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1 NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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PUBLIC MEETING

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VOLUME I

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TELECONFERENCE - ALASKA

12

February 22, 2021

13

9:04 a.m.

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17

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

18

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Gordon Brower, Chair

20

William Hopson

21

Wanda Kippi

22

Steve Oomittuk

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Edward Rexford

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Peter Williams

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Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 2/22/2021)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, maybe we'll start off with an invocation and that's item number 1. And does anybody want to volunteer to do the invocation?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, I'm going to go ahead and volunteer to do the invocation. Let's pray.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'm going to ask for a call to order. It is 9:18 a.m. this morning. And I'm not sure if Wanda is on, but if I can ask for a roll call to establish a quorum. I'm going to ask Madam Coordinator this time. Normally Wanda would do the -- as Madame Secretary would do the roll call.

So, Madame Coordinator Eva, if you could do the roll call.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council members. This is Eva Patton, Council Coordinator with the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

A very quick update and we'll be able to provide more information on the RAC appointments after. Due to lack of Secretarial appointments and time for new Council members and -- and seats that expired on December 2nd, our current voting Council members -- we have five current voting Council members and we do have two Council members whose seats have expired and they are participating as public members in this meeting, not voting members, but very much important to provide information for the Council and to receive information for their communities as well. And I can provide you with the full update on RAC

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1 appointments after.

2

3 Voting members for this meeting are
4 Gordon Brower.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi, Atqasuk.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MS. PATTON: And again I expect Wanda
13 will be able to join us a little later.

14

15 Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: Here.

18

19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

20

21 William Hopson, Utqiagvik.

22

23 MR. HOPSON: Here. I'm here.

24

25 MS. PATTON: Thank you, William.

26

27 And Peter Earl Williams, Anaktuvuk
28 Pass.

29

30 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I'm here. Good
31 morning.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Good
34 morning, Peter or Earl. Apologies. I understand you
35 like to go by your -- your middle name, Earl.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the
38 Council. So we currently have five voting members on
39 the Council and a quorum would be three. We're waiting
40 on Wanda Kippi. So we have four voting Council members
41 present.

42

43 And I just want to touch base with our
44 Council members whose -- whose reappointments are still
45 pending. I believe we have Eddie Rexford on -- online?

46

47 MR. REXFORD: Yes, I'm here.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eddie.

50

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1 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Eddie.
2 Thank you for calling in.

3
4 And, Martha Itta, were you able to join
5 us yet?

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MS. PATTON: And I just talked to
10 Martha again this morning, so she was going to try to
11 call in as well.

12
13 So thank you, Mr. Chair. We do have
14 four of five voting Council members present. And we
15 have established quorum.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. All
18 right. Thank you and we'll acknowledge those that --
19 as they -- as they join. And -- and I welcome
20 everybody to the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council.

21
22 And with that I'd like for those that
23 are on -- online that are not the Council members to do
24 some introductions real quick.

25
26 MS. KALEAK: Good morning, Gordon.
27 This is Mabel, Deputy Director of Planning.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Mabel.

30
31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Good morning,
32 Gordon. (Teleconference interference - participants
33 not muted).

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning.

36
37 MARY. Good morning, Gordon. This is
38 Mary (Indiscernible), assistant to the Director of
39 Planning.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Mary.

42
43 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. This is
44 Pat Petrivelli with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in
45 Anchorage.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Pat.

48
49 MR. BERENDZEN: Good morning. This is
50

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1 Steve Berendzen, Arctic Refuge manager.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Steve.

4

5 MR. McKEE: Good morning. This is
6 Chris McKee, BLM Subsistence Program coordinator.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. Was
9 that Steve?

10

11 MR. McKEE: This is Chris, Chris McKee.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Chris. Chris. Okay.

14

15 MR. REAM: Good morning, everyone.
16 This is Joshua Ream. I'm the Regional Subsistence
17 Program manager for the National Park Service out of
18 the Anchorage regional office.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joshua.

23

24 MR. MATHEWS: Good morning. This is
25 Vince Mathews with Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats
26 calling in from Fairbanks.

27

28 Thanks.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Morning,
31 Vince.

32

33 MR. BURCH: Good morning. This is Mark
34 Burch with the Department of Fish and Game from the
35 Palmer office.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Mark.

38

39 MR. WIESE: Good morning. This is Will
40 Wiese with Arctic Refuge up in Kaktovik.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Will.

43

44 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning. This is Kim
45 Jochum. I'm a program ana -- Subsistence Program
46 analyst with the National Park Service regional office.

47

48 Thank you.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And was that Kim?

2

3 MS. JOCHUM: Yes. Correct.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

6

7 MS. VOORHEES: Hi, Gordon. This is
8 Hannah Voorhees with Office of Subsistence Management.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Morning,
11 Hannah.

12

13 MR. JOLY: Hello, Mr. Chairman. This
14 is Kyle Joly, wildlife biologist with Gates of the
15 Arctic National Park and Preserve.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, all right, Kyle.
18 Good morning.

19

20 MR. INMAN: This is Ted Inman with the
21 Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Ted.

24

25 MR. INMAN: Good morning.

26

27 MR. MERIZON: This is Rick Merizon with
28 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Small Game
29 Program in Palmer.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good
32 morning. Was that Rick, you said?

33

34 MR. MERIZON: Rick Merizon, yep.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

37

38 MR. LACEY: Good morning. This is Will
39 Lacey, biologist with the National Park Service out of
40 Fairbanks.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Will.

43

44 Any others that hasn't.....

45

46 MS. SAVAGE: Good morning. This is
47 Heather Savage with the Bureau of Land Management. I'm
48 a wildlife biologist in the Arctic district office in
49 Fairbanks.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Morning,
2 Heather.

3
4 MS. FLOREY: Hi, this Victoria Florey,
5 National Park Service in the regional office.
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. You were
8 overridden by somebody again. What's was your name
9 again?

10
11 MS. FLOREY: Victoria Florey.
12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Morning,
14 Victoria.

15
16 MS. FLOREY: Good morning.
17

18 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good morning. This is
19 Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the
20 Arctic National Park and Preserve. Good morning.
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, all right. Good
23 morning, Marcy.
24

25 MR. VICKERS: Good morning. This is
26 Brent Vickers from the Office of Subsistence
27 Management. Good morning, everyone. Happy to be
28 listening in today.
29

30 Thank you.
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. What was
33 your name again, Brent?
34

35 MR. VICKERS: Yes, sir. That is Brent
36 Vickers.
37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Brent.
39

40 MR. VICKERS: Thank you.
41

42 MS. PATTON: Okay. Good morning,
43 everyone. Sounds like we've got introductions for
44 everyone online here. And maybe I'll just check and
45 see if.....
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.
48

49 MS. PATTON:if Wanda Kippi has
50

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1 joined us yet?

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Wanda, you on?

4

5

(No comments)

6

7

CHAIRMAN BROWER: How about Martha.
8 Martha Itta, are you on?

9

10

(No comments)

11

12

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14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'm --
I'm sure we'll hear them when they chime in and -- and
we'll acknowledge them at that time.

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So welcome, everybody, to the North
Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. My name's
Gordon Brower, I'm the Chair for the Council. And I
was glad to receive a letter of my reappointment to the
North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.
That was dated January 15, 2021 and the Secretary of
Interior. And I take it that it's kind of rare that
we're getting appointments so I-- I kind of feellike --
that I must have got in the mix before the change, if
there is a change at -- at the -- at the Secretary of
the Interior.

28

29

30

31

Anyway with that I'm going to go to
item 5, review and adoption of the agenda. What's the
wish of the Council.

32

33

34

MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.
This is Steve for the record.

35

36

37

CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Good
morning, Steve, (in Native).

38

39

40

There's a motion on the floor to adopt
the agenda from Point Hope.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second by Earl.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we're up for
discussion.

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1 Eva, is there anything that.....

2

3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we want to do to
6 the agenda?

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair
9 and Council members. We do have a couple suggested
10 changes to the agenda or additions.

11

12 One is when we get to election of
13 officers I do have the 2020 RAC appointments update,
14 can provide comprehensive information of what we know
15 so far for that. We do have a request. If the Council
16 recalls at your previous meeting there was a discussion
17 on customary and traditional use determinations for
18 individual C&T within National Park Service lands.
19 That was originally included under the Park Service
20 report and would probably be best to cover under old
21 business. We'll have just a brief update on the action
22 from the Federal Subsistence Board on that individual
23 C&T request.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So under item 10 we
26 put an A or one, individual C&T?

27

28 MS. PATTON: Yes. And that'll be a
29 brief update from the Park Service on the Board's
30 action.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Yeah, I
33 kind of recall that conversation.

34

35 Any other changes to the agenda or
36 requested amendments.

37

38 MS. PATTON: And then under new
39 business again as we've discussed with the Council,
40 this is the call for the Federal subsistence wildlife
41 proposals. And just to highlight again the plan is to
42 have any agency reports from State, Federal, North
43 Slope Borough staff, who have wildlife data that would
44 be of support for the Council's deliberation on -- on
45 developing any proposals. So we'll -- we'll announce
46 that call for proposals and then have that opportunity
47 for any of the agency staff who have updates that would
48 be helpful for the Council.

49

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1 One -- one final note on that is ADF&G
2 biologist for the North Slope region, Carmen Daggett,
3 is actually doing surveys for muskox today is my
4 understanding. She will be available to the Council
5 tomorrow morning to provide many of the wildlife
6 updates for Western Arctic caribou herd, Teshekpuk
7 caribou herd, muskox, but with the Council's approval
8 request we get started on -- on the discussion of
9 wildlife proposals and the data that we can get from
10 agency staff that are available today and then to
11 resume that discussion tomorrow morning when Carmen
12 Daggett is available to provide the latest updates for
13 the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds and
14 muskox.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So I'm
17 kind of trying to see what action item to move here.
18 And so under new business call for Federal wildlife
19 proposals, we would-- are you suggesting that we move --
20 move one of those items to tomorrow morning?

21
22 MS. PATTON: Well, I think we can get
23 started on that today with as much information as -- as
24 staff that are available today are able to provide in
25 terms of wildlife updates for the Council. And then
26 resume tomorrow morning to finish with information from
27 Teshekpuk and Western Arctic caribou herd and
28 discussion on muskox and other wildlife updates
29 specific to the North Slope region that -- that Carmen
30 would be able to cover. So we can start the discussion
31 today, opportunity for the Council to get as much
32 information today and, you know, begin deliberations on
33 any potential proposals and then follow-up tomorrow
34 when the Council has the rest of the caribou
35 information available.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All
38 right. So I'm not -- I'm not sure on following so
39 we'll -- we'll go on -- when we get to item 11 we'll
40 start the discussion, but when an item comes up that
41 Carmen needs to be providing that information we'll
42 just defer that to tomorrow morning.

43
44 MS. PATTON: That sounds good. Thank
45 you, Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

48
49 MS. PATTON: We do have a couple
50

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1 other.....

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other suggested
4 amendments?

5

6 MS. PATTON: Yes, since the original
7 meeting book agenda went out we do have a couple other
8 proposals for discussion for the Council to add under
9 the call for proposals. There was a wildlife special
10 action request that the Northwest Arctic Regional
11 Advisory Council just took action on at their meeting
12 on Thursday and would like the North Slope to review
13 and -- and make a recommendation on that. So that
14 would be wildlife special action request 21-01 which is
15 addressing unit 23 and unit 26A caribou and moose. If
16 we can add that under the call for wildlife proposals
17 and we'll have a full review of that special action
18 request for the Council at that time.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. What was the
21 special action number again?

22

23 MS. PATTON: 21-01. And that's
24 addressing unit 23 and unit 26A caribou and moose.

25

26 MS. ITTA: Good morning, Eva. Good
27 morning, Gordon and Council. This is Martha online.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Hello. Good morning,
30 Martha.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Martha.
33 Thank you. Thank you for making it this morning.

34

35 MS. ITTA: Good morning, everyone.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Eva, was that
38 for caribou and muskox or moose?

39

40 MS. PATTON: That was caribou and
41 moose.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

44

45 MS. PATTON: And I -- I did send that,
46 the -- the language of that special action request that
47 the Northwest Arctic Council took action on to you.
48 There was a draft in the mail and then sent that via
49 email as well on Thursday. And we'll provide a full
50

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1 overview when we get to that on the agenda.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other suggested
4 changes on the agenda?

5

6 MS. PATTON: One more change that was
7 recommended. Initially in your original meeting book
8 agenda we had discussion on Board of Game proposals.
9 There was a muskox proposal for unit 26A that the
10 Council was going to take up at this meeting. And the
11 suggestion is to add review of Board of Game proposals
12 under new business after the Federal subsistence
13 wildlife proposals. So there is that muskox proposal
14 and also a few other proposals that had brought to the
15 Council's attention that we can walk through those and
16 see which of the Board of Game proposals the Council
17 would like to take action on. So the suggestion is to
18 add that under new business after the Federal
19 subsistence wildlife proposals.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. And then do we
22 just put Board of Game?

23

24 MS. PATTON: Yes, that -- that --
25 that's fine. And then we'll walk through each of the
26 individual proposals that are relevant to the North
27 Slope region to see which the Council would like to
28 take action on.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. All right. I
31 put an asterisk after for a call for Federal wildlife
32 proposals and an asterisk just for the Board of Game
33 proposals.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you, Mr.
36 Chair. And that.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And there was
39 something else that we needed to talk about, maybe --
40 maybe it was at the charter level for instances where
41 the Secretary of the Interior didn't make appointments
42 for maybe amending the charter maybe to talk about
43 continuing to being able to vote until a new
44 appointment is made?

45

46 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
47 Chair. And that'll come under Council charter review
48 which will come right after the Council's deliberation
49 on the wildlife proposals. It'll go Federal
50

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1 subsistence wildlife proposals, wildlife special action
2 request and the Board of Game proposals. And then
3 you'll see under 11 new business third down is the
4 Council charter review. And so we'll have a full
5 discussion on the charter and options for recommended
6 amendments to carryover expired terms until new
7 appointments are made.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So under -- that --
10 that would be under 11 under Council charter review
11 then?

12
13 MS. PATTON: Yes.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Any other
16 suggested amendments?

17
18 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve in
19 Point Hope.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
22 Steve.

23
24 MR. OOMITTUK: So I -- I'm just curious
25 about we -- we have election of officers on item 6 and
26 how many reappointments are we waiting on, I know we
27 have -- we have four online or did Wanda call in yet or
28 right -- right now we just need three for a quorum, but
29 how many reappointments are we waiting on, are we going
30 to do the election of officers with the five that are
31 reappointed that are.....

32
33 MS. PATTON: Yes, when election of
34 officers on the agenda which is up next after adopting
35 the agenda we'll have that -- that full discussion. It
36 is recommended that -- the Council is required to elect
37 officers once every year. And understanding we're just
38 a portion of the full 10 member Council right now, the
39 recommendation is to proceed with election of officers
40 at this time, understanding that hopefully more Council
41 members will be appointed prior to the next meeting.
42 But we do need to establish or reestablish a Council
43 Chair and Vice Chair and Secretary in the interim.

44
45 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

46
47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Eva.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And was that helpful,
50

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1 Steve?

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. And with that I
4 call for the question.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK:if there's no other
9 changes to be made.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The
12 question's been called to adopt the agenda as amended.
13 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
18 same sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we have
23 an agenda. All right. We're going down to item 6,
24 election of officers. And I'm going to ask Madame
25 Coordinator Eva to talk about some updates on the
26 appointments and what our recourse is if we don't have
27 a full body or maybe it is a full body with the
28 appointed members present, but I think we need to get
29 Wanda onboard maybe.

30

31 Eva.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
34 Chair and Council. Yes, Wanda is a currently seated
35 Council member. So hoping she'll be able to -- to join
36 us today. Again I did talk with her on Friday and she
37 expected to be on for most of the meeting, but does
38 have some challenges with kids and grandkids' school
39 schedule under the current Covid circumstances. So
40 hopefully she'll be joining us soon.

41

42 Again our current seated Council
43 members with current appointments are Gordon Brower,
44 Wanda Kippi, Steve Oomittuk, William Hopson and Peter
45 Earl Williams. So we have five out of 10 currently
46 seated voting members of the Council. We are still
47 waiting on reappointments for Council members Eddie
48 Rexford of Kaktovik and Martha Itta of Nuiqsut. And
49 hoping that the new administration will be able to
50

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1 resume making appointments in this coming year.

2

3

4 So I do have essentially about -- a
5 little text to read that provides a bit of background
6 for what has transpired with the RAC appointments for
7 all of the Regional Advisory Councils. So the annual
8 appointment process is very complex as you all know
9 who've applied, it can take about 15 months to
10 complete. It begins in September of each year when the
11 Federal Subsistence Board announces the open
12 application period for Council membership. And then
13 during a six month application period the program
14 conducts extensive statewide recruitment efforts and
15 distributes approximately 2,000 applications throughout
16 Alaska via mail and email to individuals and agencies
17 and organizations to encourage application and
18 participation in the program. They also outreach
19 through various media outlets, local newspapers and
20 news radio, internet, Facebook and public conferences.

21

22

23 Last year in 2020 there were 74
24 applications to fill 62 vacated or expiring seats. And
25 after the Interagency Nominations Panel conducted the
26 interviews the Federal Subsistence Board reviewed the
27 applications and forwarded their recommendations to the
28 Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture on
29 September 4th of 2020.

30

31

32 Appointments are to be made when
33 previous seats expire which is on December 2nd, however
34 this year on January 15th, 2021 OSM received copies of
35 RAC appointment letters signed by the former Secretary
36 of the Interior. The original appointment letters were
37 sent by regular post. The applicants whose
38 appointments were approved and those letters should be
39 approved by those people now. We only received full
40 appointments for three Councils, those were Kodiak-
41 Aleutians, Bristol Bay and Seward Pen, and partial
42 appointments for four Councils including North Slope.
43 So partial appointments, they made some, but not all of
44 the incumbents who reapplied and new applicants to
45 Eastern Interior, Northwest Arctic, North Slope and
46 South Central. And then there was three Councils,
47 Western Interior, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Southeast
48 Alaska that did not receive any appointments at all and
49 are still pending half to two-thirds of their Council
50 seats.

51

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1 As a result together -- on all the
2 Councils there are 35 open seats. To remedy the
3 situation OSM is working with Fish and Wildlife Service
4 headquarters office and with the Department of the
5 Interior to see if additional appointments can be
6 considered out of cycle and those that are still
7 pending hopefully be appointed later this year.

8
9 So thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.
10 That's the overview of -- of the situation that the
11 Council is in right now. Again we have five vacant
12 seats and are hoping that those appointments will be
13 able to be made in the coming year here.

14
15 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Any
18 questions to Eva on this update on the Council.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do have one. For
23 considerable time, you know, we've not had a Wainwright
24 representative nor appointed representative and I'm
25 wondering if there are efforts to reach out to the city
26 mayor or the tribal president of that -- of those
27 communities to let them know that there's available
28 seats for representing communities. I know that when --
29 once elected we all kind of represent the North Slope
30 region as a whole and -- and how many seats are -- I
31 know we have like one, two, two representatives from
32 Barrow. It doesn't reduce the amount of applicants
33 from Barrow, you could still if somebody were
34 interested could still be a rep -- representative on
35 there with one of those vacant seats. I'm -- I'm just
36 trying to figure a little bit if you took a little bit
37 more time to encourage communities unless there are
38 things that are going on beyond our control that --
39 that -- why the appointments are very slow.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Yes, we are hoping that with this year's appointments
43 that those will include applicants from Wainwright and
44 Point Lay, but those are -- are pending. And in the
45 meantime doing outreach to those communities in
46 particular, but to all the communities across the
47 region. So there are as you know eight -- eight
48 communities in the North Slope region and Council seats
49 -- and the Council's wish is to have at least one
50

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1 representative from each of the eight communities to
2 collectively provide that feedback and depth of
3 knowledge and information from each community in the
4 region.

5
6 Right now there is an application
7 process ongoing which got extended to March 12th. And
8 so I am reaching out to those communities that we don't
9 have current seated members and across the region to
10 encourage applications. It has been a challenging year
11 for many, many communities with covid and not being
12 able to have meetings in person or connect with city
13 council and tribal council offices that are closed, but
14 we are -- we are in the midst of outreach right now,
15 encouraging more applicants for the next cycle. And
16 any support from Council members too to encourage
17 others in your community and across the region to apply
18 is -- is much welcomed and -- and helpful to help get
19 the word out. And a lot of times it helps folks to
20 know someone who serves on the Council to get a better
21 sense of the Council process and work of the Council so
22 you're our best advocates there so thank you.

23
24 And again that application period as I
25 said.....

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.

28
29 MS. PATTON:is the.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Eva, I think --
32 I know we're a pretty -- you know, I like to be an
33 advocate of the Council here for the Regional
34 Subsistence Advisory Council, but I think it would also
35 be important for Office of Subsistence Management to
36 reach out a little bit maybe to a city council meeting
37 in Wainwright or tribal council meeting in Point Lay.
38 Point Lay doesn't have a municipality, they --they're --
39 they use their tribal council as their governance over
40 there. And -- and we could probably help with contact
41 information and but in the same way that -- taking my
42 hat off for one second as an administrator here for the
43 Department of Planning and Community Service, I got a
44 (in Native) for zoning seats or planning commission
45 seats and -- and we make that known to the -- to the
46 city council meeting to try to help them be aware of
47 the need to be represented on the council for -- of
48 this type. I think it's important and I think reaching
49 out is all -- always important.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Gordon. Thank
5 you, Mr. Chair. Yes, and that's, you know, been, you
6 know a big part of my outreach for the North Slope
7 region and networking with Wainwright specifically
8 since we're lacking representation on the Council to
9 encourage applications both through the tribal council
10 office and the city council office. An excellent
11 recommendation to see if we can formally get on the
12 agenda for the next meeting to have a full conversation
13 with folks and be able to answer any questions and
14 encourage applications that way.

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Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and don't -- it
would be remiss if -- you know, if you didn't use us as
a resource. I mean, we -- the Planning Department,
taking my hat off for a little bit, and could help with
contact information and things like that.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Gordon.
Appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So on
election of officers where do we stand, do we need
Wanda to be present in order to conduct or do we need
to table this or.....

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
it is a requirement in the Council charter to -- to
hold election of officers once every year. Recognize
that there's only a partial Council with pending
appointments. It is suggested that the Council still
make election of officers for this meeting and due to
the unprecedented circumstances with lack of
appointments it may be an option to revisit that again
in the fall if there's a full quorum. But at some
point during this meeting the Council will need to take
up election of officers and if you want to wait until
Wanda is on so that we have all five of the current
seated members we can do that, but it should take place
during this meeting.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Thank you.
What's the wish of the Council and -- and for clarity,
Eva, can you -- are the Council members all voting
members right now and if -- if we were going to do

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1 election of officers?

2

3 MS. PATTON: So the only voting member
4 that we're missing at this time is -- is Wanda Kippi.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

7

8 MS. PATTON: And again the current
9 seated Council members are you, Gordon Brower, Steve
10 Oomittuk, William Hopson and Peter Earl Williams. And
11 we're just missing Wanda Kippi from among the voting
12 members.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

15

16 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, what's the
17 (teleconference interference - participants not
18 muted).....

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
21 the Council?

22

23 Yeah, go ahead, Eddie.

24

25 MR. REXFORD: How long would it take
26 for the office (teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted) to approve my appli.....

28

29 REPORTER: Okay. Hang on a second.
30 Eddie, please, and then Mr. Chairman. If whoever's on
31 the line that's not muted, could you.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quite a bit of
34 feedback, but we need those that are not acknowledged
35 to be on mute.

36

37 REPORTER: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eddie.

40

41 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I was just asking
42 Eva how long would the -- would it take for the
43 Secretary of Interior's office to-- I don't know, if --
44 approve my application because I reapplied, I'm not
45 sure what's the time frame on that.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Yes. And so your
48 appointment is still pending from -- from 2020. So all
49 the appointments that we're supposed to have made --

50

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1 been made in December of 2020, yours is still pending.
2 And the Office of Subsistence Management is working
3 with the new administration to follow-up in making
4 those appointments that were supposed to have been
5 completed in December of 2020. We don't know how long
6 that process is going to take though however so I
7 unfortunately don't have a good answer for when those
8 final appointments we'll be made. We're hopeful that
9 they'll be made within this year. And the reason why
10 we were asking people to reapply is just to make sure
11 that if for some reason appointments weren't made
12 within this year that we had everybody in the new
13 cycle, the new application cycle as well.

14
15 So apologies, I don't have any further
16 update than that other than that we're working with the
17 new administration to complete that appointment process
18 and are hopeful that we'll be able to do so within the
19 -- the coming year here.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. REXFORD: All right. Thank you,
24 Eva.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eddie, so
27 it's going to be a little waiting game and best of luck
28 to you on -- on that part.

29
30 So what's the wish of the Council,
31 would you guys want to do election of officers now or
32 wait until Wanda is available when she chimes in and do
33 the -- and -- and do the reorganization when Wanda
34 comes in?

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
37 for the record.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Go ahead,
40 Steve.

41
42 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. Yeah, I -- I
43 think in -- I think, you know, that Eva said that Wanda
44 would be calling in a little later or -- or was she
45 asked to be excused from the meeting?

46
47 MS. PATTON: Hi, Steve, this is -- this
48 is Eva. Yes, I just talked with Wanda on Friday and
49 she -- she confirmed she would be joining us for this
50

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1 meeting, but she did note that she had some scheduling
2 conflicts at various times throughout the meeting to
3 take care of kids and grandkids with their schooling
4 requirements with the current covid situation. So she
5 had planned to be on for most of the meeting and I left
6 messages with her this morning so hopefully she'll be
7 able to join us.

8

9 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you. You
10 know, she is our Secretary and, you know, and we only
11 have five -- five voting members. And I -- you know, I
12 -- I know there was a suggestion that -- I mean, if she
13 does call in that we come back to item 6 and table it
14 until she does call in if that's okay with the Council.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
17 the floor to table the reorg until Wanda chimes in.
18 Can we get a second.

19

20 MR. HOPSON: I'll second that, Mr.
21 Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
24 William. Any discussion.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
31 called for to defer the election of officers until
32 Wanda chimes in, signify by saying aye.

33

34 IN UNISON: Aye.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
37 same sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
42 election of officers is deferred until Wanda calls in.

43

44 What if she doesn't call in, Madame
45 Chair, what do we do then?

46

47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
48 members of the Council. Hopefully she'll be able to
49 join us, I'll -- I'll give a call again. Maybe my
50

0022

1 suggestion would be is we see if she's able to join us
2 today at noon, after lunch today and take it up then or
3 we could take it up tomorrow if she's able to join us
4 tomorrow. So and then if she's not then we can proceed
5 with election of officers at that -- at that time.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Very
8 good. Always good direction there, Eva.

9

10 All right. Let's move on down the
11 agenda. Item 7, review and approval of previous
12 minutes.

13

14 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I make a
15 motion to approve our meeting minutes of November 4 and
16 5, 2020 as submitted.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
19 the floor to approve the minutes for November 4 and 5,
20 2020 by Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope.

21

22 MR. HOPSON: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
25 William, Utqiagvik. Any discussion.

26

27 (No comments)

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
32 called for. All those in favor of approving the
33 minutes for November 4 and 5, 2020 signify by saying
34 aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
39 same sign.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, the
44 ayes have it. The minutes are approved, Madame
45 Coordinator.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
48 Council members.

49

50

0023

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Item 8,
2 reports. Council members reports. I'm going to start
3 from Kaktovik from Eddie Rexford. You got the floor.

4
5 MR. REXFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
6 We've had a successful hunting season and there's a lot
7 of salmon again this past summer. And right now
8 there's caribous all the way up near the mountains so
9 I'm told there's thousands of caribous in our area and
10 folks are successfully harvesting caribous also.

11
12 And the other two major items, I'm not
13 sure they relate to this Council, but there was a
14 recent Secretarial order. I did email Eva the
15 information this morning, but might be too late for you
16 folks to get them, but it's having to do with polar
17 bear viewing and it's having to do with ANILCA laws and
18 that Anaktuvuk Pass is mentioned also in the
19 Secretarial order. It's -- I believe they have
20 trespass issues in the area with sporthunters.

21
22 And the other major item that recently
23 happened for our community is the regional director --
24 from the Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
25 about our ATV access for subsistence hunting in the
26 summertime into the wildlife refuge.

27
28 And those are the two major issues that
29 came about just recently for the Council's information.
30 I'm pretty sure that information could be provided to
31 the members from Eva whenever she's got the time to do
32 that.

33
34 Other than that I don't have anything
35 else from Kaktovik.

36
37 Thank you and good morning.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
40 Quyanaqpak, Mr. Rexford from Kaktovik.

41
42 Any questions for Eddie from the
43 Council members?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)
48 quyanaqpak on -- on your report.

49
50

0024

1 With that we're going to go to
2 Anaktuvuk Pass. Peter Earl Williams, you got the
3 floor.

4
5 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. My name is
6 Peter Williams, Peter Earl. And we didn't have much
7 caribou last fall so the boys went to Nuiqsut and I was
8 thank you very much to the village of Nuiqsut.

9
10 And there's caribou showing here
11 and.....

12
13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15
16 MR. WILLIAMS: Here even though it's
17 cold and we've been having a lot of outage, but we
18 thank the lord that everybody's safe and sound. And I
19 hope we continue this, but this cold gets in the way so
20 we've all got to be together to deal with it.

21
22 I just want to thank you all from
23 Anaktuvuk and we're still fighting sportshunting and
24 that's been going on for years, but we're still here
25 and we'll continue what we're doing.

26
27 Thank you very much from Anaktuvuk.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Good
30 morning and (in Native), Peter.

31
32 Any questions for Peter from any of the
33 Council members.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we're
38 going to go to Nuiqsut. Martha Itta.....

39
40 MS. ITTA: Good morning.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER:you have the
43 floor.

44
45 MS. ITTA:Mr. Chair and good
46 morning, Council. Good morning, everyone.

47
48 As for Nuiqsut, our -- our hunting was
49 good, our fishing is really good right now, people are
50

0025

1 going there every day even in the minus 50, 60 below
2 weather. They're really happy to be tittaaliq fishing.
3 The only concerns I've heard since the beginning of
4 freezing was some sick fish in the (in Native). Some
5 were turned into the Borough, but we never got a report
6 back on those studies. And also some sick caribou,
7 people were getting sick caribou. There was a few that
8 had to be thrown away and left out there. So those are
9 the concerns that I'm hearing.

10

11 There -- there was a -- there was -- I
12 mean, the caribou hunting's been good except, you know,
13 the sick fish -- I mean, the sick caribou and traffic
14 on the -- on the roads. There's a lot of traffic. Of
15 course it's ice road season, but there's more and more
16 traffic than before now that, you know, more projects
17 are going up. And I believe those are the only
18 concerns that I have is -- you know, they're getting
19 more restricted with development happening, not being
20 able to use guns where they usually use guns and -- and
21 the landowners, camp owners, having issues with
22 trespassers, still that's going on. But that's pretty
23 much what I'm hearing. Other than that everybody's
24 really happy to be tittaaliq fishing right now.

25

26 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Martha.
29 That sounds like a pretty good report.

30

31 Any questions for Martha at Nuiqsut
32 from any of the Council members?

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I -- I do, I have
37 a -- maybe an observation. And -- and the -- the road
38 access as it goes more west to GMT 1 and, you know,
39 I've been hearing quite a bit of successful hunting on --
40 on those -- from those roads. Are there interference
41 on those that are industry related, like (in Native) or
42 something like that and just trying to.....

43

44 MS. ITTA: Yeah. Yeah, it's always the
45 industry because they're the only ones out there.

46

47 And -- oh, and the other concern is
48 that the subsistence -- the subsistence, what you call
49 it, observers are never out there when they should be
50

0026

1 out there all the time observing them and how they're
2 doing their work out there because a lot of them are
3 not using -- putting their containments down when
4 they're running their vehicles. And they're also still
5 running their vehicles outside the camp 24/7 when, you
6 know, Bureau of Land Management regulated them to keep
7 their vehicles running all the time. That's still
8 happening.

9
10 Yeah, there's -- there's stuff that's
11 out there on the road, the access road, but there's
12 also many sick caribou that's being caught in that --
13 in those areas.

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Martha.
16 And if there any questions maybe from the BLM managers
17 I -- I think there were quite a few BLM representatives
18 are online as well.

19
20 But and thank you very much, Martha,
21 for your report.

22
23 Any other questions for Martha?

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, I'm
28 going to move over to Point Hope. Steve Oomittuk, you
29 have the floor.

30
31 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. And good
32 morning to everyone online. I see we have 37 people
33 when I called back, got disconnected. So if I do get
34 disconnected I will be calling right back. We're
35 having problems with GCI and every so often we get
36 disconnected. We only have so many lines -- outside
37 lines when we call in.

38
39 But it's been a very good year in -- in
40 our subsistence hunting especially with caribou. Just
41 recently there was a caribou in town, it was like right
42 in the middle of town just a couple days ago. And then
43 it was caught. It -- it did look like it was injured
44 and -- and those -- they just recently caught caribou
45 just right outside of town. The caribou are finally
46 spending more time in the winter.

47
48 It's been a very cold, cold winter.
49 Since November it -- it's stayed right about 20 below
50

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1 on just about every day. It got down to 33 below and
2 then that's just the temperature. The winds are --
3 felt pretty strong from the north there. And like the
4 majority of our winds this year have changed to the
5 north. The last few years the winds have been from the
6 south, southeast. Very little wind we get from the
7 west.

8
9 The thing about it even though we had
10 this cold weather that -- since November staying at
11 average temperature -- late November have averaged
12 about 20 below daily, we had open water all winter on
13 the south side, just a couple miles out it's been open.
14 Today we're having south wind and just recently within
15 a week, you know, we had some strong south winds and
16 now we have ice out there on -- on the south side.

17
18 And then it.....

19
20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK:quite a bit to
24 where we have polar bears. They just recently chased a
25 polar bear out of town on Saturday night, good thing
26 like do have a polar bear patrol. And it was a young
27 polar bear, around a seven footer. And like there --
28 and but there's been tracks all around town on the
29 outskirts of town for the last month and a half where
30 the -- the polar bears are.

31
32 You know, we just recently had a whale
33 kill. First of all two of our whaling captains had
34 their tail sold out of the ice that was -- and they are
35 fermented and that's always an attraction to the polar
36 bears. The majority of the time they're at the ice.

37
38 The ice cellars have been staying
39 pretty frozen this year.

40
41 There was a lot of concerns about the
42 tomcods, usually we get the tomcods in January, middle
43 part of January through February, but they haven't been
44 able to find any of the tomcods, the (in Native) that
45 we get usually during these cold months. And even
46 though they have open water in some areas by the point,
47 even on the north side there it was open just a few
48 miles out. Normally the north side of our ice is
49 always frozen especially we don't have any currents on
50

0028

1 the north side. And -- and at one time it was like a
2 big bay from the point all the way to Cape Lisburne.
3 And that -- you know, that levy always stay pretty
4 frozen and flat out there, about six miles out. But
5 the last couple years it's been staying pretty thin.

6
7 We had some big -- we had some strong
8 north winds last year that made some big (in Native)
9 where it balled up the ice and we haven't seen it that
10 high in a long time. Right now on the south side just
11 yesterday we finally seen -- usually it -- it's been
12 flat now, you know, young ice, laughing at, you know,
13 flat ice, no -- no (in Native) or, you know, piles up,
14 but right now there's some good sized ice ridges out
15 there and -- on the south side. But it's still opening
16 up, you know, close -- usually this time of the year we
17 don't see no water, only towards the point. But like I
18 said it's been open all -- pretty much all year round
19 even though we had this cold weather.

20
21 And we have the winter ducks that are
22 around and -- and just a couple days, three days ago
23 there was a big flock of winter ducks, thousands of
24 them, that, you know, probably we never seen so many
25 because usually they're just a very small number, but
26 with all the open water the majority of the winter
27 through this cold month they're able to have their food
28 supply through the -- you know, by this time of the
29 year the winter ducks that usually stay here are small
30 numbers. The only time is when there's no open water.

31
32
33 You know, there's been an abundance of
34 wolves and actually taking -- they actually caught a
35 lynx in the -- in.....

36
37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted)

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, and there was
41 one time they saw a coyote also, you know, they're
42 rare.

43
44 But the fishing was good up river. The
45 river froze a few times, late as usual up Cooper. And
46 then there was an abundance of grayling and -- and
47 trout, river trout and grayling. And the grayling were
48 a lot bigger than the last few years and also the trout
49 were -- were a lot bigger here. Normally they're not
50

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1 so big, but it seems like they're getting a little
2 larger in the last few years when we've been -- we've
3 been getting -- harvesting them.
4 And so, you know, when we have our feast, Thanksgiving
5 feast and Christmas feast, there was a lot of fish that
6 was brought from the community to distribute, you know.

7

8

9 And also caribou has been around year
10 round. There was a lot of concerns about.....

11

12 (Teleconference interference -
13 participants not muted)

14

15 MR. OOMITTUK:winter, you know,
16 in the falltime, caribou were a little late again like
17 usual. Usually they come in July, you know, through
18 Point Hope, first part of July and they were a little
19 later. Usually end of June and first part of July when
20 they start migrating this way, but they're -- you know,
21 it -- it stayed -- didn't freeze up as early.

22

23 You know, we do celebrate the born of
24 the ice when it accumulate and pull out the whale's
25 tail for whaling captains that haven't caught five
26 whales, they pull out their whale tail when the ice is
27 born, when it's (in Native), when the first slush ice
28 connects to the land we've always had that celebration
29 and the last few years the -- the celebration of the
30 born of the ice, pulling out the whale's tail from the
31 ice.....

32

33 (Teleconference interference -
34 participants not muted)

35

36 MR. OOMITTUK:has been in late
37 November. Usually it's mid October, you know, but it's
38 lately in -- in November and towards the end of
39 November where we haven't had and then all of a sudden
40 it freezes up like you said even though it's been cold
41 weather it hasn't freeze up, the warm -- I think the
42 warmer climate currents coming up north. And, you
43 know, there's some concerns with that, you know,
44 because we are a rural, very subsistence community and
45 are very observant of our weather and migration of
46 animals on land and sea also that -- and also that come
47 into the river.

48

49 You know, the -- the -- the concerns

50

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1 about sporthunters, you know, hunting on Federal lands.
2 You know, I -- I'm a member of the Western Arctic
3 Caribou Herding -- Herd Working Group and they have a
4 meeting in December. And they supported the -- there
5 was a motion on the floor to support the North Slope
6 Subsistence Advisory Council on closure to nonresident
7 and sporthunters on Federal lands in unit 23 of the
8 Western Arctic caribou herd. And this is from the
9 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and they
10 supported it, it was passed to support the North Slope
11 Subsistence Advisory Council on closure of unit 23 to
12 nonresidents and sporthunters during the fall hunting
13 season.

14
15 Other than that, you know, it's been a
16 good year. Although tomcods, like I said we had an
17 abundance of fish, char. Although the weather -- you
18 know, we had some strong winds and -- and strong winds
19 from the north. But other than that, you know, we
20 still have open water.

21
22 Thank you. And that's my report to the
23 Council.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). It's
26 always interesting to (teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted).

28
29 Any questions for Steve from the -- any
30 of the Council members on the -- on his report?

31
32 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, William.

35
36 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 Quick question for Steve. From last summer's fishing
38 have -- did you guys eat quite a bit of sick fish or
39 fish with worms or little crawlers inside?

40
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Not from upriver. The
42 majority of the fish that we eat from the river we
43 froze and then they age them. I -- I haven't heard of
44 any. There might have been a few, but not very many.
45 But the majority in -- in the past, you know, they used
46 to make -- the only time they make fish soup is with
47 the river trout, but the majority now with a new
48 generation of people, we eat all our fish pretty much
49 frozen. But, you know, and they age them. And, you
50

0031

1 know, I -- I haven't anybody and I try to get reports
2 from all hunters if they catch a -- in the past they
3 normally fish with nets or, you know, ice, but the
4 younger generation now, you know, because the river
5 doesn't freeze usually they go up there in October when
6 it's been open water because freshwater ice don't
7 freeze up until later part of November also. So a lot
8 of them fish with fishing lines and the majority of
9 them, you know, they catch small fish they let them go
10 but, you know, I haven't heard much. Several years ago
11 there was an abundance of grayling, there was so many
12 grayling that they were all pretty small. But like I
13 said this year the majority of the fish they're
14 catching were pretty good size.

15
16

Thank you.

17
18

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanaqpak. Any
19 other questions for Steve on his report?

20
21

I hope that helped answer your question
22 there, William.

23
24

MR. HOPSON: Yes, thank you.

25
26

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Hearing
27 no additional questions for Point Hope we will -- I
28 don't see -- we don't have a representative from
29 Wainwright and we wish we could get a report from
30 Wainwright an Point Lay. So with that I'm going to see
31 if Wanda is on, yet.

32
33

Wanda have you made it on for Atqasuk?

34
35

(No comments)

36
37

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none from
38 Wanda, we'll acknowledge her when she chimes in.

39
40

With that I'm going to go to William
41 Hopson of Barrow, Utqiagvik. William, you have the
42 floor.

43
44

MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 My observations this summer from the fish. I've never
46 seen so much saffron cod. They were over a foot long
47 cod and they had blue meat. I -- I don't know if
48 that's normal or not, but we've never got so many
49 saffron cod. We -- when I say we, me and my son, we do

50

0032

1 fishing out in the lagoon up north and we've never
2 caught so much smelt and flounder. And for some reason
3 this year there -- there was not much salmon, just only
4 a handful.

5
6 And my observation is our -- this
7 environment changing is -- is a concern. One of my
8 biggest ones is I go and butcher whales when they land
9 them and, you know, me being me I need to know how is
10 it, you know. I -- this was one of -- I -- I -- I -- I
11 hear -- I know which whale this came from, but my
12 concern is what I -- I ask if -- if there was any
13 changes and any that was not normal. And for me I -- I
14 went to Pennique's whale and Leavitt's whale to butcher
15 whales, to get my share. And after butchering, a
16 couple days later, you know, we're cutting muktuk for
17 (in Native) and I -- I -- I -- I got my share, each
18 down to one of these two whales of the persons that I
19 mentioned, but, you know, I've been butchering whales
20 since I was nine years old and maybe even earlier I've
21 been in the whale camps, but this fall was like what is
22 -- why is this like this and what's causing it. I was
23 cutting muktuk for (in Native) a couple days after the
24 butcher whale and I ran into patches of spots on the
25 shear that I was cutting up. The muktuk, it was not on
26 the -- all the whole muktuk, it was spots of it. And
27 when I reached those spots the muktuk was like paste.
28 I scraped it off with my knife and oh, my, god, I've
29 never seen muktuk being able to wipe off the whale.

30
31 With that said we need to start
32 monitoring everything because of all the climate change
33 and that, but I think those things need to be looked
34 into, how far, you know, down south you hear of all of
35 the (in Native) other animals further down south in the
36 Pacific, it has moved up and we need to start
37 monitoring that. That was my biggest observation and
38 my -- because concern is how fast are these
39 contaminants or whatever they are, how fast are they
40 moving up north. That was my biggest concern.

41
42 Other than that, you know, Barrow had a
43 good caribou hunt. The fishing was good in (in
44 Native), there's plenty of fish. But my biggest --
45 like I said that was my biggest concern in the
46 observation of the food we eat. I think those sort of
47 stuff need to be observed more by biologists or what.
48 For me I -- I'm taking my -- my samples out to the
49 North Slope Borough so they can see what it may be or
50

0033

1 what caused it. But we need to start being more
2 observant in what, you know, when we process the
3 animal, observe it more, you know, that -- that helps
4 with science and everything.

5

6 But other than that I -- I just want to
7 say I -- like I said when I called in this morning this
8 will be my last meeting, but I wanted to wait after my
9 report to hang -- I have stuff to do, but I will call
10 back in.

11

12 And thank you for giving me a minute
13 for my report, Mr. Chairman.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)
16 qyanaqpak, William. And we appreciate you on the
17 Council and we're going to wish you the best in your
18 future and -- and lots of good things.

19

20 With that any questions to William from
21 any of the Council members or.....

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve in
24 Point Hope.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
27 Steve.

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I -- I just want
30 to thank William for his service and he's going to be
31 missed. He -- he's served us for years. Last meeting
32 he will be a 10 year man. But we thank you for your
33 service and your time and your observations, you know,
34 within your area and your report.

35

36 Thank you very much. (In Native).

37

38 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Steve.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Thank
41 you, Steve.

42

43 MR. WILLIAMS: Can I.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Earl.

46

47 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I just wanted to
48 tell William, you know, that he's fully supported and
49 one last thing. Wish you well, we enjoy us all. Stay
50

0034

1 warm and stay safe. God bless.

2

3 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Earl.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). Any
6 other comments and questions for William?

7

8 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, one last
9 little comment.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, William.

12

13 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
14 Just this past week I turned 62 and I have been dealing
15 with the Federal Fish and Wildlife, the State Fish and
16 Game since I was five. And in the Federal book I
17 started my passion with fish and game and I want all of
18 you to don't stop, keepfighting for your folks, your --
19 just do what's right for your folks.

20

21 Like I said I -- I -- I was cited for
22 possession of illegal waterfowl when I was five years
23 old and I started tracking meetings and everything in
24 regards to all the fish and game that my father had
25 told me you need to be on top of these guys because
26 they're out to take your rights away or whatnot, that
27 isn't right for the people. I've been doing this quite
28 a long time, but it's time for maybe -- you know, like
29 I said thank you all, time for me to step down, let the
30 younger generation step in, but make sure we point the
31 right direction for our younger generation who are
32 gettinginto these commissions because even though we --
33 without our direction they're going to be lost,
34 they're going to be sucked into our roles that they
35 should never, ever even think about. And we need to
36 think about those.

37

38 Thank you. And I need to go right now,
39 but I will call back in this -- today, this afternoon.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). We're
42 going to excuse you, William. Quyanaqpak and we expect
43 to hear back from you when you call back in.

44

45 Quyanaqpak, William.

46

47 MR. HOPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So I'm

50

0035

1 going to -- as a representative of the North Slope and
2 out of the Barrow area talk a little bit too.

3

4

5 We had a good -- I think a good -- good
6 seasons and I depend quite a bit on my nephews, my --
7 my son. I try to outfit him as much as I could to hunt
8 for our -- for our families. And they did good, I --
9 they did pretty good. And I see them fishing on lakes,
10 caribou hunting in the fall and enjoyed the -- enjoyed
11 the harvest. And I -- I know in the summertime we were
12 getting a good bounty of fish and I even had some dried
13 fish in my -- in my racks and dried (in Native) and
14 bearded seals and made lots of good (in Native)
15 rendered seal oil. I didn't hear too much of sick
16 animals other than that people are enjoying hunting
17 that's close, either you go down the coast or you go
18 through these trail systems and you're pretty
19 successful. So I'm hearing that throughout many of the
20 different communities as well in -- in the -- I think
21 many of the reports kind of reflect that.

21

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We did have a good spring hunt last year and although we did have an incident and things like that, but we had great festivals throughout the summer, all the blanket toss. Even through covid it was very difficult, a lot of the distribution of subsistence foods for -- that are traditionally done in the churches, we didn't do that, they were all done out in the open and kind of like a -- like a drive-through. And -- and we distributed whale that way to the entire community. And I saw that in many of the whaling communities where they were delivering to homes and things like that. And these are important things in how we adapt. And, you know, we're on the North Slope, we depend on these resources, the whales, the caribou, the fish, on a daily basis. And a lot of us work, but there's a lot more that don't work and that depend on -- on these food resources and the sharing, customary and traditional sharing that goes on.

With that I'm going to conclude my report about what happened in my neck of the (in Native).

With that if I missed anybody, I was hoping maybe Wanda would make time to join us. I know she sounds like she's got -- juggling grandkids and school and those kind of things.

0036

1 So maybe I'll reach out one more time.
2 Wanda, are you available yet?

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, with
7 that that completes my report, the Council members'
8 reports under item 8.

9
10 So with that I'm going to.....

11
12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER:go to item 9.

15
16 Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, this is Eva. I
19 think since we missed Earl Williams' report from.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Earl, I -- I
22 thought I.....

23
24 MS. PATTON:from.....

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I thought we
27 went to Anaktuvuk.

28
29 MS. PATTON:from Anaktuvuk Pass.
30 He was responding to -- to William.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Earl, you have
33 the floor.

34
35 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, we're doing okay
36 here, it's just cold and everything. I appreciate this
37 and I told Eva I sent out my paper for reappointment on
38 that next year.

39
40 So thank you very much.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Was that
43 it there, Earl?

44
45 MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah. Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And --
48 and, you know, this time of the year and -- and
49 throughout all of the cold, cold, cold snap, it's
50

0037

1 always good to open ice cellars and we've been cleaning
2 ours out and leaving them open so that the cold can --
3 I was actually doing an experiment myself in
4 monitoring. When we started cleaning it it was like
5 about 30 degrees in there, maybe a little cooler and
6 still had snow in there from previous year and -- and
7 took the blood out and cleaned it up. And then I put a
8 thermostat down there and on a string so I could
9 monitor it. It took two weeks to move it from about 27
10 degrees to about 10 degrees and then -- and then -- and
11 then it went to zero in about another two weeks. So
12 I've been monitoring and looking at that.

13

14 And sometimes I -- I posted on the --
15 on the Facebook for -- in case other captains are
16 interested in -- in looking at how we cool our cellars
17 so we can get ready to use them again and how we clean
18 them. And it's an important thing when you are the
19 captain to be able to properly and cleanly store your
20 whale for the people because you -- you keep it in
21 trust for the community until the festivals and -- and
22 then time to distribute it so everybody have food
23 throughout the season. Anyway that was a good
24 experiment I was working on just to monitor how long it
25 takes to cool the cellar down there, you know.

26

27 Anyway that was -- that would complete
28 my report. If there are any questions I -- I'd be
29 happy to answer any questions.

30

31 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
32 for the record. I -- I just wanted to thank you for
33 your report too, but I also wanted to add on, you know,
34 to mine.

35

36 You know, it -- it's been a very good
37 year for the whaling community. You know, we got 12
38 whales this year and -- and a lot of us -- a lot of the
39 whaling captains they'll utilize their ice cellars on
40 the subsistence traditional ice cellars made are whale
41 bone and they have storage areas where they store the
42 whale tail that -- that ferments and also other muktuk
43 and meat, you know. And, you know, in the past year
44 we've been having to take them out because of thawing
45 out and the water coming in especially summertime or
46 the early fall, especially when it rains. And we
47 didn't see very much rain this year as much as we
48 normally do.

49

50

0038

1 We had -- we had abundance of berries,
2 salmonberries and blue -- blueberries and blackberries.
3 And blackberries usually come in later August or early
4 September and our salmonberries usually come out in the
5 middle part of August. And then by September they --
6 they're turning pretty rotten and freezing, but we've
7 been having a very good abundance in a lot of our
8 plants, you know.

9
10 So in -- in the whaling season and
11 abundance of belugas also, you know.

12
13 (Teleconference interference -
14 participants not muted)

15
16 MR. OOMITTUK: seem like the
17 belugas we didn't catch so many in the past few years,
18 but this year has been a very good year. Also the ice
19 was a little further out and -- and pretty solid and
20 they're pulling up whales. There's ice would breakup
21 on one of the whales, but it was the whale that was
22 caught was about six feet so we're talking tons. And
23 they pulled up the whale three times and the ice broke
24 three times. But then by the time they got it up and
25 cutting it up then the ice broke off and they got, you
26 know, maybe half of the whale. But then the other
27 drifted away. The majority of the whales that were
28 caught were between 29, 28 and about 35 footers and 40
29 feet, the majority we were able to pull up the whale on
30 the ice with no problem.

31
32 Other than that it's been very good
33 especially with our -- you know, because we are like
34 Gordon had said -- stated earlier, we -- a majority of
35 us are subsistence hunters and we rely on the
36 subsistence resources and they're very vital to our
37 community because we have a low income community and,
38 you know, food sources are still vital to our villages.
39 And -- and we talk about subsistence rights and will
40 continue and that our younger generation continue
41 providing, you know, for the people. And it's good to
42 see the younger generation out and about and now you
43 see it more and more because Facebook is available.
44 And, you know, in the past, you know, we could never,
45 you know, it wasn't where you can show what you caught
46 and now in today's technology it's all on Facebook and
47 you see the younger generation out and about and so
48 they'll continue on with traditions and giving their
49 first catches to an elder or a need or -- or a widow.
50

0039

1 And there's been a lot of young people that caught
2 their first animals which they still follow and that
3 includes when you catch your first whale, you know, how
4 it's -- and we still follow a lot of our traditions as
5 a community with the two plans that are still in place
6 and like they said subsistence is very vital to each of
7 our communities and it's our way of life and it gives
8 us our identity as a people. And -- and we're closely
9 bonded with the animals, without the animals we would
10 not be here. So we're very protective of our resources
11 out there especially when it comes to the animals and
12 migration and concern about, you know, we -- we don't
13 have much report on where some of these animals or fish
14 come from and, you know, their summer grounds and -- or
15 winter grounds, where they come from, where they
16 hibernate, you know, go down from the -- go south, how
17 far south do a lot of these animals go and -- and where
18 they spend their winter and -- and so, you know, and
19 are they in a safe environment also and when they do
20 migrate back south to their winter ground.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
25 With that, I'm going to conclude on section 8 of the
26 reports. The Council members have provided reports
27 including the chair.

28

29 Eva, was there anything else that you
30 wanted to add before we move on to public and tribal
31 comments on nonagenda items? And this is always
32 available each morning for public and tribal comments
33 on nonagenda items.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
36 thank you Council members for your reports. I -- I did
37 check back in with Wanda, but wasn't able to get
38 through at her home so hopefully she'll be able to join
39 us this afternoon.

40

41 And then otherwise on the agenda we are
42 on public and tribal comments on nonagenda items this
43 morning.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The floor
48 is open for public and tribal comments. Do we have
49 anyone to make comments under this section?

50

0040

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
2 just for the record. Under, you know, Eva's update on
3 Wanda, can she make sure that William calls in at the
4 same time if he's going to call back because William is
5 part of our quorum and he asked to be excused and he
6 said he would call back in. So I just wanted to -- I
7 missed it.

8
9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. So
12 noted. We're -- you know, we -- we want to -- we need
13 to reorg as soon as, you know, when William and Wanda
14 are available.

15

16 So public and tribal comments on
17 nonagenda items. Do we have any tribal comments?

18

19 (No comments)

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to do one
22 public comment that was a letter that was forwarded to
23 me from Jack Reakoff. I'm going to read that into the
24 record, Madame Coordinator.

25

26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this was sent to
29 me by Jack Reakoff and he's a -- he's at the Interior
30 Council?

31

32 MS. PATTON: Yes. Jack Reakoff is the
33 long-time Chair of the Western Interior Subsistence
34 Regional Advisory Council which is adjoining to -- to
35 North Slope. And similarly that Council was waiting on
36 pending appointments and Mr. Reakoff's Chair seat also
37 expired. So he was participating in -- in that meeting
38 as a public member as well and provided comments for
39 the Council -- for the North Slope Council that he felt
40 would be of interest to the Council regarding a central
41 BLM planning review process.

42

43 So thank you, Mr. Chair, for sharing
44 his comments.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Well, I'm
47 going to read those into the record and then as it's
48 public comment from Jack. This is from Jack Reakoff,
49 comments to the North Slope Regional Advisory Council

50

0041

1 virtual meeting regarding the BLM Central Yukon
2 Resource Management Plan, EIS and ANILCA section 810
3 hearing.

4
5 I need to clarify for the North Slope
6 Council that the Central Yukon RMP includes the utility
7 corridor out onto the North Slope. I am attaching a
8 map showing the area that BLM intends to illegally
9 convey to the State of Alaska. I know for a fact that
10 there are people from Nuiqsut that travel the Haul Road
11 and have subsistence opportunity to harvest C&T
12 resources in the utility corridor. The Yukon -- the
13 Central Yukon field office has lands in the North Slope
14 Region. My comment is very important to the people of
15 the North Slope who drive the Haul Road from Nuiqsut,
16 Atqasuk and Anaktuvuk Pass. North Slope subsistence
17 users are expanding access -- access use with a
18 community winter access trail system. The 2.1 million
19 acres of Federal lands of the utility corridor will be
20 lost to Federally-qualified subsistence users. State
21 land do not have subsistence use. The Dalton Highway
22 Corridor Management Area is managed only for
23 sporthunting with bow and arrow.

24
25 And then he's got some numbered items.
26 One, I urge the Council to call into question the
27 legality and oppose the process used to inform or
28 public to participate in commenting on the BLM Central
29 Yukon Field Office Resource Management Plan
30 alternatives.

31
32 Two, I strongly urge the Council to
33 oppose any BLM Resource Management Plan alternative
34 that recommends to the Secretary of the Interior to
35 violate ANILCA stat -- statute within the utility
36 corridor. The public -- the Public Lands Order, PLO-
37 5150, must remain in place. ANILCA is clear that the
38 vast majority of the utility corridor is to remain in
39 Federal ownership. The customary and traditional
40 Federally-qualified subsistence of the users would be
41 devastated without the Federal lands within the 2.1
42 million acres utility corridor.

43
44 Three, subsequently I would recommend
45 that the WIRAC, I guess that's Western Interior
46 Regional Advisory Council, that's the acronym for that,
47 requests of blend of alternatives without any
48 recommendation to the Secretary of Interior to lift any
49 portion of the utility corridor Public Land Order 5150
50

1 for conveyance of the land to the State of Alaska.
2 This updated plan, a blend of alternative B with true
3 considerations for fish and wildlife, habitat
4 protections, found scattered in other alternatives that
5 provide provisions for prudent multiple uses. It is
6 imperative to attempt to move forward a illegal BLM
7 Yukon -- Central Yukon Resource Management Plan to a
8 final record of decision.

9
10 Illegal public review and comment
11 process. The affected communities in the region have
12 very limited access to electronic means or bandwidth
13 capacity to download the documents, let alone navigate
14 the preregistration and approval to comment. Most of
15 the affected communities cannot obtain the log on links
16 or the telephone numbers to participate in the virtual
17 meeting. No hard copies were provided to the
18 communities. The long distance charges to call
19 continental U.S. phone numbers are prohibitive for most
20 people.

21
22 The meeting process as currently
23 provided for by the BLM CYRMP/EIS is not compliant with
24 the Federal open meeting statutes under Public Law 94-
25 409 referred to as the Sunshine Act or Federal 40 CFR
26 1506.6 NEPA regulations or ANILCA title VIII, section
27 810(2). When selecting appropriate methods for
28 providing public notice agencies shall consider the
29 ability of affected persons and agencies to access
30 electronic media. It is virtually impossible to
31 electronically access the planning documents or
32 decipher the scattered information for the
33 alternatives. The sheer volume of material is not laid
34 out in a format that is user friendly. It would take
35 anyone many days to compare the alternatives, synopsis
36 keys are few and obscure.

37
38 The rush to BLM hearing process does
39 not statutorily comply with ANILCA title VIII, section
40 810. To inform the subsistence users of the affect on
41 them and receive their comments in a meaningful way.

42
43 Transfer of the utility corridor to the
44 State is illegal. The Central Yukon Resource
45 Management Plan preferred alternative contains many
46 issues that will have extremely detrimental effects on
47 subsistence and resources regarding the proposed
48 illegal conveyance of the utility corridor to the
49 State. There would be outright elimination of critical
50

1 subsistence users. Some communities in and near the
2 corridor would completely lose all subsistence use of
3 wildlife. The greatest concern contained in the
4 proposed plan's alternative is not only myself as a
5 subsistence user, but also the other people who use the
6 Federal lands known as the 2.1 million acre BLM utility
7 corridor who includes Stevens Village, Evansville,
8 Bettles, Alakanuk, Alatna, Cold Foot, Wiseman,
9 Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut.

10

11 The Secretary of Interior 1971 withdrew
12 the 2.1 million acre utility corridor issuing Public
13 Land Order PLO-5150. The order excluded the State of
14 Alaska or Native corporations to selling any lands
15 within the corridor, utility corridor. In 1980
16 congress made the decision when evaluating Alaska lands
17 for the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation
18 Act, ANILCA, to not allow the State of Alaska to select
19 all of the lands on the utility corridor except for
20 community expansion found in the Statehood Act 6(a) and
21 (b). ANILCA section 906(e) and (j)(1) are crystal
22 clear regarding the congressional intent referring to
23 the BLM utility corridor. Public Land Order 5150
24 continues to prohibit selection of certain land. Such
25 land shall remain unavailable for future State
26 selection exceptas provided in subsection (e)of this --
27 of this Act. ANILCA (j)(1) is clear the utility
28 corridor remains as withdrawn lands from State
29 selection. ANILCA 906, section (e) is primarily
30 referring to the Alaska Statehood Act, Public Law 85-
31 508, section 6(a) and (b), the Statehood Act
32 specifically states in section 6(a) and (b) for
33 selection of vacant, unappropriated and unreserved at
34 the time of their selection. Statehood Act 6(a) for
35 the purpose of furthering development of an expansion
36 of community. The State of Alaska is hereby granted
37 and entitled to select. The current BLM Resource
38 Management Plan for the utility corridor after the
39 ANILCA passage accomplished the wishes of congress and
40 conveyed 7,000 acres around Cold Foot in 1991. There
41 are no other communities in the utility corridor other
42 than the private lands in Wiseman. ANILCA 906 is
43 congress' decision to retain the utility corridor in
44 Federal ownership. The BLM preferred alternative C(2)
45 is recommending that the Secretary of the Interior
46 commit a violation of Federal law by lifting and
47 repealing of the -- of the PLO 51-50 to allow State
48 selection on the utility corridor.

49

50

0044

1 That concludes the comments -- public
2 comments provided by Jack Reakoff and I submit those
3 under item 9 of the public and tribal comments on
4 nonagenda items. And we thank Jack Reakoff for
5 reaching out to the North Slope Council to -- for some
6 of this clarification and -- and I think that he points
7 out some very important features and -- and concerns
8 about public land order and things like that.

9

10 With that any other public and tribal
11 comments on nonagenda items?

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.....

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: Just for the record this
18 is Steve Oomittuk.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
21 Steve.

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. I -- you know,
24 I'll take my hat off as tribal president of the Native
25 Village of Point Hope and, you know, and -- and the
26 jurisdiction of the North Slope Subsistence Advisory
27 Council.

28

29 You know, a lot of our communities rely
30 on our subsistence sources that are within the ocean
31 and -- and where the North Slope Subsistence Advisory
32 has no jurisdiction. And -- and then the concerns that
33 the tribal council has and some of the members about
34 traffic throughout the Northwest Passage that come
35 through and increased traffic in international waters
36 and having no jurisdiction or say so on who can come.
37 And then monitoring of the food sources that are out in
38 the ocean is very vital to our communities along the
39 coastline especially when you're right in the center of
40 the Northwest Passage and -- and the migration of the
41 whales and the fish and the seals and the oogruck and
42 the polar bear. And all these animals that we've
43 depended on since time immemorial. And -- and -- and
44 having some kind of jurisdiction like we're monitoring
45 the traffic especially with the opening of the
46 Northwest Passage and direct ice.

47

48 And -- and -- and, you know, concern
49 about pollution and -- or a major disaster of any ships

50

0045

1 or tankers that come through hauling because it is a
2 shortcut to go to the other foreign countries including
3 what you call that, you know, because of the opening of
4 the Northwest Passage it's a shortcut instead of going
5 all the way down to the Panama Canal, you know, to
6 reach to the Atlantic Ocean or other places. And there
7 is concern with the increased traffic within the
8 Northwest Passage because it is -- like I said the
9 ocean is vital for our subsistence way of life and the
10 migration of all the animals especially in the -- in
11 the open waters. And then summer -- springtime,
12 summertime, falltime and where the animals migrate by
13 and -- and this is the only time we subsist on a lot of
14 these animals.

15

16 So and that's a concern and, you know,
17 and having no jurisdiction in that area especially with
18 the North Slope Subsistence Advisory Council.

19

20 Thank you.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
23 And always good to take your hat off and put your
24 tribal hat on once in a while and it's pretty good and
25 for our public comments and things like that.

26

27 Any other public and tribal comments on
28 nonagenda items?

29

30 (No comments)

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Then maybe, Eva, when
33 we read -- when I read Jack Reakoff's comments I'm
34 thinking under agency reports additional dialogue in
35 this area will be found there as well. And I'm
36 thinking of that.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
39 did reach out to the Central Yukon BLM office. We
40 received those comments from -- from Jack Reakoff
41 during the Western Interior Council's meeting which
42 occurred just this past Thursday. This -- this
43 particular EIS wasn't on the radar for the North Slope
44 RAC region, but I did reach out to BLM staff at that
45 Central Yukon office to request if they could provide a
46 brief overview of that EIS. The comment period is open
47 through March 11th and so if this Council wanted to
48 make any formal comments this meeting would be that
49 opportunity.

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1 I will send another email to -- to that
2 BLM office to see if someone might be able to be
3 available tomorrow afternoon again to provide a brief
4 overview and -- and available for -- for any questions
5 at that time as well. Right now I didn't get a
6 confirmation back at this time yet.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. And
11 I think it would be prudent, portions of that utility
12 corridor that's impacted is within the North Slope
13 Borough at -- at the southern regions up that way,
14 probably primarily by Galbraith and -- and those areas
15 that way.

16

17 And with that I'm going to go down to
18 item 10 and again public and tribal comments are going
19 to be available each morning and there'll still be
20 opportunity to continue to provide public and tribal
21 comments on nonagenda items.

22

23 So we'll move.....

24

25 MR. REXFORD: Mr. Chair, this is.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER:down to item --
28 yeah, go ahead.

29

30 MR. REXFORD: Yes. I'm going to take
31 off my Advisory Council hat off too and speak as the
32 tribal president for NVK. And I just want to reiterate
33 that maybe during the lunch break if Eva can forward
34 those to nonagenda items I discussed earlier for
35 everybody's attention, the more than the managers who
36 probably don't have it. I'm not sure who all has that
37 to be disseminated.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eddie, and
42 I was checking through my email, I do have something,
43 I'm not sure if that's the stuff. And we could read
44 that into the record if that's something you wish to do
45 as public and tribal comments on nonagenda items.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council
48 members and Mr. Rexford. I did receive your email with
49 those documents and forwarded to the Council members

50

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1 that do have email.

2

3 So that should be what you're looking
4 at here, Gordon.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
7 you, Eva. And they're -- they're order number 33-92.
8 And maybe I could get a clarification for this
9 information. Did you want them read into the record or
10 they're just information to the Council members?

11

12 MR. REXFORD: Yeah, I was just
13 providing the information so you -- you folks would be
14 aware of those action items. I don't know if they need
15 to be read into the record or not, it's up to your
16 discretion I believe.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'll just
21 assume that we'll have these as information. And this
22 one is about polar bear viewing that I'm reading a
23 little bit.

24

25 So we'll move on down to -- unless
26 there's any other public and tribal comments before we
27 move on to old business?

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that, item 10,
32 old business. And we have individual C&T update on
33 that.

34

35 MS. JOCHUM: Good morning, Mr. Chair
36 and Council members. Is it okay for me to present?

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, and please state
39 your name and which department.

40

41 MS. JOCHUM: Yes. Okay. All right.
42 Good morning, Mr. Chair and Council members. Again for
43 the record my name is Kim Jochum and I'm a subsistence
44 program analyst with the National Park Service's
45 Regional Subsistence Team. Today I'm here to report on
46 recent decisions made by the Federal Subsistence Board
47 on the process used to make customary and traditional
48 use determinations for individuals. And I'll refer to
49 them as individual C&T from here on out.

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1 Before I explain these recent decisions
2 in more detail, I just want to remind everyone of a few
3 things that -- for example, individual C&Ts are not a
4 new thing, but you might be not as familiar with them
5 because they're very rare. Less than 10 people have
6 applied for them in the last 40 years and almost all
7 customary and traditional use determinations are for
8 communities and areas and not for individuals. Also
9 individual C&Ts and -- and these recent Board decisions
10 will not in any way impact your ability to fish, hunt,
11 trap or gather resources. And these recent Board --
12 recent Board decisions to individual C&Ts only make the
13 whole process easier and faster for the applicant and
14 it became more streamlined.

15
16 The National Park Service can
17 officially now help applicants with the application.
18 The application can be submitted outside of the
19 regulatory cycle and therefore we can be more
20 responsive to people, but they must meet the same
21 requirements as previously. The National Park Service
22 did not want Federally-qualified subsistence users
23 waiting for years to be eligible to go hunt and fish on
24 park land and that is why the Board modified these
25 steps.

26
27 So we are simply now reporting to you
28 what actions the Board took in January. And this is
29 not something that you need to vote on.

30
31 So as a short review of the last --
32 last fall we asked all 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory
33 Councils.....

34
35 Excuse me. Is there -- does anyone
36 have a question or comment right now? I just keep
37 hearing.....

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No.

40
41 MS. JOCHUM: Okay. Then I'll just keep
42 going for now and we can answer questions afterwards.

43
44 All right. So last fall we asked all
45 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and 10 -- and
46 the seven Park Subsistence Resource Commissions for
47 feedback. We incorporated these -- the feedback into
48 our proposed process and this is what the -- was
49 adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board and its
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1 January, 2021 meeting here last month.

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So the revised process now includes two critical recommendations made by the RACs and the SRCs from -- in the call. First that there are no delegate -- there's no delegation of authority to the National Park Service. So the Federal Subsistence Board will retain the final decision making authority and that was also suggested by your Council last fall.

Second, the process now includes also formal recommendations from both the affected RACs and the affected SRCs. And perhaps the biggest change in the process is that no longer -- the process is no longer tied to the lengthy biannual regulatory proposal cycle, but instead the application window is open continuously and once the RACs and SRCs have weighed in the Board will take action on the request at its next public meeting. So this accomplishes an important goal of being able to process applications in a timely manner.

Many of the RACs and the SRCs voted to defer action last fall until they had more time to study the issue. But while the Federal Subsistence Board already took action -- action to help improve the process, the Board still welcomes any feedback that you might have for the improvement either now or at any point in the future.

So arguably the National Park Service and the Federal Subsistence Board just wants this process to be as streamlined and as responsive as possible.

So again there's no action on your end required at this time, but however if you would like to provide feedback on the process adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board we would appreciate it.

So thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer questions you might have. And if you have feedback for the Board I'm very happy to deliver that as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any questions on the C&T for the individual process for Ms.

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1 Kim?

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(No comments)

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: And maybe just out of curiosity. Are we -- are we entertaining an application and if it's in the National Park Service lands up here in the Arctic region will that application run through us as a recommendation for the Board to consider?

MS. JOCHUM: Mr. Chair, if I understand your question cor -- right. I think that is correct. So if there is an application that would overlap with your area of responsibility then you would -- we would help fill out the application with the applicant from the Park Service side and then submit the materials to you and you would be able to comment on the application during your next meeting. And then after you and the -- your RAC and other RACs that might be affected and the SRC commented then it would go -- would go to the Board including your recommendation to -- for the Board -- Federal Subsistence Board to vote on during their next public meeting.

Did that answer your question?

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. And -- and so that -- that is the process of to -- to gain an individual C&T that the -- is it the Resource Management Board for the Park Service or Resource Council -- Subsistence Resource Council that would entertain that?

MS. JOCHUM: I think it's -- I mean, we're from the regional subsistence office supporting our subsistence coordinators from the Parks to -- we're helping them if they need any -- any supporting info and with applications. But based -- my -- my supervisor, Joshua Ream, is on the call as well. Maybe he can answer that question better.

MR. REAM: Hi. Good morning, members of the Council and -- and Gordon. And thank you, Kim.

Yeah, that is correct. I just wanted to mention that the Subsistence Resource Commission, I

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1 think that that's maybe what you were referring to, Mr.
2 Brower, they will be commenting.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, and then we get
5 a representative on there out of either Anaktuvuk or
6 that we normally do that I think, right?

7

8 MR. REAM: I -- yes. So our -- the --
9 the coordinator for the Parks, for Gates of the Arctic
10 is usually on your call and reports on the actions of
11 the SRC. And so in the past this process, the only
12 real recommendation that was used was by the RAC. The
13 new process has a recommendation from both the RAC and
14 the Subsistence Resource Commission. So if there was
15 an application for Gates of the Arctic the Commission
16 would make a recommendation as well.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. And once
19 we make a recommendation does that go to the Federal
20 Board of Game or who does it go to at that point?

21

22 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is Joshua
23 Ream. That is correct. After both the Subsistence
24 Resource Commission and the Regional Advisory Council
25 have made a recommendation it would be heard by the
26 Federal Subsistence Board at their next public meeting.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. So and can I
29 also -- you know, this is -- in 40 years you kind of
30 have mentioned like you had maybe like 11 applicants.
31 Is there -- what's a typical very rare applicant like,
32 is it a person that had C&T and moved out of the
33 community and resided maybe in a urban area and -- and --
34 and found a way to meet their subsistence needs and --
35 and a way to get to those areas to go do their
36 traditional hunting and gathering, but they just --
37 they -- they just moved out of that community or
38 something like that? I don't know, I'm just trying to
39 wrap around what an applicant might look like.

40

41 MS. JOCHUM: Mr. Chair, this is Kim
42 Jochum again. I will give it a shot. So -- yeah. So
43 we have an application. So is this rather Federal --
44 the person has to be -- still be a Federally-qualified
45 subsistence user. So you still have to be living in a
46 non -- in a -- in a rural community. So if you're
47 moving to a nonrural community then you're not a
48 qualified subsistence user any longer. So if -- if you
49 still have -- yeah. So that is not correct, anybody

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1 who would more to a nonrural area would not qualify any
2 longer.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

5

6 MS. JOCHUM: Exactly.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So an applicant might
9 be -- it could be me wanting to hunt in National Park
10 Service lands where I'm -- let's just say that you're
11 resident of Anaktuvuk, you got C&T for Park lands in
12 that area and doesn't automatically make me 300 miles
13 north C&T for the same opportunity. I'm just trying to
14 see what kind -- what an applicant might look like.

15

16 MS. JOCHUM: Okay.

17

18 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair, this is Joshua
19 Ream, National Park Service.....

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean, it's just an
22 example.

23

24 MR. REAM:I can probably answer
25 that question.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. Go ahead,
28 Josh.

29

30 MR. REAM: Sure. So I'll just give an
31 example of what happened recently. There was somebody
32 that has an existing pattern of use in Denali National
33 Park and they lived in a resident zoned community which
34 was Cantwell, but they have since moved to a community
35 that is near the Park, but is not a resident zoned
36 community. And that community, Healy, they do not have
37 a community-wide customary and traditional use
38 determination for Denali. So the individual because he
39 has an existing pattern of use in the Park, he is able
40 to apply for an individual C&T.

41

42 And you would do that maybe for a
43 couple of reasons. One, maybe nobody else in your
44 community has a history of subsisting within the Park
45 or maybe you moved to an area that's still near the
46 Park, but isn't even part of the community, it's just,
47 you know, you're a single household on -- in a rural
48 area. So then there would be nobody else to be in a
49 community C&T and that's when it would make sense to
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1 apply for an individual C&T. And so if somebody on the
2 North Slope that hunted in Gates of the Arctic and did
3 before they moved to say Kotzebue had a C&T, but they
4 no longer do, then they can apply so that they continue
5 to participate in subsistence activities within Gates
6 of the Arctic.

7
8 And as Kim had mentioned you do have to
9 remain a Federally-qualified subsistence user so you
10 can't move to a nonrural area like Fairbanks or
11 Anchorage and -- and still be able to participate.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.
14 And that's what I was trying to understand clearer,
15 what the individual C&T would like and an applicant
16 look like and I think I can see that better in my mind.

17
18 Anybody else have any other -- what --
19 I don't think this was an action item it was just a
20 discussion, right?

21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve.
23 I.....

24
25 MS. JOCHUM: That -- that's correct,
26 Mr. Chair.

27
28 MR. OOMITTUK:I -- thank you for
29 clarifying that too, you know, rural and urban and that
30 it's strictly a subsistence life. You know, and --
31 and, you know, we have tribal members that are
32 nonresidents of our community, but once they move to an
33 urban area that kind of changes from tribal members
34 that still live within a, you know, urban area that is
35 not connected to the outside world and where
36 subsistence is vital. Remaining food source is our way
37 of life and because of the high cost of living.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
40 Any other questions on the individual C&T as presented
41 by Kim from the National Park Service.

42
43 And, Kim, what was your last name
44 again?

45
46 MS. JOCHUM: My last name is Jochum,
47 it's J-O-C-H-U-M.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: J-O-C-H-U-M. It's
50

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1 kind of hard to pronounce that one.

2

3 MS. JOCHUM: I know that one. Kim is
4 easy I think.

5

6 Thank you, sir.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
9 that was interesting dialogue and I'm glad I learned a
10 little bit more about the individual C&T process.

11

12 And -- and thank you, it -- does that
13 conclude your presentation?

14

15 MS. JOCHUM: Yes, it does. Thank you,
16 Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I don't
19 think we have any other old business. Does the Council
20 have any other old business that -- other than what was
21 listed as individual C&T?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we're
26 going to go to item 11, new business. And I'm going to
27 try to get some direction from Eva if there are --
28 we're getting close to the top of the hour, about 20
29 minutes will be lunchtime and I'm wondering if we have
30 items that could take 20 minutes and -- and then we can
31 take a recess and -- and continue after lunch again.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
34 Yeah, I think for the timing because under new business
35 we'll be talking about the call for Federal wildlife
36 proposals and then going into any wildlife reports and
37 data updates that are helpful for the Council. And so
38 that might be helpful to have all in contiguous fashion
39 this afternoon until it -- we will take it up again
40 tomorrow morning. And hopefully we would have William
41 and Wanda backon with us this afternoon to review and --
42 and take action on any proposals at that time.

43

44 We can jump ahead right now to the
45 Council charter review if the Council wishes to take
46 care of that action item.....

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

49

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1 MS. PATTON:in this interim.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. And -- and -- and it's only because time is upon on and if we started discussion I would -- and if it's a lengthy dialogue or lengthy debate it might cut into our lunch hour potentially. So and.....

MS. PATTON: Sure. And another.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER:let's go.....

MS. PATTON:strategy if the Council wishes would be to break early for lunch and reconvene at 12:30 at that time and then to pick up the action items then.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Maybe we can try and do the Council charter review.....

MS. PATTON: Sure I -- I think that would work. I don't think it'll be a real lengthy discussion. This is a part of the Council's business every two years to review and approve renewal of the Council's charter. You'll find the charter on page 22 if the Council wishes to take care of that business at this time.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just thumbing through here at also looking at the -- and, Madame Coordinator and for the Council, is this an item where if we're going to make -- is this an actio item where we need a quorum?

MS. PATTON: Yes, it is an action item that we would need a quorum. So we do have quorum since we're such a small Council at this time.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

MS. PATTON:until future appointments a quorum is three members.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

MS. PATTON: But again if you wanted to have William and Wanda in that discussion in the hopes they would be able to join us after lunch we could take it up then.

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. PATTON: We do have quorum on the
4 call now with yourself and Steve Oomittuk and Earl
5 Williams of.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And my -- my primary
8 concern on the Council's charter review for what's
9 going on currently. We've got suddenly nonvoting
10 members because of their expiration of term and
11 expecting an appointment. And I think it's -- there --
12 there's nothing in the charter that addresses -- kind
13 of addresses that when there is a lack of direction
14 from the Secretary of the Interior on items we need to
15 address by vote. And I think an area to include in the
16 charter is a voting member is a -- a member is a voting
17 member until reappointment. And.....

18

19 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and I think some
22 simple language would allow because of the lack of
23 appointment and -- and then the -- the existing Council
24 members are still able to vote until there's a change
25 or there's a reappointment. And it -- it would still
26 count as a legitimate vote.

27

28 Is that kind of the type of charter
29 revision that would be important to look at that and
30 then -- and move for reauthorization?

31

32 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
33 Chair. Exactly. That is an amendment to the charter
34 that would help to ensure that there's continuity in
35 the Council membership and voting members are seated on
36 the Council -- continued to be seated on the Council
37 until reappointment that fills that seat. And -- and
38 that would then cover the Council in -- if this event
39 were to happen again where the appointments take place
40 either late after the -- the December 2nd term
41 expiration date and that way the Council would still
42 have everyone participating until that time.

43

44 You stated it very well. We do have a
45 draft language since this is an issue of concern for
46 all Councils. All Councils were looking at making this
47 amendment to their charter so we do have a simple draft
48 language that would probably work. This is something
49 that the Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission

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1 have within their program so it has been approved by
2 the Secretary's office in that so we hope they would
3 adopt this as well.

4
5 I do have that very brief
6 statement.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Eva.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Oh, yes.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, I'm going to --
13 I'm going to ask you to read it, that brief statement
14 that might be a potential to the charter and then --
15 and -- and then I'll wait to hear from the Council
16 members whether any of them want to move to amend the
17 charter with that language or wait until Martha or
18 Wanda and William come back in.

19
20 So if that's okay, I'm going to ask you
21 to go ahead and read that in.

22
23 MS. PATTON: So the -- the proposed
24 language to add to the Council's charter would be any
25 member of an Advisory Council may serve after the
26 expiration of the member's term until a successor is
27 appointed. Simple as that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
30 the Council? I mean, Steve and Earl are our current
31 voting members to either wait for the other two Council
32 members or make a motion to adopt that.

33
34 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. So with my
35 understanding.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK:that.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. It's -- okay. I
44 -- I kind of missed some of it, but I -- I -- the
45 amendment is that people that were appointed that their
46 terms are up and that are waiting on reappointment that
47 still have voting rights until the seat is filled. Is
48 that my understanding of this amendment? I -- I
49 just.....

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's my
2 understanding unless Eva wants to verify that.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct and
5 the charter review process. So again the charter is
6 reviewed every two years and much of the language in
7 the charter is required by the Federal Advisory
8 Committee Act. But this is an amendment that you can
9 change. You can change the name of the Council or
10 number of members on the Council. And then for this
11 year the membership balance is of interest to the
12 Council to ensure that all eight communities are
13 represented on the Council. And with delays to Council
14 appointments experienced over the last few years adding
15 a provision in the charter that allows a member to
16 serve after expiration of his or her term until a
17 successor is appointed. So this would carryover.....

18
19 MR. OOMITTUK: Can I.....

20
21 MS. PATTON: and come into play
22 like we're experiencing right now that Council members
23 whose terms have expired like Eddie and -- and Martha
24 would still be current voting members until new
25 appointments were made to fill those seats.

26
27 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Mr. Chair, and --
28 and that answers my second questions because we have
29 some members of this committee that are not voting
30 members. So if we pass this they -- they have voting
31 powers. As soon as we make this amended it -- it
32 becomes effective immediately?

33
34 MS. PATTON: No, that -- that's.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think so. I
37 think it's a recommendation to the -- to amend the
38 charter -- it's a recommendation to amend the charter
39 to -- to allow that. And I think there's -- every two
40 years we get to review the charter and re -- and make
41 recommendations for its reauthorization. And this time
42 we're recommending that it be amended to do this, to
43 allow members that their terms have expired to continue
44 until there's either a placement or a reappointment.
45 And.....

46
47 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: it doesn't
50

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1 become effective immediately and it also affects
2 multiple other Regional Advisory Councils of that same
3 charter I think.

4

5 And I'll yield to Eva if I'm -- stand
6 to be corrected.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Yes, you're correct, Mr.
9 Chair. This is an issue of concern for all the
10 Regional Advisory Councils and to date the Councils
11 have met have taken up this amendment to their charter
12 and it's anticipated that because this is an issue of
13 concern for all the Councils that all Councils will
14 likely adopt this amendment to their charter.

15

16 The process oft -- it takes a little
17 while and so at this meeting the Council would
18 recommend the amendments that you would like to make.
19 That language and the Council's recommendation gets
20 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board and they
21 take it up at their summer work session which is
22 scheduled for August. And they may make some minor
23 edits to the language if there's something that helps
24 the language be, you know, legally viable within the
25 charter. And then they in turn forward that
26 recommendation on to the Secretary of the Interior.
27 And then ultimately the Secretary of the Interior
28 adopts the charter. And that usually happens in
29 December. So it would be December of 2021 that the new
30 charter would be renewed and signed off by the
31 Secretary of the Interior. And if they accept those
32 amendments then that would be included in your charter
33 which would become active in 2022.

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: My other question
36 is.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We heard
39 it.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Okay.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We heard it. Go
44 ahead, Steve.

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, it -- it's --
47 it's kind of hard to fill in all that we have for
48 region 10. The North Slope Subsistence Regional
49 Advisory Council has 10 seats and -- and quorum is six.

50

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1 That's if all seats all filled and -- and right now we
2 have only a current of five.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

5

6 MR. OOMITTUK:that can vote and
7 -- and that we have two that are on -- that are waiting
8 for a reappointment and we have one that is my
9 understanding resigning from their seat, but will
10 attend the meeting to ensure that we have quorum until --
11 so is there any other different entities, I -- I know
12 you have contacted the other, you know, like Point Lay
13 and Wainwright where they have no representation. And --
14 and this has been ongoing for a while. But once we
15 have a full quorum of 10 and the quorum goes up to six,
16 I mean to have a -- you know, a quorum to establish a
17 meeting and voting. You know, is -- is 10 a number
18 that we want to stick with, has there ever been a full
19 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils that have
20 been filled up to the max at one time before?

21

22 MS. PATTON: Yes, thank you for that
23 question, Steve. There have been full 10 member
24 Councils for many years in the past. There are only
25 eight communities on the North Slope region and so, you
26 know, often that membership is made up of the eight
27 communities and then an additional member from
28 Utqiagvik or another community. The number of Council
29 members seated on the Council is one of the things that
30 -- that the Council can amend. If there is a vacancy
31 the membership for quorum counts just the seated
32 members. And -- and then just from my -- my
33 perspective that having 10 seats that allows for more
34 than one representative from a -- from a community and
35 helpful to have that input. But the Council can change
36 that if you feel there should be a different number of
37 seats represented on the Council.

38

39 We do have many vacancies over the past
40 few years, not all appointments have been made by the
41 Secretary of the Interior which has created some
42 vacancies. We're hoping that those will be filled in
43 the future. And we still in addition to the Council
44 members that were already serving and reapplied, we do
45 have new applicants whose appointments are still
46 pending as well. And so we are hopeful that those
47 vacant seats will be filled by new appointments. And
48 we'll continue to work with outreach for getting
49 applications for -- for next year as -- as well.

50

0061

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
2 What's the wish of the Council. Would you guys like to
3 formally make a motion with the suggested amended
4 language to the charter?

5
6 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion
9 from.....

10
11 MR. OOMITTUK: Steve.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER:(in Native),
14 from Point Hope, Steve, sorry, Steve, I had a brain
15 fart there, and to amend the charter under review for
16 Council members that serve even if their term expire
17 until a -- a new Council member is appointed or they're
18 reaffirmed. And that was a motion from Steve.

19
20 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Earl.
23 Any discussion.

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, under discussion,
26 Mr. Chair. So.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

29
30 MR. OOMITTUK:my understanding is
31 that we're going to make this change to this charter,
32 but it doesn't come into effect right away, that's my
33 -- that's what I heard a little bit ago?

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, that -- that's
36 right. The charter would be reauthorized by the
37 Secretary of Interior I think after all the other
38 Council members.....

39
40 (Teleconference interference -
41 participants not muted)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER:changes as well.
44 It would be effective 2022.

45
46 MR. OOMITTUK: So if we do make this
47 change do the -- you know, whoever authorized the
48 change or approved it, but what happens if they don't
49 approve it, I mean, even though we want to make change
50

0062

1 to this charter because then we can continue on with
2 business and always have a quorum especially when it
3 takes so long to reappoint. The numbers at time are --
4 yeah, because I've seen -- this should come into effect
5 and we make sure that it does get approved, and, you
6 know, what happens if it's rejected, do they have that
7 right to reject any amendments from the Council?

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Steve, you
10 make some good points and I would probably have to
11 refer to Eva and -- and for somebody legal, but I would
12 think they are recommendations to amend the charter and
13 -- and, you know, the Secretary of the Interior is
14 appointed by the President of the United States. So
15 whatever the Secretary of Interior decides I think
16 becomes the law at that point.

17
18 So maybe Eva can correct me if I'm
19 wrong.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Yes, thanks -- thanks
22 again for the good question, Steve. So the -- again
23 the process is the Council makes the recommendation, I
24 draft up that recommendation and it gets forwarded to
25 the Federal Subsistence Board. They review and approve
26 any amendments at their meeting in August and refer all
27 the Councils' charter renewals to the Secretary of the
28 Interior. It is at the Secretary of Interior's
29 discretion to approve or deny recommended amendments.
30 Again the Subsistence Advisory Committees -- the SRCs,
31 Subsistence Resource Commissions through the National
32 Park Service have similar language that governs their
33 Subsistence Commissions and that was approved in the
34 past by Secretary of the Interior. And so it's
35 anticipated that this language is likely to be
36 supported, but it is at the discretion of -- of the
37 Secretary of the Interior. And we get the final
38 charter signed off on from the Secretary's office in
39 December. And so we won't know for sure until that
40 time frame, but are hopeful that these amendments would
41 be adopted.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So
46 -- so we'll see what happens, Steve, if it comes to
47 that we'll find out somewhere around December and it'll
48 be implemented in 2022 if it passes. And it's not --
49 we're not setting a precedent, it's already happened to
50

0063

1 the SRCs it sounds like. And I think it's a good one.

2

3 So are we done with discussion or.....

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, with that
6 said I -- if there's no other questions on this
7 amendment I call for the question.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The
10 question's been called for the charter renewal with
11 amended language to allow for existing members to
12 continue until reappointment or replacement signify by
13 saying aye.

14

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
18 same sign.

19

20 (No opposing votes)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we have
23 a recommendation. I would suggest when William returns
24 and -- and Wanda chimes in we advise them of that vote
25 later, Madame Secretary -- Madame Coordinator.

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Absolutely we can provide that update to them.
29 Hopefully they'll be able to join us after lunch.

30

31 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're going to recess
34 for lunch.

35

36 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I make a motion
37 that we recess for lunch. How long are we taking, an
38 hour, is that suggested?

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It -- it's up to the
41 Commission on how long.

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, it -- it's 12:00
44 o'clock right now. So I make a motion to readjourn to
45 1:00. Is that long enough for everybody?

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: How about 1:15?

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, 1:15 sounds good

50

0064

1 and we'll make sure we could get Wanda and William
2 online so we could go to item 6 or which one is that,
3 to reorg, election of officer.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. All right.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're adjourned for
10 lunch.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,
17 I'm going to reconvene and get out of recess.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, that
20 would be good. We do have quorum with three voting
21 Council members on. I -- I do have one update. Earl
22 Williams from Anaktuvuk Pass will be able to join us
23 at 2:00 o'clock. He had a vaccination appointment so
24 he'll be joining us at 2:00.

25
26 And I've also got a call in for.....

27
28 MS. KIPPI: Eva, can you.....

29
30 MS. PATTON: Yes, go ahead, Wanda.

31
32 MS. KIPPI: I forgot how to do my --
33 the mute on my phone.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Thank you. To -- if you
36 don't have a mute button on your phone you can push
37 star six to mute your phone.

38
39 MS. KIPPI: Oh, wait, maybe I do. I'm
40 going to check. Hold on, wait a second, let me try and
41 press it. Okay. I found my mute button. It -- it's
42 just -- I didn't have to press start six or star
43 whatever. I found it.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wanda. And
46 that's a good reminder to provide for everybody that's
47 on teleconference to please remember to mute your
48 phones if you're not talking. So if you have a mute
49 button push that, hit star six to mute your phones
50

0065

1 otherwise and you can star six to unmute. And
2 especially for all the agency staff just please
3 remember if you have an incoming call disconnect from
4 the telephone conference otherwise we get put on Musac
5 endlessly and there's no way to disconnect from that.
6 So if you have an incoming call, don't put the
7 teleconference on hold, please.

8

9 And then for everybody participating
10 because we're all on teleconference to just identify
11 yourselves when you're speaking so we know who's
12 talking.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 REPORTER: Thank you.

17

18 MS. PATTON: And with that, Mr. Chair,
19 we can reconvene and again we'll have Earl Williams
20 from Anaktuvuk Pass able to join us back on
21 teleconference at -- at 2:00 after his appointment.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 MR. HOPSON: This is William. I am
26 here.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, all right.....

29

30 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER:William.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
35 Wonderful, William. Thank you for joining us again.

36

37 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, I might have to go
38 when they call me to pick up my daughter from the
39 hospital.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you, William.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Hope all is well.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we do have Wanda
48 -- Wanda on now.

49

50

0066

1 Okay. This afternoon before lunch the
2 Council deliberated on the charter review and
3 recommended to re-- reinstate the charter. It's been --
4 it gets reviewed every two years. And the Council
5 voted to amend the charter which included language to
6 allow for Council members to continue serving in their
7 capacity until they're either reappointed or a
8 replacement is appointed. That was the recommendation.
9 That'll go to the Board of Game and then on to the
10 Interior Secretary sometime in December. And if it
11 passes it'll be implemented in FY 22, next year. So
12 that was a pretty interesting conversation about that.

13
14

15 So also we had a really good discussion
16 on item 10 about individual C&T applications and that
17 process. And that was a pretty good discussion as
18 well. It was learning for me and -- an I'm sure others
19 learned a little bit more about individual C&Ts.

20
21

22 So with that, Madame Coordinator, does
23 that move us on to item 12 or are we -- are we going to
24 look at any more in item 11. I think some of those
25 proposals might be when ADF&G is around you said or
26 were we taking up unit 23, special action 21-01?

26
27

28 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is
29 Steve.

29
30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

31
32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Do we have the full five
34 Council members and I think we tabled item 6 until we
35 have -- for election of officers until we have all five
36 on the -- on teleconference.

36
37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we did for --
39 we almost did until Earl had an appointment.

39
40

41 MS. PATTON: Thank you for that remark,
42 Steve. Earl had expected to be able to be back at the
43 meeting after his appointment by 2:00 o'clock. So
44 perhaps when he comes back on and we do have Wanda on
45 now for -- for election of officers. If the Council
46 wishes if you want to wait for Earl to return to the
47 meeting.

47
48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All
50 right. We'll do the election the minute we get Earl

0067

1 back we should do our election while we got the full
2 guys -- the full board. We keep getting one and losing
3 one almost preventing us from voting on that one. But
4 anyway it's what it is.

5

6 So, Eva, I wanted to see if we were
7 going to take any of the wildlife proposals like unit
8 23, 26A, caribou and moose, special action 21-01. I
9 know the Board of Game proposals you wanted to be doing
10 that maybe when Carmen Daggett was around?

11

12

13

14

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MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Yes, what would be helpful in terms of the flow for the
wildlife proposals is if we do begin that process
today, this afternoon, both with the call for the
Federal subsistence wildlife proposals and that process
and then an opportunity for the agency staff that have
joined us both from State and Federal agencies and if
the Borough is on and has information that would be
relevant to any wildlife proposal, so updated
information on caribou, sheep, muskox, furbearers that
would be helpful for the Council to have that updated
information prior to development of any proposals. So
if we could begin with that process. Again we'll have
Carmen Daggett on tomorrow morning and we can resume at
that point. When we -- and then review of the wildlife
special action request and if the Council would like to
wait until we get full Western Arctic caribou herd
update tomorrow morning, at least we can provide the
Council with an overview of that so you're familiar
with what the request is and then get new caribou
information tomorrow morning and take action tomorrow.

I would also like to when we get to the
Alaska Board of Game proposals to at least read the
titles of those proposals that are -- are relevant to
the North Slope RAC region to see which ones you would
be interested in taking up. There are several that
have been deferred due to the Board of Game meeting
being rescheduled to March of 2022. And so for those
deferred proposals there's an opportunity for the
Council to take action at your fall meeting which may
be of interest in the hopes there would be a full
Council at that time and opportunity to review those
proposals and talk with your community. So we'd at
least like to hear back from the Council which Alaska
Board of Game proposals you would like to take up so
that we can plan on that tomorrow.

0068

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hold on, I'm going to
2 take a call real quick.

3
4 MS. PATTON: And for the -- for the
5 Council and for -- for Wanda actually is.....

6
7 (Teleconference interference -
8 participants not muted)

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, I'm going to
11 pass it over to the Vice Chair for about five minutes
12 and I need to take a call from Barrow Mechanical real
13 quick.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Okay. Thank you, Gordon.
16 Sounds like we're passing it over to Steve Oomittuk.
17 And I was going to.....

18
19 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Steve. Go ahead
20 and continue.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. I was
23 just going to suggest the Council was very interested
24 to hear from Wanda, her subsistence report for -- for
25 Atqasuk. So that might be a good time to hear from
26 Wanda now and then we can pick back up with the call
27 for wildlife proposals.....

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you. And
30 that's a very good suggestion. So we'll go down to our
31 reports and hear from -- Council member reports and
32 Wanda is online, we'll hear from her on the
33 observations of the animals within her jurisdiction of
34 Atqasuk.

35
36 Wanda, you have the floor for your
37 report.

38
39 MS. KIPPI: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair,
40 Eva. Yes, I do.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Go ahead.

43
44 MS. KIPPI: It was a -- it was a good
45 spring, we had a good spring. It thawed out pretty
46 quick, but there was a good -- good.....

47
48 (Teleconference interference -
49 participants not muted)

50

0069

1 MS. KIPPI:as usual. It thawed
2 out pretty fast after -- after the sun started really
3 popping up. And there was some -- during -- during the
4 summer there was -- there's caribou around the area,
5 but most of the Park, I think they were farther --
6 farther away from us until -- until the falltime. But
7 by the time fall came the caribou were -- were chased
8 away by I think bears, a bear and a muskox. So I had
9 to call in -- call in to see if we could put down that
10 muskox that came in and that bear was aggressive so
11 those two were put down, the muskox and the bear. And
12 had to get permission from the State of Alaska Fish and
13 Game to put that -- put that muskox down and do all the
14 paperwork and write a letter. So that was done
15 properly. And for the bear too, it was aggressive, it
16 came across the -- it came across the river and started
17 coming towards the cabin. Then they scared it away,
18 but it started coming straight back towards my cabin so
19 that bear was put down. And other than that -- after
20 that caribou started coming around, but not as much.
21 They was -- the bear had scared a big herd across the
22 river around my camping ground so that -- that
23 aggressive bear was put down and the -- they scared the
24 caribou away that time. And yeah, there was hardly any
25 caribou around my area because of the -- the bear and
26 the muskox.

27
28 Other than that the fishing season got
29 -- got a late start during the freeze-up because, you
30 know, the freeze-up is -- was pretty slow. By the time
31 I came home -- by the time I came home the freeze-up it
32 froze -- it froze after I came home, like a couple days
33 after I came home. And I said I knew it was going to
34 freeze-up. So I never got to go fishing at my camping
35 grounds, I just stayed home.

36
37 And for the animals, there's 50 some
38 foxes, but there was barely -- we didn't see as much
39 foxes as we usually do. And this winter too there's
40 usually foxes coming into town, there's hardly any
41 foxes coming into town this -- this winter.

42
43 And fishing was okay. They got -- they
44 -- as soon as they put their nets out after freeze-up
45 they were catching some big (in Native) I mean, (in
46 Native) and some tittaaliq. And there was one -- one
47 sucker fish that got caught on a -- on a net which was
48 interesting. I don't know if they caught any more
49 pike, they might have caught a pike or two, I'm not
50

0070

1 sure, in the nets. And burbot fishing was okay. We
2 had a -- they had a good burbot fishing. My son got
3 some good fish, shared it -- shared a lot of that
4 burbot. And he actually go -- go -- go make one (in
5 Native) four or five days ago, he go a couple of times
6 already, he and I, nothing yet. But I was surprised he
7 finally went down after I've been telling him for so
8 many years he still could go (in Native). So I'm so
9 proud of him to go -- go try and catch some more
10 tittaaliq.

11
12 I don't know if I missed anything. If
13 you have any questions or if I'm missing anything let
14 me know.

15
16 Oh, and I heard at Point Lay there was
17 five -- five muskox in the Point Lay area in November
18 and December. I don't know if they stayed until
19 January or longer. So that's what I keep seeing, my
20 nephew post or my cousin.

21
22 So if I'm missing anything let me know.

23
24
25 Quyanaqpak. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

26
27 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Wanda. Do we
28 have any questions or comments for Wanda?

29
30 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chair.

31
32 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Yes, go ahead.

33
34 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, thank you. This is
35 William. A question for Wanda. How were you -- how
36 are you in the invasive species, species you've never
37 seen before? I -- I was a little bit in a hurry when I
38 was doing my report, but have you -- did you identify
39 any new species of animals, critters, that you've never
40 seen in Atqasuk before? For me I -- the one I missed
41 was spiders. It looked like a (in Native), you know,
42 they're the size of like pencil tip, tiny, little ants
43 or what are those, spiders. Well, this one got me off
44 guard, got me scared. I ran for my life. Holy cow, I
45 hunt whales, but I run from spiders. When I -- it was
46 the second week of September, it already had snowed,
47 there were already a few whales caught, but there was
48 snow on the ground, already the ground was already
49 frozen and I was outside my house and I looked down on
50

0071

1 the ground by my house and there was a spider. The
2 head of it -- it was a little smaller than an egg, but
3 it was egg shaped. The body of the spider was three --
4 more than three inches long. The legs of the spider
5 were at least four inches long. And me being me I need
6 to know what it is. I want to go kill it, I need to
7 report this. So I grabbed a stick, I think a mop, but
8 I was outside the house and I was going to go kill it.
9 Instead I ran for my life. Oh, my gosh, that thing ran
10 50 feet from here -- from my house to the middle of the
11 road, that's 50 feet. Imagine 50 feet. A human takes
12 a few seconds to go 50 feet. In one second that spider
13 was flying on the ground already 50 feet to the middle
14 of the road. Those are the sort of things I'm seeing
15 and like wow, I mean, it's really time to start trying
16 to observe what's new, if it's big or small, we -- we
17 need to keep on top of it.

18

19 But thank you, Wanda. And that's just
20 one thing I missed earlier.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 MS. KIPPI: You're welcome.

25

26 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, William.

27

28 MS. KIPPI: I think I noticed -- I
29 think we have noticed different beetles or some other
30 kind of insects that I cannot even explain. Some of
31 them are different types of beetles, but I think some --
32 some might be coming in through airplanes with food
33 probably I'm thinking and some might be coming up this
34 way because of the warm weather. That's one of my
35 thoughts.

36

37 Thank you, William.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I -- I'm back now,
40 guys.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. Any other
43 questions on Wanda's -- do we have on -- on Wanda's
44 report or concerns on William's, do we have the North
45 Slope Borough Wildlife online?

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Steve, this is
48 Gordon, I got back on.

49

50

0072

1 MR. OOMITTUK: I -- they're on the
2 agenda.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I got back on there,
5 Steve, if you can hear me.

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. I guess Gordon --
8 is Gordon back online?

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah, I did.

11
12 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Well, we just
13 heard from Wanda's report and there's just -- I went
14 back to her and we're still on the reports of the
15 Council. And -- and William added on to his report.

16
17 And the -- and the muskox. And one
18 thing on Point Hope too, they did -- we did have a
19 muskox intown also which I forgot to mention. And it --
20 it was chased back out of town. And the only time the
21 muskox come into our area into the village is when they
22 have porcupine quills on them and this had porcupine
23 quills. This is not the first time, it's probably the
24 third time that this happened. It also happened in --
25 you know, 40 years ago when we still lived in the old --
26 old village where a muskox came into town that had
27 porcupine quills. And -- and normally they're right in
28 the face area and it's -- I don't know if the -- it
29 wasn't put to sleep or anything, but it was taken out
30 because we had regulations on those and nobody didn't
31 want to get in trouble because I -- you know, and I --
32 I don't know if Fish and Game know why we subject to
33 any incarceration if we put an animal to sleep because
34 of the endangerment in our community. Muskox are
35 edible, we do eat muskox at Point Hope.

36
37 But I'll turn the seat back over to
38 Chairman Gordon Brower while he's back.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native), Steve.
41 Yeah, that was interesting about the spider. I -- I
42 can't imagine something that big all right.

43
44 MR. HOPSON: Yeah, for the -- Mr.
45 Chairman, just one more little thing on that. About
46 two weeks later I spoke with Bea Adams and I think Bea
47 Adams' son saw the same species and -- and it's -- and
48 whatever it is I -- I think we need to find out what it
49 -- what it is.

50

0073

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I know
2 some of my nephews when they're up in Ikpikpuk said
3 they encountered some different kind of spiders that
4 can bite and I think they were thinking it was called a
5 wolf spider and the -- anyway. Yeah, interesting stuff
6 though.

7
8 MR. HOPSON: Well, that.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

11
12 MR. HOPSON:we -- the only thing
13 is we just wanted to bring it out that -- for
14 information and now you have it.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, William.
19 And thank you too, Wanda. It was good listening.
20 So.....

21
22 MS. KIPPI: You're welcome, Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Eva, on the
25 item 11, are you suggesting that we wait on the
26 proposals or go through them and if -- if you're
27 suggesting to wait on them then we would move on to
28 review and approval of FY 2020 annual report?

29
30 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It
31 would be helpful I'm sure for Earl to have an
32 opportunity to weigh in on the proposals and -- and
33 hear those wildlife updates as well and he should be
34 joining us here shortly.

35
36 So we can at this time just skip ahead
37 until we can take up the wildlife proposals and
38 information either to review and approve the 2020
39 annual report or the FRMP program update which is not
40 an action item. We could skip ahead to either of those
41 two to ensure Earl is on as well for the wildlife
42 discussion.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
45 the Council, we can move on to review and approve the
46 FY 2020 annual report?

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. And I
49 don't know, that suggestion is wait until William, he
50

0074

1 should be back in about 20 minutes that was -- it was
2 suggested.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

5
6 MR. OOMITTUK:and -- and.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So you
9 can find your FY 2020 annual report -- what was the
10 page number, I think that might be on page 10 maybe,
11 Eva?

12
13 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 Yes, you'll find the annual report on page 10 of your
15 meeting books.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

18
19 MS. PATTON: And.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there's the annual
22 report. Did you want to summarize it for us or should
23 I go ahead and read it into the record?

24
25 MS. PATTON: However -- however the
26 Council prefers. I can provide a brief summary
27 overview as you're looking at it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

30
31 MS. PATTON: And this would be the time
32 -- so this is your draft report. These were subjects
33 that were brought up during the Council's meeting at
34 your fall meeting and this would be the time to refine
35 the report, any details in the report itself or any
36 additional subjects that you would like to bring to the
37 Federal Subsistence Board's attention. And then we'll
38 finalize it at this meeting and get that back to you
39 and to the Board.

40
41 So however the Council prefers.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
44 the Council, do you want her to summarize it or do you
45 want me to go ahead and read it into the record or
46 what's the wish of the Council?

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, if -- that's
49 okay if you want to summarize it, but on action items
50

0075

1 that we read the whole thing on certain issues.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eva, you got it.

MS. PATTON: All right. Thank you, Mr. Chair and Council. So again the annual report is provided for under the provisions of title VIII of ANILCA for the Council to bring issues of interest and concern to the Board regarding any subsistence issue within the North Slope region. And at the past meetings there were questions that had come up for the Council that some of them have been brought forth in previous annual reports, but are of ongoing concern for the Council and an interest to have them readdressed currently. And also that there are some new Council members who were not part of that discussion in the past and would like to hear from the Board on these issues at this time.

Ongoing interest of great concern to the Council is environmental change impacts to healthy subsistence resources and management strategies to address subsistence food security. And again this has been a part of the Council's discussion and in your report for the past several years, but the Council would like to bring it before the Board to keep this awareness and to keep informing the Board of observations that the Council has. So the Council's very concerned about ongoing concerns and increasing impacts to community subsistence resources and subsistence way of life and also overlap with other subsistence resources that are not part of the Federal Subsistence Management Program such as seabird die-off and sick seal. So the Council is looking to continue to engage with the Board to find flexible mechanisms to address food security in these uncertain times and to ensure that subsistence priority is prioritized to meet these needs.

And so that was topic number 1.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah, I'm back, Earl.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right do we want

0076

1 to suspend the report for a minute and do our voting?

2

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think -- we keep
6 having a quorum issue to -- for the full Board to be
7 present to do our reorganization and it's kind of
8 mandatory we do our vote. What's the wish of the
9 Council now that everybody's on right now?

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is
12 Steve for the record. While we do have.....

13

14 (Teleconference interference -
15 participants not muted)

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK:that we go to item
18 6 which is a action item, but it needs to be taken care
19 of with the full Council.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eva, can
22 you help us conduct our elections, please.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. So for
25 beginning of the election of officers I will initiate
26 the call for nominations for Chair. And then once we
27 have a Chair elected then the Chair can resume with
28 Vice Chair and Secretary nomination. So at this time
29 while we've got our Council quorum we'd like to open
30 the floor for nominations for Chair of the North Slope
31 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Eva, for the record I
34 would like to nominate Gordon Brower for Chair and ask
35 for unanimous consent from the Council.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

38

39 MS. KIPPI: I call for the question on
40 that.

41

42 MS. PATTON: All right. The question's
43 been called for. We have a.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

46

47 MS. PATTON:Council members.....

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

50

0077

1 MS. PATTON:all in.....

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Congratulations, Gordon.

4 And, you know, Gordon has been with the Regional

5 Subsistence -- North Slope Regional Subsistence

6 Advisory Council for quite some time, I think 20 years

7 or so. And.....

8

9 (Teleconference interference -

10 participants not muted)

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK:and I really

13 appreciate him and he is a volunteer service. And we

14 thank you for always being on top of these issues and

15 explaining things particularly to some of us new ones

16 and giving us a better understanding.

17

18 Thank you for your services and -- and

19 continued service too, ensuring our way of life and our

20 -- the animals that we depend on particularly so we can

21 continue to live our way of life. And whatever

22 regulations that come in and concerns that are brought

23 out.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native).

26

27 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Any other discussion. We

32 -- we -- we still have to vote, but any other

33 discussion for nomination of Gordon Brower as Chair?

34

35 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

38

39 MR. HOPSON: Thank you. I -- I support

40 Gordon for the Chair. And I'm not going to be here

41 with the Council any more after this meeting, but I

42 just want to say something to Gordon. He can translate

43 it if he wants to. I'm going to speak in Inupiaq.

44 (In Native), Gordon. (In Native). Keep that in mind

45 and -- and I support you, Gordon, and I thank you for

46 your service.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native)

49 quyanaqpak, William. (In Native)

50

0078

1 MR. HOPSON: Gordon, we have faith in
2 you and -- and we thank you.

3
4 MS. PATTON: Thank you, William.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So are we
7 ready to vote or are we going to call.....

8
9 MS. PATTON: Yes, if we.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER:for the question
12 or.....

13
14 MS. PATTON:if there's no further
15 discussion and call for question. All those in favor
16 of reelecting Gordon Brower as Chair please say aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 MS. PATTON: All those opposed -- thank
21 you. All those opposed same sign.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
26 Congratulations, Gordon. You have been unanimously
27 reelected as Chair. And I'll turn it back over to you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). I -- I
30 just want to apprec -- really say I appreciate your
31 confidence in me and -- and, William, I -- you know, it
32 means a lot to hear from you guys. And I always strive
33 to do my best and -- and think about our subsistence.
34 And, William, you are right, we need to have a good
35 path that doesn't put at risk our subsistence and --
36 and find common ground and I take those to heart. And
37 I continue to -- yeah, I continue to be on this Council
38 because my heart is in it. And -- and I'll do the best
39 I can.

40
41 Quyanaqpak.

42
43 So with that I'm going to open the
44 floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

45
46 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

49
50

0079

1 MR. OOMITTUK: If this is nominations
2 for Vice Chair, I would like to nominate Wanda Kippi of
3 Atqasuk for Vice Chair.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have one
8 nomination, Wanda. Any other nominations.

9
10 MR. OOMITTUK: I ask for nominations to
11 be closed.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
14 the floor to close the nominations.

15
16 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded.
19 Discussion.

20
21 (No comments)

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
26 called for to close nominations. All those in favor to
27 close nominations signify by saying aye.

28
29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
32 same sign.

33
34 (No opposing votes)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, since
37 we have only one nomination I'd like to congratulate
38 Wanda as the new Vice Chair if that's appropriate
39 because there's no other nominations there, Eva.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I'm sure Eva said
44 yes.

45
46 MS. PATTON: I'm talking on mute.
47 Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we could have a vote just to
48 confirm the process that would be helpful.

49
50

0080

1 REPORTER: They did vote.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those
4 in favor of voting Wanda Kippi of Atqasuk as the new
5 Vice Chair of the North Slope Subsistence Regional
6 Council signify by saying aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
11 same sign.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none,
16 congratulations, Wanda.

17

18 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Thank you for
19 putting -- putting my -- my heart into this. Thank you
20 all for trusting me to go on with this and hope we do
21 a good job at it or I hope I can do a good job and help
22 -- help do what we love to do.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: At the same time I'd
27 like to thank Steve Oomittuk for being Vice Chair and
28 that was -- it's always good to listen to Steve and --
29 and as the Chair -- Vice Chairmanship shifts over to
30 Atqasuk from Point Hope and thank you for being the
31 Vice Chair there, Steve.

32

33 And congratulations to Wanda.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that.....

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, Mr. Chair. Steve
38 for the record.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER:I'd like to open
41 the nominations.....

42

43 Steve, did you want to say anything
44 before we go to the next election item?

45

46 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. I -- I just want
47 to congratulate Wanda Kippi and thank you for taking
48 this on. And also want to thank Gordon for your
49 comments and, you know, I'm looking forward to continue

50

0081

1 on, you know, on this seat. And it's been pretty busy
2 for me at times and I'll continue to, you know, be --
3 be on the Board .

4

5 Thank you. And thank you for having
6 the opportunity to be Vice Chair for the last five
7 years. It's been a learning experience for me.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Native). You
12 know, we should all strive to encourage our younger
13 people to be participating and apply for these or
14 encouraging them. You know, sometimes it's good to
15 even just be listening so that you could see how the
16 Council runs so that, you know, it -- I think sometimes
17 we run as an example to others too.

18

19 Anyway so I'd like to open the
20 nominations for Secretary.

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I'd like to
23 nominate Peter Williams for Secretary.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a nomination
26 on the floor to -- for Peter Earl Williams. Any other
27 nominations?

28

29 MR. WILLIAMS: Golly, thanks anyway
30 because I have arthritis on my hands so I have a
31 problem with that.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So are
34 you -- you're still good with the nominations?

35

36 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I'll just -- there's
37 stuff I don't know how to say, but no, thanks anyway.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I nominate Steve
40 Oomittuk as our Secretary.

41

42 MR. WILLIAMS: I close the nominations.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. There's a
45 motion on the floor to close the nominations.

46

47 MR. HOPSON: Second.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.

50

0082

1 MS. KIPPI: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
4 called for. All those in favor of closing nominations
5 signify by saying aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
10 same sign.

11

12 (No opposing votes)

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So for
15 those -- we're going to vote now. All those in favor
16 of voting for Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope as the
17 Secretary, signify by saying aye.

18

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
22 same sign.

23

24 (No opposing votes)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
27 Congratulations, Steve. You're now the new Secretary.

28

29 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I appreciate
30 it. And.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

33

34 MR. OOMITTUK:I'll do the best to
35 be the Secretary.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I'll --
40 I'll call for a golden pen to be shipped over to you.

41

42 All right. All right. I -- that
43 concludes the election of officers for the North Slope
44 Regional Advisory Council. And congratulations to
45 everybody and we -- we keep it going.

46

47 There you go.....

48

49 MR. HOPSON: Mr. Chair.

50

0083

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:Eva. We're --
2 we're duly elected.

3
4 Yeah, go ahead.

5
6 MR. HOPSON: Okay. If it's okay with
7 you I -- I would like to be excused, but I will call
8 back in. I need to run over to the hospital and the
9 school.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. William,
12 we look forward to hearing from you.

13
14 MR. HOPSON: Thank you. I will call
15 back when -- as soon as I'm done.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. All right.
18 Eva, can you reorient us, where we're at, Madame
19 Coordinator.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
22 Council. We were juggling things around a little bit
23 to try and have as much of the Council present as
24 possible to go over the call for Federal wildlife
25 proposals. We -- we had skipped ahead as we were
26 waiting for Earl to start on the review of the annual
27 report. As the Council wishes, if -- if you would like
28 to go back to -- beginning with the call for the
29 Federal wildlife proposals and get those updates at
30 this time.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Perfect.

33
34 MS. PATTON: And then we can resume
35 with the.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's do that.

38
39 MS. PATTON:report later. Uh-
40 huh.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
43 let's do the wildlife proposals and -- and start from
44 there.

45
46 MS. PATTON: All right. Thank you, Mr.
47 Chair and Council.

48
49 So we do have Hannah Voorhees is online
50

1 and was going to provide an overview of the call for
2 wildlife proposals. And you'll find the basic
3 information on page 14 of your meeting books. And it
4 outlines the process on how to submit a proposal to
5 change Federal subsistence regulation. And Hannah will
6 cover more details, but we did just get an update that
7 the actual call for wildlife proposals is scheduled to
8 be posted tomorrow. This meeting is the opportunity
9 for the Council to submit any proposals that you would
10 like to submit. And it will be open to the public for
11 90 days as well to submit proposals.

12
13 Maybe I'll just.....

14
15 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Eva. I can
16 -- I can jump in if that's okay.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Yeah, go ahead, Hannah.
19 Thank you.

20
21 MS. VOORHEES: Great. Well, good
22 afternoon, Mr. Chair and members of the Council. This
23 is Hannah Voorhees, anthropologist at the Office of
24 Subsistence Management. It's good to hear all your
25 voices and I look forward to meeting in person
26 eventually. And I hope you're all staying healthy.

27
28 So as Eva mentioned the materials for
29 this brief presentation begin on page 14 of your
30 Council books.

31
32 The call for proposals to change
33 Federal subsistence regulations is usually published in
34 the Federal Register in January. The period during
35 which proposals are accepted is no less than 30
36 calendar days. Proposals must be submitted in writing
37 within this window. However with the new
38 administration in Washington, DC all Federal agencies
39 in the process of publishing proposed rules including
40 our call for proposals were directed to withdraw those
41 documents so they could be reviewed by the new
42 administration. This is common when you have a new
43 incoming administration. So not too unusual. However
44 we did just learn that a proposed rule that will open
45 this window for accepting proposals was finally
46 scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on
47 February 23rd. So as soon as that happens tomorrow we
48 will -- we will be able to formally accept proposals.

49
50

0085

1 So at this meeting you can still
2 discuss, draft and vote on wildlife proposals and you
3 should make a motion and vote on any proposals that you
4 intend to submit for this cycle. And once -- tomorrow
5 hopefully once the -- the call for proposals is
6 published we can formally accept those proposals. So
7 this is the opportunity for the Council to develop and
8 vote on proposals to change Federal wildlife
9 regulation. You may propose changes to Federal
10 subsistence season dates, harvest limits, methods and
11 means of harvest and customary and traditional use
12 determination. And OSM staff including myself are here
13 to answer any question you may have as you go about
14 this process.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hannah.
19 Any questions to Hannah from the Council?

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe, Hannah, just
24 to -- maybe like a brief example, you know, we were
25 hearing some wranglings about a wildlife proposal for
26 temporary closure or emergency closure or something
27 like that and for those types of proposals that affect
28 cross boundaries, when it may be being proposed from
29 another Regional Advisory Council. Can you talk about
30 how we look at something like that, I mean, I know we
31 will hear in a little bit probably, but I -- I'd like
32 to have some talking points and -- and discussion to
33 give the Council some -- some ability to either clarify
34 or -- well, when it's -- we're not the proponents of
35 the proposal, but it also impacts our unit boundaries
36 within the -- the North Slope, but it's -- it's coming
37 from a different -- different Regional Council?

38

39 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
40 Yes, I do have some talking points prepared for that
41 specific special action request that Northwest Arctic
42 was -- you know, they were hoping to communicate with
43 the North Slope Council on that action. And yeah, it --
44 it could either -- you know, you could either express
45 your support or I believe you could join as the
46 proponent on that request if it's -- according to their
47 -- their drafting of it it would include unit 26A. But
48 yeah, at this time you can -- you can consider this
49 crossover proposal or you can create original
50

0086

1 proposals. You can also, you know, submit special
2 action requests, that would be on a shorter timeline.
3 But with your permission I can jump into a presentation
4 on the Northwest Arctic's special action request.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, before we do
7 that I -- I'd like the Council to have an opportunity
8 to talk with you about what we can do as a body. Let's
9 say that all of -- some of those proposals and -- and
10 I'm -- I'm not saying, you know, to do this or do that,
11 that based on population and -- and -- and things like
12 that that we would maybe perhaps support with
13 modifications. Because of the special action for a
14 brief period of time, I think it's for three months and
15 it closes an activity to other users or something to
16 that effect and -- and we could potentially make a
17 supporting -- supporting of that proposal or we could
18 support it with modifications that might be more
19 restrictive or something like that or more liberal or
20 something like that?

21

22 MS. VOORHEES: Sure. You have a couple
23 actions or couple options in that case. You could -- I
24 mean, because this is a crossover proposal and.....

25

26 (Teleconference interference -
27 participants not muted)

28

29 MS. VOORHEES:your timeline than
30 a regular proposal. So Eva may have to help me with
31 this, but I believe you have a chance to provide input.
32 So even if you don't act on it today you should have a
33 chance to comment on it later and you could suggest --
34 you could, you know, say support with modification as
35 your condition then. Alternatively you could submit a
36 similar proposal to theirs, but just with the language
37 of your modification.

38

39 Let me check in with Eva and see if she
40 has any -- anything to add to that.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Hannah. This
43 is Eva. So this meeting is the opportunity for the
44 North Slope Council to make recommendations both on
45 this special action request as a Council. If the
46 special action is adopted then -- or moved forward by
47 the Board then there will be a public hearing, but
48 that'll be outside of the regular Council meeting
49 process. So -- so this meeting would be the
50

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1 opportunity to make any recommendations on that special
2 action request.

3

4

5 This meeting is also the opportunity if
6 the Council wishes to submit any proposals from the
7 Council. All proposals that are ultimately submitted
8 either because the -- the opportunity will be open for
9 approximately 90 days and there's opportunity for
10 Council members as individuals to submit proposals,
11 public, tribes, anyone can submit proposals in that
12 window. And all of those proposals for the regular
13 wildlife regulatory cycle will come back before the
14 Council for your recommendation at your fall meeting.
15 But for a special action request since that's out of
16 cycle this would be the opportunity to make a
17 recommendation on that.

17

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I would suggest we could provide that
overview for the Council and then have an opportunity
to receive any wildlife updates that would -- might be
helpful in -- in -- in forming the Council's
recommendation. As the Council wishes, but we can
provide an overview, provide as much data as is
available that might help inform the Council and then
there's opportunity to take action tomorrow after
getting all that information as the Council -- as the
Council wishes.

Thank you.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, this is Steve
for the record.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
Steve.

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. And, you know, I
-- I know in the past that we -- we make motions on the
floor to close subsistence -- I mean, to close hunting
on -- on Federal lands for unit 23 on the Western
Arctic caribou herd due to population numbers being so
low. And -- and my understanding in the last report I
think in December or -- I remember that the population
is still less than half of what it used to be. And the
Western Arctic caribou herd population is at about
what, 210,000 and at the highest at one time was
500,000, and then there for a while it was at 450,000.
And then, you know, there's a difference of -- of
10,000 either higher or 10,000 lower. So the

0088

1 population, that estimate is at 210, those could be
2 200,000.

3

4 And -- and, you know, the -- we had
5 passed a certain -- that hunting be closed during the
6 migration especially, you know, from -- I don't know,
7 it was set for July, August and September to halt all
8 the hunting on Federal lands to nonresidents and
9 sporthunters on Federal lands. And if this the time to
10 do it. I know there is some support from the Western
11 Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group because they are
12 concerned of the population. And -- and they passed --
13 there was a motion passed in December's meeting to
14 support any proposals or actions that, you know, if
15 that was to be made that if was to close hunting to
16 nonresidents and sporthunters on Federal lands during
17 the month of July, August and September to make sure
18 that the population comes back up and the migration
19 stays on the -- you know, comes through the existing
20 communities that have been changed in the last 10 years
21 it seem like.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
26 Well, this certainly is the time to reflect on -- on
27 proposals and -- and I think it might be important to
28 also reflect on the state of herds which I think Carmen
29 and -- and Alaska Department of Fish and Game and --
30 has information regarding how the herds are doing,
31 various animals from moose to muskox to -- to caribou
32 and -- and what management scheme we're currently
33 under. I think we might be in a conservative
34 management scheme right now, when those numbers were
35 really high we were in a pretty liberal management
36 scheme.

37

38 And but there are things to consider
39 too, you know, and I'll give an example. When
40 development was occur -- what -- and continues to occur
41 around Nuiqsut, we had public hearings about the
42 availability of subsistence resources. Even though the
43 population was either conservative management or
44 liberal management there were issues that developed
45 because of interference. And -- and this is just from
46 personal knowledge because the -- the North Slope
47 Bureau Assembly, just taking my hat off for a minute,
48 had voted in ordinances to allow for development to
49 occur while concerns to availability of subsistence
50

0089

1 resources and the deflection of movement of large scale
2 populations of caribou were being talked about and
3 deflected.

4

5 So in that sense in a conservative and
6 liberal management it was determined that the
7 subsistence resource was depleted, removed from an area
8 for reasonable availability for subsistence purposes
9 meaning that the caribou were deflected from an action
10 or an activity. And -- and the assembly under public
11 hearing and the creation of the ordinance determined
12 that you can deplete the subsistence resource from
13 where they're normally found and available for
14 subsistence by deflecting them. Warranting other
15 majors to mitigate for those types of things meaning
16 maybe time/area closure for a little bit could be
17 enacted because of the deflection and the limited
18 availability of resources even though the population
19 suggests that there's conservative management or
20 liberal management because of some other activity.

21

22 And -- and these are things to consider
23 about subsistence. And it's important to distinguish
24 that also between State land and Federal land because
25 the things that I talk about, that's the only way you
26 can affect State land is to do something extraordinary,
27 making those kind of statements about depleting a
28 resource from where they're normally found and
29 available for subsistence even though it's a liberal
30 management or a conservative management and then put a
31 time/area closure for a little while to allow for food
32 security and other things like that.

33

34 I'm sorry I'm long-winded in this area,
35 but I -- what happened was that the assembly created
36 the North Slope Borough Mitigation Fund Advisory
37 Committee for that community that was dealing with
38 deflection and -- and causing a action to happen
39 meaning we were going to actively mitigate for the
40 deflection. And how did we do that, we created the
41 Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee, funded it and
42 allowed for the subsistence users to say well, you can
43 still hunt in the same area if you can, you know. And
44 but if there are no subsistence resources in that area
45 where they're normally found we're not going to put
46 that expense of going further away to a different area
47 on the subsistence group. And -- and we designed the
48 Mitigation Program that -- that works.

49

50

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1 So anyway in -- in other words that
2 this is the time for proposals if there were any to
3 look at how we can do something like that, that's
4 development related impact, but and normally we try to
5 see proposals based on the management scheme, whether
6 the population is going up or the population is down
7 and the biologists are probably going to do something
8 to do more conservative management like limit bag
9 limits and things like that. But when we have villages
10 that need subsistence resources to provide food on the
11 table and compete with other activities that could
12 deflect animals out of reasonable availability of the
13 subsistence user groups in the rural communities and
14 but we would have to identify those types of issues.

15

16 I'm sorry I'm long-winded in this area,
17 but it's good to give examples of different types of
18 proposals that could -- that could happen.

19

20 Thank you. (In Native).

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you for those
23 comments. You know, I'm -- you know, unit 23, you
24 know, I have a lot of discussions with people in the
25 NANA Region because they are within the unit 23 in
26 Lotac and Kivalina, Kiana, Kotzebue, Ambler. And --
27 and then there has been talk about migration change.
28 You know, Kotzebue area very rarely -- there's a --
29 because I'm assume like the migration has changed for
30 the caribou coming into the area and so has Lotac
31 because of hunters going beyond -- up north. And --
32 and whether it's sporthunters or nonresident hunters
33 and being put in front of a herd of the Western Arctic
34 caribou and -- and deflecting them from communities
35 where they normally go en route because, you know, we
36 were always taught that -- you know, to let the first
37 animals come through so the -- the animals that are
38 coming next have a path to follow. And then, you know,
39 it was always our custom that we always let the first
40 herd of caribou come through before we actively hunted
41 especially in the falltime. And, you know, and then a
42 lot of times, you know, we -- we have to let our
43 younger generation understand these certain traditions
44 and to be sure that the animals come in abundance
45 because there is a big herd out there.

46

47 But the herd -- you know, for many
48 years we've been concerned of the population of the
49 caribou herd that has dropped about 180,000 to 200,000

50

0091

1 from a herd of 450,000 for so many years. And we're
2 just concerned in unit 23 with all the activity that
3 goes on especially in the fall hunting season with
4 aircrafts and sportshunters and, you know, other areas
5 coming in and --and being dropped off in frontof the --
6 on Federal lands, being dropped off, you know, in
7 front of the herd. And then she -- you know, Kotzebue
8 sees it, you know, when they come off Alaska Airlines,
9 you know, and the number of people that come in in
10 August in -- in abundance and they're all camouflaged,
11 you know. And then -- and then when they're going back
12 home, you know, majority of what they're taking home is
13 -- is mainly the antlers, you know, when they're
14 checking in.

15
16

17 And -- and that's always been a concern
18 and it's a concern for -- up here on the North Slope
19 especially Point Hope. Sometimes depend -- you know,
20 we -- you know, we're mostly ocean people, but we eat a
21 lot of caribou too and it's part of our diet. And --
22 and, you know, to have fresh meat and they -- like I
23 said in the past, you know, we passed certain or we
24 made motions to have closure on Federal lands within
25 unit 23 on the North Slope to nonresidents or
26 sporthunters. And then I understand if we put a time
27 frame in there we'd be a lot better like instead of
28 saying closure, you know, to stop closure, but having a
29 timeline frame of when. Would that be much better than
30 just stating that we're closing hunting on Federal land
31 to nonresidents and sporthunters in unit 23 within the
32 North Slope area?

33
34

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, thanks, Steve.

35
36

MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.....

37
38

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
Hannah.

39
40

41 MS. VOORHEES: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
42 Steve, I just wanted to address a couple of your
43 questions. First so I think it was a proposal a while
44 back that was submitted to close to non-Federally-
45 qualified users in 26A and 26B. And I believe that
46 some of the -- the reason for that not being adopted by
47 the Federal Subsistence Board include -- is it -- you
48 know, they -- yeah, so there is a population based
49 model and as Gordon pointed out and I believe the Board
50 felt that some regulations that had been put into place

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1 beginning in 2015 might help with supporting.....

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MS. VOORHEES:excuse me,
7 population numbers. So the -- for example they reduced
8 bag limit and -- and the State registration permit
9 that, you know, I think began in 2018. So that was the
10 rationale at that point was to wait and let -- let's
11 see if those regulations help the health of the herd.

12

13 We now look forward to an update on the
14 Western Arctic caribou herd at this meeting as we go
15 forward. And, you know, I -- I think that it -- there
16 may be some -- you know, it might be worth trying again
17 and also I do think that you might have a better chance
18 with that focused window on, you know, when is the
19 period when continuation of subsistence uses is really
20 impinged upon by the -- the activity of nonlocal
21 hunters.

22

23 So yeah, I just wanted to address your
24 question.

25

26 Thanks.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hannah.
29 And I hope that's.....

30

31 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
32 Joly with the Park Service.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Kyle.

35

36 MR. JOLY: Oh, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 I just wanted to let you guys know that I'm available
38 for questions regarding the Western Arctic herd. I'm a
39 wildlife biologist for the National Park Service and I
40 focus on the Western Arctic herd. So I'll try and
41 answer any questions that you have if you have any for
42 me.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. And thank
45 you, Kyle. I think it's important when we start to
46 look at the proposals that we've had some -- the
47 biologists talk about the state of the herd and with
48 our senses and other things like that might be
49 indicators to -- to -- for the biologists to do

50

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1 something. But areas of concern about late migration,
2 availability of a subsistence resource where they're
3 normally found, those kind of things, it -- it might be
4 maybe a little harder for -- to use those kind of terms
5 when you're looking at subsistence from the standpoint
6 of just the population numbers. And I know there seems
7 to be some concerns about impacts to the migration from
8 -- from where they're normally found and available for
9 subsistence versus just the impact of the herd size
10 coming down from 450,000 animals down to 200,000
11 animals and the type of management that would impact
12 the subsistence user by bag limits or other selective
13 harvesting to maximizing recruiting or something like
14 that.

15

16 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, Wanda.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
19 Wanda.

20

21 MS. KIPPI: In regards to sporthunters.
22 I had -- I had a visitor here not too long ago and I
23 forgot where they ment -- they had mentioned that they
24 watch aircraft -- aircraft scare the herd to their
25 direction where sporthunters were and they've been
26 doing that for I think last year, last fall. So I just
27 want to mention that, but I can't recall who -- which
28 village down that way, either Point Hope or Point Lay
29 or Nuiqsut or Kaktovik or Anaktuvuk Pass, I can't
30 remember which -- which -- which -- which -- which
31 village it was. I just want to put that out.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's
36 important and I recall some of those kinds of comments
37 as well. So with that, you know, we're talking about
38 proposals and things like that and if there are any
39 questions.

40

41 So my question was to -- to Kyle and
42 maybe to Hannah in terms of a -- being able to justify
43 a proposal, whether it's a closure or it's a time/area
44 closure or -- or related to -- not related to the
45 management of the herd itself versus based on its
46 population, but maybe because of availability of the
47 resource because of its scarcity being impacted.

48

49 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is

50

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1 Hannah.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And don't speak all
4 at once. Go ahead.

5

6 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, I said -- I
7 think it might be helpful just to give the background
8 on Northwest Arctic briefly. And -- and maybe that
9 would help a little bit. I guess I think continuation
10 of subsistence uses is a -- you know, a valid reason to
11 put in a closure request. And the success of it might
12 depend on, you know, patterns of Federal land and where
13 herds are being diverted and -- and whether, you know,
14 that's occurring in places that this action could --
15 could address. But that's my two cents and Kyle is
16 more knowledgeable, but yeah, I just -- I just wanted
17 to briefly tell you about wildlife special action 21-
18 01.

19

20 As you know a special action request
21 for hunting for moose and caribou on Federal public
22 lands in unit 23 and 26A be closed to non-Federally-
23 qualified users for all of August and September, 2021
24 only. Steve mentions a -- you know, kind of a wider
25 time window which would be July, August and September
26 and which might be more appropriate for further north
27 so that's something that you could discuss.

28

29 So the Northwest Arctic Council voted
30 to submit this special action request at their
31 November, 2020 meeting and they reconfirmed last week
32 and didn't really change anything, they've added some
33 more information on the record. But because it
34 includes 26A they were very concerned that your Council
35 weigh in. They believe the closure is needed because
36 of late caribou migration events in recent years and
37 Northwest Arctic region last year only Noatak had
38 harvested caribou by mid November. And at that time
39 they were just starting to come through Kiana and
40 Ambler. This is a great source of stress to
41 communities because even though winter harvest might be
42 possible it was uncertain. And updates from last
43 week's meeting suggest that the caribou harvest was
44 lower than needed overall for the region.

45

46 Northwest Arctic RAC is concerned that
47 the activity of non-Federally-qualified users
48 facilitated by transporters may be one factor leading
49 to the delayed or diverted migration of caribou and
50

50

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1 they recognize that, you know, this is probably part of
2 the pattern that includes climate change, but, you
3 know, this is something that they have the ability to
4 address, the diversion issue directly through
5 regulation. The Council hopes that this request will
6 reduce aircraft traffic and create an easier path for
7 migrating caribou and a rationale is the continuation
8 of subsistence purposes.

9
10 And I should add that -- so moose are
11 also included in this request and when it comes to
12 moose the Council stated that it supports closing to
13 non-Federally-qualified users primarily because of
14 declining moose population. It wasn't -- so I also
15 suggested, you know, perhaps reducing traffic around
16 where hunting for moose would benefit caribou migration
17 pathways as well as they acknowledged that, but did
18 focus on more of a conservation concern as a rationale
19 for the closure for moose.

20
21 So that's all I have recently. And I
22 know you've kind of already covered those things a
23 little bit, but I just wanted to give you a formal
24 introduction. And I -- yeah, as I mentioned you might
25 want to join them or take an alternative path that Eva
26 has outlined.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Hannah.

31
32 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Kyle.

35 MR. JOLY: Sorry about that. Thank
36 you. I remember I mentioned another tool that the Park
37 Service uses that might be able to be implemented
38 elsewhere. And so at Noatak we have a delayed entry
39 area. And so commercial -- people who have commercial
40 permits to operate within the Preserve so transporters
41 and guides, there's an area that's not open for them to
42 bring in hunters and it's early in the season to let
43 the leaders establish trails to get through the
44 Preserve and then the -- the late entry ends and then
45 the hunters can come in afterwards. So that's just
46 another tool that maybe the Council would be interested
47 in and we could send more information about that, but
48 that's something that's currently in operation in
49 Noatak National Preserve just south of the Brooks Range

50

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1 there.

2

3

4 And I just want to say a couple things
5 about caribou migrations and timing. This year we had
6 the latest caribou migration that we've documented. As
7 recently as 10 years ago we'd have caribou crossing the
8 Kobuk River in the end of August and this year we
9 didn't have a caribou cross until the beginning of
10 November so, you know, like two months later than what
11 we've seen just 10 years ago. And besides the lateness
12 of the migration we're also seeing less animals cross
13 south of the Kobuk River. Ten years ago we used to see
14 70, 80, even up to 90 percent of our collared animals
15 cross the Kobuk River, winter south of the Kobuk. In
16 recent years it's -- it's been much lower, under 50
17 percent. We had two years like 20 percent of the
18 animals cross and then again this year it's a very low
19 number, probably -- it might be less than 20 percent, I
20 haven't done the calculations on it yet. But a very
21 low number of animals crossing south. And most of
22 those animals ended up wintering in the western
23 portions of Gates of the Arctic National Park and
24 Preserve.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kyle. And
I think those -- you know, it's important to see what
these animals are -- are doing and kind of, you know,
trying to understand why a special action would be
needed to try to remedy something that maybe either
nature is controlling on because that's a lot of
animals. I mean, if you're talking about 50 percent or
more are staving off to go to other parts where they're
not normally wintering and -- and the availability of
those resources, you got 50 percent less to choose to
hunt from. And I think that could be easily
attributable to the concerns raised.

The other concern I would have about
the delayed transporter areas that you're talking about
and I would only theorize that those are the folks that
might be the rural hunters that need to get dropped off
and -- and dropped into place to do their subsistence
or some other type of hunt that could be commingled
with subsistence areas and is that kind of like that
topic?

MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, Kyle Jolly for
the record. So those closures are just for commercial
operators, so transporters and guides and almost

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1 exclusively they're dealing with nonrural residents.
2 Rural residents in unit 23 in the falltime are
3 primarily hunting via boats and so this particular
4 closure or delayed entry is designed for the benefit of
5 hunters coming out of the Village of Noatak and so is
6 Kotzebue going up the Noatak River and for the
7 allowance of the lead caribou to come through to set
8 trails so -- in hopes that the -- the trailing animals
9 will -- will come through. So it's really just trying
10 to keep the -- the different types of hunters
11 segregated in time.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Well, you
14 know, we tried to -- in my, you know, deal, you know,
15 we try to subsist throughout the year, you know, but we
16 try to get some real prime ones right before the rut
17 season starts and stuff. But, you know, I can recall a
18 few years back where we were, I don't know,
19 deliberating on areas and instead of a large scale
20 closure of all Federal lands there were areas that were
21 identified as critical to subsistence and then, you
22 know, put a time/area closure on those to allow for
23 subsistence pursuits to occur from rural residents, but
24 it didn't affect the remainder of the law surrounding
25 it, but to those areas that were deemed more critical
26 for local villages to be able to have access without --
27 without that much influence or competing for those same
28 resources with non rural residents. And I'm just
29 trying to think out of the box -- not out of the box,
30 but think about what we've already did and -- and also
31 what worked.

32
33 And I'm going to read a small section
34 of areas that we deal with up here. And this is
35 language out of land use policy of the North Slope
36 Borough and it's called the Village Area of Influence.
37 And -- and they're called the -- the area outside of
38 the village which is used in common by some or all of
39 the residents thereof for subsistence, transportation
40 and other purposes as indicated in the comprehensive
41 plan as marked in 11(a), (b) and (c).

42
43 And when we think about food security
44 and I don't know to what extent that Office of
45 Subsistence Management indulges in food security and
46 availability of these resources for the rural residents
47 to put food on the table. And it seems to me there's a
48 common thread about the needs, the subsistence needs.
49 We know the State has an impasse on subsistence, they
50

0098

1 never adopted the rural subsistence priority in the --
2 in their constitutional convention back in '92 or '94
3 or something like that, why the Federal management on
4 Federal lands took hold and there was a split. So it's
5 important to -- to kind of look at these areas.

6

7 And I kind of remember like north of
8 Anaktuvuk Pass there was a control use area. That is
9 sort of like a area of influence for the community of
10 Anaktuvuk Pass. And there was an area identified
11 around Squirrel River at one point by -- close to
12 Noatak and -- and in those areas. And it kind of
13 resembled a village area of influence high use area for
14 subsistence for closure to non-Federally-qualified
15 users for a time or two when there was starting to be a
16 more -- almost a preservative management scheme based
17 on competition of the resources and deflection of those
18 animals. Because once you deflect them you're
19 depleting them out of the reach of subsistence users.
20 You're -- if they're not there, they're depleted
21 they're not where they're normally found and -- and
22 that's the -- that's something that the assembly of the
23 North Slope Borough had to argue for a long time in
24 order to come up with mitigation about the subsistence
25 and the impact to subsistence when the animals are
26 being depleted from an area by deflection.

27

28 Anyway, you know, I.....

29

30 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

33

34 MS. VOORHEES: I wanted to mention that
35 it's my understanding that the Noatak controlled use
36 area and the Anaktuvuk Pass controlled use area are
37 established under State regulations actually. And
38 there was -- there was a good compromise that was
39 created around the Noatak with a closed corridor, but
40 that -- I think that was focused more on a
41 geographically predictable user conflict.

42

43 That's all. Thanks.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Okay. So
46 -- okay. So anybody -- anybody have.....

47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

49

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1 CHAIRMAN BROWER:any questions.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Excuse
4 me.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Go.....

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, this is Steve
9 Oomittuk for the record.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

12

13 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, before I
14 submit anything, you know, I -- I -- you know, on
15 reading the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's report
16 and the National Park Service update and -- and when I
17 look at the Western Arctic caribou herd survey in --
18 that was done in the spring and yearlings and the.....

19

20 (Teleconference interference -
21 participants not muted)

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK:calving surveys and
24 collaring and adult female mortality 2019, 2020, 12
25 percent. And also, you know, on the National Park
26 Service update on Western Arctic caribou, they're very
27 short, but I -- I -- I don't see any population numbers
28 and -- and that's, you know, from how many years ago,
29 you know, what -- you know, how -- what is our
30 population at, I mean, what's the going rate for the
31 last three, four years since the population was at the
32 lowest level about three years ago at about 180,000 is
33 my understanding. And then you have a 10,000 either
34 higher or 10,000 lower. You know, it's -- it's an
35 estimate -- estimated population, but I -- I just
36 wanted to know before I submit a motion or proposal,
37 you know, what exactly is that population for unit 23
38 on the Western Arctic caribou herd?

39

40 And I think I heard the Park Service
41 online say that they could answer some questions or
42 Fish and Game because if we do make -- if this proposal
43 is submitted I -- you know, I just wanted to clarify
44 some numbers.

45

46 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is
47 Mark.....

48

49 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

50

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1 MR. BURCH:from Fish and Game.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead. This
4 is -- go ahead.

5

6 MR. BURCH: Yeah, this is Mark Burch
7 for the record with the Department of Fish and Game. I
8 don't have those numbers, especially the historical
9 numbers over time right at my fingertips, but I do
10 believe Carmen will be available tomorrow. If you'd
11 like to defer this conversation until then I think she
12 will have numbers for both the Western Arctic and the
13 Teshekpuk herds. So anyway I guess that's where we're
14 at for the moment.

15

16 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Steve, if
19 that's okay, we -- we -- maybe the proposal section as
20 we get information from Carmen and -- and ADF&G it
21 might be helpful. But I -- at the same time.....

22

23 Hannah, you read into the record the
24 unit 23, unit 26A special action for caribou for moose
25 und -- under WP 21-01. Am I -- am I correct in that?

26

27 MS. VOORHEES: Yes. Correct, Mr.
28 Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And is that an action
31 item that we would benefit from postponing until
32 tomorrow until Carmen is available to talk a little bit
33 more about the caribou?

34

35 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, I think that would
36 be a good idea.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to ask.....

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK:Steve for the
45 record.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: With that said, I -- I

50

0101

1 think we will go -- I make a motion that it be -- this
2 proposal be postponed until we have Carmen online
3 tomorrow.....

4
5 (Teleconference interference -
6 participants not muted)

7
8 MR. OOMITTUK:and any motions or
9 proposals to be put on the floor by the Council. And
10 we're an action item on this proposal that is submitted
11 so we have better information and get a population
12 number of the Western Arctic caribou herd in also unit
13 26A and 23, is that.....

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve, for that
16 proposal that was deliberated by the Northwest Arctic
17 RAC is coming from them. We can either support it
18 and/or we could make up our own proposal with -- or
19 modify it. But it probably might be beneficial to
20 hear. That's all we're thinking is that it might be
21 beneficial to hear the state of the caribou, what
22 happened to them and Carmen is probably the most
23 knowledgeable person for that.

24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you. And do
26 we have Enoch Shiedt online who's the chairman for the
27 Northwest Arctic Borough or.....

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council
30 members. This is Eva. No, I don't believe the Chair
31 of the Northwest Arctic Council is online today. If
32 the Council was interested to have a discussion with
33 him I could see if he might be able to call in
34 tomorrow.

35
36 As -- as was noted Carmen had expected
37 to be available tomorrow morning to provide overview
38 and update on the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herds.
39 So that information will be coming tomorrow and likely
40 will be helpful to inform, you know, the Council's
41 understanding and recommendations on both that special
42 action request and -- and any proposals regarding
43 caribou for the Western Arctic herd.

44
45 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman.....

46
47 MS. PATTON: And if you.....

48
49 MR. JOLY:this is Kyle Joly.

50

0102

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Kyle.

2

3 MR. JOLY: Yeah, I have those
4 population numbers if -- if you're interested, if
5 that's helpful.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think it's --
8 that's the kind of stuff we've been kind of angling
9 around to what Carmen might provide and will talk about
10 the migration issues.

11

12 MR. JOLY: Yeah, for -- for the Western
13 Arctic herd the population was 259,000 animals back in
14 2017. And then the population declined to 244,000 in
15 2019 which was the last census that Fish and Game did.
16 A census was not taken in 2020, but they are planning
17 on doing one in 2021.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. So we're
20 talking about 240,000 animals minimum?

21

22 MR. JOLY: Well, that -- that was the
23 estimate back in 2019. We had a discussion at the
24 Western Arctic Herd Working Group about which
25 management regime to put the herd in and -- and the
26 working group decided on conservative declining. And
27 so at that meeting.....

28

29 (Teleconference interference -
30 participants not muted)

31

32 MR. JOLY:Fish and Game presented
33 information on the herd and while there wasn't a new
34 census update, there was new information on adult
35 survival and recruitment. And it wasn't super
36 compelling, but the -- it looked like the numbers were
37 still going down and that kind of swayed the group to
38 go from conservative stable to conservative declining.
39 So we don't have a current estimate on what the
40 population number is, but if -- if the recruitment
41 versus mortality information is correct, we -- we might
42 have a few less animals now than we did in 2019.

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I have a
45 question.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK: So the 2019 population

50

0103

1 estimate population, that was a -- a aerial survey.
2 And then my understanding that the 2020 that I -- I
3 don't know why they don't have the population numbers
4 for 2020, was it due to weather and photograph, it's a
5 photographed survey of trying to get a number of -- I
6 understand the weather was a major factor in trying to
7 get a photograph of the Western Arctic caribou herd to
8 have a more accurate number?

9

10 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
11 Joly again. So the area that they take the
12 photographs, it's a photo census, so it's over in the
13 Lisburne hills kind of north of Red Dog Mine. And it's
14 an area where the animals tend to aggregate in huge
15 numbers. And so it's usually during the worst of the
16 insect harassment and that drives the caribou together
17 into these big groups and then Fish and Game can fly
18 over with a small airplane, a Beaver, and take pictures
19 and then the pictures get counted. So that's almost
20 always where the Western Arctic herd is at that time of
21 year and -- and they're one of the most reliable for
22 taking photographs and that's -- that's the area that
23 they did it.

24

25 As -- as to why they didn't -- they
26 weren't able to do it in 2020, I guess I'd leave that
27 to Carmen tomorrow to detail why they weren't able to
28 do it then.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, just another
31 clarification. What -- what time of the year do they
32 take those photos?

33

34 MR. JOLY: Through the Chair, this is
35 Kyle Joly again. They're usually taken in the first
36 week of July, right around July 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th,
37 8th, commonly in that neighborhood tends to be the time
38 when insect harassment would have peaked and that's
39 when you have the huge aggregations and that's when the
40 photographs are taken. We're fairly consistent in kind
41 of that end of the first week, beginning of the second
42 week of -- of July.

43

44 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you
45 for that. And that's -- you know, normally about the
46 time when the caribou are coming through Point Hope.
47 And out towards -- up the Kukpuk to the east. And the
48 Kukpuk quite a ways to the east. And I guess that's
49 certain times when they do see planes flying in the
50

0104

1 area. And there was a lot of concerns about -- you
2 know, we didn't know when they were doing aerial
3 photographs or -- or when BLM is around also in that
4 area doing their surveys, their work within the areas.
5 And that's usually the migration route. And they --
6 between end of June -- the last few weeks of June and
7 the first part of July is when we normally see them.
8 But and that's when they -- that's when a lot of the
9 hunters -- I've see a lot of aircraft traffic in the
10 areas to the east where the -- normally see the
11 migration of the caribou.

12

13 MR. JOLY: Yeah, this is Kyle Joly
14 again. That's one of the most consistent movements
15 that the herd makes that we documented at all. They
16 come off the calving grounds in the Utukok uplands and
17 then they head south, left basically, paralleling a
18 line from Point Lay to Point Hope, but, you know,
19 further inland. And it's just super consistent year
20 after year after year. We've seen all sorts of changes
21 in spring migration, fall migration, where they're
22 wintering, but that movement off the calving grounds to
23 that insect relief area has remained one of the most
24 consistent movements that the herd has made.

25

26 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Before we
29 -- before we defer this topic until tomorrow and I
30 think that's what we're trending towards is to defer
31 the -- this particular one about the special action to
32 hear from Carmen. And we don't have to, but I wanted
33 to get a better understanding of -- because I think
34 Office of -- OSM and others from pro -- proposals I've
35 seen in the past would either have ADF&G opposing it or
36 Office of Subsistence Management either supporting or
37 opposing with justification and -- and things like
38 that. Is there just hasn't been any time for that --
39 to do that because this is a special action request?

40

41 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, some of the
42 -- this is Hannah Voorhees for the record. And some of
43 the reasons for OSM to be opposed to these closures in
44 the past or for the Federal Subsistence Board to find
45 in opposition is that, you know, there's concerns that
46 well, if you close Federal public lands to non-
47 Federally-qualified users, that could concentrate those
48 users on State lands which often fall near your own
49 communities and that could negatively impact

50

0105

1 subsistence uses. Another concern is that there's
2 actually quite -- there's not very much harvest by non-
3 Federally-qualified users in I think 26A.

4
5 And so there's are -- those are some of
6 the reasons that we might anticipate. But you're
7 correct, yeah. This is a special action and so we
8 haven't gotten to -- you know, with a full proposal you
9 have a whole cycle of evaluation and input. And this
10 is just on a faster track, but I think Northwest Arctic
11 was approaching this as a possible, you know, trial and
12 -- and then looking at, you know, if -- if it was
13 effective or -- or, you know, supported them, you could
14 always go back to the drawing board and adjust it or,
15 you know, put in a proposal to make it a permanent
16 regulation year to year if, you know, delayed migration
17 is a -- is a kind of new and relatively permanent
18 situation.

19
20 I think -- yeah, I think we're all
21 grappling with, you know, what -- how could we make
22 this more specific and tailored so that it passes. And
23 I do think that the full proposal process would lend
24 itself to that, but I think probably Northwest Arctic
25 also felt that they might have a better chance getting
26 a special action through.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anyway maybe I'm
29 going to take a quick read of this again. I know you
30 read it a little -- little while ago, but I'm going to
31 -- sometimes it's good to hear exactly what's being
32 proposed. So this one is to -- from the Northwest
33 Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Says to
34 describe the action you are requesting and reference
35 the current regulation you wish to change. The closure
36 of Federal public lands in unit 23 and unit 26A to
37 caribou and moose hunting by non-Federally-qualified
38 users for August and September, 2021. See proposed reg
39 -- see proposed regulation below.

40
41 And my question is also, you know, when
42 it's talking about moose and what is our current moose
43 regulation. In some cases it's already closed. And in
44 our part, in our region based on struggling population
45 or something it's already only to Federally-qualified
46 users in some cases I would think. So that's one thing
47 to understand about that.

48
49 And -- and then it goes down have there
50

0106

1 been unusual or significant changes in resource
2 abundance or unusual conditions affecting harvest
3 opportunities that could not reasonably have been
4 anticipated and that potentially could have significant
5 adverse affect on the health of fish and wildlife
6 populations or subsistence users. And I guess that's --
7 that's the big blob question there. The Council is
8 very concerned about the late migration of caribou
9 through unit 23 because local people rely upon caribou
10 to meet their subsistence needs. The Council stated
11 that the entire region except for Noatak could not
12 harvest caribou in the fall because caribou had not
13 migrated through the -- their areas.

14
15 During their meeting in early November,
16 2020 Council members stated that caribou were just
17 starting to trickle through Kiana and Ambler although
18 none had been seen in Selawik yet. Council members
19 stated winter harvest may be possible, but is
20 uncertain. And many local residents are stressed by
21 empty freezers. The Council is particularly concerned
22 about the effect transporters and nonlocal hunters are
23 having on the migration of the Western Arctic caribou
24 herd and believe that transporter activity in units 23
25 and 26A may be delaying caribou migration. The Council
26 hopes this request would reduce aircraft traffic
27 creating an easier path to migrating caribou.

28
29 And -- and, Kyle, you mentioned about
30 the transporter regulation for delayed season activity
31 for those. And in this case that's not enacted right
32 now, right?

33
34 MR. JOLY: Mr. Chairman, this is Kyle
35 Joly with the National Park Service. Yeah, the -- the
36 last I knew the -- the delayed use entry area in Noatak
37 was still being implemented.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. And this
40 could be a potential alleviation of maybe part of a
41 perceived -- a variety of potential issues impacting
42 the migration. I mean, they're talking about --
43 probably they're talking about rural residents coming
44 in and -- with airplanes and during their peak
45 subsistence activities and could be affronting them
46 somewhere before -- before that migration and -- and
47 maybe delaying that.

48
49 So I'm just wondering if we were to
50

0107

1 make a comment about this and I think we might either
2 do that tomorrow or what -- it's good to talk about
3 some of these issues about -- one remedy to me could be
4 a delayed transporter activity as you kind of mentioned
5 and make it into a later season, maybe to allow for
6 uninterrupted caribou movements either from
7 nonqualified users or -- or guides or something like
8 that.

9

10 Is that kind of like the concept why
11 that transporter language being implemented elsewhere
12 could be a tool?

13

14 MR. JOLY: Was that question for me,
15 Mr. Chairman?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. Yes, in
18 particular to you, yeah, Kyle.

19

20 MR. JOLY: Yeah, it's a tool that could
21 be used elsewhere on -- on Federal lands. So in the --
22 in the Noatak National Preserve the delayed entry until
23 September 22nd I believe and so the idea is to allow
24 hunters out of the Village of Noatak and others coming
25 up the Noatak River to allow the first caribou to cross
26 and then get first crack at hunting. And then after
27 the -- the villagers have had their opportunity and
28 caribou have set trails then, you know, the -- the
29 entire season would open up for -- for everyone else.
30 And so, you know, that's the thought process behind the
31 -- the delayed entry area in Noatak.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. And, you
34 know, this regulation being proposed is probably trying
35 to prevent a potential repeat next year is what I'm
36 gathering. It's not like a -- trying to conserve the
37 -- the herd size, but it's -- it's trying to see if
38 there -- if there were other circumstances involved in
39 why those animals have a very late migration and held
40 up back for -- in front of communities here. Just from
41 reading it and trying to understand, that seems to be
42 at the heart of this particular emergency action is to
43 try to prevent a repeat, to see if there was a cause
44 and effect situation. Is that kind of maybe how you're
45 seeing this as well maybe?

46

47 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, this is
48 Hannah. And yes, I -- I think that's an accurate way
49 to describe their -- the Northwest Arctic's approach.

50

0108

1 I would mention this is, you know, splitting hairs, but
2 it -- it would be processed as a temporary special
3 request rather than an emergency request because it's
4 not -- it wouldn't take effect until the fall.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, Steve from
9 Point Hope.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
12 Steve.

13

14 MR. OOMITTUK: I -- I would support
15 this proposal from the Northwest Arctic if that's who
16 is doing this proposal and if it's time I -- I make a
17 motion to support this proposal.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'm just --
20 Oops, I think we're talking over each other.

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I keep getting cut
23 off too and I have to keep calling in. I -- I keep
24 getting the echo or -- and I -- and I keep getting cut
25 off. But, you know, they are my -- our neighboring
26 village, Noatak and -- and NANA region and -- and it's
27 been ongoing for quite some time. And like I stated
28 earlier that, you know, the change of the migration is
29 very observant by our local in the unit 23 area and
30 very observant because Noatak, that's their main source
31 of food, Kiana, Noatak, Kotzebue area and also
32 Kivalina. But I -- I would support it.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
35 Steve. And just -- you know, when I read it, this
36 area, you know, unit 23 would probably be part of your
37 area around Point Hope, maybe around close to Anaktuvuk
38 Pass, maybe closer. But unit 26A would I think also go
39 all the way to Barrow and Wainwright and Atqasuk and
40 being that we haven't -- we've been reporting pretty
41 good caribou harvest up in -- in our neck of the woods
42 or our neck of the (in Native) and it -- and to look at
43 this because it's very, very broad if it's inclusive of
44 all of unit 26A.

45

46 And I'm not -- I mean, I'm not -- I'm
47 -- I'm trying to find a way to look at how maybe it
48 could be more implementable, you know. And that's how
49 come I'm asking a lot of questions about the

50

0109

1 transporters, if there are different other tools to be
2 using that could -- that could benefit the movement --
3 uninterrupted movement of caribou to areas where these
4 villages will -- will be graced by the herd. And, but,
5 you know, I don't have any, you know, nonsupport for
6 either. I think it's important to try to figure out
7 what happened, what is the best way to support our
8 communities, including the Northwest Arctic communities
9 and -- and that there's a higher likelihood that the
10 Federal Board of Game would see that we did our
11 homework. And just -- that's just what I -- why I
12 wanted to -- to read a little bit more about what it's
13 saying in the proposed special action.

14

15 And I -- I'm not exactly -- I know
16 there's a moose hunt in west 156 on our area and -- and
17 I think if I'm -- I could be -- stand to be corrected
18 and it -- it's all for Federally-qualified user. And --
19 and that might be the current way it is unless I'm
20 mistaken. I -- I know there was a proposal that the
21 State ACs wanted to -- wanted the North Slope Regional
22 Advisory Council to consider about a hunt on -- in our
23 area on moose I -- I think wasn't supported and was
24 affirmed by the Federal Board of Game in -- in our last
25 fall meeting.

26

27 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would have to be
30 refreshed. Yeah, go ahead.

31

32 MS. VOORHEES: My understanding is and
33 one who's more familiar with local management can
34 correct me, but I believe that there is a resident
35 State -- State hunt for moose in 26A, but there is no
36 nonresident hunt so only Alaska residents can
37 participate in that moose hunt.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. And that's
40 on State land or both State and Federal?

41

42 MS. VOORHEES: That's currently both
43 State and Federal.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. All right.
46 So this would then effectively close those areas that
47 would be on Federal if it were -- passed the muster of
48 the Board of Game or Federal Board which I don't
49 oppose, you know.

50

0110

1 In any event yeah, Steve, if you're --
2 if you don't want to wait for Carmen for tomorrow.

3

4 MR. OOMITTUK: I -- yes. I -- I -- I -- I
5 think maybe we can wait and then -- like I said I keep
6 cutting -- getting cut off. I had to call back in and
7 I missed like about 30 seconds or so and I just called
8 back in. I -- I keep getting cut off.

9

10 But yeah, maybe we can wait and I -- I
11 understand that, you know, Enoch Shiedt is the Chairman
12 of the Northwest Arctic Advisory Council and that's --
13 I'm.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

16

17 MR. OOMITTUK:I was wondering if
18 he was online, but I guess he's not. But.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

21

22 MR. OOMITTUK:yeah, if -- if
23 that's -- if you want to wait until Carmen come in, I --
24 I would wait for tomorrow also, you know, and -- and
25 to submit other proposals also or action items.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Yeah. Thank
28 you, Steve. And, you know, I would have big alarms too
29 if the caribou didn't come and -- and the -- and
30 communities weren't getting their subsistence resources
31 met, and -- and try to find out what -- what we could
32 do to not let it happen again.

33

34 So it might be good to defer action on
35 that until tomorrow morning when Carmen can elaborate a
36 little bit more.

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. Thank you. And I
39 -- I would think so too. And, you know, Point Hope
40 doesn't normally harvest moose, they very rarely come
41 into our area. But I know that the NANA area, a lot of
42 their subsistence hunter will harvest moose in the
43 area. The only -- only time we get moose here is when
44 there's a forest fire and they come into Point Hope
45 area, but it's usually in July and it's not moose
46 season. And like I stated once before, you know -- you
47 know, there's certain -- there's been a few people that
48 though they were subsistence hunters and they caught
49 animals whenever they came. But I got in trouble with
50

0111

1 Fish and Game and Board of Game and I'm -- I had to go
2 through trial and get fined. It happened to me about
3 40 years ago.

4
5 Thank you. We're not -- we're not
6 normally moose hunters.....

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

9
10 MR. OOMITTUK:they -- we rarely
11 get them.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eva, I'm
14 going to look to you for a second about the Board of
15 Game proposals. Are we also waiting for Carmen for
16 those, I see that there's a few of those affecting
17 North Slope?

18
19 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
20 Council members. Yeah, there's a handful of proposals
21 coming before the Board of Game that may be of interest
22 to the Council. We do have -- it's my understanding
23 there are some of the State staff available today that
24 may be able to provide an update or overview. And I
25 think what would be helpful is if I can read those
26 proposals and the title to you and let you know which
27 ones are going to be deferred so the Council will know
28 which ones you'll have an opportunity at the fall
29 meeting to take up as well.

30
31 But of the proposals that we do have,
32 Carmen would cover some of them. One of them my
33 understanding is the proposal 162 which is salvage of
34 game meat, furs and hides of snowshoe hares, that we
35 have staff from ADF&G that would be on and available to
36 answer any questions there.

37
38 Would you like for me to read those
39 proposal titles for you and -- and see which ones the
40 Council would like to take up and get some information
41 on, there may be staff on today that can provide some
42 overview?

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
45 let's start with proposal 190, brown bear tag free
46 exemption, is that one of them?

47
48 MS. PATTON: Yes. And -- and it's my
49 understanding that one is not deferred and State staff
50

0112

1 might be able to reconfirm that if that's something
2 that if the Council wanted to take action on this would
3 be the time to do that.

4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, for the
6 record this is Steve.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

9

10 MR. OOMITTUK: I have a -- you know, I
11 -- I received, but I don't see any of the proposals in
12 their working form in my packet. That's one thing that
13 I don't have. I -- I received two envelopes, but with
14 the proposals that they're talking about I don't see it
15 in a written form.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Steve, this is Eva. The
18 one proposal that was emailed out or snail mailed out
19 earlier was the muskox hunt proposal, that should be in
20 your packet. The other proposals were brought to our
21 attention a little later and it may be that that packet
22 has not come in the mail to you yet. I know there's
23 been some significant delays. So it might be that a
24 few proposals that came up later might not have arrived
25 in the mail to you yet, there was another packet.

26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Thank you. I
28 guess because I -- I did receive two envelopes and so
29 hopefully before tomorrow I'll -- and they are checking
30 the mail. The mail's been real slow lately. So.....

31

32 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I understand that
33 for a lot of communities. And I -- I apologize. We've
34 sent out numerous packets trying to give all of our
35 agency staff time to share updated information as well.

36

37 I can email if -- if Christy is able to
38 help print out documents for you at the North Slope
39 Borough office I could email them to Christy if that
40 would be helpful.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes. They are pretty
43 helpful with that. We are the North Slope Subsistence
44 Advisory Council and she will be more than glad to help
45 and -- and I can pick them up later on today if you're
46 going to email them to her and -- first thing in the
47 morning.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Sure. I'll do that. I

50

0113

1 can -- I can email her pretty quick here. And what --
2 what might be.....

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, Eva, this is
5 Gordon.

6

7 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. Go ahead, Gordon.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Steve. Yeah.
10 So we can have these read and then you'll get your
11 papers maybe. We'll talk about them now and then maybe
12 act on them potentially tomorrow along with the special
13 action and any other proposal when ADF&G, Carmen is
14 around. But it would be good to do.

15

16 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I agree with that.
17 And I did want to -- wanted you to read them because I
18 don't have them here, but I -- I want to move forward
19 and have them read in, but I do want them also for when
20 I do give a report to the Council on the -- on the
21 issues that I pass on to the North Slope Subsistence
22 Advisory Council and proposals that are made at our
23 next meeting. I just want them for records for when I
24 do presentation to our Council on -- on North Slope
25 Subsistence Advisory meeting and -- and what was passed
26 and proposed and.....

27

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Absolutely.
29 And I will email these when I get a moment here and ask
30 if Christy could print them out for you so they're
31 available. What I can do is -- is read the title and a
32 brief description for you and see which ones the
33 Council would like to take up and get some information
34 on. I think we have some State staff online today and
35 then again Carmen will be available tomorrow morning.

36

37 So it's my understanding and our -- the
38 State staff can reconfirm this for me, there's two
39 proposals that are reauthorizations that happen
40 annually and I -- my understanding those will go
41 through and this would be the opportunity to make a
42 recommendation on the record. And one of those is
43 proposal 190, the brown bear tag fee exemption and
44 that's to reauthorize the current resident tag fee
45 exemption for brown bear in units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And, Eva, that
48 particular proposal is that you -- you wouldn't need to
49 pay for the -- the fee for the -- for the tag itself,
50

0114

1 right?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Reauthorization of brown
4 bear tag fee exemption.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Reauthorize current
7 resident tag fee exemption.

8

9 MS. PATTON: So it states that the
10 Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee
11 exemption brown bear tag fee exemption annually or the
12 fee automatically becomes reinstated. So these are fee
13 exemptions for residents.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And since it's
16 working good for that and there's no fee associated
17 with it, we would tend to support proposal 190.

18

19 MS. PATTON: And Carmen would be able
20 to speak to the details of the proposal covering unit
21 26.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

24

25 MR. PERRY: So.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just -- yeah, go
28 ahead.

29

30 MR. PERRY: Okay. Members of the
31 Council, this is Phillip Perry, I'm the -- the regional
32 management coordinator. For some of these I might be
33 able to help when Carmen's not in today. I can address
34 some of the specific questions especially about the --
35 the brown bear tag fee exemption and the antlerless
36 moose proposal that's probably the next one you're
37 going to talk about.

38

39 So you are -- you are correct in saying
40 that so right now as a resident of the State someone
41 hunting brown bears in unit 26A, 23, 22 and 18 as well
42 as a lot of the other rural parts of the State, you --
43 all you need is a hunting license to harvest a brown
44 bear. You don't have to have the metal locking tag
45 that you used to need and that's required in some other
46 parts of the State. So this is asking the -- or like
47 it says, reauthorizing the exemption. So it's kind of
48 a backwards way to say it, but it -- it's something the
49 Board has to do every year or like Eva said it -- it

50

0115

1 goes back to a \$25 metal locking tag you're supposed to
2 purchase before you hunt brown bears.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. That's a
5 good one to understand because there's a lot of brown
6 bears around here.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I do got a
9 question on that. We're on this topic so, you know,
10 for questions in -- in this proposal. But so, you
11 know, I -- I know brown bears is a big issue in some of
12 our communities and probably the numbers are growing
13 quite high. And in the past we used to eat brown bears,
14 but we don't normally eat brown bears any more. You
15 know, the time when I was growing up they used to allow
16 -- they always wanted us to get the hindquarters of the
17 brown bears and that's what they ate a lot of in the
18 old days. But they didn't normally catch brown bears
19 unless it was a life safety issue and protecting your
20 life. And -- and lately has it been a nuisance to some
21 of our local hunters especially with cabins, the
22 numbers are growing so high that, you know, during the
23 summer or fall that they're breaking into cabins
24 whether it's upriver or along the coastlines. But so
25 when you harvest polar bear what -- you know, I mean, a
26 brown bear, you know, what -- are you allowed -- you're
27 going to get a portion of the meat or anything like
28 that, like, you know, you have a hunting license, do
29 they take the majority of the meat with them, is that
30 what.....

31

32 MR. PERRY: So I -- again this is
33 Phillip. I can answer that question if you'd like me
34 to.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
37 Phillip. I was just busy on a text real quick, but go
38 ahead.

39

40 MR. PERRY: Yeah. So right now the --
41 the regulation in unit 26A is a hunter can harvest two
42 bears a year, there's no closed season. So all the --
43 and with the tag fee exemption there's no requirements
44 to purchase a tag ahead of time, a metal locking tag.
45 So if you have a bear that you want to take for any
46 reason, whether it's just to harvest a bear or it's a
47 problem, if you have a hunt -- hunting license you can
48 harvest it. When you're harvesting a bear just under a
49 general season like that you're required to salvage the
50

0116

1 skull and the hide and report it to us and to have
2 those sealed. So I know Carmen's worked with lots of
3 different people. You know, it -- but it's pretty
4 simple if you live on the road system to have a bear
5 sealed, but it's a lot more difficult if you're in a
6 rural community and the closest person is -- that can
7 do that is in Barrow, but I know she's worked with
8 people to do that, you know, through the mail or when
9 somebody's visiting either the community or if they're
10 going through Barrow just to make that -- follow that
11 part of the regulation. So and it does not require
12 that you salvage any of the bear for human consumption,
13 you know, you can if you so choose, but it's not part
14 of the requirement in the general season hunt.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And just one
17 clarification here on item 5 it says no sealing
18 requirement unless skull and hide are removed from the
19 subsistence hunt area. And can you -- is that an
20 accurate statement that we don't need to have it sealed
21 maybe unless you're taking it outside of a rural
22 community or something?

23

24 MR. PERRY: So yeah, the -- the --
25 there's two ways to harvest a bear in -- in 26A. The
26 general season just requires a -- for a resident just
27 requires a hunting license and then you need to seal
28 the bear. That's, you know, the plastic seals that
29 will help someone get onto to the -- the skull and the
30 hide or you can use a subsistence brown bear permit.
31 And the -- if you harvest it under the subsistence
32 brown bear permit it does require that you salvage the
33 meat for -- for human consumption and it does require
34 that you get the permit. The permit doesn't cost
35 anything and you don't have to have the metal locking
36 tag either, but then it does have that extra kind of
37 exemption there for sealing the hide and the head. You
38 don't have to do it if you use a subsistence permit as
39 long as you're not going to take the hide or the head
40 out of the unit.

41

42 So it -- it's up to the individual
43 hunter if they want to harvest it under the general
44 season or under a subsistence permit. And those are
45 kind of the -- the pros and cons of doing either way.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Anyway it's
48 good to understand.

49

50

0117

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Gordon, I -- I
2 have a comment on.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
5 Steve.

6
7 MR. OOMITTUK: I -- I'm curious about
8 since we're on -- on this topic and on brown bears, but
9 does that include polar bears that, you know, for local
10 hunters as long as they get the skull and the skin? We
11 do eat polar bear and we eat a lot of it the polar
12 bear. But I -- I'm just curious about does that goes
13 for polar bear also as a subsistence hunter?j

14
15 MR. PERRY: That's -- that's under a
16 completely different set of management. The State of
17 Alaska doesn't manage polar bears at all.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that would be
20 Fish and Wildlife Service.

21
22 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I -- I know we
23 have a polar bear commission, Mr. Chair. Okay. I just
24 want to know that because, you know, we have
25 nonresident hunters or -- you know, that come into
26 Point Hope that are Native people that want to try and
27 catch a bear because they're Native and then harvest a
28 polar bear even though they don't live in our
29 community, but are Native. And that was a concern in
30 some areas.

31
32 Okay. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So it kind of sounds
35 like we would want to comment on this tomorrow if not
36 now that we support this to reauthorize the brown bear
37 tag fee exemption. And we can either do it now or do
38 you want to wait for Carmen to say more about it, but
39 seems like that's one we should support. It's in Point
40 Hope and Barrow and Wainwright and -- on this tag --
41 brown bear tag fee exemption. And that exemptions been
42 in effect in unit 26A for seven years now around here
43 from reading it. And I think we would want to continue
44 that.

45
46 Unit 23, tag fee exemption has been
47 exempted for 12 years. Unit 26A it's been for seven
48 year. Unit 18, tag fee exemption for seven years.
49 Unit 22 where the tag fee has been exempted for 17
50

0118

1 years. So if it's not broke we don't have to try to
2 fix and support it I guess.

3

4 Anybody want to make a proposal to
5 support proposal 190 or are we going to wait until
6 tomorrow?

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. I -- it sounds
9 like a good -- you know, I mean, I would support this
10 if there's no objection to anybody, if they have any
11 concerns with this proposal, you know.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
14 the floor.....

15

16 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER:from Point Hope
19 to support proposal 190?

20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, that is a motion.
22 For the record, Steve Oomittuk is making a motion to
23 support proposal 190 as presented.

24

25 MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

26

27 REPORTER: Who was second?

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by -- was
30 that Anaktuvuk, Peter?

31

32 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

33

34 REPORTER: Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any discussion.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
43 called for. All those in support of proposal 190
44 signify by saying aye.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
49 same sign.

50

0119

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none,
4 proposal 190 is supported by the North Slope Regional
5 Advisory Council.

6

7 Okay. Next one.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
10 Council. And thanks much to Phillip for jumping in
11 too. And Phil may be able to address this next one as
12 well. Proposal 188, hunting seasons and bag limits for
13 moose which is to reauthorize the antlerless moose
14 season in the western portion of unit 26A. And
15 similarly this is something that needs to be authorized
16 annually. So to be retained, the antlerless moose
17 season in the portion of unit 26A west of 156 west
18 longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage
19 must be reauthorized annually.

20

21 And it's proposed by ADF&G. And there
22 is some information along with the proposal that I
23 could read for the Council as well so you have that
24 information.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Could you please read
27 that, please.

28

29 MS. PATTON: So the proposal states the
30 moose population in the western portion of unit 26A
31 north of the Colville drainage is somewhat unique
32 compared to the unit-wide population. And the
33 distribution is very sparse because there's little
34 moose habitat in the coastal plain. However each year
35 a small number of bulls and cows migrate into the area
36 from a major river drainages in the central and
37 southern parts of the unit. So far the marginal
38 habitat in this portion of unit 26A has not allowed
39 moose to establish a population, but these moose
40 provide the only opportunity to harvest a moose in the
41 northwestern portion of unit 26A.

42

43 Unit 26A moose population estimates
44 have historically fluctuated between 294 and 609 moose
45 between 2001 and 2014. More recently moose counts have
46 observed 145 moose and 218 moose in 2015 and 2018
47 respectively. The overall trend appears to be slow
48 growth after a decline that started about 2007. The
49 number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is
50

0120

1 difficult to estimate, but is approximately 10 moose.
2 Harvest reports indicate four antlerless moose have
3 been harvested since 2005 and the annual harvest rate
4 of antlerless moose is less than 1 percent of the total
5 population.

6
7 Due to the low harvest rate the
8 Department of Fish and Game recommends reauthorization
9 of the antlerless moose season in this area to provide
10 additional hunting opportunity for the small number of
11 hunters to opportunistically harvest antlerless moose
12 in this remote portion of unit 26A.

13
14 Thank you, Mr. Chair. That is the
15 language in the proposal for 188.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So any
18 questions on proposal 188 and do we have somebody that
19 can talk more in abundance about all of what this
20 means. Is that Kyle or ADF&G folks?

21
22 MR. PERRY: Yeah, this -- this is
23 Phillip again. I can certainly answer any -- any
24 questions you have.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.
27 Reauthorization.....

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER:of antlerless
32 moose season in the wester portion of unit 26A follows.

33
34 Yeah, go ahead. Was that Steve?

35
36 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I -- I just wanted
37 to -- yeah, like what you stated, somebody to elaborate
38 more on, you know, where this area is, 26A and -- and
39 what exactly this proposal does in more simpler form
40 that some of us might need to understand like what's
41 the form.....

42
43 MR. PERRY: Yeah.

44
45 MR. OOMITTUK:and what it means.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And to me, Steve,
48 when it says unit 26A, that portion west of 156 west
49 longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage.

50

0121

1 It means around our neck of the woods over here, our
2 neck of the (in Native) about. 156 west is like -- and
3 I always like to equate this with my cabin because I
4 always have trouble with 156 west. Because it's 156 is
5 like the Ikpikpuk River, but only portions of that that
6 are about. If you look at the 156 longitude it's
7 almost like from Kahavik, I don't know if you know
8 where Kahavik is, but it's between Atqasuk and Chipp
9 River. And then west going that way. In order for me
10 to do something about this I would have to go from the
11 Chipp River up further, about another 60 miles up
12 river, maybe 50 miles up river, to get in 156 west area
13 and -- and then I get to try to harvest that antlerless
14 moose probably.

15

16 And I've always thought it might be
17 beneficial if it was either 155 or something like that
18 and so it could move a little bit to the east, but the
19 -- but somehow 156 west seems to be the magic number
20 and I want to talk about that a little bit and what
21 other provisions there are for moose to the Federally-
22 qualified user. And seems to me this is a hunt, it
23 don't have to be a Federally-qualified user if it's
24 being proposed in this way. So can somebody talk more
25 about that?

26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 And, you know, for me not being in that neck of the
29 woods, you know, and I -- I would support, you know,
30 anybody from our Council, you know, like our Chairman
31 if -- if they would -- if they feel that this is good
32 for that area I would support that. But not knowing
33 your neck of the woods and living way on the west side
34 of the North Slope and I never hunted in that area
35 before. And -- and I'm just trying to get
36 clarification on where exactly.....

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40

41 MR. OOMITTUK:and what this
42 proposal means to subsistence hunters. But I'm just
43 seeking clarification on that to support all our
44 subsistence hunters within the area and ensuring the
45 safety and.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

48

49 MR. OOMITTUK:of these animals in

50

0122

1 support of our local hunters within our region.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, I got a map all right, but I need a magnifying glass to look at 156 on this dumb map that I have. But anyway so it's -- if we can hear from ADF&G and then from our own folks from OSM about any Federally-qualified user in unit 26A about moose and would be important and it seems to me these annual authorization type -- reauthorization of antlerless moose.....

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Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Teleconference interference - participants not muted).

MR. OOMITTUK: Go ahead. I just had one more question, Mr. Chair, on these proposals. Before a proposal is submitted to the Advisory Council is it -- do they have a public hearing on them in these areas that would be affected and concerns for anything on these certain areas or.....

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, you know, this -- I'm not sure I heard you Steve. 156 west for everybody's location is about -- you know where Echo Bay is outside of Barrow and that's 156 and you draw a line all the way up to Colville River it would be just west -- west of Topagoruk River, that's 156 west. It -- it includes Barrow, but it excludes the Chipp and Chipp River area folks, but it includes west from (in Native) all the way down by Topagoruk and then north -- north of Colville River going west is my understanding what 156 west longitude. If you wanted to know where the location of 156 west and the authorization of one moose. A person may take -- not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.

Anyway it's been in a reauthorization mode for annually I think. I always thought it should be moved to 155 and then that would move it to around -- let me check real quick, from -- do you guys know where (in Native) is? (In Native) is right by Smith Bay, just a little bit west of Smith Bay, then it goes straight up -- and it goes straight up the Ikpikpuk. And that would -- that would be west 155. And I always thought that would be a number. We don't -- I don't ever hardly ever see a moose, but once in a great while that moose will come around just like Steve would say

0123

1 is that maybe because of a fire or something. But they
2 -- they do try to make a habitat at around Valley of
3 the Willows and things like that, that upper Ikpikpuk
4 drainage. That 156 west makes it a disadvantage for
5 some of us goes that are on the Chipp River because it
6 -- this law starts on the Topagoruk River going west.

7

8 That's how come I wanted to ask about
9 what is the current regulation for Federal-qualified
10 user 156 area or around our area in unit 26A. Maybe
11 they could in addition to that.

12

13 MS. VOORHEES: This is Hannah.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Hannah.

16

17 MS. VOORHEES: So for unit 26A, that
18 portion west of 156 west longitude, excluding Colville
19 River drainage. So I believe pretty co-terminus with
20 the State area as defined. You may take one moose,
21 however you may not take a calf or cow accompanied by a
22 calf. And the open season is July 1st through
23 September 14th, but that's for Federally-qualified
24 subsistence users. And the -- the State regulation
25 we're considering.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hannah.

28

29 MS. VOORHEES: Yes.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can you like be a
32 little bit slower. Sometimes when folks talking so
33 fast it just -- maybe you can restate it again
34 especially when you're talking about Federally-
35 qualified user or just resident.

36

37 MS. VOORHEES: Of course. My -- my
38 apologies. So for that same area that we've been
39 talking about in State regulations, that area is also
40 defined in Federal regulations as a hunt area that's
41 open to Federally-qualified subsistence users. And
42 they can take one moose, however you may not take a
43 calf or a cow accompanied by a calf. The open season
44 is July 1st to September 14th. And I guess, you know,
45 I wish I had a little bit more background information
46 about this, but the way I understand it the State
47 condition that we -- that you would be reauthorizing if
48 you support would allow for a more liberal harvest
49 under State regulations in this area. And that is open
50

0124

1 to all residents of Alaska including residents of the
2 North Slope region.

3

4 But yeah, I hope -- I hope that helps.
5 Yeah.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

8

9 MS. VOORHEES: I don't know if you have
10 any questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So there are existing
13 regulations for Federal-qualified users to just one
14 moose as long as it's not a calf accompanied by a -- a
15 cow accompanied by a calf between July 1 and September
16 14?

17

18 MS. VOORHEES: Yes, that's correct.

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: Which is pretty.....

21

22 (Teleconference interference -
23 participants not muted)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And -- and then this
26 reauthorization only is for one moose antlerless, can't
27 be a cow or a calf accompanied -- or a cow accompanied
28 by a calf, but 156 west.

29

30 MS. VOORHEES: Mr. Chair, I -- you
31 know, I apologize. I would really like to defer to the
32 State on this if -- but yeah, I didn't have a chance to
33 delve into it in depth and I just want to make sure
34 that I'm not misleading you.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. And -- and
39 our current reg is not defined by 156?

40

41 MS. VOORHEES: It -- the Federal
42 regulations are defined that way geographically. That
43 would be the hunt area, yes. So this is the same.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So one moose.....

46

47 MS. VOORHEES:same area defined
48 in -- in State and Federal regulation.

49

50

0125

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I would like to
2 make a proposal unit 26A, west 156 for Federal regs and
3 then allow one -- I mean, 155 and then this one, 156
4 for the antlerless that's for -- seems to me that would
5 be like for the resident, not that -- including a
6 Federally-qualified user.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

9

10 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, I got cut off.
11 I missed most of that, what you guys went through just
12 five minutes or so.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Hi. Welcome
15 back there, Wanda. I was just trying to understand
16 better what 156 west longitude for the antlerless moose
17 and I think it's okay because we have another Federal
18 regulation that's just one moose, but I would support
19 this one. But also for the -- for the existing
20 regulation that just says one moose, 156 west for
21 Federally-qualified user, but I would want to change
22 that in unit 26A 155 west. I mean, it's not like the
23 moose will come back to 155, but -- well, and it does
24 once in a great while, maybe one every 10 years or so
25 you'll see one in -- in my area. But if it were in my
26 area I wouldn't be able to get it under the existing
27 reg of 156 west. I'd need to go 60 miles further up to
28 go 156 west or get on my Honda from my cabin and go 20
29 miles to the west to be at 156 west at Topagoruk which
30 is impossible because it's too rough country to Honda
31 that way.

32

33 Anyway so we got some.....

34

35 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER:opportunities
38 here to make some proposals.

39

40 Yeah, go ahead.

41

42 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. With that said I
43 -- can we make amendments to these proposals?

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No. Yeah, we're on
46 proposal season so we can make proposals between now
47 and tomorrow.

48

49 MR. BURCH: Mr. Chair, this is Mark

50

0126

1 Burch. If you don't mind may I interrupt?

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Mark,
4 interrupt us.

5

6 MR. BURCH: Thanks, Mr. Chair. My
7 suggestion is that if you wish to talk about the State
8 proposal at -- right now that's fine. My suggestion
9 though is if you want to talk about a Federal proposal
10 that would -- in a somewhat different area or an
11 expanded area, you might wait to discuss that until
12 tomorrow when Carmen, the local area biologist is
13 available to speak to any biological ramifications of
14 the decision just to make sure that we ensure
15 sustainability which of course is a primary concern of
16 the State.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well, you
21 know, for Wanda, for your purposes, I would support
22 proposal 188 because it -- if that moose comes around
23 and has no horns on it you can take it under this one
24 because it starts from Topagoruk going west to Atqasuk
25 and that way. So this is kind of like the friendly one
26 for Wanda's area. It's friendly for Barrow, but in
27 order for us to see moose a lot of times you got to go
28 way, way, way up river.

29

30 So if you support it, Wanda, I -- I
31 would encourage you to make that motion to support
32 proposal 188.

33

34 MS. KIPPI: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'm in
35 support of that proposal 188.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion --
40 there's a motion on the floor from Atqasuk, Wanda, in
41 support of proposal 188.

42

43 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second.....

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK:by Point Hope.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by

50

0127

1 Point Hope. Any discussion.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Just under discussion,
4 you know, maybe in the future with -- with Gordon
5 especially on, you know, on the -- you know, the moose
6 coming in that area, just right on the borderline
7 there, you're talking about 155 or what you were
8 mentioning that your neck of the woods or if you wanted
9 to amend it.....

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MR. OOMITTUK:maybe in the
15 future, you know, maybe when we see -- talk with Carmen
16 tomorrow maybe. I mean, that's what -- something worth
17 a lot of learning on that.

18

19 With that I call for the question.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
22 called for.....

23

24 MS. KIPPI: I -- I.....

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER:all those in
27 favor of proposal 188.....

28

29 MS. KIPPI: I do have a question.

30

31 REPORTER: Okay. Hold on. Just one --
32 one person at a time, please.

33

34 Wanda, go ahead.

35

36 MS. KIPPI: To catch this mooseless
37 antlerless or antlerless moose do we need a permit or
38 both permit and a license?

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think you need a
41 gun.

42

43 MS. KIPPI: I have a gun. I need to
44 know if I need the paper.

45

46 MR. PERRY: Yeah, I -- I -- this is
47 Phillip. I can clarify that if you like.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,

50

0128

1 Phillip.

2

3

MS. KIPPI: Please.

4

5

6

MR. PERRY: Yeah. So for any of the hunts in 26A if you're har -- if you're hunting on the Colville or if you're hunting in this 156 west you need a hunting license and you need a harvest ticket. So you can get those way ahead of time, just the bag limit's different.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I -- while we're on discussion still, July 1 to September 14, are those good dates. I seem to think, you know, up to September 20th or something like that, just before freeze up you might be able to go up there with a boat, about 14 is -- well, anyway I think the dates are good, but I seem to recall some of my nephews going up that way in that moose country by boat on Ikpikpuk River to where they get to 156 west. Which they spend a lot of gas on to try to get there. Could benefit from a little bit longer window, maybe September 25 or something.

23

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35

Any -- any feedback on that.....

MS. KIPPI: That's pretty good.

CHAIRMAN BROWER:or would that be a requested amendment to that?

MS. KIPPI: I would like to amend the date to what you requested, the 25th. That sounds like a reasonable date to end the date of open season hunting.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: There is a motion on the floor to amend the support for one -- proposal 188 to increase the date to September 25.

MR. OOMITTUK: Second.....

MR. WILLIAMS: Second.

MR. OOMITTUK:by Steve.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by Steve in (in Native). Any discussion.

(No comments)

0129

1 MS. KIPPI: Question.

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10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
11 called for to support proposal 188 as amended with a
12 date of September 25 as the cut off, signify by saying
13 aye.

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IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Proposal 188 with
minor modification is supported by the North Slope
Regional Council.

Next one.

MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
members of the Council. Good discussion.

And for the next Board of Game proposal
there are several that the Council has an option of
taking up at this meeting or getting some information
at this meeting and taking action at your fall meeting.
And I'll just ask the State staff to confirm the
proposals that are deferred.

There is proposal 173 addressing
management areas, a request to repeal the Dalton
Highway Corridor Management Area. This is deferred.

Proposal 193, hunting seasons and bag
limits for muskoxen. And I know this was of interest
to the Council to continue the discussion on this and
again Carmen will be available tomorrow. But that is
one also that is deferred that the Council could get
information and take action at the fall meeting if you
wish.

And then the last proposal is proposal
162, salvage of game meat, furs and hides of snowshoe
hare. This one is also deferred. And it's my
understanding Mark Burch had provided an update, but we
do have staff available to address that proposal if the
Council would like some information on it.

0130

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. When --
4 yeah, Eva, when you're talking about deferred, can you
5 elaborate a little bit on what deferred means to us --
6 would mean to us.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
9 these proposals were submitted for the 2021 Board of
10 Game call for proposals. Due to the current covid-19
11 circumstances the Board of Game meeting got
12 rescheduled, it got delayed. And so that meeting will
13 now take place in March of 2022. So it's my
14 understanding the Council would have an opportunity to
15 take action on these proposals at your fall meeting in --
16 in November that that would still occur in time for
17 public comments to be submitted at that time.

18

19 And maybe I'll just touch base with the
20 State staff online to confirm.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
23 Eva. And that's a little bit more clear when you put
24 it that way, that the -- the Board of Game was deferred
25 to March of 2022 to take these items up and give us an
26 opportunity to talk more.

27

28 Is the proposal 173 management area
29 repeal of the Dalton Highway Corridor, is that the one
30 where Jack Reakoff has some really grave concerns on?

31

32 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
33 am -- I am not familiar with -- with Jack Reakoff's
34 comments specific to this proposal, but he's very
35 active in this area and I'm sure he has input on this
36 proposal for the Dalton Highway corridor.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Yeah, because
39 I -- I did read his comments into the record earlier
40 this morning at public comment and tribal comment that
41 goes throughout the day. And it's called the BLM
42 Resource Management Plan Alternatives. And.....

43

44 MS. PATTON: Yeah, and these are two
45 different things. So this is the -- you know, there's
46 overlap between the Dalton Highway Corridor Management
47 Area and some of the areas in that BLM Management Plan.
48 So this is proposal 173, repeal the Dalton Highway
49 Corridor Management -- Management Area as follows which
50

0131

1 is a Board of Game proposal submitted by the Fairbanks
2 Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right.

5

6 MS. PATTON: And -- and it's my
7 understanding we may not have staff available at this
8 time to be able to address questions on this proposal.
9 I'm not sure if somebody would be available tomorrow,
10 but again I think there is opportunity for the Council
11 to take action on this at the fall meeting as well if
12 there isn't information available today at this meeting
13 or -- or tomorrow.

14

15 And again maybe I'll just reconfirm
16 with the State staff that we have online that there
17 would be an opportunity for the Council to take action
18 if they meet in November.

19

20 MR. PERRY: Yeah, you're -- you're
21 correct, Eva, that the -- by having these deferred for
22 a year the public comment period will be reopened as
23 well as, you know, all RACs have the opportunity to
24 submit written comments and in person and all that. So
25 it -- it just delays everything for a year for the --
26 for these proposals that were deferred.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And if we could --
31 yeah, and if we can get a really good presentation on
32 this one, from what I've kind of read a little bit
33 about it, it's about unit 20, unit 24 through 26,
34 extending five miles on either side of the Dalton
35 Highway where they're -- currently they can only use
36 bow and arrow I think in those areas in order to do
37 some hunting on those. And you -- if that were
38 repealed I don't know what the situation would start to
39 look like with discharging of firearms around the Trans
40 Alaska Pipeline might be a issue or if you got
41 terrorism. I could remember Livengood somebody shot
42 that pipeline, had to be like 20 years ago and put a
43 hole through it with a 300 magnum and spilled like
44 390,000 gallons of crude oil.

45

46 Are -- are we talking about those kind
47 of things?

48

49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I

50

0132

1 can read the proposal language for you if you wish.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think I kind of
4 looked -- you know, the management area regulates that
5 and -- and the use of firearms around the Dalton
6 Highway. In particular I think that's where the Trans
7 Alaska Pipeline is visible as well. So I'm -- I'm just
8 going by memory that somebody did shoot it at one time
9 to -- I don't know why, but made a whole in the
10 pipeline with a -- with a high powered rifle.

11

12 But anyway I -- I think it's deferred
13 until -- for some time, but in the fall meeting I think
14 we should have a really good presentation on it.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
17 yes, we can plan on that well in advance and -- and
18 also in the interim, you know, be able to provide the
19 Council with any information -- supporting information
20 that might be helpful so you're prepared for the fall
21 meeting.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is the Council of the
26 same though that we would -- we'd try -- try to take
27 this up in our fall meeting and get a good presentation
28 and right now there seems to be nobody stepping up to
29 the plate to talk more about it. But it is deferred
30 until '22, March of '22.

31

32 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I would agree with
33 that. This is Steve. Do you need a motion on anything
34 like that?

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't think so
37 because it's deferred and.....

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: All right.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER:we -- we just
42 get -- we just get a update on it and -- and the
43 presentation maybe in our fall meeting.,

44

45 Is that right, Eva?

46

47 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct. You
48 don't have to take action if you're deferring it. Just
49 so we know to plan whether to try to take action at

50

0133

1 this meeting and if you are comfortable with deferring
2 it then we'll make sure we have a comprehensive update
3 and information for the Council at your fall meeting.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All
6 right. Well, proposal 193.

7

8 MS. PATTON: And, Mr. Chair and
9 Council, that proposal is one that Carmen Daggett would
10 be able to best address. And she's again available
11 tomorrow morning and -- and would have an opportunity
12 after we address the Federal subsistence proposals the
13 Council would like to work on we can go back to
14 discussion on the State Board of Game proposals and
15 Carmen was very much interested in hearing from the
16 Council and your feedback for the hunt area boundaries
17 for opportunity for muskox in unit 26A.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Right. Yeah, it
20 would be important to talk about this one coming from
21 the Department of Fish and Game in particular because I
22 don't think there's any regulation on the book for
23 Federally-qualified users right now, it's just a closed
24 season, right?

25

26 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
27 Yes, this is -- was submitted as a proposal by ADF&G
28 because that muskox population has been increasing.
29 There isn't a hunt on the Federal regulations and
30 there's an opportunity for the Council to propose that
31 as well.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
34 when Carmen comes in I think a thorough discussion on
35 proposal 193 needs to be had and exactly what it's --
36 you know, who is it going to target, is it Federally-
37 qualified users or is it a muskox hunt open to the
38 residents by permitting or something like that or --
39 yeah, I -- this one seems to me warrants a very good
40 discussion. If we could defer this one until tomorrow
41 when Carmen comes in might be more prudent.

42

43 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, I move to.....

44

45 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.....

46

47 MS. KIPPI:defer this proposal
48 193 until tomorrow until we could get more input from
49 Carmen Daggett, please.

50

0134

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
2 the floor to defer this until tomorrow until Carmen
3 gets in from Atqasuk, Wanda.

4
5 MR. WILLIAMS: Second by Earl.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded by
8 AKP, Earl. Any discussion.

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question's been
15 called for. All those to defer this until tomorrow
16 when Carmen comes in for proposal 193 signify by saying
17 aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
22 same sign.

23
24 (No opposing votes)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, we'll
27 wait for -- until Carmen comes in to talk more about
28 this.

29
30 And I would also think that if we learn
31 more about one -- proposal 193 and maybe that's the
32 language and if we talk about it enough that it would
33 be a Federal proposal for Federally-qualified users.

34
35 And also I do have concerns about one
36 -- west 156 about to the unit 26A border season date of
37 August 1 to March 15th. I want to understand more
38 about that when we're starting to put longitude and
39 latitude and -- on these things. And so we have some
40 discussion to do with Carmen.

41
42 All right. What's next there, Eva?

43
44 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
45 Council. And then the last proposal which is also a
46 deferred proposal, but one that I think there may be
47 State staff available to be able to provide at least an
48 update or overview of what the proposal is asking.
49 We're not at proposal 162 regarding the salvage of game
50

0135

1 meat, furs and hides of snowshoe hare.

2

3 And I might just.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

6

7 MS. PATTON:check in with State
8 staff to see if somebody was available either this
9 afternoon or tomorrow morning if the Council was
10 interested in an overview.

11

12 MR. BURCH: Hello, this is Mark Burch
13 from the Department of Fish and Game.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Mark.

16

17 MR. BURCH: Yeah, I'm -- you know, I
18 can just give you a little bit about what this one is
19 about. It's a -- what it is is that currently there's
20 no real regulation of harvest of snowshoe hares, there
21 are no seasons or bag limits and there's no harvest
22 requirement. And this proposal is adding a harvest --
23 a salvage requirement I mean to har -- to salvage
24 either the meat or the hide for human use. And that
25 use could be a number of different traditional uses
26 such as trapping for instance. Or you could -- you
27 could leave the meat and harvest the hide and make some
28 gloves or mittens out of it or you could eat the meat
29 and not salvage the -- the hide under this proposal.

30

31 So that's kind of the -- it's just a
32 regulation to get a little bit handle on salvage
33 requirements so that somebody couldn't shoot a hare and
34 then just walk away and leave it there.

35

36 And that's kind of an overview of the
37 proposal. If you have additional questions Rick
38 Merizon would be happy to talk with you, but
39 unfortunately he had another commitment late this
40 afternoon and had to check out. So if you have more
41 questions it's probably best to wait until tomorrow to
42 talk to our small game program lead, Rick Merizon.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. What's
47 the wish of the Council. I -- I would think we could
48 take this up in the fall meeting because it's deferred
49 until March of 2022. And maybe we'll have better

50

0136

1 graphics then and maybe -- maybe by that time we'll be
2 able to meet in person, who knows.

3

4 MS. KIPPI: I would like to defer this
5 proposal 162, snowshoe hare. I don't even have the --
6 the paper on that one. So.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Okay. We'll
9 defer it to the fall meeting by motion, 'ey?

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

12

13 MS. KIPPI: Right on.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by
16 Point Hope. Any discussion.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

21

22 MR. WILLIAMS: Question.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question's been
25 called for. All those in favor of deferring proposal
26 162, salvage of game meat, fur and hide of snowshoe
27 hare to our fall meeting signify by saying aye.

28

29 IN UNISON: Aye.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
32 same sign.

33

34 (No opposing votes)

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none, ayes
37 have it, deferred until August for our -- our fall
38 meeting.

39

40 All right. So we have a date with
41 Carmen on the -- the moose and muskox I think.

42

43 That would be the items for item 11 and
44 then we'll take item 11 up in the morning hopefully to
45 finish it off. And we're coming up on 5:00 o'clock and
46 maybe -- did we take the review and approval of the FY
47 2020 annual report or not, Eva?

48

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and

50

0137

1 Council. We started the review of the proposal, but we
2 didn't finish it. We could do that at this time or if
3 the Council wants to take time to read back through
4 that annual report and see if there's edits and
5 additions that you'd like to make tonight, we can take
6 it up tomorrow after addressing both the Federal and
7 State wildlife proposals the Council would like to work
8 on.

9

10 Whatever is the wish of the Council.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. But it is
13 an action item to approve for the annual report to --
14 from the Council for FY 2020. What's the wish of the
15 Council, you guys want to review and approve it or you
16 want to take it up tomorrow?

17

18 MR. WILLIAMS: Take it up tomorrow.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
21 the floor.....

22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Tomorrow.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to defer that
26 until tomorrow.

27

28 MS. KIPPI: Second.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded.
31 Any discussion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. KIPPI: Question.

36

37 MR. OOMITTUK: The question's been
38 called for.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The
41 question's been called to defer the annual report for
42 FY 2020 for tomorrow, signify by saying aye.

43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed,
47 same sign.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0138

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll defer the FY
2 2020 annual report for tomorrow and hope you guys take
3 some to digest that to see if there are additions or
4 deletions should be added on it.

5

6 All right. Fisheries Resource
7 Monitoring Program information for a update from OSM.

8

9 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
10 Council. Do we have Karen Hyer online?

11

12 MS. HYER: Hi, can you hear me?

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We can hear you now.

15

16 MS. HYER: Oh, hi. Hi, Mr. Chairman
17 and Council members. This is Karen Hyer and I'd be
18 happy to do the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
19 update if you're ready for it.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Have at it, you have
22 the floor.

23

24 MS. HYER: Okay.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You got 15 minutes.

27

28 MS. HYER: Well, I'm Karen Hyer and I'm
29 a fisheries biologist with OSM and I'm going to give
30 you an update on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
31 Program. And this is not an action item.

32

33 If you remember this fall or last fall
34 in 2020 and we discussed the priority information needs
35 on -- for your region and at the end of our meeting we
36 had composed a list of what the Council felt were areas
37 that would be focused points for researchers and their
38 studies. And so we are now in the process of seeking
39 proposals and we have used those priority information
40 needs as the guide for investigators to address. And
41 the -- the call if open right now for projects that
42 will start in 2022 to address those research needs.
43 And the application period is open through March 15th.
44 And we anticipate approximately \$2.25 million for
45 projects throughout all of Alaska. So that is --
46 that's from the North Slope all the way down to
47 southeast Alaska.

48

49 So currently we are accepting those

50

0139

1 proposals and then once -- once that window closes we
2 will be organizing those proposals and they will be
3 reviewed by our Technical Review Committee. And once
4 they're reviewed by the Technical Review Committee we
5 will bring you those results at your next meeting and
6 then we will solicit input from the Council as to what
7 their comments are on the proposals.

8

9 And at this date that's all I have. I
10 can answer any questions at this point.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen.
13 Any questions to Karen on the Fisheries Resource
14 Monitoring Program information update?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Karen, this is
19 Gordon. What type of monitoring program information
20 would be most critical type that would likely get
21 funded, I mean, is there an example of one, you know,
22 that could spur the imagination of what we might be
23 able to think about from community levels?

24

25 MS. HYER: Thank you, Council members.
26 Just a real quick.....

27

28 (Teleconference interference -
29 participants not muted).

30

31 REPORTER: Hang on. I cannot hear --
32 excuse me, please. This is the reporter. I can't hear
33 who's talking so whoever's talking if you want to start
34 at the beginning and not you, Karen, but somebody was
35 trying to speak and I couldn't hear it at all.

36

37 MS. PATTON: That was actually me to
38 try to get folks to.....

39

40 REPORTER: I'm sorry, Eva, didn't mean
41 to, but I couldn't hear anything.

42

43 MS. PATTON: That's fine, Tina. I'm
44 just jumping in to try to remind folks to mute your
45 phones. There's a lot of background noise and some
46 muffled talking. So it's really difficult for
47 everybody to hear and including Tina.

48

49 REPORTER: I appreciate it very much.

50

0140

1 MS. PATTON: And I think actually --
2 actually I'm wondering, Gordon, it -- it sounds like
3 there's some paper shuffling too, if you might be
4 looking at your -- your maps as you're talking.

5
6 So everybody that's on teleconference
7 it -- just to mute your phones, star six, or hit your
8 mute button and that will be helpful for everybody to
9 hear.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Eva.

14

15 MS. HYER: All right, Mr. Chairman. So
16 a successful project would -- would address the
17 priority information needs that we developed at our
18 last meeting. And then in addition it has to meet the
19 five review criteria. And the first is strategic
20 priority, it has to be related to Federal subsistence
21 management. And then the proposal that's submitted has
22 to be technically sound, so it has to prove that the
23 research can be done. An investigator needs to have
24 the ability to do the research, then -- that's the
25 third criteria. And then the fourth criteria is it has
26 to have partnership and capacity building program. The
27 FRMP is -- has a component where it -- it's supposed to
28 have local involvement in these proposals. And then
29 the final criteria of course is cost benefit. So a
30 priority -- a project that is more cost effective or
31 additive.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think maybe
34 the criteria, I think that's important, but is there
35 like an example project that you can just blurt out
36 that had met that kind of criteria already?

37

38 MS. HYER: Oh, in the past? So there
39 was work.....

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

42

43 MS. HYER:that had been done on
44 grayling around Nuiqsut and that had been done and that
45 project's come to a close. And that was -- that was a
46 successful project and we're waiting for the passing of
47 covid so our investigators can come -- when we can all
48 come back and meet in person. That will be a time when
49 a lot of those projects are presented. But we have
50

0141

1 projects in that area that have in the past met the
2 criteria.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Okay. Very
5 good. And then was that related to spawning or
6 availability or sickness or.....

7

8 MS. HYER: It was -- it was.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER:sustainability
11 or.....

12

13 MS. HYER: Yeah. Yeah, it was related
14 mainly to sustainability. There wasn't a lot known
15 about that population and so it was baseline
16 information they were collecting on where -- where --
17 what the movement was and -- and what they were using
18 for wintering grounds and that kind of information.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
21 you. Any questions for Karen?

22

23 (No comments)

24

25 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
28 you.

29

30 MS. HYER: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Eva,
33 looks like we're coming up on 5:00 o'clock. And I'm
34 wondering if we should recess until tomorrow and try to
35 work through the remainder of the agency reports and
36 maybe finishing up item 11 with Carmen about the
37 caribou and moose on the emergency action proposal and
38 the remaining Board of Game proposals?

39

40 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
41 Chair. So the Council does have a the.....

42

43 (Teleconference interference -
44 participants not muted).....

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hello.

47

48 MS. PATTON:proposals and.....

49

50

0142

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, hold on.
2 Somebody's saying hello.

3
4 Hello.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that somebody?

9
10 (No comments)

11
12 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I'm not sure who was
13 chiming in there Gordon. Yes, so the -- the Council
14 had wanted to follow-up with.....

15
16 (Teleconference interference -
17 participants not muted)

18
19 REPORTER: So I think we have somebody
20 not muted. If everybody can sit and take a second and
21 look at your phone, see if it's muted it would be
22 appreciated.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Please mute your
25 phone if you're not acknowledge, background noise
26 again.

27
28 REPORTER: Yeah, thank you, Gordon.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I thought said
31 somebody said hello so I -- I'm sorry I interrupted
32 there, Eva.

33
34 Go ahead.

35
36 MS. PATTON: No worries, Gordon. So
37 the Council did want to resume discussion and
38 development of Federal subsistence proposals tomorrow
39 including the special action request after receiving
40 further updates from Carmen. So my understanding is
41 she'll be available in the morning. We can get those
42 updates from her and other Federal staff that have
43 wildlife reports for the Council's consideration. And
44 then take action on those caribou proposals and
45 discussion on the muskox proposal. Other Federal
46 agencies may also have additional wildlife updates that
47 would be helpful for the Council to hear for
48 consideration of any other Federal subsistence wildlife
49 proposals you would like to consider.

50

0143

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. What's
4 the wish of the Council, do you want to recess until
5 tomorrow morning?

6

7 MR. OOMITTUK: So moved, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion
10 to.....

11

12 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Wanda.
15 Any discussion.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MR. OOMITTUK: Question. So 9:00 a.m.
20 tomorrow morning.

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. The
23 question's been called for. All those in favor of
24 recessing until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning signify by
25 saying aye.

26

27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed
30 keep on working.

31

32 (No opposing votes)

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're in
35 recess until tomorrow morning. And be there or be
36 square. Have a good evening.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Thank you. Have a good
39 evening, everyone.

40

41 (Off record)

42

43 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

44

45

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0144

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, 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 ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 22nd day of February;

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 3rd day of March 2021.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22