

1 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6 VOLUME II

7
8 Arctic Village, Alaska
9 March 21, 2007
10 9:00 o'clock a.m.
11

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Sue Entsminger, Chairman
16 Richard Carroll
17 William Glanz
18 James Nathaniel, Sr.
19 Virgil Umphenour
20 Donald Woodruff

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26 Regional Council Coordinator, Vince Mathews
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Arctic Village - 3/21/2007)

(On record)

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Calling the meeting to order. Go ahead, Don.

MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. This morning I spoke with Dan LaPlant, who is one of our wildlife biologists and liaison with the Board of Game. The question about how much authority the refuge manager or land manager has. Basically they're the captain of the ship, so they have the power to shut things down if need be for whatever reason.

In light of what we were talking about yesterday, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge manager, just about every year he opens the refuge for hunting when snow conditions are appropriate for snowmachines. They can restrict the means of access, like snowmachines, until the snow conditions are just right for them to open it back up. But they usually leave the hunt open if people want to walk in or something. But they do have authority to shut it all down if need be for whatever reason. Thanks.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So, in other words, the season would be open but you could not use a snowmachine or a four-wheel, whatever the access is, that they're shutting down.

MR. RIVARD: Correct.

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Because there might be other means that you can get in there. Okay. That would have been good information to have with the Advisory Committees earlier. But we will continue. I was looking at the crossover proposals and I was wondering how the Council feels about any of them in particular that you want to take up. Do you want to take them all up one at a time or would you prefer to defer to home region or is there a couple, one or two, you want to pull out and take up. What's the wishes of the Council?

Bill, did you have something.

1 MR. GLANZ: Yes, crossover Proposal 55
2 and 58.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Does anyone
5 else have anything. Give me some input here. How
6 would you like to go about this. Go ahead, Virgil.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, several of these
9 proposals I think we should just defer to the home
10 region because they're totally out of our region and I
11 don't feel comfortable making a recommendation on
12 something that I don't really have much knowledge about
13 and the local people do. I think we should go through
14 each proposal and kind of look over it and if one of
15 the Council Members wants to take up that issue, and
16 we've already got two of them here that we want to take
17 up, then we could take those up. Otherwise just make a
18 motion to defer to the home region is what I'd like to
19 do.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, Don.

22
23 MR. RIVARD: This is something I needed
24 to clarify at the Western Interior meeting a couple
25 weeks ago too. Basically that's your reason, but the
26 action would be take no action with your justification
27 that you're deferring to the home region. The word
28 defer means you're going to take it up at some other
29 time, so we just want to make sure it's clear.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I just want
32 to make clear that being in Unit 12 as you look at our
33 region, that's so far away from all this northern 20
34 and 25 and there are issues that we take up regarding
35 this Wrangell-St. Elias because if you look at 12 where
36 we are, that's right next door and we will be taking up
37 proposals in the future ones that I feel are vitally
38 important. Like you said, people that live in the
39 areas they have knowledge of it. Unit 11 had a moose
40 proposal, but I'm willing to let that go to home
41 region.

42
43 So all I'm hearing now, and I need a
44 consensus, that we would take up 55 and 58. Is that
45 okay with the Members? Okay. Starting with 55.

46
47 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence.....

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: One minute,

1 Don.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Procedurally, I think
4 what we have to do is we have to bring each proposal to
5 the floor and then vote to take no action, I think is
6 what we need to do procedurally, but maybe our
7 parliamentarian could tell us that or Don or someone.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What I'm
10 thinking we would do is just make a motion that we
11 would defer and then name the numbers. Virgil, I know
12 you know how to do that. I need a motion.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: I make a motion on all
15 the crossover proposals with the exception of 55 and 58
16 and defer those proposals to the home region.

17

18 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now we have a
21 motion and I'm going to name them. Proposals 20, 33,
22 36 and 37 will be deferred to home region.

23

24 MR. RIVARD: Take no action.

25

26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
27 Take no action. Any objections.

28

(No objections)

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hearing no
31 objections, it's passed. Do you want to go with a
32 motion on this one.

33

34 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt WP07-55.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

39

40 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Council
41 Members. My name is Don Rivard with the Office of
42 Subsistence Management. The draft analysis begins on
43 Page 145 in your Council book.

44

45 Proposal WP07-55 submitted by Jeffery
46 Falkner of Glennallen, would require that Federally
47 qualified subsistence hunters use a bow and arrow to
48 hunt sheep in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
49 Area during the period of time when the State of Alaska

1 has a archery-only hunting season.

2

3 The proponent described his own sheep
4 hunting experience, and observed that had he been on
5 the animal he would have to be concerned for his own
6 safety. The proponent notes that archery hunters in an
7 archery-only corridor that work to get close to the
8 animal for fair hunting should not have to compete with
9 long range rifle subsistence hunters. The proponent
10 states that Federally-qualified subsistence hunters
11 have access all the rest of the year to animals and can
12 hunt with a rifle at any other time.

13

14 Section 802 of ANILCA states that
15 utilization of public lands in Alaska is to cause the
16 least adverse impact possible on rural residents who
17 depend on subsistence uses of the resource, and that
18 subsistence, shall be the priority consumptive use.
19 It was the intent of Congress to allow consideration of
20 improvements in weapons technology and techniques for
21 subsistence harvest on Federal public lands.

22

23 In 1990, the Federal Subsistence
24 Management Program regulations paralleled the State
25 regulations for the Dalton Highway Corridor; the Dalton
26 Highway Corridor was an archery-only area for
27 Federally-qualified subsistence users in 1990 and 1991.
28 In 1992, the Federal Subsistence Board provided a rural
29 priority by allowing Federally-qualified subsistence
30 hunters to use firearms in the Dalton Highway Corridor.
31 In 1994, the Federal Subsistence Board reduced the
32 number of participants by restricting the use of
33 firearms in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
34 to residents of Alatna, Allakaket, Anaktuvuk Pass,
35 Bettles, Evansville, Stevens Village, and residents
36 living
37 with the Corridor.

38

39 The biological data for sheep
40 populations within the Dalton Highway Corridor is
41 relatively good.

42

43 The Federal Subsistence Management
44 Program established Federal registration permit hunts
45 in Unit 24A and the Dalton Highway Corridor portion of
46 Unit 26B in 1992. For regulatory years 1994 1995
47 through 2006 2007, for both hunts combined, subsistence
48 hunters reported an average harvest of 2.7 sheep/year,
49 the range being 0 6.

50

1 The proponent s belief that subsistence
2 hunters have access all the rest of the year to the
3 animals and can hunt with a rifle at any other time,
4 is not correct. If this proposal is approved, the
5 Federally-qualified sheep hunter in Unit 24A would have
6 10 days to hunt with a rifle and the Federally-
7 qualified sheep hunter in 26B would have zero days to
8 hunt with a rifle.

9
10 The Dalton Highway Corridor Federal
11 subsistence sheep hunt with firearms has been in place
12 for 15 years. This proposal is the first regulatory
13 proposal since this regulation was put in place that is
14 seeking to require Federally-qualified subsistence
15 sheep hunters to revert to using a bow and arrow in
16 this area.

17
18 Rural subsistence hunters are hunting
19 to feed their family, have a limited opportunity to
20 purchase food, and the cost of food often is
21 prohibitive given where they live. Use of bow and
22 arrows is not an efficient way for subsistence hunters
23 to put food on the table. Taking a legal ram with a
24 bow and arrow is extremely challenging compared with
25 taking one with a rifle. A relatively small percentage
26 of the hunters within the Dalton Highway Corridor are
27 Federally-qualified subsistence hunters.

28
29 The presence of archers and rifle
30 hunters in the Dalton Highway Corridor during the same
31 time is not unique to the Dalton Highway Corridor.
32 These two types of hunters utilize the same areas
33 during the hunting seasons across most of Alaska. The
34 density of sheep hunters in the Dalton Highway Corridor
35 is
36 relatively low compared to the density of hunters in
37 other hunts in many other areas in Alaska.

38
39 The preliminary conclusion is to oppose
40 the proposal. Thank you, Madame Chair.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any questions.
43 Vince.

44
45 MR. MATHEWS: The Alaska Department of
46 Fish and Game comments can be found on Pages 154 and
47 155. Again, I'm just going to focus on their
48 conclusion. The Council has the backup information on
49 those pages.

50

1 The Department supports adoption of
2 this proposal. Hunting with firearms is illegal under
3 State statute and regulations in many portions of the
4 Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. Beginning in
5 the early 1990s, ADF&G has continuously opposed the
6 Federal board authorizing the use of firearms for
7 subsistence hunting on federal lands in the Dalton
8 Highway Corridor Management Area because it contradicts
9 state law.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do we have any
12 Federal agencies that want to speak to this, comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Native, Tribal
17 or Village.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
22 Staff.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And a summary
27 of the rest of the comments.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. The
30 Western Interior did take up both of these proposals.
31 They opposed Proposal 55. The Council supported the
32 Staff conclusion that sheep hunting with a bow and
33 arrow is not an efficient way to provide for
34 subsistence needs. The proponent was wrong that
35 subsistence users have access all year round and can
36 hunt with a rifle. Subsistence hunters are hunting to
37 provide for their family and their community. The
38 Council felt this proposal and the parallel proposal
39 for moose were submitted because of perceived user
40 conflict that does not exist. So that's Western
41 Interior. Gates of the Arctic has not met, so we don't
42 have their stand on Proposal 55.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any public
45 testimony.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now we're down
50 to deliberation.

1 MR. MATHEWS: Wait. You do have some
2 written comments.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry. I
5 missed that.

6
7 MR. MATHEWS: This one did result in a
8 lot of phone calls. Scott Schoppenhorst of Wiseman
9 Village, a summary of his comments is on Page 154. He
10 adamantly opposes this proposal. He went through in
11 detail about the fact that the local resources have
12 always been hunted in the traditional seasons when it
13 is the best time to properly care for the meat and
14 conditions are favorable for safe travel to our
15 traditional hunting areas. He and his son are avid bow
16 hunters. His suggestion for the safety issue part of
17 this proposal was to have bow hunters wear blaze orange
18 to warn other hunters. He went through in detail in
19 his letter, it was a long letter, about the incident
20 that started all this. Anyway, he's opposed to it.
21 There was no danger from an accidental shooting between
22 the subsistence hunter and Mr. Falkner. You can read
23 all his other comments in there.

24
25 We did get comments from another
26 resident of Wiseman, which is Thor Stansky. I just
27 received this before I got here. He's writing in
28 opposition to Proposal 55 and 58. He's a resident of
29 Wiseman and these proposals stand to affect his hunting
30 seasons drastically. All three of these proposals --
31 he talked about another proposal, but that's not in
32 front of you because it's not within your jurisdiction.
33 All three of these proposals are rooted in user
34 conflict. Fortunately, this user conflict is more a
35 perception based on coincidental run-ins than real
36 concerns. Proposal 55 and 58, using the issue of
37 safety as a tool to restrict subsistence users.

38
39 As a professional hunting guide, I've
40 been guiding hunters for seven years. I can fully
41 understand the sport hunting perspective. Dall sheep
42 and moose are beautiful animals and, for sport hunters,
43 sought after in a dream trophy. When one whole year's
44 vacation culminates in a hunting trip to the Dalton
45 Highway for road sheep/moose hunt and you think someone
46 else has got your sheep, you get mad.

47
48 For locals in Wiseman, Dall sheep and
49 moose are beautiful animals but their most important
50 value is meat. Residents of Wiseman have been hunting

1 the animals in the Middle Fork valley long before the
2 highway was there and bow season only hunts. In fact,
3 current adult hunters from Wiseman have been hunting in
4 this valley for 20-plus years.

5
6 It is my feeling that the people that
7 proposed this restriction are relatively inexperienced
8 in this valley and are drawing broad conclusions based
9 on an isolated incident where rifle hunters unfairly
10 got their sheep. This is not how the regulations
11 should be changed. Safety is of paramount importance
12 when around firearms. He goes on about his experience
13 in the Marine Corps.

14
15 Please do not pass 55 and 58 as they
16 have no merit and will make subsistence hunting of the
17 sheep in the corridor impossible for its most
18 established users. In fact, there is no data to
19 support that there's been a real safety issue and I
20 request that you cancel all sport seasons in the valley
21 immediately to alleviate this new problem.

22
23 The rest just goes on in more detail,
24 but he's adamantly opposed to Proposal 55 and 58.
25 That's all the written comments.

26
27 The Koyukuk River Local Advisory
28 Committee didn't take up this proposal to my knowledge.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We
31 finished up with the public comment and all the
32 written. Now we're into deliberation. Any Council
33 Member questions.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: None. I do
38 have one. Does anyone know, was there just one
39 incident up there? I mean you guys were at Western.
40 You must have heard a lot of testimony. Was there any
41 other incidents besides this one?

42
43 MR. MATHEWS: No. But there is a lot
44 of use on the corridor. That's why I'm hesitating to
45 answer. This incident, Mr. Stacey and Jack Reakoff's
46 brother-in-law were in the area when this incident
47 happened and basically the guy was displeased that the
48 sheep he was looking at he didn't get. Again, I'm
49 paraphrasing from them that he wasn't willing to make
50 the effort to get that sheep and there was another

1 subsistence user in the area, but did not go for that
2 sheep either, but his perception was that he was -- the
3 author of this proposal, that he was prevented from
4 getting his sheep by having the subsistence user in the
5 area.

6
7 I suppose that some of the comments is
8 he was ticked off that he was in the area and thought
9 he should be the first one at that sheep and felt that
10 the rifle was too much of an advantage.

11
12 Now there's been no other incidents. I
13 know of another person who hunts up there. He's never
14 seen any subsistence users all the years he's hunted up
15 there and never saw any conflict, but I don't want to
16 mislead you. I think Richard knows that quite well
17 that corridor fills up with a lot of hunters when that
18 season comes up. There's not a pattern yet I suppose
19 is what I'm saying.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
22 I've been there in that situation where there's a group
23 of sheep and we're ready -- sometimes you have to sit
24 and wait because you're going to spook them if you
25 don't and we're looking down the valley and here comes
26 a big pile of horses. I mean that's just hunting.
27 Sometimes that happens. You just have to deal with it.
28 We didn't get the sheep and neither did they because we
29 were pushed to go sooner than we should have and it
30 spooked them.

31
32 At any rate, I, personally, would hate
33 to shut down a season because of one incident. We need
34 a little bit on the record. Virgil.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
37 Chair. This is basically a social issue. It has
38 nothing to do with conservation. As Sue just said,
39 hunting is hunting. We have a State regulation or a
40 statute actually that says you can't harass hunters,
41 but it doesn't apply to competition between hunters.
42 The people that hunt up the haul road, because we
43 process game meat at our place, most of them are
44 caribou hunters. I don't know how many people go up
45 there to hunt sheep with a bow and arrow, but a lot of
46 people go up there to hunt caribou with a bow and
47 arrow, I know that, along the Dalton Highway, but most
48 of them are north of Atigun Pass where they do it. We
49 can talk more about that on the next proposal that
50 comes up. But I'm opposed to the proposal based on the

1 Staff comments. Madame Chair.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
4 Anyone else.
5
6 MR. GLANZ: I've got one. Madame
7 Chair, I think to take the sugar off it, it's just an
8 anti-subsistence regulation somebody is trying to put
9 out is what it looks like to me.
10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
12 Go ahead, Don.
13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: I think the Western
15 Arctic summed it up pretty well when they said they
16 were opposed to it because it tends to restrict putting
17 meat on the table for them. Thank you.
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
20
21 (No comments)
22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question
26 has been called for. All those in favor of this
27 proposal, which means you would shut down subsistence
28 to bow only, say aye.
29
30 (No aye votes)
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All opposed
33 same sign.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
38 proposal. Virgil.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: Move to adopt Proposal
41 WP07-58.
42
43 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead, Don.
46
47 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 Don Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management. WP07-58,
49 the analysis can be found beginning on Page 158 in your
50 book. This proposal is also submitted by Jeffery

1 Falkner of Glennallen and requests that Federally-
2 qualified subsistence hunters use a bow and arrow to
3 hunt moose in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
4 Area during the period of time when the State of Alaska
5 has an archery-only hunting season.

6
7 This proposal is for moose and it's
8 very similar to the one you just did for sheep. I'll
9 just give you the biological data. Some of the harvest
10 data and all the rest of the reasoning for Staff's
11 preliminary conclusion are the same as the sheep
12 proposal.

13
14 The biological data for moose within
15 the Dalton Highway Corridor is relatively good.
16 Opening the Dalton Highway to commercial and general
17 public use contributed to increased human activity
18 along the Dalton Highway Corridor. It was estimated
19 that with the Alaska Board of Game s implementation of
20 the Unit 24A archery-only drawing permits in 2002, the
21 number of hunters and the moose harvest by hunters
22 accessing Unit 24 by the Dalton Highway declined by
23 more than half. During four State drawing permit
24 hunting seasons in Unit 24A, archers reported an
25 average harvest of 4.2 moose per year with the range
26 being 3 to 7 from both of these drawing permit hunts
27 combined.

28
29 The Federal Subsistence Board
30 established a Federal registration permit hunt for
31 moose in Unit 24A in 1992. For regulatory years 1994
32 through 2006, subsistence hunters reported an average
33 harvest of 7.8 moose per year, the range being 4 to 12
34 from Unit 24A. It is likely that most of this harvest
35 came from
36 within the Dalton Highway Corridor.

37
38 The Federal Subsistence Board
39 established a Federal registration permit hunt for
40 moose in Units 26B and 26C for residents of Kaktovik in
41 2004. Residents of Kaktovik reported harvesting one
42 moose in regulatory year 2004 and two in regulatory
43 year 2005; all three were taken in Unit 26C at least
44 100 miles from the Dalton Highway Corridor.

45
46 Again, the proponent s belief that
47 subsistence hunters have access all the rest of the
48 year to the animals and can hunt with a rifle at any
49 other time, is not correct. The Federal moose hunting
50 season in Units 24A Dalton Highway Corridor is 38 days

1 in length and extends from August 25 to October 1. In
2 Unit 25A, the Federal moose hunting season is from
3 August 25 to September 25 and December 1 through 10.
4 However, only a very limited portion of Unit 25A is
5 within the Dalton Highway Corridor.

6

7 The State moose season in 24A runs from
8 September 1st through 25th. As such, the Federal and
9 State fall moose hunting seasons in Unit 24A and 25A
10 overlap by 25 days.

11

12 The proponent is also asking that
13 Kaktovik residents be required to use a bow and arrow
14 from September 1 to 14 if they hunt within the Dalton
15 Highway Corridor of Unit 26B. The Dalton Highway
16 Federal subsistence hunt has been in place for 15
17 years.

18

19 A relatively small percentage of the
20 hunters within the Dalton Highway Corridor are
21 Federally-qualified subsistence hunters. The presence
22 of archers and rifle hunters in the Dalton Highway
23 Corridor during the same time is not unique, as we
24 discussed earlier. These two types of hunters utilize
25 the same areas during the hunting seasons across most
26 of Alaska. The density of moose hunters in the Dalton
27 Highway Corridor is relatively low compared to the
28 density of hunters in other hunts in many other areas
29 in Alaska.

30

31 Madame Chair, the preliminary
32 conclusion is to oppose Proposal WP07-58. Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Don.
35 Any questions.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, Vince,
40 for the State.

41

42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Their comments are
43 on Page 168. The Department supports adoption of this
44 proposal. Hunting with firearms -- it basically
45 repeats 55 -- is illegal under State statute and
46 regulations of many portions of the Corridor. They've
47 been opposed to it since the early 1990s. So the State
48 opposes this proposal -- I mean supports this proposal.
49 Excuse me.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You need more
2 coffee, huh.
3
4 (Laughter)
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
7 down to Federal Agencies. I'm just going to list this
8 out. Anyone have anything to say for Federal Agencies.
9
10 (No comments)
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Native, Tribal,
13 Village.
14
15 (No comments)
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: InterAgency
18 Staff.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now we're down
23 to your summary of the advisory groups.
24
25 MR. MATHEWS: Basically, Madame Chair,
26 to move this along, the Western Interior opposed it for
27 the exact same reasons they opposed the sheep one. The
28 exact same letter came in from Scott Schoppenhorst and
29 he just goes on there that Mr. Falkner was hunting
30 within five miles of the village and had two days of
31 hunting the same sheep at 50 yards. In his opinion,
32 most bow hunters come to the Dalton Highway Corridor
33 hunt there because of the lack of law enforcement and
34 do not hunt species specific proven by the amount of
35 arrows found in the woods and in animals to be
36 harvested.
37
38 Similar comments. Again, these hit the
39 villages as combined proposals. The earlier statements
40 by Thor Stacey remain for this proposal, too. He's in
41 opposition. He's mainly out there to hunt for meat.
42
43 Those are all the comments I'm aware
44 of, Madame Chair.
45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you. Any
47 public testimony.
48
49 (No comments)
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
2 into deliberation. Council Members. Virgil.

3
4 MR. UMPHENOUR: There's no conservation
5 issue here. It's just a methods and means issue and a
6 social issue. I reference my comments on the previous
7 Proposal 55. This proposal, to me, has very little
8 merit. It's just someone who wants to eliminate
9 competition on hunting basically is the issue. Madame
10 Chair.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
13 I'll have to say I've known the Reakoff family since
14 probably '73. It's interesting how small the state
15 really is. Okay.

16
17 MR. WOODRUFF: Question.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question
20 has been called for. All those in favor of this
21 proposal say aye.

22
23 (No aye votes)

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All of those
26 opposed same sign.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, just to get
31 you up to speed on this, what we've been doing in the
32 past is providing you kind of a summary of your
33 actions. Obviously I can't do that today, so what I'll
34 do is type it up tomorrow or the next day and then
35 e-mail it to you. Look at it and see if I've got it
36 right and then that will go forward. It's basically
37 your recommendation and justification. I will be
38 sharing with other Staff your preliminary actions, but
39 the final ones would be the ones that you review just
40 so you get up to speed. Other meetings Tom Kron was in
41 the back of the room writing this up and then bringing
42 it up. Obviously he's not here.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks. I
45 remember that was helpful. Next on the agenda is an
46 update on ADF&G wildlife planning efforts. Is there
47 anyone here?

48
49 MR. MATHEWS: No. What I do, this
50 agenda is made up months in advance. That's to allow

1 Randy Rogers or others to give you updates. You guys
2 have seen value in that. Obviously we weren't able to
3 connect with them. It's just a place-keeper. They
4 have not shared any information with me. They probably
5 were hoping to be on by phone and we weren't able to
6 pull that off.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Vince,
9 now I see housekeeping announcements.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: That's just in the
12 morning if we had no toilet paper in the bathroom or
13 whatever. We're okay, I hope, on that issue.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Speaking of
16 which, how about lunch, what's happening today.

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Lunch is the same as
19 yesterday. The ladies yesterday put aside -- there was
20 enough food for two lunches. So they'll be coming by
21 or we'll be making our own sandwiches the same as we
22 did yesterday.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And then we'll
25 have a donation?

26
27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. And then they're
28 looking at a covered dish dinner for this evening.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. As far
31 as travel, we're still looking at Thursday morning.

32
33 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Once you grant us a
34 break, I'll be running to find a phone. We'll confirm
35 the flight for tomorrow and see if there's other
36 options.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
39 we're on to Council composition action item by Don.

40
41 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 If you'd turn to Page 169 in your book.

43
44 In 2003, the Secretary of the Interior
45 amended the Council charters, one, to stipulate that
46 Council members would represent either subsistence or
47 commercial/sport users; two, to set a goal of 30
48 percent representation of commercial and sport users on
49 each Council. Again, this was a goal, not an absolute.
50 Three, to set Council membership numbers at either 10

1 or 13. The Southeast Council, the Southcentral Council
2 and the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Council have 13 members.
3 The other seven Councils have 10. And, four, allowed
4 three years to completely implement this new system.
5 Again, this was in 2003.

6
7 In August 2006, the court ordered the
8 Board to stop using the 70/30 system at the end of the
9 calendar year and to promptly begin developing a plan
10 for balanced membership that will meet both ANILCA and
11 FACA, which is the Federal Advisory Committee Act,
12 requirements. The judge said that the Board had not
13 provided enough justification for choosing the 70/30
14 measure of balancing Council representation.

15
16 The Office of Subsistence Management
17 promptly published a request for public comment, a copy
18 of which is included in your book, and sent out news
19 releases requesting public comment. A summary of those
20 comments is included in your book and those are on
21 Pages 170 through 172.

22
23 The Board now seeks all the Councils
24 official recommendations regarding Council membership.
25 As you develop your Council's recommendation, please
26 consider the following. The Federal Advisory Committee
27 Act or FACA says that the points of view represented on
28 a Council must be balanced with the functions to be
29 formed by the Council. The Council functions are
30 listed on Page 173.

31
32 The court has said that a fairly
33 balanced Regional Council must include consumptive
34 users of fish and wildlife on public lands other than
35 subsistence users because those users are directly
36 affected by the subsistence priority and that not every
37 user group needs to be represented on the Councils to
38 provide a balanced membership.

39
40 The court also said that while 70/30 is
41 one way of meeting FACA requirements, the Board should
42 consider other ways of achieving balanced membership on
43 the Councils. The judge said, and I quote this, if
44 ever there was a situation that called for thinking
45 outside the box, this is it, unquote.

46
47 In summary, the Board and Secretaries
48 must be able to show that they have considered points
49 of view represented by other consumptive users of fish
50 and wildlife as well as subsistence users when

1 recommending and appointing Council members. The Board
2 is asking the Councils now how can this best be done.
3 The Board is seeking your recommendation. They're
4 scheduled to take this up at their April 30th through
5 May 2nd, 2007 meeting. You don't have to focus on
6 70/30. It's wide open as to what you might want to do
7 here. I think Vince has some reports on what some of
8 the other Councils have done. Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We need
11 to make a decision and give our recommendation at this
12 meeting?

13

14 MR. RIVARD: Madame Chair, that's
15 correct, because the Board is going to make their
16 decision again late April, early May when they take up
17 all these wildlife proposals. So this is the time now.
18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
21 Vince. Oh, Virgil.

22

23 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have a question.
24 This is something in wildlife issues it doesn't make
25 much difference, but in fisheries issues it does.
26 You're saying no more than 30 percent commercial. We
27 have I believe one RAC that probably has more than 30
28 percent commercial, but I'm going to ask if anyone
29 knows whether it is or not, and that's the one for the
30 Y-K Delta RAC. I would bet money that more than 30
31 percent of those people are commercial fishermen.

32

33 MR. RIVARD: Well, we just had a
34 meeting last week and they had 13 Council Members.
35 There's only one that is self-designated as a
36 commercial sport user on that Council. All the rest
37 are subsistence users.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's not the question
40 I asked. Does the person possess a commercial fishing
41 license. That's my question. I know Harry Wilde does.
42 Probably at least half of them to, but I'd like to know
43 if anyone has asked that. They can say I'm
44 representing subsistence, but you go to a Board of
45 Fisheries meeting and they're not representing
46 subsistence, they're representing commercial interest.
47 So that's my question. How many of them have a
48 commercial fishing license.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. We don't

1 know. You've all gone through the interview process.
2 It's not really a question that we ask, if you have a
3 limited entry permit or whatever. It's what Don said,
4 you self-declare what you are. You're either
5 subsistence or commercial. I understand where you're
6 going, Virgil, but it's not part of our process to ask
7 -- if they declare subsistence, we don't ask if they're
8 a commercial guide or if they're a limited entry permit
9 or anything like that.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But you do ask
12 if you have any of these interests and then the person
13 will say, yeah, I have this or that. Go ahead.

14

15 MR. CARROLL: Richard Carroll here. A
16 lot of years I purchased a sport fishing license. I
17 hardly ever do it, but just in case. Is that a
18 qualification? That's a different category. We're
19 subsistence, yet almost anybody in the state for \$5 or
20 something like that you can get a sport fishing
21 license.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Or a hunting
24 license is a sport license also. And then we have
25 trapping licenses and then our trapping license we're
26 selling fur, so we're commercial. Let's go through the
27 rest of this and then let's have a deliberation on it
28 because I think we could talk about it a bit. Vince,
29 you had something else. I'm sorry.

30

31 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, I think it would be
32 easier for me and you if I go through the Regional
33 Council recommendations and then we could come back to
34 the summary of written comments you have in front of
35 you. It's either way. You can look at the written
36 comments or go with the RAC's.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We might as
39 well look at this, right, guys.

40

41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
44 ahead.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: The Western Interior
47 Regional Council took this up and they discussed this
48 at length also. Their final recommendation was the
49 composition of the Council should never be less than
50 the 70/30, always favoring the subsistence majority.

1 However, demographics should be considered for each
2 Council. For the Western Regional Council the split
3 should be 80/20 favoring subsistence priority. The
4 Council reviewed the history of commercial sport
5 interest on their Council. They had several commercial
6 declared members on there. They appreciate the input
7 and viewpoints of those members who were residents of
8 the region. With earlier discussions on this topic, the
9 Council supported an 80/20 membership ratio that favors
10 subsistence interest. Council members also shared that
11 even a minority member or members, even one member can
12 intimidate the majority and dominate the discussions.
13 Subsistence users were not depleting resources and
14 Section 805 of ANILCA directed an advisory structure
15 that enables rural residents to have a meaningful forum
16 for the review and dialog on subsistence issues. The
17 Council acknowledged there may be regions or areas of
18 regions where there are no commercial interest, hence
19 the need to consider regional demographics for the
20 ratio of subsistence interest to commercial sport
21 interest, but the ratio should never go below 70
22 percent for subsistence interest.

23

24 Kodiak/Aleutian Islands took up this on
25 Council composition and they had no recommendation.
26 They felt the system in place works for the Council.
27 They do not want to be locked into hard numbers and
28 felt there should be a diverse makeup of Council
29 members along geographic diversity. The Council would
30 like to see the suggestions from other regions.

31

32 Seward Pen. No recommendation from
33 Seward Pen.

34

35 Yukon/Kuskokwim brought this up and
36 their recommendation is Council members must live in
37 the region and 100 percent of the Council members
38 should be involved in subsistence use. Although
39 discussed, no actual percentage split was part of the
40 recommendation. I have other Regional Council
41 recommendations here, but they do not have what they
42 have on Council composition. I don't know if Warren
43 wants to share if he knows of those for Southeast and
44 Bristol Bay, but I have no documentation of what they
45 took.

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So any more
48 input from Staff.

49

50 MR. MATHEWS: Just the written comments

1 on 70 and 71. You can look at those. They're quite
2 extensive. It actually looks like it's done
3 alphabetically, so there's not a pattern of those that
4 oppose and accept. Obviously there's a pattern of
5 opposition and a few that support.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Don, did you
8 have something.

9
10 MR. RIVARD: Just one thing, Madame
11 Chair. The Southeast Council, their comments are on
12 Page 172. They did it as part of the public comment
13 period and then they did make a recommendation at their
14 meeting. I think it pretty much parallels what's in
15 the book. Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
18 Discussion. Go ahead.

19
20 MR. WOODRUFF: If you note on the Yukon
21 Drainage Fisheries Association, which I'm a board
22 member of, it says, Fairly balanced does not require
23 an arbitrary declaration of primary interest. Many
24 fish and wildlife resource users, especially in rural
25 Alaska, represent more than one user group. Balance
26 could be better achieved by asking individuals to
27 indicate the types of fish and wildlife use they
28 participate in. That's back to what Virgil said. If
29 you're commercial but you go subsistence hunting, what
30 do you represent as far as the board. Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Richard.

33
34 MR. CARROLL: Richard Carroll here. I
35 brought it up the other day. Usually if you're a
36 member of any council or any governing body or policy-
37 making board, you'll have a mission statement. You
38 have bylaws and usually everybody that's on that is
39 required by ethics to abide by them so you don't get
40 somebody in there that's got a one-page agenda and
41 that's the only thing they see, you know, and they
42 don't accomplish anything for the good of the whole.
43 This is nitpicking, but I don't know how we'd come into
44 compliance with this Federal Advisory Committees Act.
45 I looked at the list and you've got people from
46 Fairbanks, North Pole, people isolated in small
47 villages and trappers. We've got a variety of people.
48 Somebody here mentioned we either got a trapping
49 license and, of course, we're doing that for sales of
50 furs, so we're commercial users. I don't understand

1 why. Do we fill out a questionnaire and do we all have
2 to represent one specific group? It just doesn't make
3 any sense to me. It's contradictory anyway to the
4 formation of a council like us, that requirement.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince, you had
7 something to add to what he's saying.

8
9 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Basically, Richard,
10 you have two laws that have different requirements.
11 ANILCA, as Western Interior put in there, is supposed
12 to be a forum for meaningful discussion of rural
13 residents on subsistence issues. You have FACA that
14 requires you have to be balanced of different uses. So
15 that's where that's at. Earlier, Virgil knows this,
16 Sue knows this, maybe not Bill, I'm not sure, they used
17 to have to do an ethics statement in the beginning.
18 That's no longer required. I would have to, as the
19 designated Federal officer, say you're qualified to
20 participate or not, so I used to do an extensive
21 review. That is no longer necessary. So you were
22 earlier indicating, well, you buy a sport fishing
23 license. My understanding, we don't have a definition
24 of what a commercial interest is. That could be it.
25 It could be limited entry permit. It could be
26 different things. So we don't really have a
27 definition, we just do self-declaration of this.

28
29 You're here to basically -- even if you
30 were here as a straight commercial, you were selected
31 because you had the knowledge of subsistence uses and
32 you're here to enforce ANILCA Title VIII. You would
33 not be as a commercial interest to just represent
34 guiding or commercial fishing or whatever. So you are
35 here to enforce Title VIII but they wanted to have a
36 balanced membership on there. Reaching that balance is
37 hard. Sue has struggled as an example of what to
38 declare herself and we have to call her up on each
39 application. We've had that with a couple other
40 Council members because of the fact that they are
41 commercial but they see themselves as subsistence, so
42 we're asking people to declare. In other regions I
43 work at, no way are you going to declare yourself as
44 other than subsistence.

45
46 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
47 expound on that a little bit, but I wanted to give you
48 all a chance. Virgil.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame

1 Chair. I was thinking about what Vince just brought
2 up. We used to have to do an ethics disclosure and
3 disclose whether we may have a conflict or declare that
4 we do have a conflict on a specific proposal and we
5 don't do that anymore.

6
7 But in our dealings with our fishery
8 issues, especially pertaining to the king salmon on the
9 Yukon River, the Y/K Delta RAC is totally biased and
10 it's because -- I don't know what the percentage of
11 them are active commercial fishermen, but it's
12 extremely high. So I think in a case such as that that
13 they are definitely in violation of all of this because
14 I feel confident that they're RAC is comprised of more
15 than 50 percent active commercial fishermen; that the
16 only thing they care about is the greenback dollar and
17 they could care less if any subsistence users upriver
18 have reasonable opportunity or not and that's just an
19 absolute fact.

20
21 So I think that needs to be addressed
22 fully because that RAC is not making decisions based on
23 reasonable opportunity for the subsistence users that
24 are true subsistence users and are not active
25 commercial fishermen. They could care less whether you
26 get fish or not. I've heard them say on
27 teleconferences you people are stupid. You're poor
28 fishermen. You don't know how to fish. That's why you
29 can't catch fish. There's lots of fish. That's what
30 they say.

31
32 Like Vince and I were discussing last
33 night about some of the stuff I had gotten from the
34 professor that was the head of the history department
35 at UAF probably 10 years or so ago and I gave to Monty
36 Mellard and he made copies of it, which was a
37 transcript of the hearings when Hudson Stuck in 1920
38 appeared before the United States Congress Commerce
39 Committee for fisheries in Washington, D.C., and that's
40 about 135 or 138 page document, that all you have to do
41 when you read that hearing from 1920 as to what's been
42 happening, unlike our fish size meetings, is change the
43 names. They were saying the same thing 87 years ago,
44 the representatives of the commercial fishing interest
45 in the Lower Yukon that they're saying now. Nothing
46 has changed. It's 87 years later. Nothing has
47 changed. So I feel this issue needs to be addressed
48 especially with that RAC composition.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, Virgil.

1 We want to keep your blood pressure down.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. Well, believe
4 it or not, I just was at the doctor last week and they
5 were absolutely amazed that my blood pressure is as low
6 as it is for my age.

7

8 (Laughter)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't know
11 what we'd do without you.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: But anyway, what I'm
14 saying is, I don't know whether we can do anything
15 about it, but I think this RAC should voice concern
16 that active commercial fishermen -- that there needs to
17 be an exception that you don't just declare what you're
18 representing. If you are an active commercial
19 fishermen, then you should be counted as commercial.
20 That is my feelings on that.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think we
23 understand. Go ahead.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm going to have to
26 agree with everything Virgil said because I go to these
27 YRDFA meetings and we talk to the lower river people
28 and it doesn't make much of a dent at all. Like Virgil
29 said, they think we're crappy fishermen because it may
30 take two, three weeks to fill our fish rack and it
31 takes them two or three days.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd say they
34 might have something to learn, too. They might have to
35 come and fish with you where the fish are harder to
36 get. Did you have something?

37

38 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, I'm a subsistence
39 hunter and I've got an empty freezer all year. What
40 does that mean?

41

42 (Laughter)

43

44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
45 have anything.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I would like to
50 say about this struggle and I think what you're saying

1 is the same thing as what I struggle with. I just
2 started working as a guide probably 10, 12, 14 years
3 ago. I was off and on working a guide camp once in a
4 while. You know, it was never a significant part of my
5 income, but it has become that in recent years. At the
6 same time, we live in rural Alaska and we're part of
7 Mentasta Village. There's people there that call us
8 family, we take meat to the village, we share in their
9 lifestyle, going to potlatches, sewing, all kinds of
10 things. So if you have somebody that's a commercial
11 fisherman down on Y/K and they hold a commercial
12 fishing license, you might also have one of them that
13 their income level of that is insignificant. On the
14 other hand there might be another person that it's very
15 significant.

16

17 I think it's not a cut and dried thing.
18 My heartburn is over they say you are either commercial
19 -- you must declare you're either commercial or
20 subsistence, and I have a problem with someone saying
21 you must declare. Somehow you should be able to say
22 this part of me is commercial and this part of me is
23 not instead of having to say, okay, now we have chalk
24 one, chalk two, and these different categories. I
25 believe if we are honest with each other every one of
26 us has a little commercial interest in us that has
27 something to do with fish and game. It's just the
28 level of commercial.

29

30 Help me out here. That's what I think
31 you're saying, that all of you are saying it, we need
32 to come up with a way to meet this criteria that we
33 determine how much we consider commercial.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: This is kind of a hard
36 issue and it's hard to pin down. Sue and I are both
37 guides, so that makes us commercial.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And I've had a
40 commercial license for fishing, too, in 15 years of my
41 life.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Correct. Myself,
44 besides being a guide, we process game meat
45 commercially and fish commercially, but we also process
46 a lot of subsistence fish for people. What my point
47 is, I don't feel that 30 percent commercial/sport
48 should be a set in stone thing. Like several people
49 have brought up here, we all have diverse interests and
50 we are a very diverse RAC as far as our interests go

1 and our experience in hunting and fishing and
2 subsistence-type activities, be it commercial, sport or
3 subsistence.

4
5 I believe the intent of all this is
6 that all user groups should be fairly well represented.
7 But, then again, the reason I bring up this commercial
8 fishery thing is because when you have a majority of a
9 council that's engaged in the same commercial interest
10 rather than a diversified bunch of various commercial
11 interests -- like tour guiding, for instance, is a
12 commercial interest that affects fish and game
13 resources.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If you're
16 fishing.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. And fish
19 guiding is as well. And a lot of people may not have
20 thought of this, but I learned this or this was brought
21 to my attention when I was on the Board of Fisheries,
22 it's just as ecotourism people have a tremendous affect
23 in some cases on subsistence activities.

24
25 When you have gravel bars someplace
26 that's a good camping spot or a pull-out spot and
27 you've got Princess Tours and they've brought in a
28 bunch of college kids from the Lower 48 because they
29 can get them dirt cheap to be tour guides and take all
30 these rafters down a river and then they absolutely
31 dominate one of the best places to camp and there's no
32 place to camp and they don't have proper toilet
33 facilities and know how to do all that and they're
34 contaminating the water and littering all over the
35 place and we do have this problem in the state.

36
37 Maybe they have some of that problem up
38 the river here, then those people are -- what I'm
39 trying to say is we need a balanced system and I think
40 there's times, such as when people are all commercial
41 fishermen and they're saying they're subsistence as
42 well, that maybe we need to really -- I think what
43 should happen is if they're commercial fishermen and
44 they're active commercial fishermen, they should be
45 called commercial. There again, I don't think we
46 should have to stick with this 70/30 thing. It could
47 be 50 percent commercial.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Stop there. I
50 want to hear from the rest of you. Would you agree

1 that if you're a commercial fisherman you have to be
2 listed as commercial or would you rather see something
3 that's more like what I'm seeing in this language here,
4 many fish and wildlife resource users, especially in
5 rural Alaska, represent more than one user group.
6 Balance could be better achieved by asking individuals
7 the types of fish and wildlife they participate in.
8 That's pretty generic.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, the key word is
11 participate in.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Participate in
14 you think covers it?

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we need
19 language. At the Federal Board, somebody has got to be
20 able to say exactly how we feel here. Go ahead.

21

22 MR. CARROLL: I agree with what Virgil
23 said earlier. I hate to start talking about income,
24 but your main activity as a commercial, if that's a
25 majority of your income, that's the way it's going to
26 be. Just interesting. I pack around some of my past
27 licenses. I carry them for ID. I don't know why. Out
28 of the last nine years, seven of those years I bought a
29 sports fishing license. I didn't this year. I was
30 short the \$24.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How many times
33 did you buy a hunting license?

34

35 MR. CARROLL: Every year. I pack them
36 around for ID in Fairbanks. You'd be surprised. They
37 come in handy if you have to prove you're a resident or
38 something.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I like that
41 laugh. So what we're trying to do is we're going to
42 come up with -- so what I'm hearing here and I want a
43 consensus, if your main activity is commercial fishing,
44 do you want to relate it to income?

45

46 MR. UMPHENOUR: If you're an active
47 commercial fisherman.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: What if you're
50 a poor, dumb one? Sorry. No, I'm serious. There

1 could be somebody -- what are we going to call an
2 active commercial fisherman?

3

4 MR. UMPHENOUR: One that actually goes
5 commercial fishing and sells fish to a fish buyer.

6

7 MR. CARROLL: Okay, better yet.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do we all agree
10 that we would -- Bill is having trouble.

11

12 MR. GLANZ: Well, I'm having trouble
13 because commercial fishermen would probably say what
14 about those people that guide. If they make \$1 guiding,
15 are they commercial. We're running into conflict here
16 and opening a can of worms.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's why I
19 think it would be better to -- you know, we have input
20 as a Council, but we're volunteers and the government
21 are getting paid to do a lot of this stuff, and we can
22 give them how we're thinking and say, hey, somehow or
23 another you come up with something that we're thinking
24 because we're not the experts here on how to write this
25 up, but I still wanted to give them stuff to think
26 about, how we feel. Vince.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair, if I could
29 ask Virgil a question. Virgil, with this declaration
30 of active fishermen, are you just wanting to inform the
31 Board that the actions of a particular Council have a
32 majority that are commercial fishers? If that's what
33 you're looking for, then maybe your suggestion could be
34 an ethic statement instead because I don't think you're
35 going to get people either on the Delta or Southeast to
36 declare themselves as commercial fishermen even though
37 they're a hliner because they see themselves as
38 subsistence users.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think they
41 should probably fess up. If somebody is going to say,
42 hey, Sue you're a guide, I'm a guide. That's all there
43 is to it. How much of my income as a guide might be
44 different from year to year. That's why it's hard to
45 just, you know, say, hey, you're -- I mean all of you
46 have been interviewed by OSM Staff and the questions
47 they ask -- I don't agree with you, Vince. You don't
48 ask us things that -- when you're asked what do you
49 know about commercial use, you're going to find out
50 from every one of them if they hold a guide's license

1 or not or if they're a commercial fisherman or not. I
2 mean you can't not say, well, I don't know anything
3 about guiding when you're a guide or you can't say you
4 don't know anything about commercial fishing if you're
5 a commercial fisherman.

6

7 MR. MATHEWS: My point was we don't
8 require you to answer that question.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well,
11 immaterial. I think you guys are getting the
12 information.

13

14 MR. UMPHENOUR: I want to respond to
15 what he said.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
18 sorry. Go ahead.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Vince, what you asked
21 is what I think should happen. When I was on the Board
22 of Fisheries, the ethics disclosure thing was very
23 important, whether a board member had a conflict or not
24 and should participate on an issue or not. That is the
25 problem we have with the Yukon Delta RAC. I think it
26 should be disclosed how many of those people on an
27 issue have a commercial conflict.

28

29 If you're a commercial fisherman and
30 you're wanting to catch as many fish commercially as
31 you can and make as much money as you can, and to hear
32 some of these responses these people give, such as
33 saying the upriver fishermen are poor fishermen and
34 don't know how to fish and maybe we should come up and
35 teach them how to fish, when I hear that kind of stuff,
36 we need an ethics disclosure. Especially when it comes
37 to, say, like Sue and I are commercial guides, we
38 should have to disclose that if there's a potential
39 conflict there.

40

41 And for commercial fishermen, such as
42 the ones in the Lower Yukon, they should have to
43 disclose that. So, in the vote of that RAC on an
44 issue, like maybe a proposal that we're going to come
45 up with later today, then it should be noted to the
46 Federal Subsistence Board how many of those people are
47 active commercial fishermen and maybe their decision
48 maybe shouldn't carry as much weight as, say, this RAC
49 where we actually don't have any commercial fishermen.
50 I'm the only thing you'd call commercial, I think, for

1 Yukon River king salmon in our RAC area. I think that
2 that should somehow be considered.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you're in
5 favor of this ethics disclosure at all meetings. Is
6 that what I'm hearing from you?

7

8 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's right. I think
9 we should be doing an ethics disclosure.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Actually, when
12 we did it, I felt it was somewhat cumbersome. How do
13 the rest of you guys feel?

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: When I was a rookie on
16 the committee, I disclosed my ethics and it took less
17 than two minutes for each person to go through and say
18 yea or nay what they were. I don't know why it went
19 away. I thought it was a good thing.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's have a
22 consensus on this ethics disclosure. Is this relevant,
23 Vince, to this?

24

25 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, it is relevant.
26 You're addressing balance.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. What I'm
29 hearing from a couple of you is that if you have an
30 ethics disclosure at a meeting -- actually, I look at
31 it as it might be two separate things because we're
32 trying to give direction on the composition of a
33 Council and this is like the vehicle how to operate
34 more, so I guess I don't see it the same. I see it as
35 two different things.

36

37 MR. UMPHENOUR: Let me try to clarify
38 the way I feel.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: This whole issue here
43 is -- and they've got it broken down into percentages,
44 but percentages for our Councils of the composition of
45 the Council as to whether those people are
46 predominately a commercial/sport type person and that's
47 their interest and that's what their knowledge and
48 experience is, or whether the person is more a pure
49 rural subsistence user or not, and the commercial user
50 can be rural as well. So that's what this whole issue

1 is. Just having a straight ethics disclosure at the
2 meeting doesn't really address that. It addresses it
3 partially but not entirely.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: They're already
6 a Council member. This is to get to be a Council member
7 is what we're talking about.

8
9 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right. But what I'm
10 talking about or trying to relay is that I don't think
11 that saying a 70/30 or an 80/20 or something like that,
12 I don't think there should be a hard and fast rule.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I want
15 to get a consensus on that statement right there. Does
16 everyone agree that you can't come up with a hard and
17 fast rule?

18
19 MR. WOODRUFF: I think you cannot.

20
21 MR. CARROLL: You can't.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You cannot. So
24 do we agree that we cannot come up with a hard and fast
25 rule. So that's part of what I would agree that the
26 Board needs to know. So instead of saying you're
27 commercial or not, it would come down to, from what I
28 can see -- now help me out -- that when you are
29 interviewed by Staff to be a Council member, they look
30 at your history, they're asking you these questions,
31 what do you know about commercial -- because they asked
32 you these questions.

33
34 MR. WOODRUFF: Absolutely.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And then they
37 can tell, okay, this person is probably a 70/30 split,
38 so there is a commercial interest here that's being
39 seen in this Council. Do you kind of follow what I'm
40 getting at? Does that make sense?

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: If I understand what
43 you're talking about, during the panel interview
44 process, the panel member and the panel would determine
45 based on their interview with Sue Entsminger that she
46 is commercial or she is subsistence.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No. That's
49 what we just got done saying, you can't hard fast claim
50 that they're commercial or they're subsistence. That

1 they have an interest in each and that interest is seen
2 in this Council. In the case of what Virgil is talking
3 about, I would interpret it this way.

4

5 MR. MATHEWS: Okay.

6

7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If I'm the
8 interviewer and I'm interviewing this Council and
9 they're primarily, what, 13 or how many, 15.

10

11 MR. MATHEWS: Y/K is 13.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Out of 13
14 Council members and they're primarily of commercial
15 fishing interest and that's half of what we do because
16 the other half is game, then you're saying that they're
17 representing commercial because their entity is
18 commercial fish. That half of their interest is
19 commercial because it's fishing, they're commercial
20 fishermen.

21

22 It gets complicated, but I just feel
23 you can meet your FACA by saying there's a lot of
24 commercial interest on these Advisory Councils when you
25 start looking at what each person does.

26

27 I want to know from you, Don, does the
28 law require that you have to delineate how much is
29 commercial and how much isn't?

30

31 MR. RIVARD: Madame Chair. If we're
32 talking about FACA, I don't believe so. I don't
33 believe there's hard numbers. It just says, again,
34 there has to be fair balance of folks that basically
35 are affected by decisions. That's why we went with
36 that 70/30 to get some percentage of folks other than
37 subsistence users.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I remember when
40 Craig was on here he just named himself as commercial
41 because he decided he wanted to make sure that it was
42 covered on our Council. Did I see a hand? If I'm
43 moving too fast, just tell me. What I'm thinking is,
44 Vince should have enough information from what we're
45 saying. Do we need it as a letter format or how on
46 that?

47

48 MR. MATHEWS: No, it's not a letter
49 format. We would carry your comments forward after
50 your review of them through the process so the Board

1 eventually would review your recommendations on this.
2 That's why it's wide open for comment.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So what you're
5 saying, you're going to write up our comments. Because
6 it's kind of real near and dear to us, I think we
7 should all see it and look at it. I think we all have
8 e-mail and ways of commenting, that we make sure we're
9 happy with what Vince comes up with.

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: James doesn't have e-
12 mail, but I can fax it to him. We just have to have a
13 short turnaround, that's all.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Because the
16 other four that aren't here also need to be part of
17 this. I just want them to see the review.

18
19 MR. MATHEWS: Oh, okay. Go ahead.

20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: I think in this
22 interview process, and I just filled out a new
23 application, we indicate the type of fish and wildlife
24 activities that we have and that should spell out
25 clearly to the interviewer what our interests are and
26 what we participate in and it shouldn't be a difficult
27 thing to interrupt for them. If I catch 30 marten a
28 year and make a couple thousand bucks, that certainly
29 isn't a commercial interest. I mean this day and age
30 you can't live on a couple thousand bucks.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Or you could
33 argue that that's part of your subsistence lifestyle.
34 That's what's difficult for me. A lot of the things
35 we're doing commercially is actually part of your
36 subsistence lifestyle. And you could argue that for a
37 guide and you could probably argue it for commercial
38 fishermen. I don't see this as a cut and dried
39 situation.

40
41 I see a hand there.

42
43 MR. RIVARD: Madame Chair. Don Rivard.
44 I just wanted to confirm with you a couple of the key
45 points that I captured here and maybe Vince could do
46 the same so we know we're on the right track. I heard
47 that you should not have to declare whether you're one
48 or the other, commercial or subsistence, and it should
49 not be a hard fast rule on the composition, i.e. 70/30.
50 So that's the two key points that I got out of all of

1 your discussion.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill.

4

5 MR. GLANZ: So how do we get the 70/30
6 if everybody is subsistence? What is so bad if they
7 consider you two as guides technically? What I'm
8 trying to say, we have to have a 70/30 breakdown on the
9 board.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: No, we don't.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: Or 80/20. They're
14 requiring something there is what it sounds like to me.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill, what I
17 understand is.....

18

19 MR. RIVARD: It's wide open.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It's wide open.
22 It's an open box to come up with thoughts.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Okay. I thought it was
25 something we had to -- I was under the assumption we
26 had to have a balance in that sense.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're talking
29 about how we'd go about that balance, but they didn't
30 -- what they said in this rule is the 70/30 was not
31 something we had to stick to.

32

33 MR. GLANZ: I thought we were trying to
34 work our way into a 70/30 situation.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.
37 Okay.

38

39 MR. MATHEWS: The other point that I
40 caught out of your thing is that the interviewer would
41 determine the interest of each individual, which would
42 then meet the requirements of FACA. So, for example,
43 Donald might be considered 10 or 20 percent commercial
44 and that would be his percentage, so we would come up
45 with a percentage based on -- basically what you're
46 repeating is what the Advisory Committee has except for
47 the State where you had to declare and you had all
48 these numbers behind you. You're going one step beyond
49 that. That would be to meet the requirement of diverse
50 interest.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Actually,
2 that's a pretty good point what he just said. On State
3 AC's you have to list what interest you bring before.
4 That's not a bad idea. Go ahead.

5
6 MR. CARROLL: I just have a question.
7 Are we going to get some public opinion here on this?

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't know.
10 Is that something we can do here or not.

11
12 MR. MATHEWS: I didn't catch that.
13 Public opinion? Yeah, you can ask for testimony.

14
15 MR. CARROLL: Are we going to take
16 public testimony here?

17
18 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, it's wide open.
19 It's up to the Chair and the Council if you want to
20 hear from others that you're representing.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess I don't
23 mind hearing from the public, but at the same time this
24 is -- you could get wrapped around the axle on
25 something like this, too. It's up to you guys.

26
27 MR. CARROLL: Madame Chair. This is
28 what I read here. The Board will consider the
29 Council's recommendation and written public comments,
30 including pertinent testimony given at Council
31 meetings. I think we're being asked to take public
32 testimony and I feel we should open the floor for it.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm looking and
35 seeing. Does anyone have anything wonderful to add.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Actually, I
40 think we've covered it pretty good. It's coming from
41 the Council and if people here want to, they can go
42 directly to the Board with a comment. They have the
43 opportunity to comment directly to the Federal
44 Subsistence Board. I feel like we've covered that.

45
46 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. Let me get
47 it on the record then. The summary that Don and I
48 gave, the Council agrees by consensus with those points
49 and that will be drafted up and I'll share it with all
50 the present Council members, informational item for the

1 other ones, and then go from there. You don't need a
2 motion. I just need you to agree by consensus you
3 agree to these points. Thank you.

4

5 And then I'm just clearing my notes
6 out, I'm not asking you to revisit it at all, but is
7 there any further thought on that ethics disclosure or
8 does this meet the needs of that ethics disclosure?

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm sorry.
11 Virgil wants to ask you a question.

12

13 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, that's what I was
14 going to ask about, was the ethics. I feel strongly
15 about the ethics disclosure. Also, along with the
16 ethics disclosure, whenever there's a proposal,
17 especially one that's very contentious, that with each
18 RAC's recommendation there should be a summary of the
19 RAC's ethics disclosure to go to the Board so that the
20 Board can see what the interest composition of that RAC
21 actually is. I think that's important.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm going to
24 speak just a minute to that. We are volunteers and
25 every time we are asked to take more time at these two-
26 day meetings, even though you think it only takes a
27 couple minutes, sometimes -- I would be more in favor
28 of what you last said, I guess. This is me talking.
29 I'm not trying to push anyone any way. It would be
30 better if we just had a short thing and if we had to
31 read it into the record because of a contentious issue,
32 fine, but if we have to every time go through the same
33 thing over and over again -- you know, like in our
34 introductions, we could introduce ourselves like we did
35 this meeting. That was nice. We said what we did and
36 that and that would be perfect. But to go into
37 something cumbersome that you're doing all the time
38 that -- am I wrong? You could just do it for
39 contentious issues.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Someone
42 would have to determine which issues or proposals that
43 should be done on. If we had in our policy or
44 procedures that the individual RAC would vote on
45 whether they think this should be an issue where the
46 composition of the RAC should go forward to the Federal
47 Subsistence Board, but the trouble is, like on these
48 fish issues we've been having the last several years,
49 we would want that and the Lower Yukon wouldn't want
50 it, so I don't know how we would resolve that.

1 I think the proposer, if it's a RAC,
2 should be able to request that at the time of the
3 proposal, and this is going to require some type of
4 procedure change, should require that the composition
5 of the RAC, when they make their comments, should be
6 included in the RAC comments for the Board.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: See, I look at
9 it this way. If you really clearly balanced it out,
10 like Virgil feels Y/K is unbalanced to the commercial
11 side, and it was balanced out prior to a meeting, a lot
12 of that is already worked out, is what I'm thinking.
13 You know what I'm saying? As a volunteer, you get kind
14 of used up sometimes because you're involved in so many
15 things. I don't think we need to make that decision
16 today. Do we?

17
18 MR. CARROLL: No.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So let's keep
21 it in our minds and when we need to think that
22 something is really bad, wrong here, let's make an
23 issue of it. So we can move along.

24
25 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you guys
28 need a break? Let's go for a five-minute break.

29
30 (Off record)

31
32 (On record)

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'd like to
35 call this back to order. We've got Richard and James
36 up here.

37
38 (Pause)

39
40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Fisheries
41 issues. The Yukon River. I see it's Gerald. Hi,
42 Gerald. Go ahead.

43
44 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair and
45 Council Members. My name is Gerald Maschmann. I work
46 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks,
47 Alaska. My supervisor is Russ Holder, who is the
48 Federal in-season manager dealing with Yukon River
49 salmon management. I'd like to read the 2007 Yukon
50 River salmon season outlook for you.

1 Both Federal and State Yukon River
2 fishery managers are planning to start the season using
3 the Alaska Board of Fisheries windowed subsistence
4 salmon fishing schedule beginning in late May in the
5 lower river. Similar to the last six years, a joint
6 information sheet discussing the 2007 outlook will be
7 published and distributed to Yukon River fishermen in
8 May. The following 2007 Yukon River salmon outlook
9 information was summarized from draft U.S./Canada Joint
10 Technical Committee report sections authored by the
11 Alaska Department of Fish and Game managers and
12 researchers.

13
14 The 2007 run is expected to be average
15 and similar in abundance to the 2006 run, assuming a
16 near normal return of five-year-old (2002 spawners) and
17 six-year-old fish (2001 spawners). The two previous
18 return years of 2005 and 2006 were greater than
19 expected, indicating good production from the poor
20 return years of 2000 and 2001. A strong age five
21 return in 2006 suggests the potential for a good return
22 of six-year-old chinook salmon in 2007. It is
23 anticipated the 2007 run will provide for escapements,
24 support a normal subsistence harvest, and a below
25 average commercial harvest. Fishery management will be
26 based upon in-season assessment of the run. Similar to
27 2006, if in-season indicators of run strength suggest
28 sufficient abundance for a commercial fishery, the
29 commercial harvest in Alaska could range from 30,000 to
30 60,000 chinook salmon.

31
32 If ocean conditions remain favorable,
33 it is anticipated the 2007 summer chum salmon run will
34 be near average and provide for escapements, support a
35 normal subsistence and commercial harvest. The 2007
36 summer chum salmon run is dependent on the escapements
37 occurring in 2003 and 2002. Although 2001 was one of
38 the poorest escapement years on record, summer chum
39 salmon runs during 2002 to 2006 have exhibited
40 productivity improvements with harvestable surpluses
41 the last five years. If in-season indicators of run
42 strength suggest sufficient abundance to have a
43 commercial fishery, the commercial harvest in Alaska
44 could range from 500,000 to 900,000 summer chum salmon,
45 depending primarily upon market conditions.

46
47 The 2007 fall chum salmon run size is
48 expected to be near average with a preliminary
49 projection range of 700,000 to one million fish. The
50 Yukon River 2007 fall chum salmon run will largely be

1 from the parent years of 2002 to 2003. The projection
2 is based on return-per-spawner brood year calculations,
3 improvements in production observed since 2003 and an
4 expectation that parent year productivity will be near
5 normal. The 2007 projected run size should provide for
6 escapement, support normal subsistence fishing
7 activities and provide for commercial opportunities
8 where markets exist. The run will be monitored
9 in-season to determine the strength in relation to the
10 projected range. The amount of harvest that can be
11 provided will be determined by levels stipulated in the
12 Alaska Yukon River Drainage Fall Chum Salmon Management
13 Plan.

14

15 The 2007 coho salmon run is anticipated
16 to be average to above average based on record parent
17 year escapement in 2003, since coho salmon return
18 primarily as age four fish. The revised 2007 Yukon
19 River Coho Salmon Management Plan allows directed
20 commercial coho salmon fishery when there is a
21 harvestable surplus of coho salmon and the fall chum
22 salmon return is greater than 550,000 fish.

23

24 Additionally, on the back page at the
25 bottom is a summary of some of the actions that the
26 Board of Fish did or did not take concerning Yukon
27 River salmon. That's all I have for today.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
30 Gerald. Are there any questions of Gerald. Go ahead,
31 Virgil.

32

33 MR. UMPHENOUR: I don't really have a
34 question. It's just something to point out. That is,
35 on the chinook salmon return for this year, the six-
36 year-old age class will be the fish from 2001. That
37 would be the year for the six-year-old age class. In
38 2001, there was no commercial fishery and we had
39 windows throughout the run. The observations from
40 fishermen in Canada, especially way up at Tezlin,
41 indicated that that was the most large king salmon they
42 had seen in years and years and the same thing on the
43 Koyukuk River. I think this year we will probably have
44 a pretty good six-year-old age class coming back,
45 better than we've seen in a long time.

46

47 But that's my personal opinion and it's
48 based on the fact that we actually did get some fairly
49 unmolested escapement onto the spawning grounds in 2001
50 with no commercial fishery and windows in effect

1 throughout the entire season. Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I see you
4 writing notes there. Virgil teach you something?

5

6 MR. MASCHMANN: My supervisor likes to
7 have all the details of all the comments, so I want to
8 make sure he gets Virgil's comments.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
11 There is another question. Go ahead.

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Gerald, do you perceive
14 that there might be another fiasco like the lower
15 fishermen wanting to fish on a historic quarter point
16 again this year or is it going to be an actual quarter
17 point they're going to strive for?

18

19 MR. MASCHMANN: I haven't been really
20 privy to those conversations. Those are more kind of
21 conversations Russ would be having with ADF&G managers,
22 so I'll definitely take that question back and see if
23 he'll get back to you or the entire Council on that. I
24 haven't heard them talking about a quarter point, a
25 historical quarter point or actual quarter point. It's
26 my perception that Fish and Game wants to get back to
27 that quarter point start. Whether that's going to
28 happen this year or not, I don't know.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil has a
33 lot of time in this and he's going to talk to that.

34

35 MR. UMPHENOUR: I was at the Board
36 meeting in Anchorage and in the Staff reports the
37 Department did state -- their manager did state that
38 that is what they're going to try to do this year, is
39 they'll probably open the commercial fishery up at or
40 near the quarter point. That is what their plan is.
41 That is what they've done the last two years except for
42 this last year they had an earlier than that opening.

43

44 MR. MASCHMANN: I'm not sure if they've
45 -- there's kind of two quarter points. What they think
46 the 2007 quarter point is going to be and then there's
47 the historical quarter point where they actually set a
48 date. So I think like last year they said the
49 historical quarter point is on this date, so then they
50 opened it on that date, but it turns out the run was

1 late, so really the quarter point for '06 was later
2 than what they started. I'm not sure if they're going
3 to plan on a date of the historical quarter point on an
4 actual date or if they're going to assess the run
5 in-season and say we think the quarter point this
6 season is about here and then start there. But I'll
7 take that question back to Russ.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anything else.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I guess
14 we'll go to the next thing on the agenda. Thank you,
15 Gerald. Vince.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, there's just one
18 thing there, which is the call for fisheries proposals
19 2008. Just a reminder that in your packet here you've
20 got the 805(c) letter of what the Board did on
21 crossover proposals that you addressed in Southcentral.
22 I can go over those or you've gotten them in the mail
23 and this way. That I failed to put in the agenda
24 because Western had no actions on any proposals and
25 that got incorporated in this agenda.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The next thing
28 on our agenda is the report from Board of Fish, right?

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: That's what Gerald gave
31 you on the back side of this.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm sorry.
34 Yeah.

35

36 MR. MATHEWS: And Virgil may have some
37 other comments about the Board of Fish.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I was
40 just going to ask him. I have to admit, I'm not much
41 into the fisheries like these guys are. Go ahead.

42

43 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Madame
44 Chair. If everyone looks on page 2 of the report that
45 Gerald gave us, that's the proposals that we had,
46 basically. Those are the proposals before the Board
47 that would affect us. Some of them were made by us and
48 some were made by the Fairbanks AC and some by the
49 Tanana/Rampart/Manley AC, but basically what happened
50 at the Board meeting is all of us got together, plus

1 Andy Bassich was representing the Eagle AC, and some of
2 the new information we got was that 7.5-inch mesh would
3 probably be the optimum mesh size to allow the
4 fishermen to catch a good amount of king salmon and
5 actually catch more king salmon by numbers than the
6 larger mesh, the 8-inch and larger mesh, and would
7 allow more passage of six and seven-year-old king
8 salmon to get up the river.

9
10 What all of us decided to do was take
11 those eight proposals we had and to combine them and we
12 have an RC here in your packet of what we did and to
13 basically two proposals. One proposal would be to have
14 the largest mesh allowable in the Yukon River be 7.5-
15 inch mesh and then the other proposal would be to have
16 any nets larger than 6-inch mesh could not be deeper
17 than 35 meshes.

18
19 We thought that Bonnie Williams, who
20 was the new Board member from Fairbanks, was going to
21 substitute our RC for those eight proposals. Well,
22 instead of doing that, she didn't tell us she wasn't
23 going to do it, she led us to believe she was going to
24 do it. When the first proposal came up, which was one
25 of the windows proposals, what she did is she spoke
26 against our proposals and said that we would be
27 devastating the economy of the Lower Yukon commercial
28 fishery. So basically that's what happened at the
29 meeting.

30
31 Then one other thing is the coho
32 management plan. In the committee process they
33 discussed it and I was opposed to it because it would
34 lower the number of fall chum salmon past the sonar
35 down from over 600,000 to 550,000 before they could
36 start a commercial fishery directed at coho salmon. So
37 I was opposed to that and so were the other upriver
38 AC's.

39
40 What ended up happening when we got to
41 the committee report, which was in the morning before
42 deliberations started, they did an allocation in there
43 that had not been discussed and they were going to
44 allocate 80 percent of the coho salmon to District 1
45 and 2. So I vehemently objected and I got the Chairman
46 of the Board of Fish and I told him, look, there was
47 nothing mentioned about allocation in the committee
48 meeting and so I really object to this. This is a
49 total reallocation of the fishery in allocating 80
50 percent of the coho salmon to the Lower Yukon and the

1 Department really aggravates me in the fact that
2 they're saying the king salmon run was so wonderful,
3 but they did not even acknowledge that they had totally
4 closed the commercial fishery for king salmon in
5 District 6 on the Tanana River because if they had not
6 done that, they would not have met the low end of their
7 biological escapement goal for the Chena River. So I
8 made the Department answer that question as to why and,
9 of course, that's what he had to say because it was the
10 truth.

11
12 So after I did that, then the Chairman
13 of the Board of Fisheries brought that up and they took
14 all the allocation out of that coho management plan.
15 What they were going to do was let them just hammer the
16 cohos down in the Lower Yukon and then we would have
17 had a problem with cohos in the upper river. So that's
18 basically what happened at the Board of Fisheries
19 meeting. Madame Chair.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
22 Virgil. I guess what you're saying now, this is our
23 opportunity to make proposals.

24
25 MR. MATHEWS: You have that
26 opportunity. I need to inform you that the proposals
27 you submitted last round were deferred. They're now
28 back before the Board. If you want to comment about
29 your existing proposals as far as maintaining them as
30 is, amending them or withdrawing them, that would be an
31 option and you can also submit new proposals.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do Council
34 Members have some requests for proposals. Virgil.

35
36 MR. UMPHENOUR: What I would like to do
37 is -- now something that happened after the Board of
38 Fish meeting is the Fairbanks AC met and we decided to
39 submit a petition to the Board. With the petition that
40 we submitted to the Board was basically what our RC was
41 that a Fairbanks Board Member didn't support.

42
43 Anyway, what I would like to do,
44 addressing our proposals that are deferred, is amend
45 those proposals to the same thing as what the Fairbanks
46 AC's petition was, which was no nets larger than 7.5-
47 inch mesh in the Yukon River and all nets 6-inch mesh
48 or larger can be no deeper than 35 meshes deep. That's
49 what I would like to do as far as our proposals go.
50 I'll stop.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right, Don,
2 what's up.

3
4 MR. RIVARD: I think right now the four
5 proposals that this Council submitted last year that
6 were deferred, it probably would be cleaner if you just
7 -- because they're now the property of the Board. The
8 Board has the decision-making power on that. You could
9 recommend to the Board that they do something with
10 those, but it's their property right now. So rather
11 than amend previously submitted proposals, you're
12 probably better off with new proposals for this year.
13 If you so choose, you could just request that one or
14 two or three or all four just be withdrawn. The Board
15 still has the decision-making power and they're
16 probably going to follow your Council's request, but
17 they could conceivably keep them in the hopper. I
18 think it would be cleaner that instead of amending an
19 existing one that's deferred, you'd probably be better
20 off just writing a new proposal. Thank you.

21
22 MR. UMPHENOUR: Then that's what I
23 think we should do, so I'll make -- unless someone
24 wants to discuss it, but we'd be better off to request
25 those proposals be withdrawn and then make two new
26 proposals is what I would like to do. Unless anyone
27 has any objections, I move that we recommend
28 withdrawing our four proposals that were deferred and
29 make two new proposals.

30
31 The first proposal will be no nets
32 larger than 7.5-inch mesh and that all nets of 6-inch
33 or larger stretch mesh shall be no deeper than 35
34 meshes deep. Those would be the two proposals. Madame
35 Chair.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
38 Virgil. Do I hear a second.

39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm going to add
43 something to that. Well, discussion.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you going
46 to change your proposal?

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I just want to
49 discuss it.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So now we have
2 on the floor two proposals that we would like to
3 support to the Board of Fish at their next cycle -- or
4 Federal Subsistence Board. I'm sorry. Does everybody
5 understand Virgil's two proposals.

6
7 (Council nods affirmatively)

8
9 MR. RIVARD: Madame Chair, could we
10 have Virgil repeat them. I got the one no nets larger
11 than 7.5-inch stretch mesh, right?

12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

14
15 MR. RIVARD: And the other one, all
16 nets with six inches or larger stretch mesh will be no
17 deeper than.....

18
19 MR. UMPHENOUR: 35 mesh.

20
21 MR. RIVARD: 35 mesh. That's what I
22 needed to know. Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The Council
25 knows his motion.

26
27 (Council nods affirmatively)

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And you want to
30 speak to the motion. Go ahead.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: We've discussed a lot
33 the reason why we want to do this, but I just want to
34 add a little bit of emphasis here that wasn't available
35 because I hadn't done some of the research and some of
36 the data was not available to us, but I rounded up all
37 the weir data for four weirs in the Yukon drainage.
38 Then I also got this report that was prepared by Fish
39 and Game but never released to the public, this 2003
40 age/sex/length notebook. So what I did was I got the
41 harvest reports and test fish reports on age, size and
42 sex of king salmon for 2006 and I compared the fish
43 from 2003 to the fish from 2006.

44
45 The six-year-old age class in the test
46 fishery has dropped by approximately 17 percent less
47 six-year-olds and on seven-year-old age class fish the
48 commercial harvest has dropped from around six or seven
49 percent down to one percent and then on the weirs --
50 well, let me finish that. In District 5 I got the last

1 five years of data and there the six-year-old fish have
2 went from around 51 or 52 percent in the commercial
3 harvest down to 20 percent. The seven-year-olds have
4 went from seven percent down to less than one percent
5 in the commercial harvest.

6

7 Then on the weir data David Wiswar did
8 some graphs for me that show the six-year-old female
9 king salmon and five-year-olds, that now we have more
10 five-year-old king salmon spawning than we do the six-
11 year-old king salmon spawning.

12

13 Then there was also a study that was
14 done on the fecundity or the number of eggs each female
15 king salmon has and a size study done over time and
16 king salmon in the Yukon River have decreased in length
17 one inch every 10 years, and one pound every six and a
18 half to seven years. The fecundity of the king salmon
19 has went from 1989 to 2005 in District 6 has decreased
20 by over 23 percent. They went from around 10,000 eggs
21 to 7,000 eggs per fish, but in District 5 they did an
22 analysis of the number of eggs per female fish in
23 District 5 in the commercial harvest and that's between
24 the village of Tanana and the Yukon River bridge, which
25 is primarily Canadian king salmon headed to Canada,
26 which over time they figure 50 percent of the king
27 salmon that come to the Yukon River go to Canada. That
28 those fish, instead of having around 7,000 eggs per
29 female fish, they're down to around 5,500 eggs per
30 female fish.

31

32 So that's just some additional
33 supporting data and we will supply all this data with
34 our two proposals.

35

36 Something I would like to make clear
37 because there's going to be questions on this. The
38 Federal Subsistence Board has never exercised their
39 extra-territorial jurisdiction, is the way they call
40 it, so we're asking them to do that for the first time
41 and actually restrict the commercial fishery in the
42 Yukon River. Not just not the subsistence fishery, but
43 because the State is not going to do anything, then
44 they need to do that in all Federal waters in the Yukon
45 River. And I think they can do that for the whole
46 Yukon River and that's what we're asking. If they
47 can't, then for all Federal waters. Federal waters are
48 defined if it's Federal land on one side of the river,
49 the whole river is Federal waters.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. That
2 sounds like you have a wealth of information. Thank
3 you for sharing that. Vince has something.
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Virgil, are you
6 paralleling the Fairbanks Advisory Committee petition?
7 If you are, didn't that petition put in there a three-
8 year grace period for subsistence uses and a one-year
9 grace period on this net change for commercial?
10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct.
12 Because I didn't write down notes like I should have
13 that I overlooked, but that's correct, Vince.
14
15 MR. MATHEWS: So, the second of the
16 motion, do you understand that there's be.....
17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods head
19 affirmatively)
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The second should
22 his head in the affirmative. Now, if I understand your
23 last statement there, the motion would also be that
24 this would pertain to Federal waters as well as State
25 waters and that the Board would have to use it's extra-
26 territorial authority to enforce that on State waters.
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods head
29 affirmatively)
30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm just going
32 to say something that I need to say from how I feel.
33 My job here is I feel it's very important to do the
34 right thing for the people and the resource and the
35 state of Alaska. That last statement you said about
36 the whole river being Federal, I don't like to hear us
37 make statements like that. I think that's above and
38 beyond us. Sometimes I'm not sure if that's the way it
39 should be. I just want to make that clear that
40 sometimes maybe these harsh statements.....
41
42 MR. UMPHENOUR: The whole river is not
43 Federal waters.
44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But it sounded
46 like you said that.
47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd like to clarify so
49 people understand it. This is my understanding and
50 someone from the Staff can correct me if I'm wrong.

1 The definition for Federal waters for fishery
2 management when it comes to rivers is if one side of
3 the river is Federal lands, such as BLM, National Park
4 or Refuge Service, which is the case on the Yukon
5 River, then the entire width of the river, straight
6 across the river from the boundaries of those Federal
7 lands is considered Federal waters for fisheries
8 management. I believe that's correct. So that's not
9 the entire Yukon River. That's like in some places
10 there's a Refuge, like the Innoko Refuge for instance
11 down in the middle Yukon area, one side is Refuge land
12 and the other side of the river is Doyon land, so they
13 consider the entire river for fisheries regulations as
14 Federal waters. I think I'm correct and I'd like the
15 Staff to correct me if I'm not correct.

16

17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince has his
18 hand up.

19

20 MR. MATHEWS: Virgil is correct. All
21 waters within the conservation unit and adjoining the
22 boundaries that the conservation units would fall
23 under. So, for example, the Innoko and the Nowitna,
24 the Nowitna comes up to the south bank of the Yukon.
25 It covers across to the other bank.

26

27 The other thing that I need to correct
28 you that I made a mistake is that the Secretary of the
29 Interior only has the authority to grant extension onto
30 State waters. So your request would have to go to the
31 Secretary of the Interior. The Board does not have the
32 authority to do all State waters.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you want to
35 add to that?

36

37 MR. RIVARD: No, Vince covered it.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I wanted to
40 make one clarification that I said earlier that Staff
41 had mentioned to me. When I said the hunting license,
42 the State hunting license was sport, it's not. It's a
43 general hunting license. It's for sport or subsistence
44 or commercial for that matter. We are now prepared to
45 vote on these two proposals that we would like to
46 submit to the Board. Any other discussion.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 MR. GLANZ: Question.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: The question
2 has been called for. All in favor of submitting these
3 two proposals to the Federal Board.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All opposed.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 MR. MATHEWS: Just to make the record
12 clear, what I'll do is draft it up, run it by the mover
13 of the motion and the Chair and they will approve these
14 proposals as written before they're submitted and that
15 they've happened within the window of time and we'll
16 get it in as reasonably as possible.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
19 Vince. We have an annual report Vince is going to
20 cover.

21
22 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Madame Chair.
23 That's in your green folder. It says Council draft.
24 If you could pull that out that would help us. For
25 Richard, what the annual report is, it's a requirement
26 of ANILCA or an option for the Council. This Council
27 has always done it. You develop your topics at the
28 fall meeting and then the draft is before you for
29 approval at your winter meeting, this meeting. In
30 general, we do not encourage additional topics at this
31 time, but there's been two that came up yesterday that
32 we'll need direction on. This report then is finalized
33 with approval of the Chair, submit it to the Federal
34 Board, the Federal Board during summer reviews it,
35 responds to each of the topic items and is given back
36 to you in the fall. So that, in a nutshell, is the
37 process.

38
39 So, with that, you can look it over for
40 the topics and see if I've captured the wording the way
41 you would like. If not, we can modify it.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince, this is
44 ongoing. We have been sending a similar report each
45 year, correct?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Your direction from
48 your last meeting is that the topics have been ongoing
49 because you've not been pleased with the response from
50 the Board and that they're of high importance and you

1 wanted to keep them in front of the Board to maintain
2 their attention.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And the two new
5 ones was this education we talked about earlier and law
6 enforcement.

7

8 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. If I understood the
9 law enforcement, and please correct me if I'm wrong
10 because I may have been biased by the topic, it was
11 mainly law enforcement within the Dalton Highway
12 Corridor. I don't know if you wanted it for the whole
13 region. Again, that was my notes on it.

14

15 MR. CARROLL: If I may. Richard
16 Carroll. My main concern when I brought that up was
17 specifically the Pipeline Corridor. If you want to
18 expand on it, that's fine. I don't hear of any abuses
19 any place else as bad as that one.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Would the
22 Council agree with that.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Well, what about the 25
25 cows they found killed in the Flats last year they
26 talked about?

27

28 MR. CARROLL: I never heard of it.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You never
31 heard?

32

33 MR. CARROLL: No.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: Well, remember it was at
36 the last meeting we had and we were talking about
37 predation on the Flats and it came out that they found
38 23 cows killed by hunters in the Flats. Just a minute.
39 I've got to take a minute.

40

41 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. While he's
42 doing that, there may be some confusion on the data.
43 We do have the Refuge biologist here that monitors that
44 whole situation. Maybe when Bill comes back Mark
45 Bertram can verify or clarify.

46

47 MR. BERTRAM: My name is Mark Bertram,
48 wildlife biologist with Yukon Flats Refuge. What I
49 reported at the last meeting last fall was that 25
50 percent of the reported harvest was cow moose. I did

1 not report any instance of a large number of cows being
2 killed in any particular spot. So there was a
3 significant proportion of the reported harvest that was
4 cow moose.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Were they
7 legally taken, those 25 percent?

8
9 MR. BERTRAM: Illegally taken. It's a
10 bull only season.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: When you say 25
13 percent, how many moose was that?

14
15 MR. BERTRAM: Let's see. Generally
16 about 40 to 50 moose.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill is back,
19 so go ahead with your information.

20
21 MR. BERTRAM: What I reported at the
22 last meeting was that about 25 percent of the reported
23 harvest was cow moose and it's illegal to take cow
24 moose because it's a bull only season. There's
25 generally between 150 and 200 animals taken during the
26 moose season in Unit 25D, so we were looking at
27 somewhere between 30 and 50 cows harvested annually.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: Okay, I stand corrected.
30 Thank you. So even more than I assumed. The Corridor
31 is not the only bad spot we have to worry about is what
32 I'm trying to say because I witnessed it a lot in the
33 Flats when I was stationed out there in all the
34 villages.

35
36 MR. CARROLL: May I.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

39
40 MR. CARROLL: Richard here. I am not
41 opposed to law enforcement for illegal hunts anywhere.
42 If we want to include the Yukon Flats, I'm all for it.
43 I'm against illegal kills. I don't do it and I don't
44 see how it can be justified. I don't care who they
45 are. That's the way I feel. I'll be willing to
46 include the increased law enforcement in the Yukon
47 Flats because we are hurting. I haven't killed a moose
48 in two years because they just aren't there. There's
49 cows. I never even seen a track until sometime late
50 December and I stayed out from September 19th, I left

1 town, and got back a couple days before Christmas. The
2 only tracks I seen was more than 50 miles to my camp,
3 the closest track, honestly. It's sad. Thanks.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm curious of
6 that number that you know of, how much waste.

7
8 MR. BERTRAM: I guess I don't have that
9 information. I'm not in the enforcement end, but I do
10 work with people who are. There are people in our
11 office who are pursuing -- I'm not sure if they're
12 wanton waste cases or just illegal harvest of cow
13 moose, but there's ongoing cases. I'm not aware of
14 numbers, I guess, as far as how much wanton waste is
15 going on, if any, but I know there is an increased
16 enforcement effort this year for pursuing illegal
17 harvest of moose, which includes cows.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: See, that's
20 another education issue.

21
22 MR. BERTRAM: For my report later in
23 the day I've got information on this topic. If you
24 want to discuss it later, that's fine. If you want to
25 discuss it now, that's fine, too. You're on enforcement
26 right now, so it's kind of off topic of that, but it
27 does include that. So it's up to you folks.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're going to
30 give a report later?

31
32 MR. BERTRAM: I'll give a report later.
33 We'll probably be revisiting this.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
36 just coming up with our annual report, so that would be
37 fine.

38
39 (Council nods affirmatively)

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. You know
42 what I would suggest. Probably on the annual report
43 any problem areas in the state where there's serious
44 abuse of illegal take we would like more law
45 enforcement. Does that help, Vince?

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah. If I take your
48 directions, the draft that's in front of you is
49 acceptable with the addition of those topics and those
50 will be written up and the Chair and whoever else would

1 like to review it. I just have to caution you, I have
2 to turn this around by April 10th. I'm not sure on
3 that date.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any of the
6 Council members want to see it before it goes out. Do
7 you want to see it?

8

9 MR. CARROLL: Not really.

10

11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
12 we're fine. I'm looking at the agenda and it looks
13 like we're to the Office of Subsistence Management
14 reports and updates. Don.

15

16 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Madame Chair.
17 Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.
18 We're at Page 178 in your book. Vince handed out the
19 letter from the Alaska Federation of Natives that was
20 dated September 6, 2006 that's in your packet. The
21 letter on page 178 is in response to this letter here.

22

23 Basically AFN was asking about the
24 budget and where it's headed for the Office of
25 Subsistence Management and the Federal Subsistence
26 Program and this letter from the Secretary's Office
27 gives that response to Julie Kitka and I'll just
28 highlight a couple areas.

29

30 Your third paragraph there on the
31 letter on 178 says that the Regional Advisory Council
32 system remains the foundation of the Federal
33 Subsistence Management Program. Each Council continues
34 to meet at least twice a year and additional meetings
35 are scheduled as necessary. In other words, that's
36 going to continue.

37

38 If you look on the next paragraph, the
39 second sentence says, in addition, inflation, salary
40 increases and other costs have reduced funds available
41 for the Program by at least \$300,000 annually and we're
42 looking at another possible budget cut for 2008.
43 That's not in the letter. That's my knowledge of
44 what's going on.

45

46 One remedy we are exploring -- this is
47 the next paragraph. One remedy we are exploring to
48 address these annual funding declines is in the
49 implementation of a two-year regulatory cycle. This is
50 something that the Board has not taken up yet, but it's

1 been proposed by the Office of Subsistence Management.
2 In other words, we'd go to a two-year cycle for both
3 fisheries and wildlife and they'd be alternate years.
4 So one year we'd be dealing with the wildlife cycle,
5 the next year would be fisheries. Under that scenario,
6 your Council still would meet twice a year.

7
8 I know we've had Staff leave for either
9 retirement or they've taken other positions and we
10 haven't backfilled those positions and there's some
11 potential cut to the Alaska Department of Fish and
12 Game. We have been providing close to half a million
13 dollars a year to them to participate in the Federal
14 process. Also we're looking at funding cuts to the
15 Fisheries Monitoring Program and the Partners Program
16 as well. So those kind of things are possibilities.
17 Nothing has been decided yet. Our budget has had a
18 downward pressure on it due to other things going on
19 with the Federal government. So that's the reality of
20 what's going on. Thank you, Madame Chair.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any questions.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
27 you for that report. The next thing on the agenda.

28
29 MR. MATHEWS: The next is just
30 basically organizational reports. The first one most
31 likely will be Brandy and she'll need some time to set
32 up the electronics, so it might be a good time for a
33 lunch break.

34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sounds great.
36 Let's do it. An hour and 15 for lunch. We'll meet
37 back at 1:15. Thank you.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

44
45 MS. BERKBIGLER: Good afternoon,
46 Council. My name is Brandy Berkbigler and I'm the
47 Yukon Partner fishery biologist at Tanana Chiefs
48 Conference. Just a little background about myself, I
49 started with Tanana Chiefs and the Partners Program in
50 June of 2006, so just last June. Before that I worked

1 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the
2 Fairbanks field office for four years and under Russ
3 Holder, the subsistence manager, as well as Jeff Adams,
4 the assessment and monitoring branch manager. I
5 graduated from UAF in 2002 with a bachelor of science
6 degree.

7
8 Just to give a little background on the
9 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, it provides
10 funding for fisheries projects, addressing Federal
11 Subsistence Management issues and the projects that
12 they fund are to gather information on fish stock
13 status and trends, subsistence harvest patterns and
14 traditional ecological knowledge.

15
16 In order to help Alaska Natives and
17 rural Alaskans gain a ground in managing the fisheries
18 resources, they implements the Partners For Fisheries
19 Monitoring Program in 2002. At this time, TCC, AVCP in
20 Bethel and Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments in
21 Fort Yukon put in a proposal for the Partners Program
22 to have biologists within these organizations.

23
24 So the Partners for Fisheries
25 Monitoring Program places the fisheries biologist and
26 social scientist within Alaska Native rural
27 organizations. Currently there are eight of us funded.
28 Bristol Bay Native Association has two, one fisheries
29 biologist and one social scientist. Kuskokwim Native
30 Association at Aniak has one fisheries biologist.
31 Association of Village Council Presidents in Bethel has
32 two, one Partners fisheries biologist for the Kuskokwim
33 and one Partners fisheries biologist for the Yukon.
34 Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments in Fort Yukon
35 has one fisheries biologist. Tanana Chiefs in
36 Fairbanks has one and the Native Village of Eyak in
37 Eyak has one social scientist.

38
39 So the Partners are tasked with helping
40 to identify subsistence fishery issues by attending
41 community meetings and listening to local concerns. So
42 by myself coming and presenting here at the Eastern
43 RAC, I also presented at the Western RAC and I've
44 attended the Y-K Delta in the fall, I'm gaining issues
45 that are concerning some of the Federal subsistence
46 users and trying to come up with projects to identify
47 the concerns.

48
49 In conjunction, we also collaborate
50 with Federal, State and university and private sector

1 professionals to address these issues and we also try
2 to provide educational opportunities through fisheries
3 technician training, science camps and internships.

4
5 The goals of the Partners Program are
6 to promote cooperation between Alaska Native rural
7 organizations, State and Federal agencies, academia and
8 others, facilitate participation in the Fisheries
9 Resource Monitoring Program, support community outreach
10 and education and encourage future scientists through
11 the mentoring of college students.

12
13 So, at TCC, I'm funded through the
14 Office of Subsistence Management Fisheries Monitoring
15 Program. I'm an employee of TCC and I work in the
16 Fairbanks office. I'm tasked to work with 42 villages
17 within the region. That's a lot of villages for one
18 person to try and get to in one year. And I'm supposed
19 to promote understanding and knowledge of fisheries
20 through outreach, local hire and internships.

21
22 Currently, this past summer I had two
23 interns to help me with different projects we had and
24 I've been hiring local hires with Allakaket to help
25 with one of our projects. So my concern is to keep up
26 with the local hires and hopefully mentor more
27 fisheries biologists through internships at TCC. I
28 cooperatively work on research projects with various
29 entities and organizations such as U.S. Fish and
30 Wildlife Service and I've done a couple with CATG and
31 ADF&G.

32
33 Just to give you a map of TCC's region,
34 there's quite a few villages. We've done a couple
35 projects. Pretty much we've hit almost everywhere
36 except for some of the upper drainages of the Tanana,
37 the McGrath area and the upper section around Fort
38 Yukon. CATG pretty much tries to handle all those
39 village issues.

40
41 In my department I work under the
42 cultural and natural resources. Within there we have
43 forestry, archaeology, realty and wildlife and parks,
44 but I put it as fisheries because we don't really have
45 any parks at TCC. Under there we have one subsistence
46 resource director, which is my supervisor, Mike Smith,
47 myself as the fisheries biologist and funding for two
48 temporary interns in the summer.

49
50 From 2003 to 2006 TCC was busy

1 implementing the program and has been involved in
2 various fisheries projects. The majority of them have
3 been OSM funded FRMP projects. They're not really in
4 order, but I'll just tell you a couple different ones.

5

6

7 From 2004 to 2006 we were a partner
8 with US Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks on the
9 Kanuti whitefish. The objective of this project was to
10 identify seasonal migrations and three important
11 habitats; the spawning, over-wintering and the feeding
12 of humpback and broad whitefish in the upper Koyukuk
13 River drainage based on locations of radio-tagged fish.
14 So TCC's role in this was a co-investigator and they
15 participated in helping to radio tag and capture the
16 whitefish and then they also were assisting on some of
17 the radio telemetry flights throughout the season to
18 find out where they're feeding and over-wintering and
19 spawning. Also, the previous biologist was helpful in
20 creating the maps to go in the report and the final
21 report will be published in May of this year.

22

23 The second project was the TEK in
24 Western Science Camp in Fort Yukon. This project was
25 funded from 2005 to 2006, so this past summer was the
26 last year of this project. There will be a final
27 report in May and I won't talk about too many of the
28 objectives because I have them in a future slide.

29

30 The Henshaw Creek weir in Kanuti
31 National Wildlife Refuge is a project that was a
32 cooperative with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
33 Fairbanks field office and has operated from 2005
34 through 2007, so this summer will be the last summer.

35

36 Then there's also a TEK and
37 contemporary subsistence harvest of non-salmon fish in
38 the Koyukuk River drainage. This project was a
39 cooperative project with ADF&G. TCC assisted in
40 helping with the final phase of the project by helping
41 to compile data from the non-salmon subsistence harvest
42 surveys, writing sections of the final report and
43 compiling a poster to be distributed to the different
44 communities participating.

45

46 In addition, there is a contemporary
47 subsistence uses and population distribution of non-
48 salmon fish in the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk and Holy
49 Cross area. Here TCC assisted with ADF&G Subsistence
50 Division in conducting some of the TEK interviews in

1 the GASH region and compiled a poster and created five
2 of the maps found in the final report and these maps
3 are pretty intensive. They're GIS arc maps, so it's
4 basically compiling layers of where they found the fish
5 and which fish went into which sections within this
6 region.

7
8 Other funded projects that TCC has been
9 involved in from this time period has been the
10 abundance and run timing of chinook and summer chum
11 salmon in the Goodpaster River. This was a cooperative
12 effort with the Northern Alaska Environmental Center
13 and the Bering Sea Fisherman's Association with the
14 Tech Pogo Mine. They entered into an agreement to
15 support the salmon enumeration project to monitor
16 spawning escapement of Goodpaster River chinook salmon.
17 This is a privately funded project that the Tech Pogo
18 Mine pays for to fulfill their EIS statement and BSFA
19 funnels the money to TCC to run and operate the
20 counting tower. The counting tower is located
21 approximately 48 miles up the Goodpaster River, which
22 is off the Tanana, and it's about eight miles above the
23 North and South Forks of the Goodpaster River and 30
24 miles downriver from the mining site. This project has
25 been in operation since 2004 and there's funding for 20
26 years.

27
28 An additional grant we received was
29 through TCC and it was a use opportunity grant, which
30 provided educational outreach to the collection of
31 biological data. In 2003 Tim helped to train 14 youth
32 in eight communities to collect biological data from
33 subsistence salmon harvests in order to try and fill
34 some of the data gaps that we have with age, sex and
35 length of subsistence caught salmon.

36
37 An AYKSSI funded project was
38 educational outreach to the collection of biological
39 data. Basically it built off of the previous project,
40 only this one provided more money so we could reach
41 more communities and more students. The objective of
42 this project was the same, to build capacity and
43 community involvement in the collection of subsistence
44 fisheries biological data.

45
46 So there were 10 communities identified
47 to sample chinook and chum salmon subsistence and
48 within each of these 10 communities there is three
49 youth hired, one supervisor and two technicians, and
50 they were trained in collecting ASL data. So they

1 learned to take a scale from the fish, three from
2 chinook, one from chum, put them on the scale cards,
3 fill out the data sheets and submit them to ADF&G,
4 which analyzed them for their age, then they also took
5 genetic fin clips so that we could get some genetic
6 data off the stocks and heart tissue for ichthyophonus
7 monitoring. With that project, TCC also developed
8 training manuals to hand out to anyone interested in
9 collecting biological data from subsistence catches.

10

11 I reported about TCC at the Eastern RAC
12 in the fall and since that time I've been working on
13 some project proposals. One of them was a challenge
14 cost share grant with the Kanuti National Wildlife
15 Refuge. Henshaw Creek wanted to outreach to the
16 communities and try and provide a little more education
17 on fisheries in their area of the upper Koyukuk, so we
18 developed a Henshaw Creek weir science camp and that
19 project was funded. Also the TEK science camp we had
20 in Fort Yukon the last two summers was no longer funded
21 through OSM, so we were looking at ways -- it was such
22 a successful camp that the community was asking if we'd
23 have it again next year and we told them we'd look at
24 ways to get funding for it. Council of Athabascan
25 Tribal Government put in a challenge cost share grant
26 with the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, which
27 TCC is a cooperator on, to host another traditional
28 knowledge and western science camp in Fort Yukon this
29 summer.

30

31 ADF&G Commercial Fish also asked that
32 we be a cooperator on AYKSSI fall chum. AYKSSI for
33 those of you who might not know is Alaska Yukon
34 Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative and they have
35 proposals that they call for to do fisheries work, so
36 it's another source of funding. So we put in a fall
37 chum salmon upper mainstem spawning in the Tanana River
38 proposal and the cooperators are TCC, ADF&G and USGS.

39

40 We're going to radio tag fall chum at
41 the Kantishna River tagging platform and to use radio
42 telemetry flights and towers to monitor them traveling
43 up the Tanana and then do ground surveys of their
44 spawning habitat. The radio tags we're implementing in
45 them detect motion, so when they're just swimming it
46 gives off a certain pulse and when they're actually
47 doing a spawning movement it gives off a different
48 code, so we can track them hopefully going up to their
49 spawning grounds and then when they're actually
50 performing the duties of spawning we can figure that

1 out and then go ground truth it by finding their
2 spawning areas and actually physically looking and
3 making sure there's some eggs there so that they are
4 spawning in that mainstem. There's like a 30 percent
5 portion that aren't accounted for, so we're thinking
6 that they are spawning in the mainstem and not going up
7 some of these tributaries.

8
9 A second AYKSSI-funded project is the
10 ecology of chinook salmon and this is with the
11 University of Alaska Fairbanks that asked that we be a
12 cooperator on this project as well. It's going to
13 mainly be performed in the Chena and Salcha Rivers.
14 It's going to be a collection of monitoring of
15 juveniles and also habitat data for survivability to
16 try to predict better models of spawning recruitment
17 and escapement.

18
19 One of the last projects I put in for
20 was the FRMP call and that was for Henshaw Creek weir.
21 This is the last year it's running, so I put in a
22 proposal for TCC to operate independently the Henshaw
23 Creek weir. We'd be hiring locally with Allakaket,
24 Alatna and Hughes and having the challenge cost share
25 grant annually. So a lot to put in every year, but
26 this will be the first year we're going to try it out,
27 so in future years I'd like to still have the science
28 camp at Henshaw, but we need the Henshaw Creek there in
29 order to host the science camp. The proposal I
30 submitted was to run the weir from 2008 to 2011.

31
32 So our current projects for this
33 upcoming season in 2007 is going to be the Henshaw
34 Creek weir, the Goodpaster River counting tower, the
35 challenge cost share grants with the Yukon Flats and
36 the Kanuti Refuges. Right now we're in the final
37 phases of the AYKSSI approval for the chinook ecology
38 and the Tanana fall chum mainstem spawning. It looks
39 like both of them are going to go through, but we
40 haven't gotten the final stamp of approval yet. It's
41 supposed to be May 1st when we'll find out.

42
43 So at the Henshaw Creek weir, there's a
44 picture of the weir. It's kind of light, sorry. It
45 was first installed in 2000 with the U.S. Fish and
46 Wildlife Service Fairbanks field office. There was a
47 weir in the south fork river which more chinook travel
48 up, but we had problems with flooding, so we weren't
49 able to always count. So we looked at the next best
50 spot and Henshaw was the perfect stream for it.

1 This is the third year as a cooperative
2 project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, so
3 over the past three years, including this is the third
4 year TCC is being trained to operate and install and
5 dismantle the weir. So it's funded through the end of
6 this summer. The objectives are to determine daily
7 escapement and run timing of adult salmon. We gather
8 age, sex and size composition of adult salmon and we
9 also monitor the non-salmon species presence and
10 migration.

11
12 The Goodpaster counting tower was
13 established in 2004. It's privately funded through the
14 Tech Pogo Mine and jointly operated with the Bering Sea
15 Fisherman's Association. It enumerates the chinook
16 salmon population and monitors the population changes.

17
18 The traditional ecological knowledge
19 camp in Fort Yukon was a cooperative project through
20 TCC, CATG and ADF&G Subsistence and that's how we're
21 keeping it for this new challenge cost share grant.
22 It's funded through 2007. The objectives here were to
23 provide a forum for youths, elders, fisheries
24 biologists, social scientists and managers to interact
25 and hear each other's views and opinion and how they
26 all tie in together. It was to provide training in
27 fisheries science by incorporating western and
28 traditional science. We also collect biological and
29 anthropological data that could be used in future
30 fisheries management.

31
32 Coming down to the last slide, the
33 future of the Partners Program at TCC, currently my
34 contract is up July 14th of 2007. That's the date they
35 had set five years ago. So I submitted a proposal in
36 February to OSM. They had a call-out for the Partners
37 Program and TCC put in for the biologist and one intern
38 position for the next four years because it has to
39 depend on if you had an OSM project tied to it, so the
40 Henshaw Creek weir is kind of where my project ties me
41 to the Partners Program. Since that runs from 2008 to
42 2011, hopefully that's how long I can put in for my
43 position with the Partners Program.

44
45 I'm requesting letters of support from
46 the supporting communities and tribes in TCC's region
47 to elicit support for my position basically and the
48 position is tied to the number of projects that we
49 have. Since I have one now, there will be a call in
50 2009 for more Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program

1 projects, but because it takes a while to get the
2 projects actually implemented going through the review
3 process of the RAC's, that's why there's a delay here.
4 There's two intern positions currently funded for this
5 summer.

6
7 Other than that, that's all I have. If
8 there's any questions I can entertain.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
11 Members, any questions.

12
13 MR. CARROLL: Richard Carroll. What
14 kind of criteria do you use to pick areas of study?
15 Just ongoing ones that you're following up on?

16
17 MS. BERKBIGLER: Right now my position
18 is pretty much tied to Federal lands or Federal
19 subsistence issues. So like for the Tanana it's not
20 particularly related to a National Wildlife Refuge
21 Federal land area, but fall chum is a big subsistence
22 fish, so I'm being allowed to work on that one. The
23 Henshaw Creek weir falls in the Kanuti Refuge, so
24 that's a project that I can do. A lot of times I look
25 for projects that are on Federal lands or tied to
26 subsistence concerns.

27
28 MR. CARROLL: Any future plans for
29 doing something in the Beaver Creek, Birch Creek area
30 in view of the possible industry and land trade and oil
31 development in the area, possibly getting an idea for
32 something in the future?

33
34 MS. BERKBIGLER: That's one thing
35 coming to these meetings is that it gives me a chance
36 to talk to different community members in the areas we
37 have the RAC meetings and also the RAC members to find
38 out the fisheries concerns in their different regions
39 and trying to implement projects to address those
40 concerns. I've been working pretty closely with Derek
41 Rader of CATG to try and come up with ideas on
42 projects. I haven't particularly picked any spots like
43 Beaver Creek, but I know I've been keeping my ears open
44 for anyone who has concerns in areas that we should
45 look at and look into. Also doing partnerships with
46 the Refuges and/or the fisheries office in Fairbanks as
47 well.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.
50 questions.

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are we asking
4 for an action here, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: No. This is more
7 informative, other than the fact she's signaling the
8 budgetary situation here. That's the only thing there.
9 One of her slides requesting letters of support from
10 communities and et cetera. That's an avenue for you
11 that's available.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I just want to
14 be clear on that. Is there any action the Council wants
15 to take as far as support. Richard, go ahead.

16

17 MR. CARROLL: If it's a letter of
18 support, I don't see why we couldn't. I think this is
19 a commendable effort to monitor and continue to be
20 knowledgeable about what's out there and to keep up
21 with any kind of fisheries changes due to whatever,
22 spring flooding, forest fires or anything else that
23 affects our fish habitat, you know.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

26

27 MR. UMPHENOUR: Did I hear you say they
28 were planning on discontinuing the Henshaw Creek weir
29 but you're putting in a proposal to keep it going
30 through 2011, is that what you said?

31

32 MS. BERKBIGLER: When the call came
33 out, one of the priorities was escapement and
34 monitoring projects and the Henshaw Creek weir is now
35 getting to the point where it's establishing a
36 historical database. It's been long enough running now
37 that we can start to see some trends. I haven't heard
38 anything as far as if they're not going to fund it. I
39 put in the pre-proposal in January and I just found out
40 last week that it made it through the first initial
41 process and the TRC approved it to go to the
42 investigation plan. So April 25th the investigation
43 plan is due for Henshaw Creek. Then, where it goes
44 from there, it gets written up and they decide which
45 projects from the investigation plan they're putting
46 into the book that will come around to you guys in the
47 fall for approving projects with the TRC's
48 recommendation. So you could either see or not see
49 Henshaw this fall. If you do, you have the option to
50 recommend it for funding or not recommend it for

1 funding.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And that's
4 through the Office of Subsistence Management, the
5 Henshaw Creek weir?

6

7 MS. BERKBIGLER: Correct, with the
8 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. And I spoke
11 to you a little bit during the break about this AYKSSI
12 money and I know that the call for proposals is out
13 now. I think they're due around the 15th or 20th of
14 April. So what I had spoke to you about and I wanted
15 to share this with the rest of the Council is that one
16 of the things that's happened from Department of Fish
17 and Game Staff, specifically the regional supervisor,
18 that's been the big hang-up on our proposals, is that
19 he tries to claim that -- because everyone in the Upper
20 Yukon says the fish are getting smaller. The people in
21 the Lower Yukon, most of them say they can't tell any
22 difference. That's because they're fishing with larger
23 mesh nets. But he says that fishwheels don't catch big
24 fish, they just catch little fish and that we don't
25 have accurate data.

26

27 I know that's not true and I've
28 discussed this with several other people as well in the
29 last couple of weeks. What I'd like to see is a
30 project that actually looks at whether fishwheels do
31 collect a relatively accurate sampling of what's going
32 up the river. Of course, people that are experienced
33 with fishwheels know that some fishwheels in some
34 locations are not necessarily going to do that, but in
35 other locations they are. When I say in other
36 locations they are, I mean areas where the river is
37 very narrow or constricted and where the water is very
38 swift, such as in the rapids on the mainstem of the
39 Yukon and such as where my son's fishwheel is on the
40 Tanana River near Fairbanks.

41

42 I've approached Fish and Game in
43 Fairbanks, Sport Fish Division, and Stan Zuray has
44 approached some of the people at Fish and Wildlife
45 Service office in Fairbanks, but if we're going to get
46 something done to look at trying to get a project out
47 of this SSI money, we're going to have to do it pretty
48 soon.

49

50 I just want to bring that up because

1 that would be very important as far as gathering age,
2 sex and size data of king salmon and what's actually
3 getting on the spawning grounds. The only real
4 projects we really have that have accuracy to them now
5 in the river are these four weirs and there's nothing
6 basically in the upper river hardly except Henshaw
7 Creek, which is upper part of the Koyukuk and then the
8 one on the Tozitna River, that analyzes anything like
9 that.

10

11 So I just wanted to throw that out on
12 the floor and let Brandy know what some of us have been
13 talking about. But if we're going to do something,
14 we're going to have to do it quick. Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you have
17 anything to respond to that, Brandy.

18

19 MS. BERKBIGLER: No, just that I'm sure
20 I'll be working with Virgil in Fairbanks on a proposal.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. James
23 had something.

24

25 MR. NATHANIEL: Yes, Madame Chair. I
26 have a question or a comment. Some time ago there's a
27 weir project in the Chalkyitsik area and I don't know
28 how many years ago it took place and it was just
29 forgotten all of a sudden. I never heard nothing about
30 it. Just a question in my mind, is this project going
31 to continue or it's a dead issue.

32

33 MS. BERKBIGLER: Just to respond, I'm
34 not familiar at all with the project that probably
35 occurred there. I can do some literature research and
36 try and find out which organization performed it and
37 then figure out from there if it was just a three-year,
38 two-year or one-year project that was funded to look at
39 a certain issue and it's over with now or if there's a
40 chance that we can get funding to redo that project and
41 look at any changes that might have occurred.

42

43 MR. NATHANIEL: Okay. One more
44 question on your intern hiring. Is that for summer
45 months only and how do you handle that, local hire or
46 what?

47

48 MS. BERKBIGLER: The majority of our
49 interns are paid internships through the Partners
50 Program, so the stipulations are that they need to be

1 in college at least. So a lot of times I get interns
2 at UAF because they're in college there. So their work
3 schedule is through the summer months because that's
4 when it won't conflict with their schooling. I know
5 KNA does a high school internship program where they're
6 trying to tie in getting high school science credits by
7 coming out to the different weir projects they have
8 going and they do like a one-week curriculum for
9 beginners and they do a second-week curriculum for
10 students who want to come back and get a more extensive
11 education out of it. I'm not sure where they're at
12 with their high school credits, but they have
13 instituted a high school intern program.

14
15 That's something I looked into but just
16 didn't have the time to fully execute. It takes a lot
17 of people involved to do something like that. Since
18 the program at TCC has been built more for being a
19 principal or co-investigator on projects as opposed to
20 a big internship program, that's kind of where my focus
21 has stayed, in just getting one or two interns for the
22 summer to mentor and have them gain experience in
23 fisheries by going on the various projects that we
24 have.

25
26 MR. NATHANIEL: One more. Some time
27 ago they put up a satellite -- I've been told it runs
28 by satellite and I don't know how it works. They never
29 showed us anything how it works. All I've been told is
30 it runs by satellite and it counts fish. They put one
31 up in Chalkyitsik one year and I never did think about
32 it. I wasn't on a Council or anything and I never did
33 find out about it. I'm just wondering what ever
34 happened to that. Do you know anything about that?

35
36 MS. BERKBIGLER: If my memory serves
37 me, I think it might be the radiotelemetry study that
38 Iler did.

39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)

41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: (Nods affirmatively)

43
44 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah. So there's
45 counting towers they put in different stations so they
46 would track the fish going by with the radio tags in
47 them. So there is a report out on that and I can send
48 that to you if you'd like to read it on what
49 information they gained by putting that tower basically
50 in your area.

1 MR. NATHANIEL: Good.
2
3 MS. BERKBIGLER: One thing I didn't
4 mention on my interns, the intern I had this summer was
5 Lisa Kangas from Ruby and she's attending UAF and
6 getting a biological sciences degree. They aren't just
7 normal UAF students. I do look for rural students.
8
9 MR. NATHANIEL: I don't even know that
10 whatever you call it is still up there. They may have
11 moved it. I haven't moved around town to find out if
12 it's still there. I don't know.
13
14 MS. BERKBIGLER: Yeah, that study was
15 primarily done by the State, so I'm not sure which
16 towers they've removed and which towers they kept. The
17 project that we'll be participating in in the fall on
18 the Tanana, we are taking some of those radio towers
19 and putting them on the Tanana in a couple spots that
20 we don't have coverage already.
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James, do you
23 want a copy of that report then?
24
25 MR. NATHANIEL: Yes.
26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
28 other questions of Brandy.
29
30 (No comments)
31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess the
33 thing I'm probably not clear, do you want an agreement
34 or motion or what to continue -- I don't know how to
35 word it.
36
37 MR. CARROLL: A letter of support.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A letter of
40 support for this program.
41
42 (Council nods affirmatively)
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Is it
45 acceptable to have consent around the table without a
46 motion that we will send the letter? Okay.
47
48 MS. BERKBIGLER: i just want to thank
49 you for listening to me today.
50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You do a good
2 job, Brandy. I have had a request by one of the
3 members of the village here to speak to the Red Sheep
4 Creek and King Creek. I explained to him that we
5 already voted on it and he just wanted to make a
6 comment. Is it okay with the Council Members.

7

8 (Council nods affirmatively)

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
11 going to have him come up at this time.

12

13 MR. JAMES: My name is Albert James.
14 I'm a member of the Arctic Village Council. I want to
15 share advice to you people here. I recommend and I
16 disagree and all that stuff. The first thing I want to
17 say is I'm glad you people came here. This actually is
18 a good thing for my people to see you, what issues
19 we're up against, and I'm glad that you people came
20 here and that you could show these people that you are
21 doing something for us. And I hope you enjoy yourself
22 staying here.

23

24 I know you tabled this or you made a
25 recommendation on this Red Sheep Creek situation here.
26 I'm not going to question anything. I just want to
27 tell you that these people are -- sometimes they are
28 pretty strict on their own land. The reason why I'm
29 saying this is because we got allotment up in there.
30 If you got private land up in there and you want people
31 to go in there and do hunting on your own land, I don't
32 think that's right. What I'm saying is that's private
33 land up in there and they will use that land to go hunt
34 on it, you know. That's what I'm saying.

35

36 So I suggest that if you can control
37 this sport hunting program, I think it will be all
38 right for the village of Arctic Village. Some time ago
39 without this subsistence control or anything like that
40 the hunters came in and they only brought back a head
41 and they left everything up there. The people here
42 don't want to see that kind of situation anymore. It's
43 their land and it's not too far away. It's only 45
44 miles away. And that part of that land, according to
45 them, is their land too.

46

47 I'm just telling you what I hear
48 through these village people here. They would like to
49 have people from here in Arctic Village go up there and
50 monitor or whatever, use local hire. Like I say, it's

1 their land and they want to know what's going on on the
2 other side of the mountain.

3

4 I'm glad the board came here to discuss
5 all kinds of issues here, but I want to tell you a long
6 time ago there was no fish and wildlife or any kind of
7 game control here when all the Native people are here.
8 They had their own fish and wildlife system that they
9 tell each other that you can't shoot the cow in a
10 certain area and sometimes you can't shoot the ground
11 squirrel or you can't shoot a muskrat. I think in a
12 way they controlled their own game. That's what I hear
13 and I believe that.

14

15 The last comment I want to make is that
16 I'm glad you guys are doing a very good job of this and
17 I hope you keep it up. Thank you.

18

19 MR. CARROLL: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
22 Albert. Any questions from the Council Members.

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: I would just like to say
25 I appreciate you coming and speaking with us. When the
26 community comes and tells us what their personal
27 opinion is, then that makes us more aware and we can
28 make better decisions. The last time we voted on this
29 sheep issue the Council was 100 percent in favor of you
30 guys, but the Board chose to open it up for one year.
31 So we don't make the final decision. I just wanted to
32 let you know that.

33

34 MR. JAMES: I like to tell you what
35 these people are thinking about this kind of stuff and
36 they won't come up to you and tell you that. They've
37 got to have somebody that understands them. That's
38 what I'm trying to say.

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Bill.

41

42 MR. GLANZ: Albert, we like to come in
43 and speak to the village elders, but also we like to
44 speak to the general populous of the whole village.
45 Last year this came up and we all voted to leave it
46 like it was with just exclusive use for you folks, but
47 when it went to Anchorage they changed it and they
48 said, no, we'll open it to sport hunting for certain
49 areas. But if you guys can work out some kind of a
50 deal here where you can kind of control the amount of

1 people that's going to go into that area and so forth,
2 it's still a good deal for you. I mean only a few
3 people may go in and take a few sheep out rather than
4 open it to the general when everybody is in there.

5
6 I live in Central. When the caribou
7 season opens, we have sometimes two to 300 GIs and
8 everybody running around with rifles dragging two
9 caribou behind their snowmachines down the street
10 disrespecting the whole neighborhood. You're fortunate
11 you don't have to put up with that. It's up to you
12 guys also to do some negotiating when it comes to your
13 time, okay.

14
15 MR. JAMES: Yeah. Okay. That's all I
16 have. Like I say, I can appreciate more what I see
17 today.

18
19 Me, myself, I wasn't here when this
20 thing started. I was out in the woods. I didn't know
21 I was going to come to this. I find out this morning.
22 That's why I came here. Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Albert, I just
29 wanted to say the Council is faced with some real
30 sometimes contentious and sometimes real sensitive
31 issues and it is hard sometimes to make decisions here.
32 We try to do what we think is the best. I, myself, I'd
33 like to see people working together. What the Council
34 did here for this particular area we're talking about
35 was to request that the government work together with
36 the people here and that, to me, was the missing link
37 of ever -- the process, how it went, we were very
38 disturbed with it. They should have been working with
39 the people long before they did is how we feel. That's
40 how you get people working together is when you're
41 talking and you're working the problem out prior to
42 these type of proposals that go forward.

43
44 Thank you for coming and I'm glad you
45 were out there in the woods doing something you love,
46 I'm sure.

47
48 MR. JAMES: Yeah, I understand what
49 you're trying to say. Like I say, these people here or
50 any kind of Native people, I think they got -- it's

1 reasonable to deal with this kind of issue table to
2 table instead of government trying to tell you that you
3 have to do this, you know. I think it's up to the
4 people of Alaska or whatever to make that decision and
5 then take it to the government and say, okay, we want
6 to do this. Be reasonable between two parties and I
7 think it will work. Like you guys came here to deal
8 with the Red Sheep Creek and that's pretty good.

9

10 I'm happy that you guys are here and
11 I'm very happy.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you very
14 much. Let me look at my agenda. The next thing I see
15 on our agenda is Alaska Department of Fish and Game
16 reports.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Seeing no one
21 here, I assume there are no reports unless somebody
22 gave word to Vince about something and he's shaking his
23 head no. The next thing I see is BLM report and we
24 have Ruth Gronquist.

25

26 MS. GRONQUIST: Madame Chair, Members
27 of the Council. My name is Ruth Gronquist and I'm with
28 the Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District
29 Office, Eastern Interior Field Office and I'm a
30 wildlife biologist.

31

32 I have a few updates for you. There
33 have been some changes in BLM again this year. During
34 the past year, Tom Lonnie has replaced Henri Bisson as
35 our State Director and therefore as a member of the
36 Federal Subsistence Board. Taylor Brelsford left some
37 time ago and that position has now been taken by Chuck
38 Ardizzone and he will be the Federal Subsistence Staff
39 Committee member.

40

41 I have a few updates for you on White
42 Mountain sheep and caribou, Fortymile herd management
43 and then just a few other details within the Fairbanks
44 District Office specifically within the Eastern
45 Interior but a little bit of slopover into Western,
46 which may concern you.

47

48 The Eastern Interior Field Office has
49 five designated land areas that it manages and you
50 probably are mostly familiar with those; White

1 Mountains National Recreation Area, the Steese National
2 Conservation Area and three rivers that are in the Wild
3 and Scenic River designation.

4
5 The White Mountains Caribou Herd has
6 been shifting its winter range from the west side of
7 the White Mountains to the east side since the early
8 1990s and currently they winter mostly in upper
9 Preacher Creek. The summer distribution has also
10 shifted into Preacher Creek, but still includes the
11 high country in the White Mountains. This is likely a
12 response to fires around the early 1990s which burned
13 much of the herd's former winter range in Victoria
14 Creek and upper Hess Creek.

15
16 A summer census was not attempted this
17 year due to poor conditions. Fish and Game did conduct
18 a fall 2006 composition count and the numbers were very
19 similar to 2005, with ratios in both years similar to
20 long-term averages. No major change in population
21 numbers is expected based on the composition count
22 data. There are few radio collars in place in this
23 herd right now, but the mortality among those collared
24 animals has been low in the past year. The herd likely
25 continues to number in the range of 600 to 700 animals.

26
27 I also have a brief report on White
28 Mountain Sheep. During the 2006 annual census a total
29 of 483 animals were counted. This census is a
30 cooperative effort between Yukon Flats National
31 Wildlife Refuge, BLM and Fish and Game with assistance
32 from the National Park Service. The number of lambs
33 was down 25 from the 2005 survey, which makes up the
34 bulk of the difference from the 2005 count of 513
35 animals. Only 12.5 per 100 ewes were observed. The low
36 number of lambs occurs following a winter with high
37 mortality among the radio-collared adults.

38
39 We observed many treeline spruce trees
40 with broken tops in the Schwatka area and speculate
41 that there was possibly an icing event coupled with
42 high winds. Poor snow conditions could have resulted
43 in high predation rates and low nutrition and condition
44 among ewes. However, numbers of adults in 2005 and
45 2006 surveys were very similar, indicating that adult
46 mortality has not been large.

47
48 Based on the proportion of radio-
49 collared sheep that were observed, the population
50 estimate for the 2005 survey is 627 sheep. The

1 estimate for 2006 has not been calculated yet, but
2 recall that they did observe 483 animals.

3
4 This cooperative study on sheep began
5 in 2005 and will conclude in 2006. Relocation
6 information has revealed some new areas of sheep use
7 which we were unaware of in the past, including a newly
8 known wintering area. As a result of this study, we
9 will have a more complete picture of the range of sheep
10 in the White Mountains, including which habitats and
11 movement routes are most highly used and presumably
12 most important.

13
14 The value of this to us is in planning
15 developments such as a potential road through Victoria
16 Creek, which crosses two low elevation movement routes
17 and passes near a highly used mineral lick. That road
18 is something you've heard about throughout the last
19 couple of days that is being proposed to access the
20 land trade between the Yukon Flats National Wildlife
21 Refuge and Doyon.

22
23 The Fairbanks District Office continues
24 to.....

25
26 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Ruth.

27
28 MS. GRONQUIST: Yes.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That sounded
31 very important. The three of us think we missed it.
32 Do you want to repeat the road and the land exchange.

33
34 MS. GRONQUIST: The data that's being
35 collected on White Mountain sheep will be very
36 important for us as we may face making a decision on a
37 proposed road which would go through Victoria Creek and
38 it would cross two low elevation movement routes and
39 pass near a mineral lick that's used by these sheep.
40 That would be the road that would access the Doyon land
41 exchange area.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you got
44 our attention. Who is proposing the road?

45
46 MS. GRONQUIST: Doyon would propose the
47 road. When you look at the EIS that's being prepared,
48 I believe, although I haven't seen it, it's still in
49 preparation, that included in that, although it won't
50 be analyzed, but they will talk about their two

1 proposed access routes and one of them goes through the
2 White Mountains National Recreation Area.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And right by a
5 sheep mineral lick.

6

7 MS. GRONQUIST: Potentially.

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
10 critical. I know you're just giving a report. All of
11 us, let's not forget this when we start talking about
12 this land exchange. Okay, go ahead.

13

14 MS. GRONQUIST: I'm going to move onto
15 Fortymile Caribou. BLM continues to fund surveys for
16 Fortymile Caribou Herd monitoring and, again, we're
17 using challenge cost share funds which you heard about
18 in the previous discussion. Due to conditions, a
19 summer census was not conducted on the Fortymile
20 Caribou Herd in 2006, but a composition survey was
21 conducted in October.

22

23 The corrected calf:cow ratio was 34
24 calves per 100 cows. The calf numbers were good, but
25 slightly below the average observed during the periods
26 of growth over the past 10 years. The summer was
27 relatively wet and to date the winter has been mild, so
28 we could experience growth again this year. Models
29 will be completed in the spring to analyze the annual
30 population trend. The young age structure of this herd
31 will continue to allow production to increase quickly
32 under favorable conditions.

33

34 Fish and Game captured, weighed and
35 radio-collared 15 five-month-old female calves just
36 prior to that composition survey. The average weight
37 of 119.9 pounds was the highest average weight we've
38 observed for the past five years and just above the
39 average weight observed since 1990. Visual body
40 condition scores for calves were good and adults
41 appeared to be in excellent condition. Successful
42 hunters have reported that Fortymile caribou were very
43 fat this year.

44

45 BLM trails staff worked with several
46 villages over the last two years to clear trails after
47 the fires of 2004 and 2005. We received reports that
48 at least two caribou were harvested in 2006 off of some
49 of those cleared trails out of Tanacross.

50

1 As at least some of you are probably
2 aware, there were several closures on the Fortymile
3 Herd this year. The first one was December 1st and
4 that closed the lower portion of 20E off of the Taylor
5 Highway and that was because of the mix of Nelchina.
6 The State closed their portion of the hunt, but the
7 Federal hunt remained open. Then on December 9th the
8 State also closed the Steese Highway and Chena Hot
9 Springs Road accessible areas and the roadless areas of
10 20D and 20E. BLM again coordinated with people on the
11 RAC and the Advisory Committee members and we opted to
12 leave the Federal hunt open. By December 14th, all
13 State and Federal lands were closed to the harvest of
14 Fortymile Caribou and that was driven by the overall
15 harvest and the proportion of cows that had been
16 harvested.

17
18 So the total winter harvest this year
19 on Fortymile was 363 caribou, 29 percent of those were
20 cows, approximately 30 percent, possibly more, were
21 harvested by Federally-qualified subsistence
22 harvesters. So the total harvest for Fortymile Caribou
23 as far as we know now was 845 and that would be the
24 fall and winter season and that is five under the
25 quota. So that's pretty good news.

26
27 Any there any questions at this point
28 on the Fortymile before I move on.

29
30 MR. GLANZ: Yes. You know my feeling
31 about hunting cow caribou. Is there any way we can get
32 this stopped or are we just going to keep it going? I
33 know the reason it was installed. I'd much rather see
34 three of them wasted out in the field than 55 or 70
35 taken. I mean inadvertently they were shot, so they'd
36 leave them. From what the biologists are trying to
37 tell me, the reason they opened it was the cow and bull
38 ratio and all this stuff, but from what they were
39 telling me off to the side was, well, we'd rather see
40 them harvest them and haul them out of the field than
41 inadvertently shoot a cow and leave it.

42
43 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, you, as a RAC,
44 can definitely if you want to propose that there not be
45 a cow harvest, but I think the general feeling is Fish
46 and Game is monitoring it closely and that we've been
47 pretty successful in keeping that at lower than 25
48 percent.

49
50 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

1 MS. GRONQUIST: Some people like to
2 have the opportunity to harvest cows and I think a
3 large deal of having a cow harvest in this area was
4 driven by providing opportunity.

5
6 MR. GLANZ: The area works so hard re-
7 establishing them and everything and then we're
8 shooting the mummies. That's just my feeling. I'll
9 relax there.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Get your blood
12 pressure down. Go ahead, Ruth, unless someone else has
13 any questions.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MS. GRONQUIST: Okay. Well, moving
18 away from the wildlife population reports and into just
19 a few things that may be of interest to the Council
20 that will be happening or may be happening within the
21 Fairbanks District Office. We're currently working on
22 several land use plans. The pre-planning for an
23 Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan will begin
24 this year. This plan will combine the Resource
25 Management Plans for the White Mountains, Steese,
26 Fortymile and the Black River. It is possible,
27 especially in the Steese, that areas currently not open
28 to mineral entry may be opened. At least it will be
29 reviewed whether or not they should be opened. Also
30 areas currently closed to OHV use will be analyzed for
31 changes to those closures, which could mean additional
32 openings of areas for OHV use.

33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Before you go
35 on, I have a question. There's areas that are actually
36 closed?

37
38 MS. GRONQUIST: Yes, particularly in
39 the White Mountains there are some areas that are
40 designated closed to OHV use.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And because
43 you're having like a management plan that's just
44 something you can talk about.

45
46 MS. GRONQUIST: Right. Both of those
47 things, because the plan is being opened up again,
48 would be analyzed.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

1 MS. GRONQUIST: I wanted the Council to
2 know that the Fairbanks District Office has received a
3 proposal to permit an all season ATV trail from the
4 Dalton Highway to private land in the Big Salt River
5 Drainage. I believe that's at about Seventymile, but
6 that may be of some concern to folks in the Stevens
7 Village or those areas. Although this falls into the
8 new Central Yukon Field Office, it is on the border of
9 the Eastern Interior/Western Interior Regional Advisory
10 Council areas. The Central Yukon staff is in the
11 preliminary stage of reviewing the permit. If you want
12 further information, you can contact our Public Affairs
13 Office.

14
15 Another action that may occur is in the
16 Central Yukon Field Office but it is within this RAC's
17 area. A citizen has expressed strong interest in
18 buying private land in the head of the Ray River. If
19 the sale proceeds, he plans to request permission to
20 walk a bulldozer into the site and build an airstrip
21 and lodge. His ultimate goal is to operate a guided
22 hunting operation in the area. The sale is pending
23 approval by the Tanana Chief's Conference, which has
24 been contracted by BIA to fulfill its fiduciary
25 responsibilities for the allotment owners. A decision
26 from them is possible by May. This is an allotment
27 that's been for sale for a couple of years. So that's
28 just a heads-up piece of information that may concern
29 the Council and especially those folks in the Stevens
30 Village or Rampart area.

31
32 BLM and local citizens are becoming
33 more concerned about the rapid expansion of white
34 sweetclover along the Dalton Highway, north from the
35 Yukon River. This plant can move along waterways that
36 cross the road and colonize open gravel bars
37 downstream. BLM and other land managers would like to
38 prevent this from happening. In July of 2006 we did a
39 volunteer effort to remove white sweetclover along
40 portions of the Dalton Highway, especially at river
41 crossings, such as the Kanuti River crossing where
42 there is some white sweetclover and it could certainly
43 move down that waterway off BLM lands and onto other
44 lands.

45
46 It's not something you can tackle in
47 just one year. It is a plant that largely occupies
48 disturbed areas. So on scoured river areas we have
49 seen it successfully colonize in the interior. So
50 that's the main concern. If you're up and down the

1 Dalton Highway in July and you see people out there
2 with bags, they're probably not collecting trash.
3 They're probably collecting weeds. We try to do this
4 at flowering, just before the seeds have set.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you feel
7 that's really going to -- I mean you're not doing
8 anything like spray or anything, you're just trying to
9 do this naturally by pulling them? I mean how can that
10 be real successful?

11
12 MS. GRONQUIST: These plants produce
13 350,000 or some incredible number of seeds per plant.
14 If at least you can take that seed crop out of the mix,
15 it's marginally effective. What we really can do at
16 least in the short term is keep it from moving down
17 those waterways into Kanuti and Gates of the Arctic,
18 into those areas. So, yeah, it's a Band-Aid.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You know, it's
21 interesting because we do a lot of sheep hunting in the
22 Wrangells and I never saw a dandelion plant in the
23 sheep hills and now they're up there. In the Tok River
24 drainage, too. But go on.

25
26 MS. GRONQUIST: Yeah, that's what
27 happens. They naturalize and suddenly they're
28 everywhere. So the thing that I also wanted to mention
29 about this was that we were able to get volunteers
30 through the Tribal Civilian Community Corps and this
31 was a great bunch of kids largely from rural areas of
32 Alaska but also Native kids from other states. We had
33 a couple kids from Arizona from the Navajo reservation.

34
35 So that's what I have for you for now.
36 I'd be happy to take any more questions and thank you
37 for your time.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince, you're
40 waving your hand pretty hard.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. A similar report
43 was given to Western Interior. We were comparing notes
44 here on that Ray River potential walking in the Cats
45 and road development. Going on memory, Western
46 Interior is very concerned about that and I believe
47 they charged me to write a letter of concern about that
48 because once the road is put in it's greater access to
49 other areas. So I just wanted to inform you of that.
50 Plus I was involved in white sweetclover in my earlier

1 career. It takes about three years of actively pulling
2 in one area just to really knock it back. It's a lot
3 of work.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: I know what plain old
8 clover is. What does this clover look like and what's
9 the deal on it?

10

11 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, Virgil, you
12 probably see it all over Fairbanks. It has spiky white
13 cluster of flowers on the head and the leaves do look
14 very similar to clover but a lot of the clover you're
15 probably used to is more recumbent and this is an erect
16 plant. They get very large. You see them along the
17 roadways. It's all the way up the Elliott and Dalton
18 and starting up the Taylor.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Richard.

21

22 MR. CARROLL: Ruth, I sure appreciate
23 everything you've shared with us. I was asked to share
24 any knowledge that I have. I personally do not have a
25 lot of knowledge, but I've been hanging around elderly
26 people all my life since I was a little kid. I was an
27 only boy with eight sisters, so I hung out with dad
28 quite a bit.

29

30 One of the things I've heard -- I don't
31 know if you know what the history of the White Mountain
32 and Steese Highway and Fortymile Herd, but I have in my
33 possession actual put on video hunting trips taken from
34 Fort Yukon up past Circle and those trips were taken in
35 the early 1930s of a caribou hunt. Most of that was
36 for the local hostel. My grandfather, which was a man
37 from the States, an Irishman, that came up to Fort
38 Yukon in 1910. He's hunted and trapped and his older
39 sons had trapped up there in the Yukon. The oldest
40 one, the last one that trapped up there just passed
41 away, but they used to hunt caribou past Circle and you
42 could probably identify the section of the river from
43 the video. I don't know that section of the river that
44 well.

45

46 There's a story in my wife's family
47 that her grandpa in 1906 was living in Beaver Creek
48 area and heard of activity over there in Fairbanks and
49 made a trip over there and on the way killed a whole
50 bunch of caribou and took it in to the mining camps

1 around the edge of Fairbanks where the actual creeks
2 were and made some money selling caribou meat.

3
4 I tell the tourists -- I run a tour and
5 the tour flights fly over the White Mountains and they
6 look at sheep around Schwatka and all they see are
7 little white dots and the pilot tells them it's sheep.
8 It could be a bunch of snow or something and they
9 wouldn't know, you know, but they're excited about
10 seeing sheep and it's good wildlife viewing for them.

11
12 I understand there were up to 40 to
13 50,000 caribou at one time in the White Mountains and
14 that number got down to about 4,500 and I think now
15 they're about 1,800, 2,800, something like that. The
16 last time they showed up in Fairbanks about 15 years
17 ago, the first time they'd seen them there in about 30
18 years.

19
20 I'm throwing out these numbers because
21 the impact of civilization. I ask what happened to
22 those caribou. What happened to the Fortymile Herd,
23 what happened to the Steese Highway Herd where herds of
24 them, thousands of them, would cross above Circle back
25 and forth. It's impact. It's civilization. Something
26 happened.

27
28 Back to the GI's again. One of the
29 stories that I heard was during the military build-up
30 during the second World War the caribou population just
31 shot right down. GI's were going out, no control out
32 there. Just shooting caribou like they did the buffalo
33 of the train going west. You know, just killing them.

34
35 I just wanted to let you know that
36 among the local people, myself included, that this is
37 the number of caribou that early Native people -- David
38 James from Birch Creek, I visited him in 1995. He's an
39 uncle to those men here. I visited his house. And I
40 trapped over in that area around Discovery Creek 1974
41 and I went back there. I had a little tent frame and a
42 friend of mine finished it and put it into a cabin and
43 he gave it to me. I went over in '95 or '96, and I've
44 flown in there before, but I went over there with a
45 snowmachine. I got somebody from Birch Creek to help
46 me get out of town and then from there I was on my own.
47 It took me two days to go 20 miles because there was no
48 trail. I eventually found an old trail.

49
50 When I got back to Birch Creek I

1 visited David James on my way back and he laughed at me
2 and he said if you'd have come to my house, as soon as
3 you got here I would have showed you where the trail
4 was. I could have drew you a whole map. He's laughing
5 at me, you know. He told me that his family used to go
6 up there and they'd hunt caribou. No problem. Lots of
7 caribou right out of the village of Birch Creek and
8 that same trail system that I found. Eventually I
9 found out there was Native allotments over there and it
10 was around Discovery Creek. They used to go up around
11 Discovery Creek and he said they'd get caribou all the
12 time when he was growing up. Most of that declined
13 after the second World War just because of the road
14 built up traffic and just lack of control. I'm
15 surprised the Dalton Highway -- but the Dalton Highway
16 has only been there 30 years. Give it another 20 and
17 we might see some drastic drop-offs.

18
19 What I'm getting at is my concern based
20 on past knowledge, not just me, a lot of people, that a
21 90-mile proposed road from Livengood over there and
22 either going to go right by other side of Schwatka or
23 right down Victoria Creek. There's two possible roads,
24 90 miles of road down into the Flats there. Then
25 another spur into the village of Birch Creek across
26 wetlands and stuff. That's a possibility. We're
27 talking just serious build up. This herd has been
28 devastated enough. The Steese Highway Herd and White
29 Mountain Herd. I don't know about sheep hunting in
30 that area, we didn't talk about it and I didn't talk
31 that much with David James. He was really elder and he
32 passed away a few years later, but we talked about the
33 caribou hunts and he said, oh, yeah. Now you couldn't
34 go over there and find a caribou, you know.

35
36 Anyway, I just wanted to let you know
37 that and share that with you because I was asked to
38 share knowledge with the Members here and whoever.
39 Throwing out some numbers there. Probably wrong.
40 Thank you.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I love history,
43 so always share. Do you have any more, Ruth.

44
45 MS. GRONQUIST: (Shakes head
46 negatively)

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

49
50 MR. CARROLL: I've got something else.

1 May I?

2

3

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Sure.

4

5

MR. CARROLL: Concerning the Ray River road access. I know where that is. I spent about three summers working out of Five Mile Camp and I walked down to the mouth of the Ray River lots of times to visit George who had a camp down there, a fishing camp down below the bridge there. A scary walk sometimes in the fall time with bears out.

12

13

That Ray River area, my understanding of Native allotments, sales of them is a big concern and that's one of the big fears that's been raised in the Fort Yukon area and among all Native tribes, is the sales of Native allotments to developers of lodges and bringing in -- my understand was a Native allotment -- you cannot deny access to a Native allotment. That's my understanding. I could be wrong. But if I had a Native allotment stuck in the middle of a wildlife refuge, I had to get there, there's no way I could be stopped. Once it's gone into private hands, I think that deal is off. I don't know. But this Pilgrim family down there out of McCarthy, they want a right to get in there. Sure he took a bulldozer in there.

27

28

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But illegally. Let's get it straight. He lost his access to that property.

31

32

MR. CARROLL: But I just want to bring that up because that's a concern that I don't think we should ignore on this RAC.

35

36

CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You brought up a question. Virgil.

38

39

MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. Between Christmas and New Years of 1972 I was in a Super Cub and we flew way up the Big Salt and these guys, I can't think of their company, but they were a well-drilling company in Fairbanks. They had a homestead up there. Swan. Is that where they want to make a road to, to their place?

46

47

MS. GRONQUIST: My understanding is that it's a Native allotment that's for sale and the private individual that's interested in buying it, if that purchase goes through, he would be requesting of

1 us access to that property.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: But that's the one on
4 the Ray River. I'm talking about the Big Salt. You
5 said they wanted to make a road to the Big Salt, too.

6

7 MS. GRONQUIST: My mistake. I don't
8 know. My recollection is that that's also a new
9 purchase, but it's among some other pieces of privately
10 held land.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Can you tell us
13 what the process is for BLM to honor or not honor a
14 request to build a road.

15

16 MS. GRONQUIST: They have to request a
17 permit for the right of way and our realty staff would
18 do an analysis along with all of the specialists,
19 including myself, and we would look at at least two
20 alternatives if not more and make a recommendation to
21 our managers what to do.

22

23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess what
24 I'm getting at, is it that easy to do or is it
25 extremely difficult? I mean do the BLM regulations
26 allow for this type of road building? It sounds pretty
27 aggressive to me.

28

29 MS. GRONQUIST: I'm not a realty
30 specialist, so I can't really address that, but when
31 somebody comes to us, we do analyze their request for a
32 right-of-way.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Are you aware
35 of any of them being denied?

36

37 MS. GRONQUIST: I don't recollect.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Then I need to
40 know, if you don't recollect, how many do you recollect
41 being built?

42

43 MS. GRONQUIST: Over my experience with
44 BLM, we get a lot of requests for access into Federal
45 mining areas, sometimes State claims that they have to
46 cross Federal land to get to. Three or four within
47 Eastern Interior.

48

49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: How long?

50

1 MS. GRONQUIST: Fifteen years. I
2 really don't want that to be a hard and fast number,
3 however, because I don't know. If you want that
4 information, I'll get it for you.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think what we
7 would be interested in as a Council is what that
8 process is and what it allows. I guess I wasn't that
9 familiar with -- I know there's requests to be able to
10 -- say there's all the accesses that are already out
11 there, the RS2477 and what's the other one, 177 or
12 something. At any rate, there's a Federal and State
13 access, but you have to have a permit is my knowledge
14 if there's actually a trail there. If you want to walk
15 a Cat somewhere, you have to have a permit from the
16 State to do so. This road building is a completely
17 different thing.

18
19 Does the Council want to make any
20 comments to this because I see it as our opportunity.
21 So right now you're telling me that we can make a
22 comment to BLM on that kind of access or that kind of
23 road building.

24
25 MS. GRONQUIST: Yes, I think you can.
26 I think you can address those comments to the Field
27 Office manager. In this case, both of these are
28 occurring within the Western Interior -- sorry, the
29 Central Yukon Field Office, so you could make comments
30 or follow up with more questions to the manager of that
31 field office.

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

34
35 MR. CARROLL: I'd be in favor of making
36 a proposal to BLM for making road permits into areas
37 that are subject to devastation of natural resources
38 and being overdeveloped. Some of it just based on past
39 history of the devastation already. That Ray River
40 area, there's a hot springs down there and the guy from
41 Circle he owns land there. That's a beautiful little
42 valley. You can see it real good from the road. I
43 don't know what we can do there, but I would oppose
44 that issuing of a permit. I would definitely oppose
45 the permit being issued across the White Mountains
46 recreation area.

47
48 All this government-owned land that's
49 refuge and recreation, it just seems -- my say to a big
50 meeting and they put a well or some development in

1 Yellowstone National Park first and then come to Alaska
2 and they can do whatever they want. Let it fly first
3 down in the States. We should not be treated any less.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You called it a
6 proposal. Would it be better as not a proposal but
7 a.....

8

9 MR. CARROLL: Not a proposal. If we
10 reach consensus here and agree, I would recommend a
11 letter of denial of any road access based on past
12 history of especially the White Mountains. I don't
13 know what the deal is off the Pipeline Corridor.
14 You've got to go off the Pipeline Corridor down there.
15 Operating a lodge, it's going to be wildlife something,
16 whether observation or hunting or fishing. There's
17 other permits I would imagine. But I would be in favor
18 of us adopting a letter.

19

20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If it's okay
21 with the Council, I'd like to go by consensus instead
22 of a motion. Does anyone else have any input.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: I have one thing. You can
25 take anything on State property as long as it doesn't
26 exceed 1,500 pounds. Anything over 1,500 you have to
27 have a permit for.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But you can't
30 build a road.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: You cannot build a road,
33 but you can travel upon it. That's what I meant.

34

35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And you cannot
36 walk a Cat without a permit.

37

38 MR. GLANZ: No, you can't. I think
39 even to get a permit of the Cat it's usually a winter
40 trail permit, from around our area that's what it is,
41 but not in the summer.

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So how do you
44 feel, Bill. Would you agree with what Richard is
45 saying.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: In a sense, if we're
48 opposed to any development in a National Wildlife or
49 Steese Recreation Area, I'm for that, yes.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're talking
2 about this specific area, but you want to broaden it to
3 any Federal land where they're wanting to build roads.

4
5 MR. GLANZ: He's trying to nip it in
6 the bud on this road going past the sheep lick. He's
7 wanting to cover it all in a broad sense.

8
9 MR. CARROLL: I would.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So how does the
12 Council feel about that. Do you want to cover it in a
13 broad sense.

14
15 (Council nods affirmatively)

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: At this point
18 we're going to comment to BLM that we're very concerned
19 about building a road in that specific area. Do I have
20 a consensus on that one.

21
22 (Council nods affirmatively)

23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Then, two, you
25 want to broaden it.

26
27 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

28
29 MR. JAMES: I have a question.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You need to
32 come up to the mike.

33
34 MR. JAMES: I know you mentioned the
35 corridor briefly here and it just come to my mind that
36 several years back the State government has proposed
37 all sort of corridors across the state and I was just
38 wondering how close are BLM working with those people
39 today. What do they call it, RS2744 or whatever. And
40 that corridor proposal is a really bad one because they
41 even designate a small trail to be eventually a wider
42 trail. So that's one of my questions. There was a
43 couple of them proposed on our land at that time.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't know
46 who to ask that to.

47
48 MR. JAMES: And a question pertaining
49 to this issue is that up in White Mountain there was a
50 mention about corridor for possible oil development in

1 the Yukon Flats. That's the kind of thing I wanted to
2 know. Does the BLM really jump in there once they see
3 a feasible to propose a corridor, they just do it?

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm hearing two
6 questions here. One is to the State who administers the
7 RS2477's and I don't think I'm the expert to answer
8 that question. In our area, if there's State land and
9 then Native land, in order to get to State land they
10 had to have access to that land, so they put in these
11 access points.

12

13 MR. JAMES: There's probably nothing
14 wrong with doing something like that, but let's have a
15 hearing, let's have community input and get an opinion
16 from those local people. That's another issue.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If anyone here
19 knows more than I, please open up. To my
20 understanding, these access points are already in
21 place. It has been done for some time now. You made a
22 harsh statement. You said that BLM land, it's just
23 going to happen. If they want to go somewhere, it's
24 just going to happen. Isn't that what I heard you say?
25 I think Ruth could answer that.

26

27 MR. JAMES: What I'm saying is I know
28 this proposed easement that happened, I know it's on a
29 back burner, you know, somewhere and we need to refer
30 it back. How much of it is going to be -- is going to
31 come up in the future or something like that.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince.

34

35 MR. MATHEWS: Well, one thing I need to
36 ask Ruth on, are these reviews of these permits for
37 roads are they subject to .810 analysis and is your
38 actions based on .810 or is it based on other
39 regulations? Because your basis for the Council is
40 Title VIII, trying to tie into Title VIII.

41

42 MS. GRONQUIST: Thanks, Vince. I was
43 trying to get that on the record that, in fact, every
44 one of those actions that we make and that we're doing
45 a NEPA analysis on we have to do an .810 and we also
46 heard that yesterday from the Refuge Staff. So, yeah,
47 we have to prepare a Section .810 evaluation and
48 finding on how that land use activity is going to
49 affect subsistence resources, whether it's going to
50 affect or alter movements, abundance. We have to

1 analyze all of that and we do that in a separate
2 document that's attached to any environmental
3 assessment or EIS we do.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do we have a
6 time line like we did on that last one?

7
8 MS. GRONQUIST: Are you referring to
9 the Fish and Wildlife Service and Doyon land exchange?

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

12
13 MS. GRONQUIST: Based on what comes out
14 of that land exchange, then we anticipate that Doyon
15 would come to us and say we'd like to build this road
16 across the White Mountains to gain access to that
17 resource.

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So that one is
20 premature.

21
22 MS. GRONQUIST: Yes. There are two
23 alternatives at this point that Richard mentioned. One
24 of them does not go through White Mountains but skirts
25 it and the other one goes through the White Mountains.
26 So in a way it is premature, but it's something that
27 when and if that land exchange occurs, we're pretty
28 confident that we're going to get that proposal from
29 Doyon.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, the other
32 concern we talked about was the Native allotment being
33 sold and then a road being built. How many miles is
34 that?

35
36 MS. GRONQUIST: I'm sorry, I don't know
37 that, but that is pending a decision by -- or a
38 recommendation by TCC to BIA whether or not the land
39 sale should be approved. So that decision is possible
40 by May. If the fellow buys it and he continues to be
41 interested in having access, then he would come to us
42 and ask for access. As I think you probably all know,
43 you cannot just drive a vehicle, an OHV across the
44 Dalton Highway Corridor. So they would have to have a
45 right-of-way permit to construct any kind of a road or
46 trail.

47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I have one more
49 question that I think everyone here would like to know.
50 Is the guy a resident of Alaska or non.

1 MS. GRONQUIST: I do not know.
2
3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A lot of times
4 I find out they're non-residents of Alaska, which
5 really gives a lot of people heartburn.
6
7 MS. GRONQUIST: Personally, my concern
8 is that this allotment is up for sale and there may be
9 some concern by Stevens Village or other areas as well
10 as the whole Council.
11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, that
13 makes me wonder if we have any say to recommend to TCC
14 not to sell.
15
16 MR. CARROLL: Richard here. I think we
17 have a say. I finally found these, review, develop
18 proposals for regulations, policies, management plans,
19 any matters relating to subsistence uses of fish and
20 wildlife. That's pretty broad. I finally found the
21 powers and rules book.
22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: A piece of it.
24
25 MR. CARROLL: Yeah, a piece of it. I
26 would say we are within our scope.
27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Another question for
29 Ruth. This is happening in Western Interior where we
30 get these permit discussions periodically. Is there a
31 list within Realty and can Realty come out to a meeting
32 and give projections on areas that would have roads so
33 the Council could get ahead of the curve so they could
34 start prioritizing areas where they could focus on
35 instead of this slight reactionary mode? I mean my
36 impression is that the wildlife biologists, both the
37 Western and Eastern Interior, of BLM are informing the
38 Council as they know of them. Is there a list to get
39 ahead of this so the Council could start budgeting
40 their time?
41
42 MS. GRONQUIST: Well, I think these two
43 are pretty much a heads up and that's what I intended
44 them to be. They are out in the future. One of the
45 things that I do and I know the Western Interior RAC
46 biologist for BLM does is we poll the Realty staff
47 before we come out to these meetings to find out if
48 there are any issues that we should let the RAC know
49 about that may affect subsistence use. So that's what
50 I've done.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I hope we're
2 not wrapped around the axle. I think we planned one
3 action, right, and that is a letter to BLM that we
4 oppose a road -- and it's Ray Mountains, right?

5
6 MR. CARROLL: White Mountain.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: White Mountain
9 and Ray River. Did I hear you guys say you want to
10 have more broad base on the access? How do you want to
11 word it or does Vince have it down?

12
13 MR. MATHEWS: The wording you could use
14 is straight from .810. Use that wording that you want
15 in .810 and implement it to its maximum use, that it
16 looks out for the protection of subsistence, et cetera.
17 That gives you more latitude than to say you don't want
18 any permits there because there may be a permit you
19 desire used in that area.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
22 what's concerning me.

23
24 MR. MATHEWS: So the .810 is that it
25 would be thoroughly involved and you'd like to be kept
26 informed of ones that would impact subsistence,
27 something to that effect. That way it keeps your
28 options open.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Richard.

31
32 MR. CARROLL: Richard here. I am just
33 discovering these new words. Customary and traditional
34 use.

35
36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Welcome.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: That's why we're here.

39
40 MR. CARROLL: If these guys don't meet
41 that criteria, if they've never had an oil field there
42 or a lodge or gold mine, I don't think they should be
43 allowed underneath that term.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're great.
46 Would all the Council Members agree that wording on the
47 .810. There always has to be an .810 and I'm sure they
48 know that. It's just that we want to make sure this
49 Council knows when these things are happening and we
50 want to be able to comment. Go ahead.

1 MR. WOODRUFF: I would like to just ask
2 BLM that maybe the next meeting we could have the
3 Realty guy come and we could ask him some of these hard
4 questions that you know nothing about except you can
5 defer to a later time when you can look it up.
6 Therefore we can ask him the hard questions and we
7 don't have to ask you them.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's a great
10 idea.

11
12 MS. GRONQUIST: I can certainly ask one
13 of our realty specialists to attend the next meeting.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Or at least be
16 on line of nothing else. If that's okay with the
17 Council Members.

18
19 (Council nods affirmatively)

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: One of the things I'd
24 like to ask him about, if a person wants to buy an
25 allotment and they don't necessarily specify the use
26 and say they want to build a homesite or a homestead
27 and then it turns into a lodge and a hunting camp and a
28 mining camp, and TCC doesn't necessarily put a
29 restriction on a homesite or whatever they're going to
30 build there I don't think.

31
32 MS. GRONQUIST: We don't have any
33 oversight over allotments. Our only role in this would
34 be if it's sold and the buyer comes to us and applies
35 for a permit for access. That's where we first come
36 into play. The allotments are completely under the
37 responsibility of BIA.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think one
40 other question that comes up, does the whole allotment
41 thing where they have the regulations through BIA once
42 an allotment is sold, does it further negate any
43 regulations from BIA. That's something we'd want to
44 know.

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think private
47 property is private property, and unless there's some
48 special zoning deal you can do whatever you want with
49 it. It's access we're talking about.

50

1 MS. GRONQUIST: I do have hard copies
2 of this report if you would like it.

3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Would anyone
5 like a copy of Ruth's report.

6
7 (Council nods affirmatively)

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think the
10 Council Members might as well have them, yeah. Wennona
11 has more insight.

12
13 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 Wennona Brown. Can I follow up a little on Virgil's
15 comment. Native allotments are private property,
16 they're sold, they're still private property. We have
17 no jurisdiction on what happens with that property.
18 Furthermore, we cannot deny access to that property.
19 You can put stipulations on access in there, but you
20 cannot deny access to that property.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But you can
23 deny running a Cat. Because that's what happened with
24 the Pilgrim family. They have access, but they were
25 denied running a Cat.

26
27 MS. BROWN: You can put restrictions on
28 how that access is conducted but you cannot deny the
29 access in total.

30
31 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Richard.

32
33 MR. CARROLL: If I may, they can deny
34 because it has something to do with the Refuge. It
35 goes contrary to the mission statement of the Refuge.
36 They can deny a certain type of access based on that.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right. Right.

39
40 MR. CARROLL: I knew you couldn't deny
41 to a Native allotment, but another person, of course,
42 if it carries over that's fine, but they can if it goes
43 beyond the nature of the mission of the Refuge to
44 conserve. Then they could I'm pretty sure.

45
46 MS. BROWN: The Park Service is
47 different. We cannot deny access to the property. We
48 can put criteria on it and controls, but we cannot say
49 you can't go out to your property. That is guaranteed
50 and I think that's in section 1113 of ANILCA.

1 MR. CARROLL: I must have
2 misunderstood. That Native allotment is within BLM
3 land?

4
5 MS. GRONQUIST: I think Wennona was
6 referring to your statement about the Pilgrims and
7 using a Cat. That's Park Service land.

8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: One other final little
12 thing there. As far as access goes, you know, because
13 of these land issues or whatever, there's always
14 adronomous fish issues. You know, you can't run over a
15 salmon spawning stream with a Cat or something like
16 that. So the various stipulations can be put on, but
17 that's the only thing I think we could really speak to
18 probably.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
21 Ruth. You brought good discussion to this Council.

22
23 MS. GRONQUIST: Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I hear a call
26 for a break, so we're going to take a short break and
27 come back in about five, ten minutes.

28
29 (Off record)

30
31 (On record)

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. There's
36 just one thing that came up prior to lunch that Virgil
37 may want to bring up that is a clarification on his
38 actions on his proposals. I just don't want to lose it
39 by the time we adjourn the meeting. I think he can
40 explain it very clearly what modification to the action
41 on the two proposals that you're going to submit. If
42 this is the time to do it, I don't know, but I just
43 want you to be aware that that's pending.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Better take
46 care of it while we're at it. Virgil, what did we
47 miss.

48
49 MR. UMPHENOUR: What we did is we want
50 extraterritorial jurisdiction invoked but the Federal

1 Subsistence Board has absolutely no authority to do
2 that, so what we need to do is our proposals need to
3 just be clean proposals for the Federal Subsistence
4 Board to do what they have authority to do and then
5 write a separate letter to the Secretary of Interior
6 requesting that extraterritorial jurisdiction be
7 invoked or enforced or whatever you want to call it.
8 Does everyone understand that?

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Does everybody
11 like that idea?

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Yep.

14

15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I probably have
16 a little heartburn.

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: If the Federal Board
19 doesn't have jurisdiction, there's no sense in asking
20 them to do extraterritorial decisions.

21

22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I understand
23 that. Didn't we also do this once before and we were
24 denied?

25

26 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm sure we're going to
27 be denied again.

28

29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But we just
30 want to be obstinate.

31

32 MR. UMPHENOUR: Vince wants to say
33 something, but I want to address your heartburn. I
34 know what your heartburn is about. It's about State's
35 rights. This Friday will make four weeks ago a number
36 of us from Fairbanks met with the new Commissioner of
37 Fish and Game and the Director of Wildlife
38 Conservation. The people that were there, some people
39 call us rabble-rousers or rednecks or troublemakers,
40 but it was former Senator Ralph Seekins, myself, Bud
41 Burrus, who's retired Fish and Game manager, Mike
42 Tinker, who is the vice chair of the Fairbanks A.C.,
43 Mike Cramer, the chair of the Fairbanks A.C., the chair
44 of the Anchorage A.C. was there, Craig Compeau was
45 there and some promises were made by the new
46 Commissioner. The new Commissioner, if he's going to
47 let a regional supervisor go against the newly elected
48 Governor's promises and the promises made by the Comm
49 Fish, the chips can fall where they can fall. We let
50 them know that we were not going to accept this type of

1 stuff and reminded the Commissioner that the Governor,
2 at her inauguration speech, said hold my feet to the
3 fire. We're holding her feet to the fire and this is
4 the best way to do it because she let -- her
5 commissioner let a regional supervisor go against solid
6 valid science and be a jerk and that's why we're in
7 this situation we're in now. It should have passed on
8 the merits. So I hope that eases your heartburn.

9
10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Actually it did
11 not. What it did is told me -- I like to be somewhat
12 reasonable and I don't mind holding people's feet to
13 the fire, but I believe the fight might be with the
14 Governor and maybe we need to hold her feet to the fire
15 by going directly to the Governor.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, we voted to go to
18 the press, the Fairbanks A.C. did, so that's what we're
19 getting ready to do when I get back from this meeting.
20 Go to the newspaper and try to get it on the front
21 page.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But, Virgil,
24 sometimes -- okay, this might be I'm from Venus, you're
25 from Mars. We have a new Governor. Sometimes you can
26 get a lot more done, as my friend called it, with sugar
27 rather than vinegar.

28
29 MR. UMPHENOUR: We've already tried the
30 sugar and it hasn't worked.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That was under
33 the last Governor, right?

34
35 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm talking about the
36 Governor with a skirt.

37
38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Now be nice.

39
40 MR. GLANZ: If I may, Madame Chair. Me
41 and Don was looking on the computer this morning and
42 Governor Palin has announced a bounty on wolves at \$200
43 per head.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: She's my kind
46 of Governor.

47
48 MR. GLANZ: You ain't lying there.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I just wanted

1 to say that's kind of where I come from and I might
2 have a little heartburn. Just for the record, if you
3 write that letter -- who writes the letter?
4
5 MR. MATHEWS: You can write the letter,
6 but basically I write it.
7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Me?
9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, if you would like.
11 We're up to about six or seven right now.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'll tell you
14 right now, I'm a volunteer and I delegate chores.
15 Somebody else will be writing the letters.
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, I write the
18 letters. They go through a review process and then
19 they're provided to you and then you go through your
20 review and edits and share with whoever you want and
21 then you provide it back and then your signature goes
22 forward with it. So that's the process of the writing.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm going to,
25 as your vice chair, delegate a chore. This letter
26 that he writes will go to a committee of two, Virgil
27 and Richard, to review and accept and you might have me
28 look at it if you care to and then we'll go from there.
29 Is that acceptable?
30
31 MR. CARROLL: (Nods affirmatively)
32
33 MR. UMPHENOUR: (Nods affirmatively)
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did we
36 cover it all then.
37
38 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think we've covered
39 that issue.
40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Great. We're
42 ready to move on.
43
44 MR. UMPHENOUR: But that's up to Vince
45 to see if he feels comfortable with the record and that
46 we've covered it.
47
48 MR. MATHEWS: I'll just earn my pay.
49 It's clear on the record that you guys agree with the
50 mover of the motion on the two proposals, that the

1 removal of the extraterritorial question will be put in
2 a separate letter to the Secretary. Everyone agrees to
3 that. The reason I repeat these things is not my
4 ignorance. This is the record. That's why we tape
5 record these. One of my duties is to make it clear.
6 When I go back and talk to Probasco, did I get
7 everything clear. And that's Don's also, so that's why
8 we ask for clarification.

9

10 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You're doing a
11 great job. I appreciate it. Thank you. We're ready
12 for Fish and Wildlife Service reports. I think we're
13 going to have fun with this one also.

14

15 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon, Madame
16 Chair, Council Members. Again, Wennona Brown for Yukon
17 Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I have just a few
18 things that I want to go over and then I will turn it
19 over to Paul Williams and Mark Bertram.

20

21 Just a few points I wanted to touch on
22 from our newsletter. We had a report on the sampling
23 from the last year's avian influenza and in Alaska
24 there was over 17,000 samples taken and analyzed.
25 There was no incidence of the H5N1 virus found in any
26 of those samples. So there's no evidence that that
27 virus has made it to North America. I believe that
28 sampling will go on again this year, but I don't know
29 if we've gotten the exact details on where and to what
30 extent yet.

31

32 Also last summer we conducted waterfowl
33 harvest surveys to provide information to the Alaska
34 Migratory Bird Co-Management Council and we do intend
35 to do waterfowl harvest surveys again this year across
36 the Flats, so we'll be visiting those villages. Last
37 year Paul and one of our former employees, Jana
38 Minerva, visited over 200 households across the Flats
39 to get a count on the numbers and species of waterfowl
40 being harvested. That information is submitted to the
41 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council. They go
42 through, do their own analysis and review of the data
43 and once they've reviewed and approved it, then it's
44 released. It's not within my purview to release that
45 data.

46

47 Last year we also did our fish camp
48 survey. Starting at the bridge and going down to a
49 little above Rampart and then turning around and going
50 all the way up a little past Circle, Paul and myself,

1 and then trading off with a couple of other co-workers.
2 We visited with 48 fishermen. Of the ones that were
3 fishing -- the survey was done July 21st to the 28th,
4 so it was a little later than what we usually do, but
5 then the run was also later this year. We had varied
6 results on what people were catching. Thirty-five
7 percent reported that they did have enough fish for the
8 winter, but on the other side 40 percent of the
9 fishermen that we interviewed had 50 percent or less of
10 what they needed for the year. You also have to
11 realize it's a one point in time when we stop and visit
12 them, so some of them were continuing to fish. The
13 final outcome we don't really know. Most of the people
14 we visited said the fish they were catching were on the
15 order of what they would classify as medium to small
16 fish.

17
18 As Brandy mentioned, we are cooperating
19 with CATG and TCC in a challenge cost share agreement
20 this year to fund the science camp at Fort Yukon again
21 and that should be scheduled for sometime in July and
22 we haven't come up with the exact dates. It's been a
23 moving target.

24
25 We had a few staffing changes. Jimmy
26 Fox, who was our assistant manager for the Refuge, has
27 taken the job of deputy manager at Arctic Refuge, so
28 that position is vacant and we are in the process of
29 looking at options for filling that position. Jana
30 Minerva, who was one of our young refuge helpers and
31 specialists last summer, moved to Kenai and we got
32 another person Nicole Gustine moved from Kenai to
33 Fairbanks, so you may be seeing her out in the field
34 some this summer with some of our projects.

35
36 Then the other news this year is that
37 Ted Heuer Refuge manager of the Flats, has announced
38 his retirement. June 3rd is his last day. With that,
39 I don't know who wants to go next.

40
41 MR. BERTRAM: Madame Chair. I'm Mark
42 Bertram. I'm a wildlife biologist with Yukon Flats
43 Refuge. I passed out a handout which has the results
44 of our most recent moose surveys. Last fall at the RAC
45 meeting we talked about status of the moose population
46 on the Yukon Flats. Intensive management was the
47 discussion at that meeting.

48
49 Since then we've conducted a survey
50 this past November in both the eastern and western

1 portions of the refuge. There's been final reports
2 written on the eastern survey, which should be in the
3 mail to you if you haven't already received it. The
4 report for the western survey will be in the mail in
5 the next two weeks. So what I present to you in the
6 handout are the final summaries from each of those two
7 reports.

8

9 I'm just going to highlight the main
10 findings. Starting first with the eastern survey,
11 which is the area that surrounds Chalkyitsik and Fort
12 Yukon. There was a population estimate of around 790
13 moose. That's about a 20 percent decrease from the
14 previous year. I would refer you to look at Page 3,
15 which is Figure 1, which shows the trends on both the
16 Eastern and Western Yukon Flats. If you look at the
17 right-hand side of the figure, on the Eastern Yukon
18 Flats you can see that the 2006 numbers are
19 approximately 20 percent less than the previous year.
20 Up until 2005 we'd been experiencing increases in the
21 population. So there's a lot of movement up and down
22 in the Eastern population. The estimate from 2005
23 approached the high that we estimated in 1995. We
24 estimated probably the low point in that population
25 over the last 10 years was around 2001 to 2004.

26

27 We're attributing the increases we saw
28 in 2005 to increased black bear harvest primarily. We
29 have an agreement set up with Council of Athabaskan
30 Tribal Governments. I gave you a lot of those harvest
31 statistics at the last meeting, the reported harvest.
32 We since then have gotten another year's worth of data.
33 The black bear harvest has tripled over the last four
34 years on the Yukon Flats and this is, I think, a result
35 of the Moose Management Plan that was established in
36 2002. We called for an increased bear and wolf harvest
37 and we're seeing that.

38

39 What's interesting, and I'll get to
40 this in a little bit, is that we're seeing most of this
41 increase on the eastern half of the refuge. We're not
42 seeing as big of a black bear harvest on the western
43 half.

44

45 We also attribute the increase in the
46 moose numbers last year -- I know I'm talking about
47 last year, but I just wanted to give you some
48 background on it. We had unusually low water years in
49 2004 and 2005, so we think it's possible that there
50 just wasn't as much access and that the harvest was

1 down because of that. So that may explain some of the
2 reasons for the increase that we saw in 2005.

3
4 I really don't have any explanations
5 for why it would have decreased by 20 percent between
6 last year and this year. Wolf harvest on the eastern
7 part of the refuge has remained fairly steady. The
8 decrease that we saw in 2006 was primarily a decrease
9 in the bull component and the calf component and the
10 cow component stayed steady between 2004 and 2005. So
11 the decrease between 2005 and 2006 are mainly bulls and
12 calves.

13
14 Moving over to the Western Yukon Flats,
15 that population appears to be slowly declining. The
16 2006 estimate was 20 percent less than the 2004
17 estimate. We are seeing an across-the-board decrease
18 in bulls, cows and calves. It's been about an 8
19 percent annual decrease since 2001.

20
21 Looking at the harvest information that
22 we've gotten from CATG, the black bear harvest started
23 out fairly strong in 2002, 2003, 2004 and it has
24 decreased since then. Not really sure why that is
25 because there is just as strong of an emphasis to
26 harvest bears on the west as there is on the east.
27 Wolf harvest has remained steady.

28
29 I guess what I'd like to present to you
30 next is what we're doing to address the low population
31 status across the Eastern and Western Refuge. We're
32 working with Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments
33 on primarily an education program. There's a
34 significant cow harvest. We estimate up to 26 percent
35 of the animals that are being harvested are cows.
36 Again, this is an illegal cow harvest. So we're
37 working with CATG. We've already done radio shows in
38 Fort Yukon just to talk about the population status of
39 moose on the Yukon Flats and what we can do to try and
40 bring the population up. It's mainly focused on
41 decrease in cow harvest.

42
43 We've got a PowerPoint developed that
44 will be presented in the near future in classrooms,
45 meetings like this. It's just about finished. We're
46 going to increase our classroom visits in schools
47 across the Yukon Flats. So we're really targeting the
48 younger, future hunters in this effort. We're also
49 working on creating a mural in the school up in Fort
50 Yukon, which is going to focus on why it's detrimental

1 to harvest cows in a declining population.

2

3 The next thing we're doing is we're
4 working with ADF&G and CATG and the village of Beaver
5 on getting a wolf study done started in 2007 to 2008
6 that's going to primarily try and figure out what the
7 predation rates are of wolves on moose during the
8 wintertime on the Yukon Flats. That's one piece of the
9 puzzle that we don't have estimates on. I'm sure
10 there's considerable wolf predation on moose on the
11 Yukon Flats, just like there is in other places in the
12 Interior and we're going to try and specify exactly
13 what that is.

14

15 The last thing we're doing is we're
16 putting higher priority on enforcement and I talked
17 about this a little bit earlier today. We do have a
18 law enforcement person on our staff who is -- this is
19 one of the projects that he's working on. He's giving
20 increased focus to enforcement on the Yukon Flats. I
21 don't have any specific information on any cases that
22 he's made or that he's in the process of making, but I
23 do know he is active and the month of March is a pretty
24 busy month for him. Those activities are going on.

25

26 That's what I have to present. Paul,
27 did you want to add anything to this?

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Madame
30 Chair, Council Members, Arctic Village people. I used
31 to live here. Just happy to be here. It's pretty
32 outside. I forgot how beautiful it was outside this
33 time of the year. My name is Paul Williams. I work
34 with the Fish and Wildlife Service as an RIT. It's not
35 a steady job, but you get to do a lot of stuff for the
36 Service, you know, like doing one of my favorite
37 programs, doing trapping seminars with another guy who
38 is a pilot, an enforcement officer and a trapper. We
39 were up there in Arctic Village some time ago and we
40 got an elder to help us and we talked about the history
41 of trapping and present regulations and how to actually
42 go out and identify tracks and make different kinds of
43 sets for wolf, lynx, fox and marten, then we go back
44 inside and show them how to skin an animal and stretch
45 it. So that takes a couple hours to do this, you know.
46 I think the kids really like it and they ask a lot of
47 questions.

48

49 Like Mark said, you know, we're going
50 to be working with CATG and Fish and Wildlife and Fish

1 and Game. We got a grant this year for a couple
2 hundred thousand dollars from the Fish and Wildlife
3 Tribal Grants and we hired a person to open an office
4 and they just completed a two-day trapping seminar for
5 wolves down in Beaver to track wolves and how to make
6 snares. Just basic stuff. That took a couple days. I
7 wasn't there because I had to attend a Tanana Chief
8 convention.

9
10 There's a lot of studies to be done
11 yet, you know, just like the low numbers of different
12 species of waterfowl. Like the black ducks, we call
13 them black ducks, they're actually White-winged
14 Scoters, a technical term for it, and they're low in
15 numbers, so we're working with Chalkyitsik and Venetie
16 in the school and young kids and local people to do
17 this project. They'll do most of it and make a little
18 money at the same time and try to identify why these
19 black duck numbers are low. I don't think anybody eats
20 them except the Native people. It's a delicacy.

21
22 I do a lot of driving the snowmobiles
23 and river boat. Some of the other Staff members from
24 the Yukon Flats Refuge sometimes they study plants and
25 I get to drive around for them and I have a lot of fun
26 doing it, you know. I attend a lot of meetings, Tanana
27 Chiefs, CATG, Village Council meetings when invited.
28 I'm always open for an invitation. If they have any
29 type of questions in regard to Yukon Flats Refuge, you
30 know, I'll be happy to get Mark or Wennona and we'll
31 come over, even the law enforcement officer will come
32 around if there's any questions.

33
34 We've been working on what they call
35 Section 17(b) of ANILCA that identified trail from
36 villages to access Federal public lands. This year
37 we're going to be breaking trail again. We've got four
38 trails that's been identified as 17(b) trails in
39 Beaver. So we'll be breaking trail with snowmobiles do
40 access the land out there.

41
42 The new law enforcement officer and I
43 and another guy will be patrolling from the bridge all
44 the way up to around Fort Yukon and other areas. So
45 just wanted to tell you we'll be up there. I know
46 there's concern about people harvesting cow moose and
47 calves. We've all got the same concern. We'd like to
48 leave a lot of moose for our younger people who's
49 growing up. I told them they're going to be the next
50 leaders, you know. I'm not going to be their leader

1 all the time because I'm pushing 71 now. Like Gideon
2 said, I'll be kicking the bucket, you know.

3
4 These kids used to play these
5 electronic games. A couple of old Indians was watching
6 them and they said, hey, remember when we were young we
7 used to play kick the can. Now we play kick the
8 bucket, he said.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 If there's any questions. Thank you,
13 Madame Chair.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
16 Paul. I see one more before questions.

17
18 MR. BERTRAM: Just another two more
19 minutes of project announcements I wanted to let you
20 know of. First of all, there's several projects that
21 are ongoing to address the proposed land exchange. One
22 of them involves fisheries work on Beaver Creek. We
23 don't have the money. We think we're going to get the
24 money to do it this summer, but we're all set to go.
25 We've got the study plan written and it's basically a
26 baseline study on presence/absence of fish from
27 Victoria Creek downstream. We also have a water
28 quality monitoring program that was started last
29 summer, so that's ongoing this summer.

30
31 Ruth mentioned the Dall sheep study.
32 Part of that study was started to address the land
33 exchange. We felt that since this proposed access
34 corridor was coming up Victoria Creek and that we've
35 got sheep movement across that creek, it would make
36 sense to monitor sheep. So we've got satellite collars
37 on about 20 sheep and 17 other collars out on other
38 sheep, so we're really collecting a lot of -- we've
39 been doing that since 2004, so we've got a really good
40 database of annual movement from those sheep. That will
41 really be invaluable later on. If development happens,
42 I guess we saw this as a way to mitigate or propose
43 where things would go if things did happen. So that
44 was the impetus for that.

45
46 Two other projects that are going on
47 that are not related to the land exchange. One is
48 Lesser Scop, a waterfowl species, is undergoing a
49 national decline. Nobody really knows why. We've been
50 doing a series of projects on that since 2001. This

1 year we're starting a study, a graduate student study,
2 and we're looking at the body condition on Scops, so
3 we'll actively be handling the birds. In some cases
4 killing the birds to analyze how much body fat the
5 birds have. So that's what that study is about. We're
6 trying to figure out if the birds are arriving on the
7 breeding grounds in bad shape.

8
9 The last project that's ongoing this
10 summer is another graduate study on the Yukon River and
11 it is looking at succession on the Yukon River. In
12 other words, how does the Yukon flood plain change over
13 time and what's the process. It's a very complex issue
14 to address. We're going at it with the angle of trying
15 to tie in moose habitat quality. So part of this
16 project is going to be looking at moose browse also.
17 So we're hoping to get information gathered in that
18 study that we can use to model the moose habitat to try
19 to figure out eventually what the carrying capacity of
20 the Yukon Flats is.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Council
23 Members, any questions. Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

24
25 MS. BROWN: I happen to think of one
26 other, too. This past year we have worked in
27 conjunction with CATG, BLM and ADF&G Subsistence
28 Division doing a non-salmon fish study documenting TEK
29 harvest surveys for non-salmon species and documenting
30 traditional knowledge on use of those species in
31 Beaver, Fort Yukon, Birch Creek, Central and Circle.
32 We'll be finalizing that this year.

33
34 Then we got funded for a follow-on
35 project. We'll be doing the same sort of study looking
36 at a second year of data from Fort Yukon, going to
37 Venetie, Arctic Village and Chalkyitsik to sort of tie
38 all those into the network of non-salmon species use in
39 an effort to address some of this Council's previous
40 concerns on the declining salmon populations. How much
41 are people turning to the non-salmon species. So that
42 was the impetus for these projects. This will be the
43 second study funded by the Fisheries Information
44 Service Program to look at that issue.

45
46 MR. WILLIAMS: That's what I was going
47 to mention, Madame Chairman, Council Members. Paul
48 Williams again. We've got another fish project on
49 contaminants. I think I'm going out in May to capture
50 some northern pike and do a study on heavy metals,

1 basically lead and mercury, so these guys can look at
2 them and test them. My job would be to drive the boat
3 and identify places where we can get them either with
4 casting or net.

5
6 I think the whitefish project over in
7 Birch Creek would be an interesting one because there's
8 a lot of complaints about low water and the fishing
9 place getting filled up and clogged up with drift and
10 everything. We used to keep these clear, but we don't
11 do that no more. I'd like to see this based more out
12 of Birch Creek, you know. These people know quite a
13 bit about whitefish. Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
16 guys. Virgil, you had a question.

17
18 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think I heard you say
19 you were going to do a fish study and catalog the fish
20 in Beaver Creek and I know it's been maybe seven or
21 eight years ago they did -- I don't know whether they
22 put a weir on Beaver Creek or what, but I know they
23 were counting salmon there someplace. Could you
24 explain that just a little bit better.

25
26 MR. BERTRAM: This is Mark Bertram
27 again. Yeah, the work that was done back with the weir
28 they were trying to estimate how many salmon were
29 coming up and that was done I think about 2000 by BLM.
30 What we're going to be doing is we're going to be
31 floating from Victoria Creek down probably about 100
32 miles. We'll be pulling out between the area between
33 Beaver and Birch Creek village. Approximately every --
34 I didn't write the study plan, but they're going to be
35 sampling every day on the way down. They're going to be
36 using electro-shockers, they're going to be using
37 setnets, which they'll have to watch and tend. They're
38 not going to set them out overnight. Minnow traps,
39 funnel traps. So basically they're trying to catch
40 everything they can on the way downstream. They're
41 especially interested in getting juvenile fish.
42 They're also interested in identifying any spawning
43 habitats on the way down.

44
45 They're going to be doing this work
46 three times during the summer. There will be three
47 sampling periods. I believe one is in early June, July
48 and late August. They'll also be describing the
49 aquatic habitat. That's pretty much it. It's real
50 baseline.

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Richard.

4

5 MR. CARROLL: Earlier, when we were
6 talking about moose population, you said you were going
7 to have some figures for us. I didn't see it. But you
8 had mentioned about some -- you were talking about
9 requesting more law enforcement and you had mentioned
10 the high level of illegal kills in Unit 25. Did you
11 say D, a specific area?

12

13 MR. BERTRAM: In all of 25D, the
14 eastern and western parts of the Yukon Flats, there's
15 significant cow harvest. When I say illegal harvest,
16 I'm really referring to take of cows, but there's also
17 take of moose outside of established seasons. We rely
18 on information from local residents to begin most of
19 these cases and our enforcement officers are pilots, so
20 they're actively patrolling especially during the
21 months of February and March.

22

23 MR. CARROLL: Okay, thanks.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James.

26

27 MR. NATHANIEL: Thank you, Madame
28 Chair. I was studying your chart here on moose
29 population and Yukon Flats. I've been asking this
30 question seems like every time around about the moose
31 survey. Are your moose surveys accurate count or
32 estimated?

33

34 MR. BERTRAM: I would say they're the
35 best we can do, but they're not a precise, accurate
36 count. Every time we do a population estimate we
37 figure out what the level of precision is on it and
38 generally we're figuring out a population estimate plus
39 or minus 20 percent. So if we estimate 1,000 moose,
40 there could actually be 800 moose there or there could
41 be 1,200 moose there. Moose hide in the timber and we
42 attempt to see every moose we can when we're flying,
43 but we acknowledge we miss moose when we're counting.
44 Most biologists agree we're underestimating what we're
45 looking at. So I would say these population estimates
46 that we come up with are not precise, but we're also
47 generally underestimating what's there.

48

49 MR. NATHANIEL: Not only myself but
50 there's others concerned regarding this moose survey.

1 My concern too is that last fall hardly anyone in my
2 community got their subsistence moose. Maybe a couple
3 people got moose and they had to go further beyond our
4 village up in Salmon River in order to get a bull
5 moose. You guys are saying there's over 700 moose
6 south of Chalkyitsik towards Fort Yukon. I'd like to
7 know where are they. So I'm just concerned about this
8 survey you guys are doing. Is it accurate? That's my
9 concern and others in my community I talk with.

10

11 MR. BERTRAM: It's not an accurate
12 survey, but what we try to do is be consistent each
13 year. We try to do it the same way each year. Even
14 though we know we're not getting a precise number, if
15 we try to do it the same way each year, we can at least
16 try to detect a trend up or down or a stable trend
17 between years or long term. That's really the goal of
18 it. The other part of it, one of the most important
19 parts, is to see what the proportion of cows, calves
20 and bulls are and make sure that those proportions are
21 healthy and in proportion to what they should be.

22

23 The one thing that I think will be of
24 interest to you, James, is when you receive the report
25 in the mail from the eastern survey. There's a map in
26 there that shows the survey area and it shows all the
27 survey units and it shows which units we sampled and
28 how many moose we saw in each of those units. It also
29 shows you which units we labeled as a high density unit
30 and which are labeled as low density units. So at
31 least in the first week in November you'll be able to
32 look at that map and look at where Chalkyitsik is and
33 you'll be able to see where we saw moose.

34

35 I understand they're not on the river
36 corridor for sure during September. How far off the
37 river corridor people are hunting I'm not real sure. I
38 guess what you're saying is there's a buffer through
39 the river corridor where they're not seeing moose at
40 all. Is that correct?

41

42 MR. NATHANIEL: Well, most people do
43 their hunting on the river and I don't think they go
44 much on land. Whatever they see on the river, that's
45 what they get, but this fall there was no bull around,
46 mostly cows and calves.

47

48 I had my grandson hunt for me. Two
49 trips he made up the river. Both times he didn't get
50 any. That concerned me, where are the moose you guys

1 are talking about.

2

3 One more thing, I'd like to invite you
4 guys to our village. I was talking to Wennona and I'd
5 like to invite you guys even though I'm not on the
6 council. I'm just a village resident, concerned
7 subsistence user, and I'm pretty sure you'll get a lot
8 of information from the village people, especially the
9 elders and the young people and the hunters.

10

11 Another thing I was going to ask you
12 about the avian flu or bird flu or whatever it is. Do
13 you know what they're going to do about it this summer?

14

15 MR. BERTRAM: I do. We've been told to
16 go ahead and plan for more sampling this summer, so I
17 think we are going to receive funding to do the same
18 thing we did last summer. On the Yukon Flats we
19 trapped pintail ducks on the western part of the Refuge
20 southwest of Beaver on the north side of the Yukon
21 River at a lake called Long Lake. We'll do that again
22 this summer and have those samples tested. It looks
23 like it's going to happen this year.

24

25 MR. NATHANIEL: Is that the only type
26 of duck you're testing?

27

28 MR. BERTRAM: That's the only type of
29 duck from the Yukon Flats that was tested. That's not
30 correct. We also tested Lesser Scop and we tested
31 Shovelers and we tested Widgeon. We had smaller
32 samples of those birds also.

33

34 If I could address your earlier comment
35 about the moose invite to Chalkyitsik for the meeting,
36 we have talked with your Chief Tamara Henry and we are
37 definitely going to call her when we get back and set
38 this meeting up.

39

40 The other thing I wanted to mention to
41 you to address -- we talked about this at one of our
42 Staff meetings your concerns. Two other things that
43 we'd like to pursue is try and involve more community
44 members in the moose surveys on the Eastern Yukon Flats
45 and we'd also like to invite members of the community
46 to join us whenever we're going to be doing
47 overflights. If we could identify somebody for him to
48 pick up as a passenger to just kind of survey the
49 country. This would be during moose hunting season.
50 To just kind of get an idea where the distribution of

1 moose are.
2
3 MR. NATHANIEL: You gave me an idea.
4 I'd like to go.
5
6 MR. BERTRAM: But you can't bring your
7 gun with you.
8
9 (Laughter)
10
11 MR. NATHANIEL: I just want to know how
12 accurate your count is. That's my concern. I have one
13 more before I let you guys go. When you do your bird
14 testing, you're testing pintails you said. How many
15 pintails did you -- maybe I'll put it another way.
16 During your testing, how many birds -- how should
17 I.....
18
19 MR. BERTRAM: Did we kill or eat or
20 both?
21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
23
24 MR. NATHANIEL: Yeah.
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 MR. BERTRAM: When we did the avian
29 influenza testing, we killed no birds when we were
30 capturing pintails in August, but as a part of our
31 research study that we had going on in May when we were
32 capturing Scop I do recall that one bird died. So we
33 handled probably 400 birds total and one bird died,
34 which we felt pretty good about, although it's bad that
35 the bird died. Typically, when research is being done
36 like that when we're handling bird, we try to keep the
37 kills down to one in 100 birds dying. The reasons
38 birds sometimes die are they get wet and they don't dry
39 out and they die of hyperthermia. That's generally
40 what happens. If you're handling birds on a cold day,
41 that can happen. Or if we're trapping birds in walk-in
42 traps, it's possible that a fox might get to the trap
43 before us, in which case there might be three or four
44 dead birds laying there before we get to that. So that
45 happens also.
46
47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Did you have
48 anything else, James.
49
50 MR. NATHANIEL: No.

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. CARROLL: Mark, earlier we were
4 probably talking off the record. You said maybe these
5 40 or 50 illegal cow moose kills were definitely human
6 kills. James and I were talking and he says
7 traditionally in their village they get hardly no moose
8 and in the past they would designate hunters to go get
9 some meat and share the meat. But we realize there are
10 renegade hunters out there that will go out on their
11 own and make an illegal kill. If you're talking 40 to
12 50 moose and there's only 800 in that whole area,
13 that's quite a dent. That's hard to believe. And the
14 decline is down 40 percent in one of your studies right
15 here in a period of about six years. I mean it dropped
16 from 1,000 down to 400, almost in half, in the Western
17 Yukon Flats from '99. That's quite a decrease.

18

19 We're aware that there are special
20 permits available for traditional use meat,
21 potlatching, funerals or something else like that.
22 We're thinking maybe, a possibility that maybe you guys
23 would consider, that in times of shortage, like in
24 Chalkyitsik you're talking 25 households, something
25 like that.

26

27 MR. NATHANIEL: Thirty.

28

29 MR. CARROLL: Thirty households. These
30 guys have 95 percent unemployment and whatever
31 assistance they get barely covers their light bill, so
32 why not make available more special use permits.
33 Instead of people going out and killing 10 illegal, let
34 them do it legally. This is a hardship case. My dad
35 did that one fall. He got a special permit. He had to
36 leave camp one time and a grizzly bear ate all his meat
37 up. It was quite a site. They carried away all his
38 meat and just left the camp for a night. He got a
39 special permit and he killed a moose in the area. Why
40 not for the village and the village council designates
41 the hunters and maybe illegal kills drop from 40 to 50
42 in the whole Yukon Flats and maybe you only get 10, but
43 only in times of hardship when you have such low
44 harvest numbers like the entire village go. It could
45 be part of a solution. But I'm still in favor of
46 increased law enforcement though.

47

48 MR. BERTRAM: Okay. Let me respond to
49 some of your points.

50

1 MR. CARROLL: Okay.

2

3 MR. BERTRAM: All the harvest
4 information we have is provided from CATG. They do
5 household surveys and we feel that's the best
6 information we have. Now, included in that harvest
7 survey is a percentage of unknown sex of moose that
8 were harvested. When I presented information, for
9 instance, let's look at last year, they reported 228
10 moose being harvested across the Yukon Flats. The
11 proportion of cows could be anywhere from 17 to 40
12 depending on how you count those unknown sex of moose.
13 So that's somewhere between 7 to 18 percent across the
14 entire Yukon Flats, not just the Eastern or the
15 Western.

16

17 I guess the way to approach your
18 suggestion about changing the regulation for hardship
19 is just that. It would have to be a regulation change
20 and have to go either through the Federal side or the
21 State side or both, ideally both. I think what would
22 be helpful is to have really good harvest numbers so we
23 really knew what was being harvested. These unknown
24 sex numbers are kind of troublesome because it's hard
25 to manage a herd when you have so much variance in
26 there.

27

28 We do realize that cows have
29 traditionally been harvested on the Yukon Flats
30 forever, that it's a traditional use, and we're
31 realistic in recognizing that cows are going to get
32 harvested each year. I guess what we're hoping to do
33 is minimize the number of cows taken each year. We
34 feel it can only help. I'll take your suggestions back
35 with me to our staff and we'll talk about them. We'll
36 talk about them more in Chalkyitsik as far as trying to
37 make an allowance for a hardship type of case. As long
38 as we can document that so it's well documented, there
39 might be a way to pursue that.

40

41 MR. GLANZ: Are you talking a cow
42 harvest then or are you talking just for a hardship a
43 bull harvest? Because it doesn't matter if it's legal
44 or illegal, it's still a cow.

45

46 MR. BERTRAM: I think any harvest of
47 cows is not the way to go. I think we have to look for
48 an allowance of the bull harvest. There's ways to have
49 a season change. I think Chalkyitsik already has a
50 community harvest set up I think for moose. I know

1 they have one for black bears.

2

3 MR. NATHANIEL: Yeah, we did years ago.

4

5 MR. BERTRAM: So the community harvest
6 program is a good way for a few hunters in the village
7 to harvest for a large number of people. I understand
8 what the point is. You're not finding any moose out
9 there to harvest. I guess it's a problem that would
10 have to be addressed at the end of the hunting season
11 and probably through some type of regulation change.

12

13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James had one
14 more.

15

16 MR. NATHANIEL: Thank you, Madame
17 Chair. I'd like to know a little more about your law
18 enforcement you were talking about and how big an area
19 they cover in the Yukon Flats.

20

21 MR. BERTRAM: Mike Hinks is our Refuge
22 officer. He's a biologist/pilot/enforcement officer
23 and he holds a lot of different hats, but he's
24 primarily an enforcement officer. He works with Refuge
25 officers from Arctic and Kanuti Refuge as well as the
26 law enforcement officers that we have stationed in
27 Fairbanks. And he also collaborates with the State.
28 So he works with all those people, but his primary
29 focus is the Yukon Flats. Hopefully you'll see him
30 sometime soon because he's trying to get into all the
31 villages right now and let people know who he is and
32 what he's doing.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: James.

35

36 MR. NATHANIEL: One more. This law
37 enforcement, how often do they go out in the field? Do
38 they have a certain time that they go out?

39

40 MR. BERTRAM: What would draw him out
41 into the field would be a phone call. If he got a
42 report on some illegal activity, he would coordinate
43 with the State and the other enforcement people and
44 they'd figure out how to handle it, how to pursue it.
45 But he's going to be actively out in the field during
46 moose season, primarily in September, February and
47 March patrolling.

48

49 MR. NATHANIEL: Thank you. I think
50 that will help our moose population. I understand

1 there's a lot of illegal kills of cow moose. I hope it
2 works. Thank you.

3

4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, Vince.

5

6 MR. MATHEWS: For Richard and James's
7 information, if there's a hardship case out there, you
8 can request a special action. As we're speaking now, a
9 special action is in effect for Unit 24B. Not
10 parallel, but similar issues. If you know towards the
11 end of your regular season that needs are not being
12 met, you can call me or the Refuge or whatever and ask
13 for a special action for that season. The key to make
14 that work is there has to be buy-in from the village
15 leadership to make it clear to all their hunters that
16 they're going to abide by the rules of that special
17 action hunt. I'm not a biologist, but the biology I've
18 heard for the area in question, there's not a lot of
19 latitude to take additional moose. So if the powers
20 that be see that the village leadership is going to
21 make sure that they're going to convey the message that
22 if this special action is granted, a longer season or
23 something else, that the chiefs and the leaders are
24 speaking to get that done in the right way. That's the
25 key, to get the leaders on board with that, that it's a
26 special situation at that time.

27

28 It is correct what Mark is saying to go
29 with a regulatory change, but that takes a year and if
30 we go to a two-year cycle, it's going to take two
31 years. So that's fine to do in the meeting in the long
32 term, but if you have a hardship, you need to get a
33 special action in and go through that process. I know
34 it's a bit of a bureaucracy, but we're here to help.

35

36 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anything else.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, I just had
41 a couple questions. You spoke of killing birds for
42 samples of fat.

43

44 MR. BERTRAM: I saw you wince on that,
45 so let me explain that a little bit better. We're
46 using lethal and non-lethal means to figure that out.
47 What we're doing for the majority of the birds that we
48 handle is we're taking a blood test, which is our non-
49 lethal way of doing it. In order to figure out how to
50 interpret the blood test we have to sample 10 birds to

1 establish a baseline. To be honest with you, I can't
2 explain this because I'm not a physiologist. I'm not
3 doing this project. But I do know that they have to
4 sample 10 birds in order to calibrate the test so they
5 can accurately take a blood test on the live birds to
6 figure it out. We'll be handling hundreds of birds.

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Of 10 birds,
9 how many would die?

10
11 MR. BERTRAM: Those 10 birds will die.
12 We don't waste them.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You have a
15 party at Fish and Wildlife Service?

16
17 (Laughter)

18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I'm just
20 kidding.

21
22 MR. BERTRAM: They'll get ground up and
23 there's a whole series of -- when they go to UAF,
24 there's grad students doing other projects and they're
25 highly sought after, so they get used for other
26 projects.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I had a couple
29 others. On the education, I was quite pleased to hear
30 you're doing things in the schools. I hope more of
31 that is done everywhere actually. That PowerPoint
32 presentation you had is kind of an education thing. I
33 guess you're aware of what they did in Tetlin as far as
34 trying to work with the school and teach them about cow
35 moose.

36
37 MR. BERTRAM: Yes. It's going to be
38 very similar to that. It's just going to have a Yukon
39 Flats focus.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Great. I'm
42 glad to hear that. Also, I don't like to drag the
43 meeting out, but sometimes you hear these reports and
44 they do spark a lot of questions. You talked about
45 catching every fish to do a fish study. Do you ever
46 collar or whatever, put some little tracker on one to
47 make sure you're not losing a bunch of fish?

48
49 MR. BERTRAM: Well, for the purpose of
50 what we're doing, which is mainly trying to determine

1 what's in Beaver Creek we wouldn't do that. But there
2 are studies that we do that we implant transmitters in
3 fish and most of those studies are done trying to
4 determine spawning grounds. We do that in whitefish
5 and sheefish and salmon commonly. Let's say we find
6 some whitefish spawning grounds in there. A follow-up
7 study to this could be a telemetry study down the road
8 that would take a closer look at that. I guess first
9 we've got to establish what's there before we would
10 progress to that.

11
12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But do you
13 understand what I'm getting at?

14
15 MR. BERTRAM: I guess I don't. I
16 missed your point.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If you're doing
19 a study and you're trying to see what these fish are
20 doing, how many fish are dying because of the study?

21
22 MS. BERTRAM: Oh, you're talking about
23 fish dying as an effect of.....

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: As a result of
26 catching them and checking them out.

27
28 MR. BERTRAM: Oh, I see what you're
29 saying. Yeah, I'm not a fisheries biologist, but I'm
30 sure there's deaths in bycatch with fish. They're
31 going to definitely minimize fish deaths by the nets
32 that are put out there. They're going to be tended,
33 not left out overnight. The electro-fishing stuns
34 them. It doesn't really kill them, but it can. That
35 takes some expertise to get the right voltage.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I guess maybe
38 the fisheries people know way more about it than I do,
39 but every time I hear about a study that they're
40 handling, handling, handling.....

41
42 MR. BERTRAM: This will be mainly
43 netting the fish.

44
45 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, you just
46 wonder how many you're.....

47
48 MR. BERTRAM: Are actually being
49 killed. I can't answer that.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I was curious.
2 In our area there's a lot of potlatch moose taken. Is
3 there in the Yukon Flats?
4
5 MR. CARROLL: Uh-huh.
6
7 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That's separate
10 of these figures.
11
12 MR. BERTRAM: To my knowledge, these
13 include potlatch moose. I would say these figures
14 provided by CATG are minimal estimates of what's
15 harvested.
16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil and I
18 were looking at your graph here and we were wondering
19 why there's two 2004's in both Western and Eastern.
20
21 MR. BERTRAM: That's the result of a
22 March and November survey conducted the same year.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
25
26 MR. BERTRAM: I got this graph from Bob
27 Stephenson, but you have to realize the March survey,
28 the real low one.....
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: With no bulls.
31
32 MR. BERTRAM: Yeah. That's very
33 deceiving. You don't know what they are. That's after
34 kill from the previous fall up until then. So most of
35 your kill for that season has already happened. So
36 typically your March 2004 estimate is generally lower
37 than your November 2003 estimate.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
40 other questions.
41
42 (No comments)
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
45 Very good. Thank you, guys.
46
47 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. There's
48 only one other unless Wennona is covering Arctic.
49 There's only one other Refuge report, you have it in
50 your book, Page 180, 181. It's usually the summary

1 Connie presents to you. I won't read it to you. You
2 can look it over. Connie Friend of the Tetlin Refuge
3 gives you a summary of their activities. I don't know
4 if there's additional reports from Arctic Refuge.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Next would be
7 the National Park Service. Is there any reports.
8 Okay.

9
10 MS. CRAVER: Good afternoon, Madame
11 Chair, Council Members and members of Arctic Village.
12 Before I get started, I just want to thank everybody
13 from Arctic Village for their warm hospitality. I've
14 really enjoyed my trip here and thank you very much.

15
16 For the record, my name is Amy Craver
17 and I'm the new subsistence manager at Denali National
18 Park. It's been about a year now since Hollis
19 Twitchell vacated the position and moved over to U.S.
20 Fish and Wildlife. I've been in the position now for
21 just a little over a month, so I'm definitely learning
22 about Denali.

23
24 I don't have any action items that need
25 addressing from the Council, so I'm just going to
26 provide sort of a brief overview of some of the
27 activities that have been going on recently at Denali.
28 With regard to the Kantishna wolf harvest issue, the
29 National Park Service is concerned that the increase in
30 the bag limit for wolves taken by hunting, which is 10
31 wolves, would allow a subsistence hunter in the
32 Kantishna area to take an entire pack of wolves during
33 the September moose hunting season when the wolf hides
34 are not yet prime.

35
36 This level of take, although it's
37 highly unlikely given that no wolves are known to have
38 been taken by hunters in the Kantishna area under
39 Federal subsistence regulation, but the possibility of
40 such an event leaves the Park open to charges that it's
41 allowing for predator/nuisance control rather than
42 subsistence take within the Park additions.

43
44 The denning of the McKinley Slough pack
45 in the Moose Creek area during the last two summers has
46 increased concerns that moose hunters will encounter
47 wolves in that area. Last year a back country closure
48 was in effect that allowed hunters to travel up Moose
49 Creek but not south of the creek into the area of the
50 den. Only one subsistence hunter obtained a permit to

1 drive the Park road to hunt in fall 2006 and no animals
2 were known to have been harvested in the Kantishna area
3 in 2006.

4
5 In terms of the moose harvest in 16B,
6 in 2006 ADF&G closed the general moose hunting season
7 near the Upper Yetna River and this was done because of
8 the declining moose population in the area. The only
9 moose hunting allowed in 16B under State regulations
10 was a Tier II subsistence hunt, which was limited to
11 120 permits in the area that adjoins the preserve.
12 Many local rural residents who were eligible to hunt in
13 the preserve under Federal subsistence regulations are
14 not able to get Tier II permits, so their only option
15 for hunting moose is within the preserve.

16
17 Because the subsistence hunt is the
18 only way many of the local residents can legally hunt
19 for moose, the Park Service is concerned that a greater
20 number than usual of people will be hunting in the
21 preserve for moose. At present, local rural residents
22 in 16B can hunt for moose for subsistence use without
23 obtaining a permit other than a State hunting license
24 and harvest tag.

25
26 For hunts where Federal registration
27 permits are required for subsistence harvest, there are
28 strict reporting requirements that deny permits in
29 subsequent years to hunters who do not report their
30 hunting effort and success promptly. This greatly
31 facilitates the gathering of quality harvest data where
32 registration permits are required as they are in the
33 Cantwell area.

34
35 In terms of moose surveys, in the fall
36 of 2006, the biologists had hoped to do a moose survey
37 in the Upper Yetna area, but there was too little snow
38 to conduct the survey. By the time the snow did come,
39 the bulls had started to shed their antlers, so a
40 survey wouldn't have given the desired information.
41 Since that point, the biologists have applied for money
42 to do moose surveys in the Cantwell/Yetna area in 2008.

43
44 In terms of wolf monitoring, currently
45 the biologists are following about 29 wolves from 16
46 packs in and around the Park and Preserve. After a 50
47 percent increase in the wolf population between 2005
48 and 2006 the biologists expect that the spring 2007
49 estimate will be a little higher than the 2006 numbers.
50 So far this winter, and this just occurred earlier this

1 month, 18 wolves have been captured to add or replace
2 radio collars in the 16 wolf packs that are being
3 monitored around the Park.

4
5 In terms of the Denali Caribou Herd,
6 according to Dr. Lane Adams' most recent report on the
7 Denali Caribou Herd, the estimated herd size in late
8 September 2006 is at 2,500 caribou. The herd size has
9 increased during 2004 to 2006 primarily as a result of
10 the increased calf recruitment. During the last three
11 years the cow/calf ratio and estimate calf numbers have
12 averaged about twice that of what it was in 1998 to
13 2003, while the estimates of the adult females are
14 about the same and the bull numbers have increased
15 slightly. Herd trend over the next few years will
16 largely depend on whether the increases in calf
17 recruitment continue. USGS biologists were in Denali
18 early March to replace radio collars on the Denali
19 Caribou Herd and they will be back in May for the
20 calving surveys.

21
22 In terms of Dall sheep, from February
23 28th through March 2nd, 2007, Park Service biologists
24 captured 20 Dall sheep by net gunning as part of the
25 Denali Park road capacity study. The sheep were fitted
26 with GPS collars that will record their location every
27 hour throughout the summer and the collars will fall
28 off in September so the data can be retrieved.

29
30 Then my final update is the Kantishna
31 River fall chum salmon assessment. Between 2000 and
32 2006 Denali Park funded the operation of one to two tag
33 recovery wheels at the site of approximately 90 river
34 miles of the Kantishna River from its confluence with
35 the Tanana. Tagging also occurred in the main stream
36 of the Tanana upstream from the Kantishna confluence.
37 Denali's component of the study enabled ADF&G to
38 estimate the annual abundance of fall run chum salmon
39 migrating past the Turner homestead into the headwater
40 spawning streams of the Preserve.

41
42 Project data have been used by ADF&G
43 primarily for in-season management for the Tanana River
44 commercial, subsistence and personal use fisheries and
45 as a post-season report card on the efficiency of the
46 regulations of the management strategies.

47
48 Prior to the initiation of this project
49 very little was known about the numbers of distribution
50 of fall chum salmon in the upper portions of the

1 Kantishna watershed. Since then the last seven years
2 of tagging the upper Kantishna drainage has experienced
3 the largest and weakest fall chum salmon runs in the
4 past 30 or more years.

5
6 Fred Anderson, the Park Service
7 manager, has felt that based on the numbers they've
8 received so far they have a pretty good baseline on the
9 fluctuation of the runs. Because of Park Service
10 budget cuts to their subsistence fisheries program,
11 they're kind of toying with the idea of discontinuing
12 this project for now and maybe reallocating some of
13 that subsistence fisheries money to another project,
14 but they're still kind of figuring all that out.

15
16 With that, that concludes my update.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Amy.
19 I thought it was kind of interesting how that coffee
20 pot began to howl like a wolf when you were talking
21 about wolves in the Park.

22
23 (Laughter)

24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any Council
26 Members have any questions. Virgil has one.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: You said the wolf
29 population increased by 50 percent in a year there in
30 the Park?

31
32 MS. CRAVER: Correct.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: What is it?

35
36 MS. CRAVER: You know, I don't have the
37 actual numbers. I just took it from a report. I sort
38 of just gleaned a lot of reports to provide the update
39 and I definitely need to get more into the detail and I
40 can provide additional details at the next meeting or
41 e-mail you with the actual numbers if you'd like.

42
43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Would you like
44 to be e-mailed?

45
46 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, that would be
47 good. And if there's any more word on the diet study
48 on the wolves because they've been keeping an ongoing
49 diet study on the wolves studying isotopes to see how
50 much fish they eat and other stuff or what percent of

1 their diet is fish.

2

3 MS. CRAVER: I just sort of gleaned
4 over that and I didn't provide a summary for that, but
5 I can get that. Does anybody else want more
6 information about the dietary study of the wolves?

7

8 MR. WOODRUFF: (Raises hand)

9

10 MS. CRAVER: Okay, Don.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Amy, do you
13 have a copy of your report today?

14

15 MS. CRAVER: I do. It's rough, but I'd
16 be happy to share it with you.

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Actually, you
19 could e-mail that to me. That would be great. Thank
20 you. You can get e-mail addresses from Vince. Don has
21 one other thing.

22

23 MR. WOODRUFF: Could you get Fred
24 Anderson to send me a copy of that Kantishna survey on
25 the fish. I'd really like to study that.

26

27 MS. CRAVER: I will contact him on
28 Friday.

29

30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Anyone else.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
35 you very much, Amy. Welcome aboard.

36

37 MS. CRAVER: Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You were born
40 and raised out of Talkeetna, was it? All right. We've
41 got a Park Service personnel that was born in Alaska.
42 We don't find that very often. Okay. Other agency
43 reports.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Regional
48 Council business. The first one is election of
49 officers. Each year we elect the chair, vice chair and
50 secretary. We have Gerald as chair, Sue as vice chair

1 and Andy as secretary. How does the Council want to
2 handle this.
3
4 MR. GLANZ: Are nominations open?
5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I can open
7 them, yes. Nominations are open.
8
9 MR. GLANZ: I nominate Sue as chair.
10
11 MR. CARROLL: Second.
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think there's
14 one thing I did learn about nominations. I don't think
15 you need a second. Is that true?
16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right.
18
19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.
20 Thank you.
21
22 MR. CARROLL: I move for unanimous
23 consent.
24
25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I love your
26 giggle.
27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: Second.
29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All in favor.
31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.
33
34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I now open it
35 for the vice chair. Any nominations.
36
37 MR. GLANZ: I would like to nominate
38 Virgil as vice chair if he'd accept it.
39
40 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'll accept it.
41
42 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second that.
43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thanks, but you
45 don't need to. Are there any other nominations for
46 vice chair.
47
48 (No comments)
49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.

1 MR. CARROLL: Move for unanimous
2 consent. If there's no objection, it's a done deal.
3
4 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I should have a
5 second for that.
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Any objections.
10
11 (No opposing)
12
13 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Hearing none.
14 The next one is the secretary. Open for nominations.
15 I just want to ask Vince, procedurally, since his
16 application did not get in, there is no changing that.
17 His circumstances were that he was down river and
18 couldn't get it in the mail because he has no way to
19 get it back. There's no deviation from your process.
20
21 MR. MATHEWS: No. It was a month and a
22 half after the closure date that we found this out.
23
24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And there's no
25 deviation.
26
27 MR. MATHEWS: No, there's no deviation.
28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I don't know if
30 the Council Members realize it, but Donald's term is
31 up. He has one more meeting.
32
33 MR. GLANZ: I didn't realize it.
34
35 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If he was not
36 on in October, we would be absent a secretary in the
37 spring meeting. How do you want to deal with this, you
38 guys.
39
40 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll volunteer.
41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do you want to
43 be a secretary for one meeting.
44
45 MR. WOODRUFF: Depending on the date of
46 the meeting. If it's in November, I can't come.
47
48 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: If you guys
49 look at the date, it's in the book, Page 183, the next
50 to last page. We had scheduled it for Fort Yukon the

1 16th and 17th.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, no problem there.

4

5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
6 nomination then.

7

8 MR. GLANZ: I nominate Donald Woodruff
9 for secretary.

10

11 MR. CARROLL: Move for unanimous
12 consent.

13

14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All agree?

15

16 (Council nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: That part is
19 done. What else do we have to do.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: When you get into
22 additional appointments, I can help you walk through
23 that.

24

25 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I can probably
26 get through this, Vince.

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: The next one is you
29 appoint a member to the Denali SRC. His seat is up,
30 Paul Starr. Paul Starr has served and attended the
31 meetings and is interested in remaining on the
32 Subsistence Resource Commission. You can appoint him
33 or someone else, but there's no one else that I know of
34 that is interested.

35 Paul Starr's is up this year and he is from Tanana.

36 His appointment was made in the village of Tanana

37 because Tanana wanted to get residence zoned status.

38 These are big terms that I'll explain to Richard later,

39 but Sue knows what that means. Paul Starr has stepped

40 up to the plate and has served well.

41

42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: He's actually
43 going to the meetings.

44

45 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, he's going to the
46 meetings and he's an alternate or current member of the
47 local advisory committee. You have a slate of one
48 person to reappoint.

49

50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So, Council

1 Members. We can make a motion to support.
2
3 MR. GLANZ: Make a motion to support.
4
5 MR. CARROLL: Second.
6
7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Question.
8
9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think I heard
10 a call for the question. All in favor.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: None opposed.
15 There's only two in our area, right?
16
17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, only two, Wrangell
18 and Denali.
19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
21 Then the next thing on our agenda would be the Yukon
22 River Coordinating Fisheries Committee.
23
24 MR. MATHEWS: Your current members now
25 are Gerald Nicholia and Virgil. It's been an inactive
26 committee, but it may be reactivated depending on how
27 in-season conditions go. But they're the ones that are
28 going to be heavily involved in in-season discussions
29 and then would search for points of consensus and
30 compromise or common ground. So right now it's Virgil
31 and Gerald and you can maintain those or nominate some
32 others. We try to encourage them to participate in the
33 weekly Yukon River Fishery teleconferences so that they
34 can keep the Council informed as well as people in
35 their area.
36
37 MR. CARROLL: I have a question.
38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: I can explain a little
42 bit on that. We have weekly teleconferences starting
43 about the first week of June and it's usually on
44 Tuesday at 1:00 in the afternoon through the summer.
45 I'm on as many as I can, but the ones I'm not on my
46 wife is on, so I find out what happens anyway. If
47 there's a problem or issue, our in-season manager Russ
48 Holder will call us up and we'll discuss it and
49 sometimes have a teleconference about the issue. He
50 takes an unofficial poll of what we want to do.

1 Sometimes we have meetings, too. Are you interested on
2 being on the Fisheries?

3

4 MR. CARROLL: No, not with my
5 inexperience right now. I have a question about Gerald
6 Nicholia. His term expires. Is he eligible to
7 continue serving?

8

9 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: He submitted an
10 application and that's going through the process right
11 now, so I can't tell you if he's going to be appointed
12 or not.

13

14 MR. CARROLL: I'm a little bit green.
15 If Gerald is not eligible, I mean I wouldn't mind. I
16 could make those audio conferences weekly. I know of
17 them. I actually sat and listened to a couple of them.
18 It won't be a problem for me.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Then I'll nominate
21 Richard Carroll.

22

23 MR. CARROLL: I'll accept.

24

25 MR. GLANZ: Second.

26

27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I will ask for
28 unanimous consent.

29

30 (Council nods affirmatively)

31

32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: And then I'll
33 ask for -- I'm assuming Virgil is on there now and we
34 will.....

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Yes, leave Virgil on there.

37

38 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

39 Unanimous consent.

40

41 (Council nods affirmatively)

42

43 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Then next would
44 be other appointments.

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's not an
47 appointment. It's the direction of the Council. Yukon
48 River has a pre-season meeting, which is where all the
49 scientists and monitors and managers get together.
50 It's called the Yukon Area Pre-season InterAgency

1 Meeting on April 10th to 11th. We have funding to send
2 one Council Member per the three. Robert Walker I
3 believe will go from Western and then I don't know
4 who's going from Y-K. We need to know if this Council
5 wants to send somebody and who that might be. It's
6 April 10th and 11th in Anchorage.

7

8 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I can't go because I
11 have to go grizzly bear hunting on the 9th. Maybe
12 Richard can go and you can start getting your feet wet
13 on this fisheries stuff.

14

15 MR. CARROLL: I'd accept that
16 appointment and I'm familiar with Robert Walker. Is
17 this Robert Walker from Anvik?

18

19 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes.

20

21 MR. CARROLL: I've met him. Okay. If
22 I go, I'd give you back a report and follow up.

23

24 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Right.

25

26 MR. CARROLL: Okay. No problem.

27

28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay.

29

30 MR. MATHEWS: That's all I need on
31 that. There's no other appointments that I'm aware of
32 that you need to make.

33

34 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: All right.
35 Then we're down to correspondence received and sent.

36

37 MR. MATHEWS: That's just a summary
38 that's given to you so you have an idea. I send out
39 the copies of the letters received and the ones that
40 you write out. The summary of that is on Page 182 for
41 your information. If there's no questions on that,
42 that topic is addressed.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MR. MATHEWS: The next one is just to
47 help Staff prepare. Sue has been there, Virgil has
48 been there and that's it. Towards the end of the
49 Federal Subsistence Board meeting is a chance for the
50 Board to dialogue with the Council Chairs. If you know

1 of a topic you would like to present at that time, then
2 we would know of it ahead of time and maybe able to
3 prepare. That's just an option for you. You don't
4 have to do that.

5
6 The other part of that is if you think
7 of a topic after this meeting, you can always call me
8 up and let the Chair or the representative that's going
9 to the Board meeting aware of those.

10
11 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So what you're
12 saying is if we have any strong concerns on topics that
13 we should bring it out now so the representative would
14 take it to the Board meeting.

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. Also Staff can be
17 better prepared so the Board members would understand
18 that topic is coming forward.

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Actually,
21 education and enforcement.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Yeah, that's an excellent
24 one because that's broader than regulations. That
25 would be one that you'd bring up to discuss with the
26 other Chairs and the Board. That's better than
27 predator control.

28
29 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Oh, and
30 nuisance animals. I forgot about that one. Nuisance
31 animal control. They do it out on the Aleutians with
32 fox. Does anyone have anything. I might be forgetting
33 something. This education thing, I really like hearing
34 about that. Actually, the little heartburn I had
35 earlier, I'm wondering -- I need to talk to you,
36 Virgil. I don't understand this fisheries stuff near
37 what you guys put into it. I live on the road system.
38 Our lives and lifestyle are so different than the river
39 system. Sometimes it's hard to follow all this
40 fisheries stuff for us. A lot of our fisheries issues
41 is that Copper River because we get our fish off
42 fishwheels in the Copper.

43
44 Any issues that you guys feel should be
45 taken to the Federal Board I want to hear about them.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: To help you with your
48 education one, I'm sure the Refuge Staff could provide
49 you with examples of those educational materials that
50 they're using that you could have at the meeting to

1 share if you so desire. So the Chair from Bristol Bay
2 could see that on the Yukon Flats they're using this
3 educational material. That's just an option.

4
5 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, anything
6 that Staff can provide, knowing that we're volunteers
7 when we go to these meetings, we might not be sitting
8 for weeks on end writing reports, so those kind of
9 things are very wonderful and very much appreciated.

10
11 You know what, because you want to
12 write that letter to the Secretary of Interior they
13 might ask me questions about it. Would they at this
14 meeting, Vince?

15
16 MR. MATHEWS: Highly unlikely.

17
18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I would hope
19 not.

20
21 MR. MATHEWS: The level that you're
22 dealing with is going to take quite a bit of time for
23 it to get back possibly to the Board. This meeting is
24 quite jam-packed with other issues. So I'm speculating
25 and Don can correct me, but I don't think they're going
26 to get to your letter to the Secretary considering
27 extraterritoriality. Plus, I'm not sure they're going
28 to want to address it in a public meeting.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: I have one thing she
31 might bring up. Of course, this is strictly a Fish and
32 Wildlife issue, but our petition from our last meeting
33 in Delta where we petitioned the Fish and Wildlife
34 Service and the Refuge to start the process, and I
35 guess they had to do an EIS for Yukon Flats, so we can
36 have liberalized methods and means for wolves in the
37 Yukon Flats.

38
39 MR. MATHEWS: Madame Chair. If it was
40 the petition to address Fish and Wildlife Service
41 regulations to allow you to use an ATV and snowmachine,
42 that's a request to the Agency, not to the Board. So
43 you would be taking time away from other Board Members
44 who have no interest in it, so it's really not the
45 venue for it. But, Sue, that would be something during
46 side conversations talk with the representative, Gary
47 Edwards or whoever, saying what is the status of that
48 or if you got a reply, talk about the reply. Because
49 it's not purview to the Board, that petition.

50

1 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think my
2 brain will be more refreshed than it is now. Let's
3 look at the rest of this agenda. Future meetings.

4
5 MR. MATHEWS: That would be easier to
6 look at Page 183. This is what you said last meeting.
7 You put down October 16th and 17th to meet in Fort
8 Yukon. Your alternate was Tok. Do you still want to
9 maintain that as your dates, is really the question for
10 the fall meeting.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: We were talking about this
13 earlier. If we were planning on Tok, Tok would be
14 better there because of the roads to drive there. If
15 we were going to have it in Fort Yukon, it wouldn't
16 matter if we flew there in the spring meeting, but
17 that's just from talking with somebody today. Or we
18 can stick with Fort Yukon. It matters not to me either
19 way, but as far as travel and easier travel.

20
21 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I truly
22 understand what you're saying. At the same time,
23 remember what I told you, that's a fisheries meeting
24 and a lot of time the people in the Interior,
25 especially on the road system, would be more interested
26 in the wildlife.

27
28 MR. GLANZ: I understand. No problem.

29
30 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But, you know,
31 that next wildlife cycle, I'd lobby to go to that part
32 of the region again because we haven't been there in
33 many years. I think we'd get more by taking up the
34 wildlife proposals there. If that's okay with you.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Whatever everybody
37 decides is fine with me.

38
39 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: But for travel
40 to the next meeting, that would be Tok, so then all
41 we'd need here, if that's agreeable with all, is an
42 alternate place for Fort Yukon for the next meeting.

43
44 MR. CARROLL: Richard here. October
45 16th and 17th, is that set in stone with you guys? Let
46 me ask you, I plan on falling out and that's probably --
47 that's a tough one. There will be ice in the river.
48 I'd have to walk across with one foot in the canoe and
49 the other pushing on a piece of ice probably, get
50 across the river and get a chartered airplane and then

1 pick me up. A week ahead of that I think I can
2 actually drive into town and back with a river boat.
3 Either way i will definitely be there. I will make
4 every effort to be there.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: These
7 scheduling are hard for all of us. Now that I'm on the
8 SRC it meets October 10th and 11th in Chitina. I'm
9 actually going to be on the Chitina River probably
10 brown bear hunting the nine days before that. I know
11 these guys have trouble, too.

12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: Usually the middle of
14 the month is no problem.

15
16 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It could be for
17 you, you're saying.

18
19 MR. CARROLL: It's pretty iffy. This
20 year we had open water right up until that time, too,
21 but that's a very unusual fall we had.

22
23 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So you live
24 across the river from Fort Yukon.

25
26 MR. CARROLL: I spent the winter out of
27 Fort Yukon last year and plan to do it one more time.
28 I just got to Fort Yukon Saturday to come up here or
29 I'd still be sitting out there. Not sitting either. I
30 just had to ask. I can deal with 16th and 17th.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
33 let's look at the spring.

34
35 MR. MATHEWS: For the spring one, what
36 you need to be aware of, the same Staff that serves
37 this Council serves Western Interior and Yukon-
38 Kuskokwim. Western Interior selected February 28th and
39 29th. Y-K, if I got it right, is March 20th, 21st.
40 The rest is open, but the day before and after those
41 meetings we're in travel status. So just gives you an
42 idea that you need to avoid those dates.

43
44 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: There's another
45 meeting that might be a conflict.

46
47 MR. MATHEWS: The TCC convention is
48 usually the week of March 9th, if I'm guessing right.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: The Board of Game is

1 going to probably meet in March on our issues. They're
2 usually going to meet early in March and that's usually
3 a 12 to 14-day meeting. So maybe we need to look at
4 the tail end of February.

5
6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We can look at
7 that or we can wait until the next meeting to set this
8 date. Vince, is there a problem with that?

9
10 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it would be best to
11 give some kind of indication so we make sure we spread
12 these out.

13
14 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: This is the
15 spring meeting, huh.

16
17 MR. MATHEWS: This would be your
18 wildlife meeting and you have pushed yourself, Madame
19 Chair, to have that in Tok for several years and we
20 haven't been able to pull it off.

21
22 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: We're trying
23 hard. So you're saying the last week of February,
24 Virgil?

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: The 25th and 26th.

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: 25th and 26th
29 and then give him time to get to Fairbanks. That would
30 be easy for him. So we're looking at the 25th and 26th
31 as possible dates. I know why Vince has that funny
32 look on his face.

33
34 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's awful tight
35 because of travel.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Vince, I don't
38 understand why it's a problem. You're going to fly to
39 Fairbanks, you're going to drive to Tok and you're
40 going to drive back to Fairbanks.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: It's not a problem for
43 me. I've got people in planes that are flying in from
44 all over Western Interior. I can't be sitting at your
45 meeting doing their travel. I can't address any of
46 their concerns, but other Staff could be monitoring.
47 That's the only problem.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay, help me
50 out.

1 MR. MATHEWS: I have to monitor their
2 travel. Meaning if they have any problems in travel,
3 I'm the one that rearranges their travel.

4
5 MR. RIVARD: I'll offer a suggestion
6 here. I think one of the reasons why the Western
7 Interior chose Fairbanks was just for the reason the
8 Board of Game is meeting sometime close to that time.
9 So they might have the opportunity to participate in
10 that meeting. One option for you all, and I haven't
11 talked to Vince about this, he might have a different
12 reaction, is to have it in Fairbanks as well and it
13 would be back to back meetings. It would be efficient
14 for many reasons. So that's an option to have it in
15 Fairbanks.

16
17 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Virgil has
18 another option.

19
20 MR. UMPHENOUR: You know, before I got
21 on the RAC, I can remember having RAC meetings in
22 Fairbanks and the Western Interior and Eastern Interior
23 having their meeting together. Of course, they've
24 already had their meeting, so they can't really talk
25 about it.

26
27 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Well, this is a
28 year in advance, too.

29
30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Right, it's a year in
31 advance. Does anyone have any thoughts on that? Like
32 this meeting we had right now we had a bunch of
33 proposals that are crossover proposals that we
34 addressed that are right on the border. Like the haul
35 road proposals for instance.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: Well, the acting Chair,
38 who is now the Chair, of Western Interior did indicate
39 that maybe there would be an opportunity to meet with
40 some of the Eastern Interior Staff to talk about fish.
41 This is a wildlife meeting. The other aspect of doing
42 it jointly is one Council sits on their hands while the
43 in-region proposals that don't address the other
44 region. If the Councils want to break away when the
45 in-region proposals are up and then come back or
46 somehow structure it so that one can leave, that is an
47 option.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I think the
50 RAC's should be working with the people, like we did in

1 Arctic Village. We haven't been to Unit 12 in, I don't
2 know, five years. Maybe it's longer than that. So you
3 need to work with the people. There's five or six
4 villages that you would facilitate being able to have
5 access to the RAC at that area. It's convenient for
6 some, but inconvenient for others. I remember talking
7 to Gerald about stuff like this. I said, hey, it would
8 be a lot easier to go to Fairbanks. He said, nope,
9 we've got to keep going out to the villages. If people
10 want to do things differently, speak up.

11
12 MR. GLANZ: What about the 19th and the
13 20th of February, what's happening there?

14
15 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: When did we
16 have it this year. Oh, we're here now, aren't we.

17
18 (Laughter)

19
20 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I remember
21 something conflicted with this.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Back to my original thing
24 on the travel with Western and that, don't factor that
25 in. That's staffing. I just let that loose. That's
26 just assigning someone else. So that should not factor
27 into your thing. If you're really looking at February
28 25th and 26th, we would make it work because there's a
29 day interim there to get Staff from wherever to
30 wherever.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

33
34 MR. UMPHENOUR: The other thing with
35 me, it doesn't make any difference. I can see Vince's
36 point having only one day in between. I don't see any
37 reason why we couldn't do it the week before. Bristol
38 Bay and Seward Peninsula doesn't conflict with us.
39 What I'm concerned about is I don't want to have it the
40 same time as the Board of Game meeting.

41
42 MR. GLANZ: I have to be at the Board
43 of Game there.

44
45 MR. UMPHENOUR: So we have three people
46 here on our RAC that are going to need to be at that
47 Board of Game meeting, so we definitely don't want to
48 schedule it for then.

49
50 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Let's

1 tentatively say it's the 21st and 22nd or the 25th and
2 26th. Is that okay, Vince?

3

4 MR. MATHEWS: Is that going to be Tok?

5

6 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: I want
7 consensus from the group. Is Tok still part of the
8 plan?

9

10 MR. GLANZ: Tok, yes.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: Tok.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

15

16 MR. CARROLL: (Nods affirmatively)

17

18 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Tentatively the
19 21st and 22nd or the 25th and 26th. We can thoroughly
20 discuss it again and we'll all know more about these
21 meetings dates. Does that work for everybody?

22

23 Now we're down to our closing comments.
24 I don't even think I have any. So, Vince, we're ready
25 for closing comments?

26

27 MR. MATHEWS: Yes. The only thing,
28 because I know it gets rapid at the end, is the meal
29 tonight is projected to start around 6:00. That's the
30 only thing I wanted to share before you rapidly close
31 out after comments.

32

33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: It sounds like
34 it's rapidly moving along. Should we start with Bill.
35 Go ahead, Bill.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Closing comments from me
38 are I enjoyed myself. Thank you for the hospitality
39 from everybody here and I hope we've been able to help
40 you in a lot of your problems. Give us a call if you
41 have anything else coming up. Thank you. Goodbye.

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you. I'm really
44 appreciative to the locals in Arctic Village that they
45 came forward and shared some of their views with us. I
46 know that me, personally, it's all about helping the
47 folks put meat on the table or fish on the table. If
48 we can facilitate that in any way, then I think we've
49 done our job. I want to thank you for your help and
50 your hospitality and the good food. Thank you very

1 much.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I want to
4 thank everyone for their hospitality as well. Enjoyed
5 coming to Arctic Village. Haven't been here since
6 1975. I encourage you to keep in touch with the Refuge
7 manager so that you can get this working group going
8 and hopefully have something to take to the Board of
9 Game, which will meet exactly a year from this month.
10 I hope things will work out. Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Yes, we all
13 want to reiterate to thank Arctic Village for allowing
14 us to host the meeting here and all the Staff that made
15 their presence here. It's a little bit harder to get
16 to a more difficult place to travel. I'm also glad
17 that we can talk about issues. We make new friends and
18 we learn a lot more about each other and we really want
19 to encourage the young people in your village to stay
20 involved in the process. Thank you very much for
21 having us.

22

23 MR. NATHANIEL: I like this meeting
24 turnout here in Arctic Village and I believe that
25 Arctic Village people wanted this meeting to be held
26 here and I just hope everybody is satisfied. I'm happy
27 to be here and see some of my friends, all my friend's
28 relatives, whatever. I haven't seen them for quite
29 some time. It's good to see them again and sit before
30 them and listen to their concerns.

31

32 I'd like to thank Louie Johns for
33 putting me up the last couple of nights. I did a lot
34 of visiting while I was here, but it's hard for me to
35 get around without any transportation because of my
36 condition. I have a health problem. I like to visit
37 more, but I understand there's hardly any gas here,
38 too. But I'm sure glad to be here and I hope to see
39 you people again some of these days. Thank you.

40

41 MR. CARROLL: I want to offer my thanks
42 to the Village Council, their invite up here and
43 congratulations to the chiefs. I know they're going to
44 do a good job. A couple women running things. They're
45 going to show the boys how it's done now. Look out,
46 guys.

47

48 (Laughter)

49

50 MR. CARROLL: I'm pulling for them.

1 Good food, good hospitality. I wasn't too sure what I
2 was getting into when I signed up for this and I was
3 surprised I got accepted with all the radical answers I
4 put down on the questionnaire.

5
6 (Laughter)

7
8 MR. CARROLL: They're just asking for
9 trouble, so here I am.
10 But I really believe that we can accomplish things
11 that's dear to our hearts and preserving our lifestyle
12 and seeing that subsistence use is managed properly and
13 being a sounding board and a forum for people, the
14 public. To come out to a small village is really
15 something. This is really something to come out here
16 as a Federal Council. I'm privileged to be with this
17 group right here to come out here.

18
19 Thank you, Arctic Village, for sharing
20 your thoughts and your concerns. We get emotional
21 because things are dear to our hearts. I think I'm
22 going to get along real good with the Council Members
23 and Staff. Thank you very much. I left a real bad
24 message on your answering machine, bawling you out.
25 Erase it without listening to it, okay, Vince.

26 (Laughter)

27
28 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: You feel a lot
29 better about Vince now, right?

30
31 (Laughter)

32
33 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Please erase
34 it, okay. Okay. I don't think we're forgetting
35 anything. Vince.

36
37 MR. MATHEWS: A plane update. The
38 plane will be in tomorrow at 9:15. That's the earliest
39 they can get the plane in here.

40
41 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Okay. 9:15 in
42 the morning. We must be out here and ready to go.

43
44 MR. MATHEWS: We'll work with the
45 Tribal Council on picking you up. She's waiving her
46 hand to say she'll work on it, so that will all be
47 worked out.

48
49 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: So we're having
50 a potluck at 6:00. Yes, come forward.

1 MS. GIMMELL: One thing I forgot to
2 mention. This last winter about October or November
3 there was a pack of wolves running around town and
4 eating our dogs and I was wondering if you know if they
5 were starving. We did get a couple of them. We sent
6 one to U.S. Fish and Wildlife and it had cancer. I
7 don't know about the rest of them though. They took
8 off and I think they're coming back. I'm not sure
9 because some people saw some tracks. I don't mean to
10 scare you though. I was just wondering if you guys
11 would know anything about that.

12
13 MR. GLANZ: The chief in the village of
14 Central where I'm from, there's a generator building
15 and they came right in the generator building, a pack
16 of them, and took out two Irish setters they had by the
17 generator in Central. We tried to snare them. So
18 you've got the same problem we got, they're
19 overabundant.

20
21 MS. GIMMELL: I just wanted to say
22 thanks for coming and I think things worked out pretty
23 good. I'm glad you enjoyed the people here. I want to
24 thank the people of Arctic Village. There's a lot of
25 people in the background that help out. There's a
26 potlatch at about 6:00. There will be a lot of good
27 food. We're putting up some moose and caribou, I
28 think, and salmon from Fort Yukon. I don't think I
29 forgot anything. I just wanted to say thanks and I
30 think this was a good meeting.

31
32 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Thank you
33 again. We enjoy your kids.

34
35 MR. CARROLL: Move for adjournment.

36
37 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
38 second.

39
40 MR. NATHANIEL: Second.

41
42 CHAIRWOMAN ENTSMINGER: Unanimous
43 consent. The meeting's adjourned.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 198 through 334 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by Computer Matrix Court Reporters on the 21st day of March 2007, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Arctic Village, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 30th day of March 2007.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 03/12/08