what we wanted to hear was a review of the process, but not to actually host a meeting. We have a separate agenda here and our main focus is the C&T determinations for this area. And I'm wondering if it's

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appropriate to conduct this meeting here tonight. I think we should proceed with our own agenda because we have a stacked agenda tomorrow as well. But maybe I'm incorrect on that, so I need some clarification, too.

4

5 MR. TITUS: Yeah. When we moved on amending the minutes, we moved to -- it's stated that was a non-agenda item, but we amended to put it on the agenda, whole, but I see your point and I kind of like have the same feeling that you have, too, but I didn't know how the presentation was going to be concerning this management plan. Craig?

11

12 MR. GARDNER: Yeah, thanks, Mr. Chair. You know, we could ask -- you know, answer questions that all the council would have. The only advantage I can see maybe enduring some of this would be that the council would have a much better idea of kind of the local people here and how they feel, you know, if subsistence management and herd management, you know, should happen because you're -- actually, you're going to see this plan come -- your meeting at the end of February, you know, and hopefully for, you know, your review. And so I guess this is to keep you better up-to-date on how people here at least feel.

23

24 MR. TITUS: Bill?

25

26 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, along that line, would it be appropriate to set a time limit on this discussion so that we can proceed with the public comment on the C&T sometime tonight as well?

30

31 MR. TITUS: Vince?

32

33 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think it would be wise to do that, also. The council members that drove up with me didn't have dinner, so we need to address that, also. But I'm just saying that it might be a wise idea to set a time limit because we have people here to testify on the C&T process.

38

39 MR. TITUS: One more question.

40

41 MS. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, yeah, I didn't realize we would have the dinner problems and so on, and I'm pretty sympathetic to that. Perhaps what we could do is just allow maybe a few more minutes to take comments and perhaps the best thing for us to do would be to hold another meeting separately at a later date for the general public. It's up to you, I guess. We can hold another meeting later on, separately, to take our comments from the general public, if you'd like, or

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we can maybe give it 15 minutes to see how much we get and if there are still a lot of interest go ahead and close it down and have another meeting separately.

3

4 MR. TITUS: Yeah. A lot of the questions that were asked earlier weren't really questions that you were kind of like asking for. You were kind of like asking for questions on how the management plan should be set up, or something like that?

9

10 MS. MATHEWS: Right. We're looking for ideas and comments on what should be in the management plan tonight.

12

13 MR. TITUS: Okay. Please state your name.

14

15 MR. KEECH: Well, I just want to make a general comment that I don't think you have a whole lot of general public here. As I heard in the introductions, the majority of the people here represent some agency or are part of the Federal Government in some form or another. I don't think you're going to hear a whole lot from the general public here tonight.

22

23 MS. MATHEWS: Um-hum. Yeah, the comment was that there are quite a few agency people here and not too many general public, so we might not hear too much from the general public anyway.

27

28 MR. TITUS: Well, along that line, I guess, thank you for your presentation. Craig, thank you.

30

31 MS. MATHEWS: Okay. Can I just add....

32

33 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

34

35 MS. MATHEWS:one more thing which is....

36

37 MR. TITUS: Sure.

38

39 MS. MATHEWS:just for the benefit of the people here, that we will schedule another meeting. Let's see, Craig, it will probably be the week of November 1st, you think, after the Eagle meeting or....

43

44 MR. GARDNER: (Nods head)

45

46 MS. MATHEWS: Probably, to give people more chance to talk to us directly and interact with us directly on what they'd like to see in the management plan. So, just so people

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are aware of that, we'll schedule another date and get the word out to you as to when and where that will be. Thank you.

2

3 MR. TITUS: Is this a general management plan or just
4 subsistence management plan or a....

5

6 MS. MATHEWS: A general management plan.

7

8 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay.

9

10 MR. GARDNER: Lee?

11

12 MR. TITUS: Craig?

13

14 MR. GARDNER: But inside that plan is actually where
15 the Federal Subsistence Board, you know, asks -- basically,
16 the plan needs to deal with, you know, allocation and harvest
17 quota, you know, and that will come in with strictly
18 subsistence.

19

20 MR. TITUS: Okay. Thank you, Craig. Now we're at the
21 last item on the agenda for tonight, is public testimony.
22 There's a sign-up sheet there and anybody that wants to
23 testify or say anything, make any comments or anything, please
24 come up to the microphone, state your name.

25

26 MR. KEECH: My name is Al Keech and I'm here
27 representing myself as a resident of Tok, and the information
28 that I'm going to give is kind of off the top of my head. I
29 hope it's reasonably accurate. But when I come in here this
30 evening, initially I said this when I was over here before,
31 when I heard the introductions, I heard an awful lot of people
32 here representing Federal agencies and other organizations
33 such as that and not a whole lot of people of the general
34 public which I kind of think would be more of the subsistence
35 users. These majority of these folks are decision-makers and
36 policy-makers with the, you know, with the Refuge and other
37 places like that, and they interpret Federal regulations,
38 laws, and such as that. The real subsistence users, as I
39 think of them, are not here at this meeting and I believe that
40 the majority of those folks that really are subsistence users
41 would be pretty much baffled by this particular document here
42 and interpretation of it. I think that this is true -- we
43 find this true all the time; that really people that are
44 subsistence style users find this type of meeting and find
45 even testimonial before a group of people such as this as a
46 means of attempting to defend what they kind of consider their
47 normal right to utilize a resource as being uncomfortable at
48 the least and distasteful also.

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1 Most people that I think are subsistence users, if
2 they ask or want to find out if they're really qualified
3 subsistence users if they're really that concerned, are going
4 to ask somebody in authority if they are qualified to do that
5 and the reaction is going to be, okay, good, I am, or,
6 secondarily, well, I'm not, and let it go at that and they're
7 basically beaten down by the bureaucracy that we tend to face
8 here all the time. I guess my point to you people is that
9 you've got a really important job in the position that you're
10 fulfilling right now as council members. As I understand your
11 job, which I may not totally understand, but as I understand
12 as I heard tonight, you're going to have to digest a whole
13 lot of information, I guess a lot of it is in this book, and
14 make some recommendations as to who utilizes the resources and
15 to what extent. I think that I would hope that you would take
16 that role on and be assertive advocates for all of the rural
17 users and see that we all are kind of grouped in the same
18 ballgame here; and that be careful in pursuing this and that
19 you don't get caught up with trading off one community's, you
20 know, right to utilize a group or something like that for,
21 apparently, the benefit of a different group over here. I
22 think this is one of the real dangers that we face as we use
23 bureaucratic methods of determining things like this, is I
24 what I see this is, gathered by statistics people and numbers
25 crunchers and they put it before you and now you're going to
26 have to make recommendations as to how it's going to be
27 divvied up. Again, I'd just like to have you be advocates for
28 all rural resource users and be careful of categorizing a game
29 and be careful of categorizing communities and trading one for
30 the other. I think we're all here in this ballgame together
31 and I hope that you see your job is to represent all resources
32 users in the rural areas. Thank you.

33

34 MR. TITUS: Thanks.

35

36 MR. ENTSMINGER: Good evening. My name is Frank
37 Entsminger, and I'm chairman of the Upper Tanana-Fortymile
38 Advisory Committee in the area here that represents the five
39 communities that we're doing the C&T determinations on. Just
40 as the council's information, I'm not really here right now to
41 testify as to what I would like to say completely. But just
42 as your general information, I wanted to let you know that
43 most of the people in the community that receive these books
44 haven't had them in their possession that long. If I -- I
45 first received mine approximately two weeks ago and the
46 advisory committee here hasn't even had a chance to hold a
47 meeting and go through the book and see how many maybe
48 fallacies or things that they don't feel is -- has been

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printed correctly. So, basically, public testimony that you're going to be hearing is just a few people in the area that have had a chance to look at these documents and they'll, you know, obviously try to let you know that inequities and what they feel about things. But it's unfortunate that this thing is moving along at such a rapid rate that we don't even have time to get together as an advisory group and look it over and discuss it and be able to make a formal presentation to you people as an advisory committee. I just think it's been rushed just a little bit, but maybe it's my fault because of being the chair, I suppose if the day I received it, I would have immediately called an advisory committee meeting, we might have been able to put something together, but there wasn't even time to have it published in the Mukluk News and I know the Native people were having meetings in Anchorage and there were a lot of things going on that we just didn't really have a lot of time to put together a committee meeting. But I'm sure that, you know, the community members will give their best shot at, you know, letting you know what they feel about it.

20

21 And just as a general overview, I don't think the documents are, you know, real bad, but I think there are a lot of places that either the information that the subsistence division received wasn't interpreted correctly or it wasn't written down correctly and, you know, there are a few, I don't know, kind of glaring things that I certainly want to address tomorrow. But I thought for this evening for people that can't get away tomorrow, that, you know, they may want to comment to you this evening. Thank you.

30

31 MR. TITUS: Question?

32

33 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah. Frank, I have a question. How many people do you think, in this area, have been provided with this information?

36

37 MR. ENTSMINGER: Well, I know all the advisory committee members have and at some of the meetings last year, I think the agencies had a list if you wanted to be sent these copies that you could have written your name down and received them. And, of course, I know all the agency people have them and the Fish and Game Department, but private individuals, I think there's very, very few that have them.

44

45 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, Frank, I have a problem for myself as a board member here, not knowing this area very well, I have a problem being able to make a determination here without adequate public testimony. And I don't know how much

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public testimony there will be here tomorrow, but what I gather from what you're saying is the public may not be well prepared to give their comments on these determinations yet. Certainly, if the advisory committee hasn't met and discussed this, myself being an advisory member in my area, I feel that's a real important step. And I'm not saying that you're remiss in doing it, but what you said about the time that you've been given to comment on this doesn't sound adequate to me. I think that we need to have the advisory committees' input on this. Is there a problem with coordinating with the State advisory committees and the Federal thing as -- it seems to me like, you know, the advisory committees' testimony on all of this is really important to this process.

13

14 MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, I think we need to clarify some things and then point out some other aspects of this discussion. This council asked to have a review of this proposed conclusions before it went to the staff committee. In other words to explain, the staff committee will go to the board and the board will put it into the Federal Register. When the Federal Register comes out, that's the time that the council and others can submit their true full-blown commendation on that. It would be nice if the committees could have met at a local Fish and Game advisory committees at this time, but they're going to have somewhat of another shot at it when it comes out in the Federal Register.

26

27 The other thing that needs to be pointed out is we're going to be setting up a series of meetings and interactions with local groups here when this proposed rule comes out through public meetings, Native corporations, different user groups, and one-on-one in different communities to go over this proposed rule when it comes out. I would assume on your agenda for the next meeting, you may want to set up a slot of time to allow public testimony at that time, also. So, I understand that the members that are not from this area will need that additional information, but I also would request that the members from this area network with each other to keep involved with this because this is a draft, kind of a draft copy now that could change with this process. If there's questions on that, I need to turn that over to the person who wrote it, but that's my understanding of the process. Thank you.

43

44 MR. FLIRIS: Yeah. Thanks, Vince. That reassures me a little bit and I hope you, too, Frank, that there will be more opportunities to get this thing correct.

47

48 MR. ENTSMINGER: Yeah. You know, basically, I wasn't

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trying to complain or anything. I was just trying to let, you know, the council know that, you know, our advisory committee hasn't had the chance to meet on it per se, but I'm sure there's enough expertise within the individuals in the community that we can give you as much background as we possibly can to show any inequities or certain, you know, circumstances or whatever you need to make a, you know, proper decision.

8

9

MR. TITUS: Steve?

10

MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, I share the concern that's being expressed here. I, too, have -- I'm not from this area and I'm not very familiar with the issue that is before us. I also received this just prior to coming down here. You know, I hope that in the future that something important like this, there is some comment period provided, you know, so that when it comes before us in this way that we have some good information from the local people. And, certainly, the advisory committee can certainly help us in helping us make some of these decisions that we need to make here. So, I hope that in the future that there's some time that's allotted to provide the necessary input. And this certainly is a good time to have a public hearing because we are in the region and if we were to wait some other time, who knows where we're going to have our next meeting and it's doubtful that some of these folks that would like to testify would be able to do that mainly because we'll probably be -- I don't know where the next meeting is going to be held at, but I think this is a good time to do this. But, you know, I share the concern that's being expressed. Thank you.

31

MR. MATHEWS: Mr. Chairman, just to make it clear, all day tomorrow, you'll be going through this step-by-step, so you'll have time there. Also, if you so desire, if you agree, whatever the local advisory committee's comments on this here meeting sometime in the next couple of weeks, you can charge me to make sure you get copies of those comments. So, just let me know on that and I can get those to you so then you can track this from a local view as far as the local advisory committee.

41

42

MR. TITUS: Bill?

43

MR. FLIRIS: Yeah, just one more comment, Mr. Chairman. I think that this goes back to some previous discussions that we've had here in this council about the necessity of being in close coordination with the State-run advisory committees if -- because that's the grassroots

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representation. Obviously, we're all appointed here; you people are the ones that are elected by your communities to represent you. And if this system is going to have a breakdown, in my opinion, it's when we can't be in contact with you when you don't get the information in time. And it sounds to me that as the Federal system is going to be slow enough in this process, that we will eventually get all that we need, but I find it a bit of a letdown that you had to come to this meeting without having adequate notice, without having more time to read these books and have a meeting. And it's not your fault, certainly, but I think that it's the fault of the system and we need to work more on that in the future to get the State-run advisory committees coordinated with us real well because we can't work without that kind of input. And like Steve said, we might not have the next meeting here in 15k, so we'd be missing a lot of valuable input. So, I just wanted to comment for the record that way.

17

18 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Bill.

19

20 MR. ENTSMINGER: I'm going to step down and let people testify if they care to.

22

23 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Frank. Anybody else have anything? Comments?

25

26 MR. ROACH: Mr. Chairman?

27

28 MR. TITUS: Yes, Jeff?

29

30 MR. ROACH: I'm a bit concerned about the cooperative management plan meeting that was supposed to occur here tonight and I just want to be sure that none of the members of the public are going to be going away from here feeling like they were not able to put their input into that plan. I realize that I was the one that made the motion and I probably should have stated more clearly what I wanted the council to do, and then allowed a time for public comment. And I'd like to correct that now if possible. If the council would like to adjourn, I would certainly be willing to sit here and listen to any public comment from anybody that may have intended to come to this meeting so that they could make comment on the Fortymile Cooperative Management Plan.

43

44 MR. TITUS: Bill?

45

46 MR. FLIRIS: Mr. Chairman, I agree with Jeff's concerns and I think I was one of the people that was instrumental in leading us away from that meeting and getting

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to the C&T public comment. I guess I was concerned that there might be a considerable number of people here that wanted to testify on the C&T tonight and might have to work tomorrow and wouldn't be available tomorrow. And it seemed to me as though that was our prime agenda item, but now it seems as though we don't have any more testimony on the C&T. I'm willing to sit here longer, also, and listen to the Fortymile concerns, if that's what most of the people here came to talk about. So it's up to the council to decide, I guess, what we want to do.

9

10 MR. TITUS: Vince?

11

12 MR. MATHEWS: I just want to make sure you clarify that there will be opportunity for the public to testify tomorrow during your actions just so that this is not, you know, the final time for testimony on this. Thank you.

16

17 MR. TITUS: Steve?

18

19 MR. GINNIS: Mr. Chairman, if there's no further testimony on the C&T, I request that we recess till tomorrow. It's a request, not necessarily a motion. Just a request.

22

23 MR. TITUS: Did you want to stick around?

24

25 MR. FLIRIS: I mean I think Jeff has some concerns. I think he knows that a lot of people came here to talk about that.

28

29 MR. ROACH: Like I say, if the council does not wish to stay for that, I will be more than willing since I am the representative for the cooperative management....

32

33 MR. TITUS: Oh, okay.

34

35 MR. ROACH:work team. I would be perfectly willing to stay here and listen to any public comment if there is any after....

38

39 MR. TITUS: Okay. With that, yeah, if there's anybody that has any comments concerning the Fortymile Management Plan, go see Jeff Roach. In the meantime, the rest of the council members are going to get something to eat, I guess. And we're going to recess till 8:30 in the morning.

44

45 (Off record; 9:15 o'clock p.m.)

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 3) ss.
 STATE OF ALASKA)
 5

6 I, Elizabeth D'Amour, Notary Public in and for the
 State of Alaska, residing at Fairbanks, Alaska, and electronic
 Reporter for R & R Court Reporters, do hereby certify:
 9

10 That the annexed and foregoing EASTERN INTERIOR
 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL HEARING was taken before
 me on the 19th day of October, 1994, beginning at the hour of
 1345 o'clock p.m., at the Tok Civic Center, Tok, Alaska;
 14

15 That this hearing transcript, as heretofore annexed,
 16 a true and correct transcription of said hearing, taken by
 me electronically and thereafter transcribed by me;
 18

19 That the hearing transcript has been retained by me
 20 for the purpose of filing the same with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
 Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska, as required
 by law.
 23

24 That I am not a relative or employee or attorney or
 25 counsel of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested
 26 in this action.
 27

28 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
 29 affixed my seal this 27th day of October, 1994.
 30
 31
 32

33 _____
 Notary Public in and for Alaska

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 35 My Commission Expires: 5/12/98
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