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EASTERN INTERIOR ALASKA SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

TELECONFERENCE
March 9, 2022
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Andrew Bassich
Linda Evans
William Glanz
Charles Jagow
Will Koehler
Jody Potts Joseph
Donald Woodruff
Robert Wright

Regional Council Coordinator, Kayta Wessels (Acting)

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2

3 (Teleconference - 3/9/2022)

4

5 (On record)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning
8 everyone. The Eastern Interior RAC meeting, we're
9 coming back into order, 9:02. And, Jody, can you do
10 roll call for who all is here.

11

12 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yes. Starting with
13 Chairwoman Sue.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.

16

17 MS. POTTS JOSEPH:obviously
18 present.

19

20 Jody Potts Joseph here present.

21

22 Linda Evans.

23

24

25 (No comments)

26

27 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Linda Evans.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Okay. Nicholas
32 Henry.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Will Glanz.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: William Glanz.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
43 sorry, he's here, I had it on mute.

44

45 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Was Linda here too?

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Not.....

48

49 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Is Linda present, it

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1 might have been on mute.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, she's not
4 here.

5

6 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Okay.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, she's not
9 here.

10

11 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Andrew Bass -- okay,
12 thank you. Andrew Bassich.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And Andrew
15 sent me a text and he was going to be absent a little
16 bit in the morning and he'd back as soon as possible.

17

18 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Okay, thank you.

19

20 Charlie Wright.

21

22 MR. WRIGHT: Here.

23

24 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Charlie Jagow.

25

26 MR. JAGOW: Here.

27

28 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Don Woodruff.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.

31

32 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Will Koehler.

33

34 MR. KOEHLER: Present.

35

36 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Okay, thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
39 Jody. That looks like seven so we have a quorum. I
40 have to do this public and tribal comments on any non-
41 agenda items each morning. Are there any public or
42 tribal comments on non-agenda items.

43

44 MS. STEVENS: Good morning, Chair, this
45 is Carrie Stevens.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Carrie,
48 this morning. I just saw your husband here this
49 morning. You go ahead.

50

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1 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Sue. I
2 appreciate the opportunity to address the EIRAC and I
3 hope everyone is well and, of course, wish I could be
4 in the room with all of you.

5
6 I just wanted to share a few comments
7 from listening yesterday and to the responsibilities
8 and operations of the RAC. Of course as you all know,
9 the RAC members are appointed by the Joint Secretaries
10 of the USDA and the Department of Interior, and I think
11 it's wonderful that with the Administration in
12 November, we saw the amazing Secretarial Order 3403,
13 the Joint Secretarial Order from the Secretary of
14 Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture on fulfilling
15 the trust responsibility to Indian Tribes in the
16 stewardship of Federal public lands and waters. And I
17 could read through the Secretarial order, I believe it
18 should be included in all RAC meeting packets, I didn't
19 find it in your meeting materials. And, really, of
20 course, encourages and beyond encouraging, actually
21 requires that Staff within Federal public agencies are
22 working proactively in partnership, in government to
23 government relationship with Federally-recognized
24 tribes and tribal organizations doing this work. And
25 so it says right here, in short, all decisions by the
26 Department relating to Federal stewardship of Federal
27 lands, waters and wildlife under their jurisdiction,
28 include consideration of how to safeguard the interest
29 of any Indian tribe such decisions may affect. Make
30 agreements with Indian tribes to collaborate in the co-
31 stewardship of Federal lands and waters under the
32 Department's jurisdiction including for wildlife and
33 its habitat. Identify and support tribal opportunities
34 to consolidate tribal homelands and empower tribal
35 stewardship of those resources. Complete a preliminary
36 legal review of current land, water and wildlife treaty
37 responsibilities and authority to support co-
38 stewardship. And issue a report within one year of
39 this order to fulfill these actions.

40
41 And so I just share this especially
42 also with the recent tribal government to government
43 consultations with the Department of Interior on the
44 Federal Subsistence Management Program. We know within
45 the 2010 review many things that were points of action
46 by the Secretaries were not taken. And I just would
47 really want to encourage, not only the RAC members, but
48 the OSM Staff to respect tribal representatives, tribal
49 organizations and tribal governments in your meetings.
50

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1 That this program was created specifically to meet
2 their needs, and that Federal Staff wouldn't have
3 employment, wouldn't have a job if it weren't for the
4 needs of Alaska Natives and tribal governments. I felt
5 listening to the meeting yesterday, a lot of
6 disrespect. And that's just as a public citizen and it
7 was very alarming to me. And what we're hearing from
8 the Administration, we often share this in tribal
9 consultations, it's not upheld by the Staff.

10

11 And it goes on -- all of you know that
12 in my day job, I'm just calling in as myself, and I'm a
13 professor so I won't continue to read through the whole
14 document, but I'm a little confused as to why this is
15 not leading in your meeting packets. It's not even
16 found in the RAC meeting packet, and that is very
17 confusing to me as a public citizen, as someone who
18 really believes in Title VIII of ANILCA, why you were
19 formed -- to read through all the regulations, this is
20 exactly your work and to empower the RACs to take up
21 and take on issues far outside of these specific
22 regulatory pieces. And so I would just ask that RAC
23 members all receive a briefing on this Secretarial
24 Order and OSM Staff and I'm not sure why it's not in
25 the packet.

26

27 There's also -- I just want to call the
28 RAC member attention -- Chair Sue, I'm sorry if I'm
29 taking too long, I just have one more item I wanted to
30 share, is that okay.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure, go
33 ahead. I'm pretty easy.

34

35 MS. STEVENS: I just want to be
36 respectful. I appreciate it Sue and I just want to be
37 really respectful of all of your time as well.

38

39 But it's under supplemental materials,
40 and it's No. 2, and I don't really see it being
41 discussed on your agenda, and I'm sorry, I missed parts
42 of yesterday but I see, like the charter on your
43 agenda, but I don't see the supplemental materials and
44 it says, overview of the process of reporting -- annual
45 reporting, receiving public testimony, guided
46 discussion, briefing Council comments on proposed
47 actions to automate Federal subsistence permits, and
48 briefing on Secretarial regulations regarding the
49 Tongass. But in this, your supplemental materials, A,
50

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1 B and C, I guess what my concern is, I continue to see
2 a limiting, a very narrow window that's being put
3 forward for the RAC members, and the RAC operations.
4 And this goes directly against the 2010 Secretarial
5 Review, which created the deference to the RACs and
6 actually by law, by Title VIII of ANILCA, requires
7 public participation and requires meaningful,
8 meaningful participation by subsistence users. And so
9 I just really ask the RAC members.....

10

11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13

14 MS. STEVENS:to really -- I know
15 you have so much work on your plate and I know you're
16 volunteers and that just really stresses me out as a
17 public citizen because this is all really important and
18 so much information, that they're really trying to
19 limit public testimony, really limit -- and it also
20 doesn't say who authored any of these materials and I
21 actually have like legal questions for these documents.
22 Some of it, I wanted to send to a few attorneys -- some
23 of it's very concerning to me, and I'm sure I know it's
24 been drafted by and reviewed by DOI attorneys, however,
25 it continues to look to limit RAC voice and public
26 voice. And so I just wanted to bring those to your
27 attention, those are really important to me.

28

29 And the most recent RAC manual that I
30 have is from 2013 because there was one I believe
31 updated in 2015 but I couldn't find it, and it says
32 that the No. 1 purpose of the RAC meetings -- I'm
33 summarizing now and not reading directly from it
34 because I have so many tabs open that I'm trying to
35 read to you from -- here it is -- it says, why does the
36 Regional Advisory Council meet and No. 1, Councils meet
37 to discuss and make recommendations on proposed changes
38 to subsistence regulations and other aspects of
39 subsistence management such as policies, management
40 plans, rural/nonrural determination, Council charters,
41 Subsistence Resource Commission appointments and
42 prepare your annual report. This annual report is one
43 place where I feel the RACs voice is being limited. It
44 goes on to say Council meetings provide a forum for the
45 public to offer information and express opinions on any
46 matter related to subsistence. At these meetings local
47 people may speak about issues before the Council and
48 bring forward their own concerns, listen to updates on
49 subsistence issues and ask questions of government

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1 officials. And so I really feel like the public and
2 tribal voice is being treated as combative in these
3 meetings and that is not the intent of ANILCA Title
4 VIII of Secretary Haaland, herself, nor Secretary
5 Vilsack.

6
7 And I just -- I really need to make
8 this point because I feel we're going backwards in this
9 process. I've been engaged in the EIRAC for over 15
10 years and I've just never heard dialogue like I heard
11 yesterday and I just would ask the Federal Staff why --
12 and I'm sorry if I did miss it, why is the Joint
13 Secretarial Order not being given to RAC members
14 because this is everything within their purview. And
15 they should be working very closely with Yukon River
16 InterTribal Fish Commission, the Ahtna InterTribal
17 Resource Commission in the EIRAC region and, of course,
18 in other regions other co-management bodies and the
19 Tanana Chief Conference Hunting and Fishing Task Force
20 and they should be seen as your colleagues, your co-
21 managers as pointed out by the Secretaries.

22
23 So, Sue, I apologize for taking up so
24 much time this morning, I'm so passionate about all of
25 your work and I really appreciate all of your
26 volunteerism and dedication. All of you are unpaid,
27 volunteers and I just hope that paid Staff are really
28 supporting your needs.

29
30 Ana'Baasee.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
33 you, Carrie. I think a lot of what you brought up,
34 some of us, myself included, there is some frustrations
35 and if any.....

36
37 (Teleconference interference -
38 participants not muted)

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:it's
41 also -- okay.

42
43 REPORTER: Could people please mute
44 their phone.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have some
47 members who forgot to turn off their phone.

48
49 REPORTER: Yep. And we have some
50

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1 unmuted lines and people take a second and hit star,
2 six or a mute button. It sounds like we can hear some
3 kitchen background and a telephone ringing so we can
4 listen to who's speaking right now.

5

6 Okay, so Sue go ahead.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks,
9 Tina. I'll apologize for the phone ringing, but, it
10 wasn't mine, but one of the Council members didn't have
11 it on mute.

12

13 And getting back to Carrie, yes, I
14 think some of that stuff here, yes, I would completely
15 ask Staff those questions and see the answers and you
16 can share with us -- we'd be happy to hear and Council
17 members, do you guys have anything you want to ask or
18 add.

19

20 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Chairwoman this is
21 Jody Potts Joseph.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
24 Jody.

25

26 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Thank you. I just
27 really want to thank Carrie Stevens for her comments
28 and I think for me, as a new RAC member, that was
29 really, really helpful, to also know a little more
30 about the role and what our job is, but also how we
31 need to be engaging with the public at these meetings
32 and why it's important and I just really agree with
33 everything that Ms. Stevens said and I hope that in the
34 future we can continue to really represent the public
35 well and know that we're really here in service for
36 them, and remind the Staff that, you know, we have this
37 duty as RAC members and we also really do need to make
38 sure we get that RAC handbook. That would be really
39 super helpful.

40

41 So thank you.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
44 Jody. Charlie Wright wanted to speak also.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Carrie. Things
47 that need to be said, some of us are new, some of us
48 have been around for awhile, we're still learning, we
49 appreciate that. And I'd also like to hear some

50

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1 answers and comments and some of those questions
2 answered by the Staff.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Council
5 members, anyone else.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say
10 that these teleconference meetings make this the most
11 difficult way to do business, I think it's extremely
12 inefficient and so I hope they come up with something
13 that will work at our next meeting. And then Staff, I
14 would ask that you please -- the things that she
15 brought up, address them all, we don't have to address
16 it all right now, but I would appreciate you reach out
17 to Carrie and answer her questions and then get back to
18 us.

19

20 Okay, thank you, Carrie.

21

22 Is there anyone else who wants to talk
23 to us about comments on non-agenda items.

24

25 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: This is Jody, sorry.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Jody, go
28 ahead.

29

30 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: At some point I
31 would really like to hear a response from the Staff, if
32 possible, in reference to the comments Ms. Stevens
33 made.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right now?

36

37 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Yes, please.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
40 think that would be directed to Katya.

41

42 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, can you
43 hear me, this is Katya?

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

46

47 MS. WESSELS: Can you hear me?

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Katya,

50

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1 we can hear you.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Okay. Because earlier on
4 I was trying to talk and no one could hear me, so thank
5 you. I would like -- first of all, I would like to ask
6 Carrie to restate her questions because it was not
7 clear to me what the questions were.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: She's not
10 listening.

11

12 REPORTER: I'm sorry, who was that.....

13

14 MS. STEVENS: Chair Entsminger, this is
15 Carrie Stevens. Is it okay if I.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
18 Absolutely.

19

20 MS. STEVENS: I guess my question was
21 the Joint Secretarial Order 3403, I was wondering, one,
22 why that wasn't in the packet and maybe I missed it, I
23 apologize for all RAC Members, I'm assuming if it's not
24 in the EIRACs it's not in other -- I didn't look at RAC
25 packets on the State but we're here at EIRAC and that
26 was very alarming to me that this coming down from the
27 Secretaries, specifically related to subsistence
28 management on Federal public lands isn't the philosophy
29 of the Department, isn't of OSM, isn't being shared
30 with RAC members, it isn't being institutionalized in
31 the Program, that was No. 1.

32

33 No. 2, I was wondering who authored the
34 supplemental materials that I listed under A, B and C,
35 or 1, 2 and 3. There's no authorship and actually in
36 some points it's -- the author is, I, I mean that's how
37 it's written, non-technical document with no authorship
38 from the OSM. That was No. 2.

39

40 And, No. 3, I was asking about public
41 participation and how is that being upheld in the RAC
42 meetings, like I wanted to come today and bring copies
43 of that with you [sic], I have a lot of comments on the
44 SAR, I didn't ask that specifically but I guess I
45 should say that, that public comment wasn't.....

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

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1 MS. STEVENS:you know, why can't
2 we speak to these issues when that's actually required
3 by law.

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you for your
6 questions, Carrie. I guess I will need to ask you a
7 clarifying question about your second question. I'm
8 just looking at the agenda and you're not sure who was
9 the author of which documents, I'm sorry it's just --
10 are you talking about the ones that are going to be
11 presented this morning or the ones that were already
12 presented?

13
14 MS. STEVENS: Chair Entsminger, is it
15 okay if I speak, I just don't want to speak out of turn
16 as the public.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
19 Carrie, you and Katya just go back and forth there, you
20 don't have to address me, go ahead.

21
22 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Sue. Under
23 supplemental materials it says No. 2., overview of, and
24 there's A, B, C and D, Federal Subsistence Board annual
25 report reply process, basically saying the FSB doesn't
26 have to respond to the RACs; receiving public testimony
27 protocol guided discussion, which essentially discusses
28 limiting public testimony to written possibly, and, C,
29 briefing and Council comments on proposed actions to
30 automate Federal subsistence permits, which, of course,
31 would be near impossible in rural Alaska. So that No.
32 2, A, B, and C.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, now I am
37 clear what you asked. So I will address this question
38 first. So what you see there on the website, the
39 overview, and it's just in one document, those are
40 talking points for the presentations that we're going
41 to have this morning in front of the Council. Those
42 were talking points for LT leadership that will be
43 presenting these. Those are just discussions and
44 briefings with some questions that we were going to ask
45 the Councils and it was OSM who authored all of these
46 documents and they just were placed on the website
47 because there is a number of questions that we will be
48 asking of the Council and some of the previous Councils
49 that met, they thought that it would be great if we
50

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1 could place this document on the website to assist the
2 Council members and the public to see these questions
3 in writing. That's why we placed it there. Those
4 documents have no legal bearing or anything, they're
5 just the talking points for the LT member to help them
6 lead these discussions and conduct the briefing.
7

8 So I hope I answered that question.
9 You know, none of these things are being, you know,
10 decided, you know, this first item about the annual
11 report reply process, this is just an initiative by the
12 InterAgency Staff Committee, that -- you know, that is
13 trying to improve the process to make the reply process
14 more relevant to the Councils. Nothing's been
15 implemented in regards to that.
16

17 Receiving public testimony protocol,
18 this is just also to improve our process, our internal
19 process of how the Councils want to receive this public
20 testimony. We're asking Councils these questions, on
21 how -- what's the best way, how we can share comments
22 from the public this way or that way with the Council,
23 what is the best way of doing it.
24

25 In regards to the automating of Federal
26 subsistence permits, there is also a series of
27 questions that will be asked of the Councils to get
28 their feedback, that has not been decided. These are
29 just proposed action. You know I understand what
30 you're saying that it would not work but, you know,
31 it's up to the Councils to provide their feedback to us
32 and we will summarize this feedback and provide it back
33 to the Federal Subsistence Board.
34

35 And in regards to the Tongass National
36 Forest, that is not even applicable to the Eastern
37 Interior, but we've been asked to present this
38 information to all the Councils and that's what we're
39 doing and no feedback is really necessary on that item.
40

41 And in regards to public participation,
42 if you're referring to a few Council members meeting
43 together, that was primarily organized, Carrie, to
44 assist, you know, a few Council members that have
45 experienced some difficulties with their internet and,
46 you know, had issues with hearing, this is not really
47 an open public meeting, a designated Federal officer is
48 not being present there, this is just to facility to
49 accommodate a few Council members that had some
50

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1 limitations.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: What is she
4 talking about.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Council members, you
7 know, public can still call in on the phone to provide
8 public testimony. There are two opportunities for the
9 public to provide their testimony during the call --
10 during the period when public can speak on non-agenda
11 items and, you know, then there are opportunities for
12 some of the items on the agenda when public can provide
13 their feedback. A lot of the times public
14 participation, public comments are at the discretion of
15 the Chair like it was for the temporary special actions
16 that were discussed yesterday and Chair Entsminger
17 provided this opportunity to the public.

18

19 And I also have on call our Deputy
20 Assistant Regional Director, Ameer Howard, and I will
21 just ask Ameer to add anything that I might have missed
22 in my reply to your questions, Carrie.

23

24 REPORTER: So I still have somebody
25 that's not muted. Excuse me, I still have somebody not
26 muted, more than a couple, if everyone could just take
27 a second and star, six or mute your phone, so everyone
28 can hear the conversation. I'd appreciate that.

29

30 Thank you, very much.

31

32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Well, I don't
33 (indiscernible).....

34

35 MS. STEVENS: Apologies Sue, this is
36 Carrie Stevens again. And I feel very weird to not
37 address the Chair so I'm sorry for that and just want
38 to thank you for your Chairmanship and volunteerism. I
39 don't want to derail your whole morning but I was just
40 really wondering the authorship, I understood
41 everything Katya explained about the documents, I had
42 asked who had authored them and that was my question.
43 You mentioned the InterAgency Staff Committee, a few
44 concerns, the State sits on that committee and
45 subsistence users do not, and I was actually wondering
46 actual human being that authored them within the
47 office, I know it was OSM, I understand your briefing
48 on them, that wasn't my question, my question was who
49 wrote them.

50

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1 And then my other question was about
2 the Secretarial Order and why that's not being included
3 in the packet as discussed, and that wasn't addressed.
4

5 But I don't want to derail you, Sue,
6 thank you.
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Katya,
9 if you could just keep it brief I would appreciate it.
10

11 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Sue.
12 Sure I can provide you the names of the people in the
13 office who wrote it. A was authored by Robbin LaVine.
14 The B was authored by me. And C and D was authored by
15 Theo Matuskowitz. And as for the Secretarial Order,
16 you know, we usually put in the meeting materials the
17 documents that are applicable to the items that are
18 being discussed on the agenda, you know, that's why
19 this document was not in the meeting materials. So
20 that's my.....

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, and
23 that.....
24

25 MS. WESSELS:short answer, thank
26 you.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thanks
29 Katya. I believe everybody on the Council would like
30 to see that, I'm seeing noddings of heads here. So if
31 that could be provided. And then I appreciate things
32 that you're bringing up, Carrie, and so do the other
33 people here. And I think that we should continue this
34 and get that information and if any Council members
35 have anything else I would ask them to speak up now on
36 these non-agenda items.
37

38 (No comments)
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
41 there any other -- I appreciate it, Carrie, I thank you
42 so much and we'll hopefully get to talk to you in
43 person one day soon.
44

45 MS. STEVENS: Yes, thank you, Sue.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
48 Alrighty.
49

50

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1 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

4

5 MS. LINNELL: This is Karen Linnell,
6 Ahtna InterTribal Resource Commission.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
9 Karen.

10

11 MS. LINNELL: I just had to add
12 something in regards to that special action request
13 yesterday and the direction I heard from Staff at --
14 when you were discussing that item, it was pretty clear
15 that she said that Staff -- or that public cannot
16 provide input to the RAC yesterday and when are they
17 supposed to act and talk when the Federal Subsistence
18 Board defers to the RAC but you're not allowing -- the
19 public couldn't speak to you yesterday about how they
20 feel for a special action request that affects their
21 subsistence needs before you vote on it and make a
22 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board, and so
23 to me that was very disconcerting that folks couldn't
24 speak to that proposal and how they felt about it and
25 the Federalization of fishing on the Yukon River.

26

27 And so to me that was direction from
28 the Staff and very clearly that they said the public
29 could not provide input on the SARs. And I don't -- it
30 was pretty upsetting. It's happened down in our area
31 before and for the Southcentral RAC and so hearing this
32 today and the guidance and looking at the handbook, I
33 would love to see that handbook published on the
34 website so maybe the Deputy Director for OSM can ensure
35 that that handbook for the RACs gets put on the website
36 so that members of the public can find it.

37

38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39

40 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
41 Katya.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank
44 you, Karen. Yes, Katya.

45

46 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I just would like to
47 correct it for the record that Madame Chair Entsminger
48 asked for the public comments on temporary special
49 actions, FSA-22-01, 02, 03 and 04 yesterday.

50

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1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually I --

4 in my mind I would like to say that I get what Karen

5 and Carrie are saying, a lot of times, yeah, we're

6 volunteers and a lot of times we don't see a lot of

7 that -- the procedural stuff. But procedurally, I

8 agree with them, I think when we take up something like

9 this, that it probably -- the public should be able to

10 speak up and I don't understand -- procedurally, was it

11 -- wasn't there something else, Katya, that this is

12 going to come up again, isn't that what was going to

13 happen when the public would have more comment.

14

15 MS. WESSELS: Are you talking -- are

16 you asking about specifically this special action --

17 there will be public hearings as we said several times

18 yesterday. There will be two public hearings and for

19 tribes there also will be an opportunity during the

20 tribal consultations to provide their comments to the

21 Board. And when -- and, you know, there is also very

22 -- you know, this -- a good distinction about, when the

23 public provides their comments at the Council meetings,

24 those are comments to the Councils, when the public

25 provides their comments at the public hearing and at

26 the tribal consultations, those are the comments to the

27 Board. So just wanted to mention that.

28

29 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: So she's

30 (indiscernible).....

31

32 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: This is Jody,

33 Chairwoman Entsminger.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go

36 ahead, Jody.

37

38 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Thank you, Katya. I

39 think, yeah, we understand that. I think the

40 distinction is we have a duty as RAC members to the

41 public and that's our job and to -- and that's our job,

42 I remember going through my application process and

43 asking how we will engage with the public as we applied

44 to be on the RAC. And I think obviously our RAC

45 meetings are an important time and opportunity to

46 engage with our constituents and so I -- I think that

47 hearing from the public at the RAC meetings throughout

48 is appropriate.

49

50

0207

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I
2 think what I'm hearing from the public now is that on
3 all of our proposals there is a wonderful opportunity
4 that comes up that the public is called on and they can
5 comment to the RACs and this was a special action that
6 came up two weeks ago, I understand, and this -- even
7 the public, rarely, all of them all know about what's
8 going on because it isn't something that was in our
9 book so I guess it's -- at least, we, the RAC, had a
10 chance to speak to it and those who take the time to be
11 on these RAC meetings would have had the opportunity
12 because we gave them that opportunity, so it is a
13 little different and, you know, we go through a lot of
14 pain here sometimes and I appreciate everybody and I
15 think we will work through making sure the public is
16 heard.

17
18 So it's things we got to talk.....

19
20 MS. LINNELL: Madame Chair.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
23about.....

24
25 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

28
29 MS. LINNELL: There is one -- there --
30 this is Karen Linnell. There is one distinct
31 difference and that is that the Federal Subsistence
32 Board defers to the RAC and so it's important that
33 you're fully informed on what your public and who you
34 represent has a voice to you, rather than after the
35 fact and it could make a difference in how you vote on
36 an action because the Federal Subsistence Board defers
37 to the RAC. And whether we bring things at the Federal
38 Subsistence Board, that voice may not get -- or have as
39 much weight and -- and effect the vote because the RAC
40 voted in a different way and so that's -- that's why I
41 think it's such an important part that the public gets
42 to speak to those special actions and things with the
43 RAC who make those votes.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I
46 appreciate that Karen, and.....

47
48 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Madame Chair.

49
50

0208

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:there's
2 an agreement -- there's agreement here at the table
3 that you're correct in that. But I believe, having
4 been on this for awhile, there are times where a
5 special action comes out and we never get the
6 opportunity, we just happen to get the opportunity here
7 because it was two weeks before the meeting and there
8 are some -- the -- they have to make decisions on and
9 even us don't have the opportunity. So I mean I don't
10 think we need to spend a great deal of time unless
11 other Council members would like to speak on this.

12

13 Charlie.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair, please, this
16 is Charlie Wright. I'd just like to say the special
17 action is -- doesn't come up all the time and I
18 appreciate that OSM will give us space to have special
19 meetings to do that but if it's going to be referred to
20 us then we need to make space for people to comment and
21 say what they need to say about it. And I agree that
22 there wasn't a lot of times and a lot of times, if
23 people are not given time to comment on certain things
24 that don't have special meetings then they lose their
25 chance, so a lot of things get left behind.

26

27 That's just my comment, thank you.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Council
30 members is there anything else.

31

32 (No comments)

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
35 One more call, public or tribal non-agenda items.

36

37 (No comments)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Let
40 the record reflect that Linda came in at 9:08, she's
41 been here and we have eight on. So the next thing on
42 the agenda is House Trapping Bill HR4716, the Refuge
43 and Cruel Trapping Act of 2021. Shawn, are you on.

44

45 MR. BAYLESS: Yes, I am, Madame Chair.
46 Shawn Bayless for the record, Tetlin Refuge Manager.
47 Good morning everybody.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning,

50

0209

1 go ahead.

2

3

4 MR. BAYLESS: I was asked by Jill Klein
5 from the Subsistence Division to provide an overview of
6 this Bill that was introduced in July -- July 21st
7 actually by Representative Nadler and 26 others
8 introduced this. It went before the Natural Resources
9 Committee on the 27th, if memory serves, and Deputy
10 Director Steve (Indiscernible) was there to answer
11 questions from that Committee. Don Young opposed it
12 vehemently and asked that it be killed, and if it can't
13 be killed then at least make an exception to Alaska
14 because recognizing trapping is a large part of our
15 subsistence needs up here in the state.

15

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But briefly, the Bill, as written, the
purpose is to end -- it's called Refuge Cruel Trapping
Act. The purpose is to end the use of body-gripping
traps on Refuges and for other purposes. And they're
going to do that by amending the National Wildlife
Refuge System, the Administrative Act of 1966 is how
that would be done. It will not be applicable to the
Federal government, in other words, the Federal
government can trap, still use these devices for
research, monitoring and things like that. Enforcement
issues, if passed, it's a \$500 fine per trap used, or
possessed in the field. You know, for subsequent
offenses it's a thousand dollar fine, imprisonment of
180 days or both. So your question is -- you're
probably going to ask me, okay, what's -- what's
included -- what do they mean by body-gripping traps.
It's basically everything -- every kind of trap used in
Alaska other than boxed trap or a suitcase beaver trap
-- I've never heard of that, but it's listed in this
resolution. So steel jaws, padded or other modified
leg hold traps, kill pipe traps, snares, all those
would be prohibited.

And I would like to say, finally, to
wrap this up, of course the Fish and Wildlife Service
in Alaska appreciates the concern of subsistence users
of this resolution, the Regional Office did comment on
it. I don't have those comments. And but as a Refuge
Manager I follow the existing law, and the law that
dictates what I do as a Manager on the Refuge is
ANILCA, and right now, as you know, subsistence and
fish and game hunting are all guaranteed under ANILCA,
so if it is passed, how is that -- is that going to
trump ANILCA or not, I don't know. I would think not.

0210

1 ANILCA seems to be priority in Alaska so they'll have
2 to work around that, I guess, but that's my opinion.

3

4 So I'm wide open to questions if you
5 have any. It's a very short Bill, it's only one page
6 long, so not a lot to talk about but I'm open to
7 questions, Madame Chair, thank you.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
10 Shawn. Questions Council members.

11

12 Charlie.

13

14 MR. JAGOW: Well, just questions, or
15 discussions, I don't have any questions but.....

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, right
18 now it's -- you don't have any -- well.....

19

20 MR. KOEHLER: I guess I would have a
21 question, this is Will.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
24 Will.

25

26 MR. KOEHLER: Shawn, I guess my
27 question would be if based on what you're thinking is
28 with ANILCA, if this was to pass, would you -- would
29 your office enforce this or would your office wait
30 until something was contested with ANILCA. I guess
31 there would need to be some kind of stay but, yeah, I
32 guess this is coming from people that have, obviously
33 no connection to our way of life, and so, yeah, how
34 would that be enforced, I guess, would be the question.

35

36 MR. BAYLESS: Well, thank you for that,
37 Will, through the Chair. You know there's a lot of
38 things in the Refuge, Act, and the Refuge
39 Administration Act that don't apply in Alaska for that
40 reason because we have ANILCA, we operate under ANILCA.
41 The Park Service allows motorized vehicles on the Parks
42 here in Alaska, they don't do that in the Lower 48. So
43 I am confident, and this is just me pontificating, I am
44 confident that if this is passed it will not apply to
45 Alaska. But I'm a glass half full kind of guy and who
46 knows. That's a very good question. I'll follow the
47 law, whatever law it is they say I have to follow but I
48 just don't see this law, especially if it's just an
49 amendment to the 1966 Act, which, again, we use that

50

0211

1 but there's exceptions under ANILCA that allows to do
2 things differently in Alaska than anywhere else in the
3 United States on the Refuges so I think that will
4 probably still be the case, in this case.

5

6 MR. KOEHLER: Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
9 members, any questions -- any other questions.

10

11 MR. WRIGHT: No questions but comment.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
14 going to take some comments on this, we could -- I'm
15 just going to inform you all, we could probably -- I
16 talked with Staff and we can write a letter to the
17 Federal Board encouraging them to let our voices be
18 heard to the places that, you know, like the House of
19 Representatives, and Jerry Nadler so we have been told
20 in the past, for those of you who are new, that we
21 can't send letters lobbying legislators. It's in that
22 -- what'd you -- what's that called again.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: The Hatch Act.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hatch Act,
27 okay. But we can go to the Federal Board.

28

29 MR. WRIGHT: We can recommend.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
32 we could send a letter. It makes me think, you know,
33 the meeting isn't over and if we have any additions to
34 that, our report, the annual report, maybe.....

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I don't
39 know -- maybe it could be added there.....

40

41 MS. EVANS: (Indiscernible - away from
42 mic) add it.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:but I
45 would still -- yeah, add it to that, and send the
46 letter, our concern. What's the most effective, Staff?

47

48 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
49 Katya.

50

0212

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
2 Katya.

3
4 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I think it will be
5 more effective if you actually write a separate letter
6 than adding it to the annual report because you're only
7 going to get a reply later in the year and, you know,
8 if you, you know, decide to send a letter to the Board,
9 you can ask the Board also to forward the letter to
10 whomever you feel that letter needs to be forwarded.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie Jagow
13 said, what about both, greasing the wheel twice.

14
15 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, I mean essentially it
16 can't -- there can't be any harm in us doing both,
17 right.

18
19 MR. WRIGHT: No, there's not.

20
21 MR. JAGOW: Not that I can see why it
22 would.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I hope
25 you hear that Tina.

26
27 REPORTER: I did.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
30 right.

31
32 MR. WRIGHT: So this is Charlie, Madame
33 Chair. I make the motion that we write a letter and
34 send it to a couple places and add it to the annual
35 report.

36
37 MR. JAGOW: Second that.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
40 There's been a motion to write a letter to the Federal
41 Subsistence Board and to add it to our annual report
42 and seconded by Charlie Jagow. The motion was made by
43 Charlie Wright. Did I state it correctly.

44
45 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

46
47 MR. JAGOW: Yes.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: Yes, you did, very good.
50

0213

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
2 any discussion on the motion, you just might want to
3 clarify what we put in it. Charlie.

4
5 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, well put in the
6 letter stating that we are against it. It's, in my
7 mind, a direct insult to the way of life here in
8 Alaska. I agree with Don Young very much that it
9 should be killed, it should be gone.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that it
14 goes -- and our feelings go directly to -- we want it
15 to go to Congress.

16
17 MR. WRIGHT: Yes, we want it to go to
18 Congress, we don't want to -- like I said this is
19 against a huge way of life in Alaska and a lot of
20 people make a living out of trapping. There's quite a
21 few people that do trap in these Refuges so we'll have
22 to support those people, it's our job.

23
24 MR. GLANZ: Yes. I'll make another
25 comment, this is Bill Glanz here. That's a direct slap
26 in the face whoever wrote this ANILCA law. It goes
27 against the ANILCA purposes. And I rest my case there,
28 that's ridiculous. We need to write to these folks.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

33
34 MR. JAGOW: Okay, so my question is,
35 this isn't just Alaska, this is National Refuges.....

36
37 MR. GLANZ: No.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
40 correct.

41
42 MR. JAGOW:so what can we do that
43 is best for covering all Refuges because it's going to
44 be big deal for.....

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In the
47 letter we're against it for all Refuges.....

48
49 MR. JAGOW: Yeah.

50

0214

1 MS. EVANS: Yes.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:taking
4 care of our state but we.....

5

6 MR. JAGOW: And just cover.....

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:are
9 against it.

10

11 (Various people talking in Fairbanks)

12

13 MR. JAGOW: Okay.

14

15 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they're
18 all nodding their heads here, if anybody disagrees,
19 they need to speak up, that's what our intent is in the
20 letter and also the intent is that we're asking the
21 Federal Subsistence Board to please send our comments
22 to the -- all of the House of Representatives and the
23 Resource Committee. And it will go -- if they allow
24 it, it'll be sent.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: Hunting will be next, then
27 fishing.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I know,
30 right, Bill.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So -- and it
35 might be unpopular right now and not win but I think as
36 time goes on and more people are born, I think we're
37 going to be fighting these battles.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: Constant.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Constant,
42 yeah.

43

44 MS. EVANS: We've been fighting this
45 one for a long time, it's always come up.....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, yeah.

48

49 MS. EVANS:constant -- cruelty.

50

0215

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Linda.
2 That was Linda that spoke. Yeah, we're all -- we're
3 ready to just talk around the table like we're having
4 coffee but we're trying to help you out there Tina.
5 Any other.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 MS. EVANS: Call for question.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Wait a --
12 this is our letter -- Charlie just asked if we have to
13 get comments from the public and, you know, I'm not
14 trying to offend everyone but I think everyone out
15 there would agree so it's a letter to the Federal Board
16 from this RAC. And Linda has called for the question
17 and I'm going to ask for unanimous consent or maybe --
18 Jody, I think you better do roll call because we don't
19 know who's all online right now.

20

21 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Okay. I'm going to
22 do the whole roll call again. Obviously Sue's on, I'm
23 on.

24

25 Linda Evans.

26

27 MS. EVANS: Yes.

28

29 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Nick Henry.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's here,
32 did you hear?

33

34 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Nicholas Henry.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: William Glanz.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

41

42 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Andrew Bassich.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Andy Bassich, are
47 you present.

48

49 (No comments)

50

0216

1 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Charlie Wright.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

4

5 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Charlie Jagow.

6

7 MR. JAGOW: Present.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're
10 vote.....

11

12 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Donald Woodruff.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Yes.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we're
17 voting.

18

19 MS. POTTS JOSEPH: Will Koehler.

20

21 MR. KOEHLER: Yes.

22

23 MR. JAGOW: Are we going to vote.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie's
26 going to let you know that he was a yes vote, not just
27 present. Okay, thanks, Jody, looks like eight of us
28 are on so it's unanimous, thank you.

29

30 The next thing on the agenda is the
31 Federal Subsistence Board annual report reply process,
32 review and revision discussion, and Council comments
33 and feedback, Scott Ayers.

34

35 MR. AYERS: Hello, Madame Chair.
36 Members of the Council. This is Scott Ayers and I'm
37 the Fisheries Division lead for OSM. I'm going to
38 present a series of items to the Council here and I'll
39 try to work through them as quickly as I can.

40

41 The first one we have on the agenda is
42 on the annual report reply process and this is an
43 action item.

44

45 During the Federal Subsistence Board's
46 August 2021 work session, the InterAgency Staff
47 Committee, also known as the ISC, briefed the Board on
48 the annual report reply process and possible revisions
49 to improve responsiveness to Regional Advisory Council

50

0217

1 concerns. This ISC briefing is part of a larger ISC
2 effort to improve workload efficiencies within the
3 Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Board
4 reviewed and discussed the report reply process and
5 agreed to seek Council input on the suggested
6 revisions, including possible ideas of your own.

7

8 For some background, ANILCA Section
9 .805 authorizes the Councils to prepare an annual
10 report containing information related to important
11 subsistence resource issues within their regions.
12 These reports are invaluable as they provide the Board
13 with a broad holistic picture of local resource
14 conditions and the most up to date subsistence issues
15 facing communities across rural Alaska. With this
16 knowledge the Board can make informed decisions.

17

18 Historically, the Board has strived to
19 provide responses to every topic listed in annual
20 reports regardless of its authority to address the
21 issues raised. However, it is unclear if Board
22 responses on all annual report topics are helpful to
23 the Councils, they also take considerable Staff time to
24 complete. The ISC's two suggested process revisions
25 are:

26

27 1. To maintain annual reports as a way
28 to inform the Board of local conditions, issues and
29 needs, and

30

31 2. To propose letter writing be a way
32 to request a response from the Board on topics of
33 concerns.

34

35 We recognize that Councils already
36 write letters to the Board and other agencies outside
37 of the annual report process. Under this ISC scenario
38 the only change is how the Board responds to issues
39 within your annual report. This change might allow for
40 more substantial and timely responses from the Board on
41 topics of critical concern to the Council, for example,
42 a separate letter requesting Board response could be
43 written and submitted to the Board more quickly than
44 including the issue in the annual report as the annual
45 report takes longer time for both preparation of the
46 report as well as for preparation of the Board's
47 response.

48

49 These suggested revisions are not

50

0218

1 intended to diminish your ability to communicate with
2 the Board. The Board relies on your knowledge and
3 expertise and annual reports are a way to ensure the
4 Board remains up to date on important developments in
5 your region.

6
7 To that end, we're asking you to think
8 about what you want from the Board in response to your
9 annual report. And, again, to help guide this
10 discussion I would suggest that we review the ISC
11 suggestions and open the floor to questions and Council
12 discussion and then I would ask you to take action
13 developing your comments to forward to the Board.

14
15 Madame Chair, would you like me to go
16 through the ISC suggestions one more time real quick.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
19 members, do you want to hear it again.

20
21 MR. GLANZ: No.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

24
25 MR. WRIGHT: I heard it.

26
27 MS. EVANS: I don't think so.

28
29 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you okay,
32 Charlie.

33
34 MR. JAGOW: Yep.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
37 Thank you. Council members, any questions.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other things
42 happen while I'm sitting here sometimes so maybe you
43 ought to repeat it for me.

44
45 MR. AYERS: Sure. They had two
46 suggestions.

47
48 First, to maintain the annual reports
49 is a way to inform the Board of local conditions,
50

0219

1 issues and needs and, then second, to propose letter
2 writing as a way to request the response from the Board
3 of topics of concern, so they would separate out those
4 two items so things that -- concerns that the Council
5 was seeking more direct and quick, fast feedback would
6 go through the letters as opposed through the annual
7 report reply.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I have
10 a question, was the annual report something that
11 started with ANILCA?

12
13 MR. AYERS: Let me defer.....

14
15 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
16 Katya.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
19 Katya.

20
21 MS. WESSELS: Yes. The Council
22 authority to submit the annual report is outlined in
23 ANILCA. However, ANILCA doesn't state anything about
24 the Federal Subsistence Board reply to the Council's
25 report. And we are trying to improve the reply
26 process. We're trying to make that reply process as
27 more meaningful to the Councils because some of the
28 times there are situations when the Councils put the
29 items in the report that are not within the authority
30 of the Federal Subsistence Board and the Federal
31 Subsistence Board, you know, might be able to provide
32 you with some of the information on the topics but they
33 really don't have an authority and not experts on some
34 of the items that are within the report, so that
35 sometimes present, you know, difficulty in the reply.
36 So maybe there are other ways of approaching some of
37 the issues of concerns that the Councils have.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm a
42 little bit confused, I'm going to admit to the Council.
43 Because I've been on here 21 years and we have been
44 doing annual reports all of that time and I'm wondering
45 what has -- I mean you're outlining that some of it
46 isn't the -- but I don't -- are you proposing that we
47 totally eliminate the annual report?

48
49 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair.....
50

0220

1 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, this is.....

2

3 MS. WESSELS:this is Katya.

4

5 MR. AYERS:Scott again.

6

7 MS. WESSELS: We're definitely not
8 proposing eliminating annual report. That is one of
9 the things that all the Councils must do every year.

10

11 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
12 Robbin.

13

14 MS. WESSELS: We're asking questions
15 about -- okay, go ahead, Robbin.

16

17 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
18 Robbin LaVine.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Robbin,
21 are you going to answer the question for me.

22

23 MS. LAVINE: Hi. I hope so. I only
24 just called in so I haven't heard the full discussion,
25 but I am the Subsistence Policy Coordinator and I work
26 with the InterAgency Staff Committee and through
27 discussions helped develop this agenda item, these
28 talking points. And I first want to state in no
29 uncertain terms how vitally important your annual
30 reports are. Your annual reports are received into
31 OSM, reviewed, everybody reads them, they are presented
32 to the Board during our summer work session, and I have
33 been told by Board members how valuable they are, they
34 read every one. Your annual reports are the way our
35 Program gets informed -- is informed on the most
36 vitally important subsistence issues across the state.
37 So this is the most responsive, the most quick, it
38 doesn't take years to develop a -- a paper or a
39 research project, we listen to your Council member
40 reports as well. I review them myself. So many of our
41 Staff rely on our Council member reports and then your
42 annual reports to the Board so that we can track issues
43 that are emerging.

44

45 So I'll say, again, there is no intent
46 to change your annual reports to the Board. Not only
47 are they required, they are essential to inform our
48 Program.

49

50

0221

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Did
4 you want to speak what that -- Charlie Wright.

5

6 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair. I
7 don't understand why this came up. If they are very
8 vital, they are a big part of the process, so I think
9 they should stay as is.

10

11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda.

14

15 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans. I was
16 wondering about the concern about writing letters to
17 answer -- to -- on topics of concern, is that the
18 issue.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't know,
21 I'm a little confused. Because I -- I mean I thought
22 we were.....

23

24 MS. EVANS: I mean people -- if we read
25 the annual report and we have a concern, we just voice
26 it at our next meeting, right, and it goes to.....

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We ask it to
29 go in the annual report.

30

31 MS. EVANS: Yeah.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm a little
34 confused. Let me -- I think I have the simple mind and
35 it doesn't always act smart, I guess, but my feeling
36 is, just listening to this is just the last topic we
37 took up, we added it to the annual report and we wrote
38 a letter. And I think that's -- there's going to be
39 times where we want to write the letter. I don't know
40 it just seems like it's no sense making a big fuss, we
41 see we need to write this letter, this annual report's
42 real important, the Board really appreciates it and we
43 decide we need to write a letter on maybe a non-Board
44 decision, we write a letter. I don't see how it can
45 get any more complicated than that.

46

47 Council members.

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: I agree.

50

0222

1 MR. GLANZ: No argument here.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's an
4 action item so we need to make a motion.

5

6 MR. JAGOW: I'll second.

7

8 MR. EVANS: What was.....

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
11 ahead.

12

13 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans again.
14 I'm trying to figure out the concern about writing
15 letters on topics of concern. Who has to write those
16 letters, the people, the Council who are concerned, or
17 we.....

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: They're trying to --
20 excuse me, Madame Chair, this is Charlie. From what I
21 understand they're trying to -- it sounds to me --
22 correct me if I'm wrong, but it sounds like they would
23 rather have a letter than the report for a faster
24 response. Is that -- am I understanding this right,
25 Katya, please -- thank you, Madame Chair.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or Robbin,
28 whoever can answer it.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

31

32 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair, this is
33 Robbin.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
36 Robbin.

37

38 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair
39 and through the Chair. I -- we -- let me think here.
40 So we want to keep the annual report replies -- or your
41 annual reports -- your annual reports are really
42 important, what we're talking about is how the Board
43 responds to your annual reports. We call them replies.
44 And you get the Board replies on all of your annual
45 report comments during your fall meeting, that's when
46 you get to hear what the Board may have to say. It
47 takes a year or longer to go through that whole
48 process. What the ISC is recommending is that instead
49 of using the annual reports as a reply process, a
50

0223

1 response process, that instead as you prepare your
2 annual reports, or as issues come before you, you can
3 immediately say that, I want to write a letter about, I
4 want the Board to respond and you can ask specifically
5 for a response on that issue. It can be a letter, and
6 in the letter -- and it can also be in your annual
7 report as a way of consolidating your -- your issues
8 and concerns, you know, sometimes just information that
9 you want to share is in the annual report -- really,
10 the only thing we're talking about here is what you
11 want from the Board in regards to responses to your
12 reports. And what the ISC is saying is take the
13 response from the Board out of the annual report
14 process, the ISC is saying, instead the Board will
15 certainly express gratitude for all the information
16 that you've shared, but we'll wait for a letter from
17 you to provide a more substantive response and that can
18 happen outside of the regulatory cycle and it can
19 potentially be more responsive to you and a faster
20 turnaround.

21

22 Thank you, Madame Chair.

23

24 (Various people talking in Fairbanks)

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just a brief
27 whisper here, hang on a second and I'll come back.

28

29 (Pause)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is going
32 on record. Linda. I think what you're doing to us,
33 especially somebody like Linda who's just came on board
34 this RAC, is confusing us and she wants to know -- go
35 ahead, Linda.

36

37 MS. EVANS: I was talking about our
38 annual report letter, we have our concerns in there,
39 and how you respond to them. Is that what you're
40 talking about, is whether you write us a letter in
41 response to our concerns or how you have taken care of
42 our concern? Like we have a concern.....

43

44 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

45

46 MS. EVANS: For example -- I'm not done
47 yet. For example, we have a concern maybe on the study
48 of ichthyophonous on the Yukon River, and how do you
49 take care of that concern.

50

0224

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
2 ahead, Robbin.

3
4 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
5 Through the Chair. I guess what I'm -- I guess what --
6 well, it's not me, I guess what the InterAgency Staff
7 Committee is proposing is that we separate the annual
8 reports from Board response. Annual reports include
9 concerns about ichthyophonus, they may include
10 observations that Council members have made about
11 population declines, or invasive species, they also may
12 include topics that impact your subsistence way of life
13 but maybe outside of Board authority to address or do
14 anything about, but they're still really important
15 because the Board should be fully informed of all of
16 the issues and factors that affect how you and your
17 region practice your subsistence way of life.

18
19 So I realize I'm going on and then it
20 gets confusing. So I'm going to go back to -- all of
21 that can be in your annual report and it's very
22 valuable.

23
24 So the letter writing process is when
25 you want a really fast response and you want -- you
26 have a question, you're seeking guidance, you're
27 seeking solutions, you want the Board to respond then
28 you can write a letter to the Board and the Board will
29 respond in a letter back. So it's a response process
30 outside of the annual report process.

31
32 Does that make sense.

33
34 MR. WRIGHT: No, it doesn't.

35
36 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

37
38 MR. WRIGHT: Exactly that.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. As you
41 all heard, KISS, let's keep it simple.

42
43 (Laughter)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And what --
46 what I'm understanding is the InterAgency Staff
47 Committee thinks we're going to get a faster response
48 if we write a letter so I don't understand why we're
49 making a big deal over an annual report that's so
50

0225

1 important to the Board and they just don't write a
2 letter to us. Why do we have to say, okay, now we want
3 to write a letter on that topic, all these topics --
4 just -- if you're saying that we are only get our
5 report from the Federal Board in one year and somebody
6 can respond to it in a shorter time just do it. You're
7 going to get our annual report, I know we're going to
8 get a report from the Board but if it can be done
9 shorter, do it.

10

11 Charlie.

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
14 So on a couple items back on the trapping Act, we were
15 going to -- we voted to add it to the report and send a
16 letter. This is the process you're talking about,
17 right, because we want it to be known, we want to -- we
18 think it's really important so we are writing a letter.
19 Isn't that the same process.

20

21 MS. EVANS: Yes.

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

24

25 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
26 yes, that's exactly it.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So my Council
29 members are putting their hands up in the air and
30 saying, so what's changed.

31

32 (Laughter)

33

34 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 Through the Chair. What would change is the Board
36 would not write a response to your annual report. So
37 you're going to -- under this scenario, you will write
38 your report as usual, you'll confirm the issues and add
39 issues during your winter meeting, that annual report
40 will go and be presented to the Board during their
41 summer work session and the Board will be informed.

42

43 If you're looking for a full on
44 response, outside of the Board expressing gratitude for
45 more information and sharing your concerns, you're
46 going to do the same thing you just suggested you did
47 on the trapping Bill or -- I'm sorry, I did not hear
48 that part of your Council meeting, but you're going to
49 put that issue in the report, but you're also going to
50

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1 write a letter to the Board and the Board will respond
2 to that letter. The Board wouldn't respond to the
3 annual report.

4
5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, aren't
8 they responding to both now? You might.....

9
10 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair. Through the
11 Chair.....

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:want to
14 give us an example -- let me finish. You might want to
15 give us an example because what, I guess, like I said,
16 there's an annual report, we send it in and then we get
17 a response, okay it's a year later, but when there's
18 hot topics you guys can deal with them, why would you
19 -- you want us to just add a letter, is that what
20 you're saying, so there's.....

21
22 MS. LAVINE: Madame Chair.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:a
25 response quickly.

26
27 MS. LAVINE: You -- you start a report,
28 you identify issues in the fall, on your fall meeting,
29 you confirm them now, what you're doing now in your
30 winter meeting, and after that each issue, each item in
31 your report is reviewed and addressed first by Staff
32 throughout the Federal Subsistence Management Program,
33 regardless of whether the Board has authority to do
34 anything and regardless of whether you've asked for a
35 response -- sometimes you do in the report and
36 sometimes you don't -- so there's a lot of folks that
37 do research and there's a lot of Staff time and they
38 address a response to each item of your report and then
39 the Board reviews and approves those responses. Under
40 this scenario, that wouldn't happen, you wouldn't get a
41 response to each item in your annual report. The Board
42 would wait for you to write separately, a letter, you
43 could say to your Council Coordinator, yeah, annual
44 report Item Issue No. 2, that's -- you know, that's
45 really important we're not only including this in our
46 information report, we want to write a letter and we
47 want to ask the Board to respond, and so then you'd
48 pull it out of the annual report and you would ask for
49 a response. The response would not automatically come
50

0227

1 from the Board in the fall.

2

3 Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

5 (Various people talking in Fairbanks)

6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT:stay there but that
10 means you pull this information out of this letter and
11 you.....

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You have to
14 identify yourselves. Uh-huh -- first -- first Karen
15 [sic] says then why -- why do you have to pull it out?

16

17 MS. EVANS: Yeah, why do we have to
18 pull out the concern from the annual report. This is
19 Linda Evans.

20

21 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Through the Chair, Council Member Evans. So we go back
23 to the -- what I'm -- you know this -- this agenda item
24 we're talking about. The Board is looking at improving
25 a process, an annual report and then the Board reply
26 process. These are just suggestions, you don't have to
27 do anything. If you all feel like this process works
28 fine for us, just say so, you know, just say, no, we
29 don't need any changes, you know, or you could say,
30 maybe, you know, because the Board is looking for ways
31 in which to, hum, reduce some of, you know, the Staff
32 time and increase responsiveness to you all, you could
33 say, well, I hear what the ISC is saying, I hear what
34 this recommendation is but I like it the way it is or I
35 might request -- I might have a little thing in my
36 annual report that says, Board please respond to this
37 one, you know, or something. You could come up with
38 different suggestions and you could also just say,
39 thank you very much for this agenda item and our action
40 is to take no action, or our action is just to
41 summarize our discussion and share that with the Board.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
46 Robbin. Will Koehler, did you say you had something.

47

48 MR. KOEHLER: Yes. I guess my thoughts
49 would be knowing how -- knowing how there's a lot of

50

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1 material to go through and there's the realities of any
2 of these types of settings that the materials that we
3 have to see is the material that we pay attention to, I
4 would say that I hate to -- I hate to -- well, I'm not
5 creating more work for people but it sounds like a way
6 that we might be able to create less work for people,
7 maybe within OSM but -- if I'm understanding it right.
8 But I guess my concern would be that the less that it
9 is -- the less we're required to be paid attention to,
10 the less we will be paid attention to. So I would
11 oppose this.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. This
16 is all in discussion, folks. What do you want to do,
17 Council members. I appreciate that Will, I think
18 that's very important. And I think that's where my
19 mind is kind of getting pulled apart.

20

21 Other Council members.

22

23 MR. WRIGHT: I would say.....

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie
26 Wright.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: This is Charlie, thank
29 you, Madame Chair. I would say keep it the same, keep
30 it simple. So I agree, it's no action.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And I
33 think that writing letters -- I still want to see the
34 response and writing letters, I feel like there should
35 be some common sense in OSM. You guys are listening to
36 these meetings, you can see where there's important
37 places and trapping is important to us so we wrote a
38 letter. And even if -- we're the volunteers, I hate to
39 say this all the time but by golly it's hard when you
40 get to know us, you get to know what is very important
41 to us, and if one of those action items needs a letter,
42 just ask us, does it need a letter, you want a quicker
43 response, then let's get it. That's kind of.....

44

45 MR. GLANZ: Real simple, that's it.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's kind
48 of where I'm coming from.

49

50

0229

1 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair,
2 this is Charlie. I agree and I feel the same. If we
3 have -- we could do the same here, if we have something
4 that we feel is really important, we'll request action
5 in that letter and in the annual report, simple.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the only
10 action we would take is we would still want to get our
11 response but yet we still would like to send the
12 letters.

13
14 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah.

15
16 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I would
19 ask OSM to help us, you know, we're the volunteers, you
20 can tell that we have a very important issue, and so
21 ask us, do you want to write a letter and so -- I'm
22 reiterating, sorry. Do I have a -- is there any other
23 things that anyone would like to add because at this
24 table this is where we're at.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I would
29 say take our discussion to the Board.

30
31 (No comments)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I hope
34 that's enough information for OSM.

35
36 MS. LAVINE: Thank you, Madame Chair,
37 this is Robbin. Absolutely. Your discussion was
38 really, really helpful. Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
41 Robbin. Okay. I think we did that one and next is
42 receiving public testimony protocol from Scott.

43
44 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
47 Scott.

48
49 MR. AYERS: Continuing on, this next
50

0230

1 item is about receiving public testimony protocol.
2 This one is not an action item.

3
4 All 10 Subsistence Regional Advisory
5 Councils were formed under Title VIII of the Alaska
6 National Interests Lands Conservation Act, ANILCA, and
7 chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act.
8 ANILCA gives each Regional Advisory Council an
9 authority to A; provide a forum for the expression of
10 opinions and recommendations by persons interested in
11 any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and
12 wildlife within the region. And, B, encourage local
13 and regional participation in the decisionmaking
14 process affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on
15 public lands within the region for subsistence uses.

16
17 The Federal Advisory Committee Act
18 stipulates that any member of the public is permitted
19 to file a written statement or speak to the Advisory
20 Committee if the agency guidelines allow.

21
22 During each regulatory cycle, there are
23 four opportunities for the public to provide their oral
24 and written comments to the Federal Subsistence Board
25 and to the Councils.

26
27 The first opportunity starts after the
28 call for proposals, officially known as the proposed
29 rule, after this is published in the Federal Register.
30 This is an opportunity to submit proposals or any
31 significant comments to the Board.

32
33 The second opportunity begins when the
34 validated regulatory proposals are published on the
35 Federal Subsistence Management Program website.

36
37 The third opportunity for public
38 comments on regulatory proposals occurs during the
39 Council meetings.

40
41 And the fourth opportunity for public
42 comments on regulatory proposals occurs during the
43 Board regulatory meetings.

44
45 The third opportunity for public
46 comments on proposals during the Regional Advisory
47 Council meetings is the subject of our guided
48 discussion today.

49
50

0231

1 Public comments on proposals accepted
2 during Council meetings inform the Councils in making
3 their recommendations to the Board. The Council Chair
4 or your Council Coordinator presents the Council
5 recommendations and any supporting data to the Board at
6 its regulatory meeting. This round of public comments
7 on proposals are part of the record of the Council
8 meeting, but not the Board of meeting. Public comments
9 on proposals are accepted after the presentation of
10 each proposal analysis. These include oral comments
11 provided by the public attending the meeting and
12 written comments provided by the public during the
13 meeting. Written comments are read to or summarized
14 for the Council. Again, these comments inform the
15 Council and will are not included in the Board proposal
16 analysis that go to the Board. Additionally, public
17 comments on non-agenda items are accepted at the start
18 of each day of a Council meeting. In the past when
19 Council meetings were held in person, the public
20 brought their written public comments to the meeting to
21 be distributed to the Council members and other meeting
22 participants. During the fall 2021 meeting cycle since
23 all meetings were held via teleconference, the OSM
24 leadership deemed it necessary to establish a temporary
25 procedure for the submission of written public comments
26 during the Council meetings. The public was directed
27 to submit written comments to the centralized OSM email
28 during the meeting as it was indicated in that years
29 proposed rule published in the Federal Register. The
30 OSM Staff then read these comments into the record
31 verbatim during the meeting. This was an interim
32 procedure.

33
34 Now, prior to the Councils fall 2022
35 meeting cycle, when the Councils are going to discuss
36 fisheries proposals and closure reviews we are
37 requesting the Councils input on how the Councils would
38 prefer to receive written public comments submitted to
39 them after the proposed rule deadline. These are
40 comments the Council may want to consider in
41 formalizing their recommendations to the Board. Once
42 OSM receives input from the Councils on permanent
43 guidance, we will then update the written framework
44 accordingly. So this is not an action item but Council
45 discussion is encouraged.

46
47 For the Council's feedback we developed
48 a number of questions that we would like the Council
49 members to respond to. Remember, we are talking only
50

0232

1 about the written public comments submitted only to the
2 Council. These comments are used by the Councils to
3 make their recommendations to the Board. The comments
4 themselves will not be shared with the Board.

5

6 And I have a series of five different
7 questions, Madame Chair, and I would like your guidance
8 on how you would like to proceed through this.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, first,
13 before you start, No. 1, we can do them one at a time.
14 I want to ask Council members if they have any
15 questions.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
20 questions online from Council members.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
25 let's start with No. 1 and then we'll try to make a
26 decision on each one, okay.

27

28 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 The first question: In the Council's opinion, what are
30 the best ways to encourage public feedback to the
31 Councils.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
34 Council members. Ideas. Charlie Wright.

35

36 MR. WRIGHT: Well, it depends on
37 whether it's teleconference or in person. If it's
38 going to remain in person then we have the written and
39 calling in works just fine. I'm confused.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know why
42 you're confused. There's -- there is a deadline for
43 written comments and they have to have it in by a
44 certain deadline. In one of our past meetings, just
45 recently, I never -- and I asked everyone else, that's
46 when we were on an interim Coordinator, never received
47 the proposal book, on time, to even get it out to
48 people, and never saw the proposals and never saw the
49 deadline, when you had to comment by, the written part,

50

0233

1 until long after -- long after -- July was the deadline
2 and it was clear up to August or September --
3 September, I think it was, when I got a phone call.
4 And I -- me, personally, that's a problem. Those
5 things that have fallen through the cracks here, and I
6 brought it up at the last -- concerns at the last
7 meeting, these kinds of things shouldn't be happening
8 where things are falling through the cracks. So to me,
9 I never want to limit public. So -- and there was a
10 concern over that Federal subsistence -- FP21-10, like
11 300 form letters came in after the deadline, there was
12 a concern about that and I guess this is where this is
13 coming from. So am I right that your question is, how
14 do we deal with written public comments, right?
15

16

17

18 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, the first
19 question, specifically, was what's the best way to
20 encourage public feedback to the Councils.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, well, I
23 interpreted wrong, sorry. Well, I was just giving that
24 example because there was a complaint. But for me I
25 would never tell somebody they can't comment because a
26 lot of people are busy and they hear about something
27 way too late and they still want to comment, they
28 should never told they can't.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: There should be no
31 deadline.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

34

35 MR. JAGOW: Where did the deadline date
36 even come from?

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Say that a
39 little louder please.

40

41 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, this is Charlie. I
42 just -- but now we're getting off the topic, but I
43 guess my question would be where did the deadline date
44 even come from.

45

46 MS. EVANS: What's the deadline date?

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: OSM.

49

50 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They want to

0234

1 know who makes the deadline date for written public
2 comment.

3

4 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It is just a
7 little off topic but we want to know.

8

9 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

10 I've just been informed that those dates are in
11 regulation that part of the proposed rule that happens
12 when we say that we are going to call for regulatory
13 proposals to change the fish and shellfish regulations,
14 or the wildlife regulations. Thank you, Madame Chair.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so it's
17 published and you have to stick by it because it's
18 published, yes or no answer.

19

20 MR. AYERS: Yes, Madame Chair.

21

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
23 Don, I have something.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don, go
26 ahead, but I believe I heard you say yes, correct --
27 not you, Don, but.....

28

29 MR. AYERS: I believe so, Madame Chair,
30 that's correct. Thank you for the opportunity.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
33 Okay, thank you. Go ahead, Don.

34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, the way I
36 appreciate the written comment is when we go through
37 the analysis it's in the book and I can see what the
38 long-time residents and other Councils, that are
39 affected -- what the dialogue is about and that's very
40 evident with FP21-10.

41

42 MS. SHOCKLEY: Hi, this is Dorothy
43 Shockley, can I make a comment, please.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Dorothy are
46 you the public.

47

48 MS. SHOCKLEY: I suppose, I'm a
49 subsistence user.

50

0235

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yes,
2 yes, I didn't know if you were part of OSM, I'm sorry.
3 But, yes, I'm pretty open to have public as long as we
4 don't go crazy on time so go ahead, Dorothy.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, my
7 comment is, you know, I appreciate Staff, I appreciate
8 how they, you know, try to make things more simple for
9 the Board or the Council and the public but I think at
10 times they get a little bit ambitious and, you know,
11 they should let things come from the Council first, and
12 if things need to change then let the Council, you
13 know, make those changes. And in regards to the
14 regulations in public comment, I believe those
15 regulations can be changed and the Council can
16 recommend those changes. So, thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Dorothy,
19 I appreciate the comments. And in all due respect, I
20 think what they're trying to do is get this from us and
21 I hate to say this but we probably ought to just let
22 the Council go through this process and so we don't get
23 out of hand with public comment during this. Because
24 right now the Federal people are asking us these
25 questions, how would we like to do it and so we're
26 going through the process, and be patient. If you have
27 anybody on the Council's text number, text them and
28 give your comments because it's really helpful.

29
30 And, Don, I wasn't sure I understood
31 your point there.

32
33 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I just
34 unmuted. So when we're reading an analysis, whether it
35 be a fish or wildlife, there's often written public
36 comment that gets published in our book and that, I
37 think, has a lot of value. That's what I'm saying.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay,
40 Don, I get it. And what -- I think the concern is do
41 you take more written comment after the deadline, yes,
42 I would never stop that written public comment. I
43 agree with you totally but when you get a whole bunch
44 of stuff after the deadline, there was some criticism
45 of that but at the same time I want to say that -- I'm
46 trying to -- maybe Katya can help me out but there was
47 a whole bunch of people -- public, that wanted to
48 comment and want to write a written comment on a
49 certain proposal, and there was a stipulation that they
50

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1 had to do it at this time, or they had to call in at
2 this time or they couldn't do it. I don't think it
3 should be made that difficult. I think they should
4 still be able to send in a written comment.

5

6 MS. EVANS: (Indiscernible - away from
7 mic)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm just
10 talking as your Chair. There's problems and I think
11 being -- stifling the public is not what we should be
12 doing.

13

14 Linda, and then Charlie Wright.

15

16 MS. EVANS: Yeah, this is Linda Evans.
17 I believe we need to be open to public comment at any
18 time on different issues that concern our constituents.
19 And I believe that -- I know the regulations stipulate
20 that, you know, we have to have all public comment in
21 by this time, however, if it happens that more public
22 comment gets in after the deadline, we should be able
23 to still see those comments somehow.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie
28 Wright.

29

30 MR. WRIGHT: I agree with -- this is
31 Charlie, Madame Chair, thank you. In my mind, the best
32 way to submit public feedback is the written comment.
33 Like Don said it's important for analysis. And I also
34 like the daily comments in the morning, that gives
35 people a chance that might have missed -- I like the
36 system the way it is. I think it's effective. And
37 sometimes things do fall through the cracks, as long as
38 we can get a handle on that and give people ample time
39 to make their comments, that's important, because we
40 work for the public and without their comment, we don't
41 know what they want.

42

43 Thank you, Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, anyone
46 else.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just think
2 it -- telling -- I would never stop the written
3 comments and the deadline and it getting in our book,
4 but I think they still need the ability to send a
5 written comment, even if they can't be there or call
6 in. I -- Charlie Wright is nodding his head in
7 agreement at the table here -- we're agreeing -- and
8 those online, what's your thoughts.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I mean the
13 Council members, Jody, Will.....

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Sue, this is Don. I
16 don't think we should stifle public comment, that's
17 just part of our heritage is people speaking up and
18 speaking from their heart.

19

20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.

23

24 MR. JAGOW: I got a.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

27

28 MR. JAGOW: I guess I can kind of
29 understand the deadline for the public comments to get
30 in the meeting material, the actual booklet, but if
31 those comments could still be taken then there's got to
32 be a place online where we can read them and they would
33 still be relevant at the meeting.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They could
36 continue to come.

37

38 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, essentially. And
39 there'd be a place for us to access them.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

42

43 MR. JAGOW: It just wouldn't be in the
44 meeting material because I'm assuming.....

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
47 Coordinator would.....

48

49 MR. JAGOW:that's why there's a

50

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1 deadline, right.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

4 That's exactly right.

5

6 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, this is

7 Scott.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

10

11 MR. AYERS:if I may.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Scott,

14 go ahead.

15

16 MR. AYERS: In going back through this
17 real quick, if I could, I just, I think, want to
18 reiterate one point here, that really what we're
19 talking about on some level definitely is the public
20 comment and it's kind of talking about process and
21 procedure since we've switched to the teleconference
22 because of Covid19. And at the time that we started
23 doing this we had to figure out a way for the public to
24 submit comments during the Council meetings as they
25 weren't able to be at the meeting in person and so we
26 directed them, starting last year, to submit written
27 comments to the centralized OSM email during the
28 meeting, because it was after that time period, as the
29 Council has talked about where the cutoff to put it
30 into the books was done, and that that was an interim
31 procedure. And so now that we're coming into the fall
32 2022 meeting cycle later this year we want to get your
33 input on how you would prefer to receive those
34 comments.

35

36 And I did ask that first question
37 related to the best ways to encourage public feedback,
38 but perhaps if I read through the set of questions it
39 will give you kind of a more clear understanding of
40 what sort of feedback it is that we're looking for in
41 this process, if that sounds like something that you
42 would like.

43

44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go

47 ahead.

48

49 MR. AYERS: So the second question is:

50

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1 Would the Council prefer to receive comments from the
2 public orally, or in writing, and this would be at the
3 meetings.

4

5 3. Would it be helpful to the Council
6 if OSM requests the written public comments to be
7 submitted to your Coordinator prior to the meeting
8 within a certain time period and the Coordinator, in
9 turn, will summarize the comments and present them to
10 the Council during the meeting.

11

12 4. Is it better for the Councils if
13 received public comments were read verbatim into the
14 record or summarized.

15

16 5. And do you have any other
17 suggestions regarding the ways of improving written or
18 oral public testimony procedure during the Council
19 meetings.

20

21 Really, we're seeking feedback from the
22 Councils on how best to make this whole process work.

23

24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
27 members. Linda.

28

29 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans. I
30 believe we should be open to all comments, oral or
31 written. I don't want summarized comments, I like to
32 read it myself, and I'll do the summarizing for myself.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: Good one.

35

36 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And there is
39 some agreement around the table on her comment there
40 with nodding of the heads. Even if it was 20 pages
41 long -- we'll see what happens -- our Coordinator has
42 to consolidate all of the stuff that came in, right,
43 and I think what you're saying -- and if I'm wrong say
44 so, you want to see whatever comes in written, probably
45 -- no deadline, even before the meeting if it comes in
46 they take it.

47

48 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh. Yes.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody's
2 nodding their head on that one.

3
4 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And if there
7 is a document that's 20 to 100 pages long, it can be
8 provided to you, but maybe something like that could be
9 summarized.

10
11 MS. EVANS: For.....

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: At the
14 meeting.

15
16 MS. EVANS: They could summarize it at
17 the top, yeah.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because
20 -- because she has to read in the record these
21 comments, right.....

22
23 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so I
26 would say, I, personally, would like to have what goes
27 in the record, those could be summarized and we have
28 copies of it.

29
30 MS. EVANS: Of the whole document.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

33
34 MS. EVANS: Okay.

35
36 MR. WRIGHT: I agree.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And they're
39 all nodding their head on that. Yeah, because I think
40 we'd go nuts if we have to have them read every word of
41 every one that -- but as long as it's provided to us,
42 yeah.

43
44 MS. EVANS: Before our meeting.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
47 Anything -- and anything after that I think we could
48 discuss it at the meeting.

49
50

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1 MS. EVANS: Yeah.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'll discuss
4 it, what's it about, what's in it.....

5

6 MS. EVANS: Uh-huh.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:you're
9 saying it's 20 pages long, okay, then we decide right
10 then and there.

11

12 MS. EVANS: Yes. That's a good idea.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
15 There's another nodding of the heads on that one. Does
16 that help Scott.

17

18 MR. AYERS: Absolutely, this is
19 wonderful feedback. Thank you very much.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, what
22 did we miss.

23

24 MR. AYERS: Let me see here, I think
25 you've.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I
28 guess.....

29

30 MR. AYERS:hit most comments.
31 The only other.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:three --
34 sorry, I apologize, go ahead.

35

36 MR. AYERS: It's quite all right,
37 Madame Chair, please you go ahead.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, is
40 there a No. 3, or did we cover it.

41

42 MR. AYERS: The third item, Madame
43 Chair, is: Would it be helpful to the Councils if OSM
44 requests the written public comments to be submitted to
45 your Coordinator prior to the meeting within a certain
46 time period and the Coordinator, in turn, would
47 summarize the comments and present them to the Council
48 during the meeting, which I believe you have covered
49 saying that you would like to have comments submitted
50

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1 both prior to the meeting, not summarized unless they
2 are specifically very long documents, but also public
3 opportunity to provide comments during the meeting. If
4 you could please confirm that, thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. We
7 would never stop public comment at a meeting for
8 goodnesssake. But are you talking about written only
9 when you say that?

10

11 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, I believe the
12 question is whether or not you would like to have most
13 or all comments provided, written, and prior to the
14 meeting in this particular instance, separate from the
15 comments that are provided at the meeting.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay.
18 Again, if a -- Council members, if a written comment
19 came in during our meeting I would want to see it. And
20 what's your feeling?

21

22 MR. JAGOW: I think he's talking about
23 before the meeting, though, isn't he.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
26 talking about people at the meeting.

27

28 MS. EVANS: How can we read.....

29

30 MR. AYERS: We're looking for feedback
31 on all of this.

32

33 MS. EVANS:(indiscernible - away
34 from mic)

35

36 MR. AYERS: If it's coming in prior to
37 the meeting and for folks that are wanting to provide
38 information at the meeting, is it preferred to have
39 them all submitted as written or would you like a
40 mixture of written and public comments, would you like
41 them summarized, if written, or read verbatim and I
42 believe that the Council has expressed comments on most
43 all of these items. Really, the only last thing that
44 I've noticed is whether or not there were any comments
45 specific as to whether or not there's any other ways to
46 encourage public feedback since it's so important to
47 the Council process.

48

49 Thank you, Madame Chair.

50

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1 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, this is Charlie.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

4

5 MR. JAGOW: I mean, the -- in my area
6 the largest way you're going to get public feedback is
7 by getting stuff on the radio, which I think is already
8 done for this RAC.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I don't
11 -- I think you heard us, we do not want the public ever
12 to be curtailed on their ability to get information to
13 us. And we certainly, when people are in the room,
14 they sign up and they should be able to come forward.
15 And anybody that feels a little shy, they're in the
16 meeting room and they don't feel like coming up to
17 testify or they don't have time, they can't sit there
18 until their time is up, they should be able to send a
19 short written comment -- I shouldn't say short, they
20 should be able to give their comments to us written at
21 the meeting and it should be always when the topic
22 comes up we are provided that information.

23

24 And to me this is common sense.

25

26 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, what
29 else -- yeah. What else do you have.

30

31 MR. AYERS: Are we ready to move on to
32 the next item?

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
35 correct.

36

37 MR. AYERS: All right. I will now
38 provide a briefing on proposed actions to automate
39 Federal subsistence permits. This is also not an
40 action item. To begin with I'd like to provide you
41 with information about two governing statutes behind
42 this briefing. They are the Paperwork Reduction Act,
43 and the eGovernment Act. As a Federal Program we are
44 covered by these Acts.

45

46 The Paperwork Reduction Act requires
47 all Federal departments and agencies to gain approval
48 through the Office of Management and Budget, also known
49 as OMB, prior to the collection of information from the
50

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1 public. For example, in our Program we collect
2 information from the public for subsistence permits,
3 and Council member applications, as well as information
4 needed for signage used for fishwheels, nets and buoy
5 markers. Even the requirements to submit a lower moose
6 jaw, the sealing of untanned animal skins, and other
7 biological submissions are covered under this statute.

8
9 This law is designed to protect you,
10 the public, from unreasonable requirements.....

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Scott.
13 Scott, I'm sorry to interrupt.....

14
15 MR. AYERS: Yes, Madame Chair.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:but one
18 of our members had to step out for a short break. Can
19 I stop you here and then we'll continue when he gets
20 back.

21
22 MR. AYERS: I'm more than happy to do
23 that.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Five minutes.

26
27 MR. AYERS: Absolutely.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

30
31 (Off record)

32
33 (On record)

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
36 all back and I apologize for that but we needed a short
37 break there. And we're all back so go ahead with that
38 Scott.

39
40 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought
43 this was really important for Charlie.

44
45 MR. AYERS: So, again, as a Federal
46 Program we're covered by both the Paperwork Reduction
47 Act, and the eGovernment Act.

48
49 The Paperwork Reduction Act requires
50

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1 all Federal departments and agencies to gain approval
2 through the Office of Management and Budget, also known
3 as OMB, prior to the collection of information from the
4 public.

5

6 This law is designed to protect you,
7 the public, from unreasonable requirements to provide
8 data and/or personal information without justification.
9 To gain OMB approval, an agency must provide reasons
10 for information, the reasons that this information will
11 be collected, what it will be used for, how it may be
12 used outside of the original intent, who will have
13 access to the information, and how it will be stored.
14 This approval process often takes between 12 and 18
15 months and will provide clearance for three years.

16

17 The purpose of the eGovernment Act is
18 to improve internet based technology -- information
19 technology and citizen access to government information
20 and services. In our program this includes the
21 webpage, providing news releases, meeting materials,
22 and other information, and the use of social media
23 which allows for the swift notifications regarding
24 special actions, meetings, and submissions of
25 regulatory proposals. Our webpage and social media
26 sites are constantly monitored by DOI 24/7 to ensure we
27 meet all requirements of the law and department
28 policies.

29

30 After the most recent OMB clearance to
31 collect information from the public, OMB tasked us with
32 exploring the use of automated permits within our
33 Program. We recognize many issues would accompany the
34 use of automated permits and these issues must be
35 addressed before any attempt is made to use internet
36 permits. That's why we're asking the Councils and the
37 public for ideas on issuing of permits in the future.
38 Any and all ideas are welcome. There are several
39 overriding factors that must be understood.

40

41 All Federal permits must be issued by a
42 Federal agency and cannot be delegated to a non-Federal
43 entity, such as a local or State entity or tribal
44 government. The cost must be considered because our
45 Program has limited budget and we must prioritize
46 support for Board and Chair [sic] meetings and funding
47 for the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. A paper
48 permit will still have to be carried into the field for
49 proof when addressing law enforcement or field Staff.

50

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1 Some of the questions we need to answer
2 while considering an automated permit system include:

3
4 How can we verify a person is a
5 Federally-qualified user.

6
7 How do we address the lack of or
8 substandard infrastructure in rural communities if
9 internet permits are used.

10
11 How will managers address quotas,
12 and/or limit the amount of permits issued in the case
13 of conservation concerns.

14
15 How will managers deal with the lack of
16 reporting of harvest results in the case of power
17 failures or lack of the internet. Especially when
18 reporting requirements are listed as 48 or 72 hours due
19 to severe conservation concerns.

20
21 How would this possible change affect
22 subsistence users.

23
24 What method of issuing permits would be
25 preferred by the subsistence users.

26
27 While this is not a formal request for
28 comment, we do ask that any comments be sent to our
29 program email, which is subsistence at fws.gov by
30 November 15 of 2022, so later on this year. More
31 information can be provided to the Councils as this
32 process moves forward.

33
34 And I've been notified that our
35 regulatory specialist, Theo Matuskowitz, is on the line
36 should the Council have any questions about this topic.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MR. WRIGHT: There's not good enough
41 broadband in a lot of places.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay,
44 Council members, do you understand what he just told
45 us, a lot went through my mind during that time so --
46 but you're first. Charlie.

47
48 MR. WRIGHT: I think that epermits --
49 oh, this is Charlie -- Madame Chair, thank you.

50

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1 Charlie Wright. I think epermits is a good idea in the
2 cities and in places that have good internet but a lot
3 of villages do not have it so it's going to be hard.
4 That's my comment. It's just tough for a lot of people
5 to be able to participate in that manner right now.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Especially
10 elders who aren't even used to it, and I'm getting
11 there. Other Council members on this subject, input.

12
13 MR. JAGOW: I guess I have a question.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie
16 Jagow.

17
18 MR. JAGOW: This is more of a question
19 than a comment. There essentially would be two permit
20 systems, both, the epermit and then your paper permit
21 because there would have to be an option obviously for
22 folks who wouldn't have access, right.

23
24 MR. WRIGHT: Well, if you got an
25 epermit then you print it and then you carry it with
26 you.

27
28 MR. JAGOW: Rather than just going in
29 in person and getting it.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
32 happening now, Charlie, with the State.

33
34 MR. WRIGHT: It is.

35
36 MR. JAGOW: With the State, yeah.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so
39 that's what I -- Charlie's question is, is it any
40 different?

41
42 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, this is
43 Scott. Actually I don't have the information to speak
44 to that at this point in time, I know that OMB has
45 requested that we look into epermits as a way of
46 dealing with this and I don't know specifically whether
47 or not they would be limited to only an online system
48 where you would get your permit online, report online,
49 but have to carry a paper copy with you. Sorry, I just
50

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1 don't have that information with me right now.

2

3 MR. JAGOW: So essentially epermits
4 would be the same as the State issued epermit process,
5 or system.

6

7 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: This is Theo
8 Matuskowitz, can you hear me?

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

11

12 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Okay. In reference
13 to that question, if we would -- if the Program would
14 one day go to automated permits, we would also still do
15 the permits where the individual goes into their local
16 field office and gets his permits as we currently do
17 now. So it's not like we're planning to do away with
18 in-person permits, it would just be, you know, possibly
19 the additional option of people going online to get a
20 permit that way. So, yes, it would be two different
21 methods of issuing subsistence permits.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, I have
24 a question and a comment. For instance, the place to
25 go get it in person is 105 miles away or whatever, will
26 you allow people to just call the -- the agency giving
27 out the permit to call them and say, hey, can you do
28 this for me and send me my permit.

29

30 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: That's an option, I
31 guess we could look into it. We haven't considered
32 that, no.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, just
35 from me, I'm a long ways from these offices and I think
36 I should be able to do that. I'm not going to tell on
37 anybody, but they've been kind enough to do that, so if
38 that is not available, I would say no, not only no, but
39 heck no. And, yeah, you know, yeah, some day 10 years
40 from now us elders we'll be dead and gone and
41 everybody's going to be used to this internet thing but
42 right now it's no, I'm not used to it. I don't really
43 like it myself. And I don't know about Bill, or how he
44 deals with it.....

45

46 MR. GLANZ: I -- I despise that idea.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that.

49

50

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1 MR. GLANZ: Myself, I don't like that
2 idea at all because I'm like you, I have to drive 140-
3 some miles to get into Fairbanks to see if there's a
4 State or the Federal office in here.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How are you
7 getting your permit?

8
9 MR. GLANZ: I'm not going to unless
10 they -- I can call it in and they can mail it or do
11 something and that -- I just don't understand it, this
12 is not -- this -- for the people that live off grid,
13 this is not a really good idea, like all the villages.
14 I mean that's all my opinion on this.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, they're
17 pushing us into this paperless society.....

18
19 MR. GLANZ: Right.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:but by
22 gosh if I don't have a piece of paper to look at
23 sometimes, I don't know what the heck is going on.

24
25 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I can't
28 get on the internet sometimes and then it -- and the
29 internet's so complicated, you push this button and
30 that button, you might as well calling somebody first.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: I'm tired of having my
33 grandkids come in and they help me get on the
34 computers.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: I'm telling the truth.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

43
44 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 This is Charlie Wright for the record. So if you added
46 the internet permit part of it, the rest will stay the
47 same. Say if I was going to the Nowitna Wildlife
48 Refuge to hunt moose, I could still stop by the
49 Corporation office and get that -- get one of those, or
50

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1 -- the rest will stay the same, is my question, they'll
2 just add the email part of it -- epermit.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Madame Chair, this is
7 Theo Matuskowicz again.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

10

11 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: To address some of
12 your concerns and the person who spoke following you,
13 we're not being forced to do this. OMB has requested
14 that we look into it because we -- we had a very
15 thorough meeting with their Staff in Washington, and
16 while they don't understand all of the, you know,
17 issues in Alaska as far as lack of infrastructure and
18 those sorts of things, they know it exists. So that's
19 one of the reasons we're asking for comments so that
20 if, you know, we have -- you know you have some people
21 who feel strongly against having the permits go through
22 the internet process, that's what we need to do, write
23 us, send us an email or a letter, or a fax or whatever
24 because this is an informal request for information.
25 But send us that information because that's what we
26 need to present to OMB when we discuss this later on
27 this year. That's exactly, you know, if people are
28 concerned about it, or, you know, you have
29 infrastructure issues where, you know, you can't get
30 online sometimes and things like that because, once,
31 again, that's some of the concerns that we, in the
32 Program, have. So, you know, once again we're asking
33 for those specific comments from you and, you know, you
34 can respond as an individual or, you know, you can
35 respond as a Council, however you want to do it. But
36 it would be very beneficial for us once we, you know,
37 go to brief OMB later this year.

38

39 But, again, the individual who asked,
40 well, it would be, you know, the same as we do it now
41 except for another option would be the internet. That
42 is one of the options we are looking at.

43

44 So, anyway, no decisions have been
45 made, we're simply asking for information. We're, you
46 know, doing research on the feasibility of some of
47 these issues and the cost associated, and then we'll,
48 you know, discuss with OMB later on.

49

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1 So I hope that kid of explained what
2 we're asking and what the process is and why we're
3 asking for this.

4
5 So thank you very much.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Theo.

8
9 MR. GLANZ: I have a comment to make.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have to
12 say, Theo, you made a good job of us understanding
13 that, thank you.

14
15 Bill.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: Yes, I want to comment that
18 we don't have the infrastructure whatsoever. It costs
19 over \$130 a month just to have the internet into our
20 homes where we can use and there's no place to go, you
21 go to the Post Office, oh, you can't use our computers
22 so we have to have something else that we can do to
23 supplement this. But, anyway, thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm trying to
26 interpret all this, Theo. I don't think anyone here
27 would be opposed to it.....

28
29 MR. GLANZ: Oh, no, I'm not opposed.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:
32happening, it's just that you can't take away the
33 other method. The other method has got to stay, and
34 added to that method would be the ability to call an
35 office and say, help me, help me get this done and send
36 me the permit. Because some people still don't have
37 printers to print a bloody permit.

38
39 MR. GLANZ: I don't.

40
41 MR. WRIGHT: Nobody in the village has
42 one.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I mean all
45 of these things -- I have a question for you, Theo,
46 because I know who I'm talking to, I can see your face
47 -- would all this discussion that we've had here be
48 adequate for you guys or does someone have to draft a
49 letter?
50

1 MR. MATUSKOWITZ: No, we don't need a
2 letter. I can extract these comments out of the
3 transcripts and use them for our discussions with OMB,
4 so, no, we don't need, you know, a specific letter or
5 anything like that as long as you feel you discussed it
6 and it's on the record, I can use that. And then once
7 again, as individuals, you know, private citizens, you
8 can still, you know, send an email, fax or hardcopy
9 mail to OSM, you know, with your specific concerns or
10 issues. And, you know, what's being said now, you
11 know, I'm taking -- I promise you that will be taken
12 into account where, you know, if we go the route of
13 automated permits, we will still -- you know, we will
14 have to have a method so that people without the
15 internet, you know, can still get permits and turn in
16 harvest reports and things like that. So, you know,
17 I'm definitely not, you know, or we are definitely
18 looking at, you know, completely changing how we do
19 things. Right now I would probably say, you know, from
20 our original discussions with OMB that, you know, we
21 would leaning towards to keep things as are but add to
22 that process the ability to, you know, use the internet
23 to get a permit also.

24
25 So that's kind of how I'd probably say
26 it seems to be looking right now although I'm not
27 saying that's going to be the end results because, you
28 know, in this case it's not so much OSM or the
29 Subsistence Program deciding it, you know, we'll make
30 recommendations, we'll do the research, we'll present
31 comments, you know, from the public and from the
32 Councils and from tribes, but ultimately OMB are the
33 ones who are going to make the final decision on this.
34 And, you know, they're -- that's basically what they've
35 been taxed to do and it's not just, you know, for our
36 little Program, it's literally for the entire Federal
37 government, they're responsible for. So, you know, but
38 I will say that the Staff member at OMB that is kind of
39 tracking our Program, she was very helpful and even
40 though she didn't understand a lot of the details, she
41 was definitely open to understanding, you know, some of
42 the infrastructure problems and the costs associated
43 with people trying to get internet, you know, it's --
44 you know I live in Wasilla, it's expensive for me, I
45 can imagine how expensive it is, you know, where you
46 are. It's quite pricey. So, you know, I think we have
47 a good person to deal with at OMB and, you know, these
48 sort of comments is what I'm going to be gathering up
49 and using to present our views to OMB.
50

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1 So if there's anything else, any other
2 questions, let me know.

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
5 members, anything else.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't hear
10 any but I would like.....

11

12 MR. KOEHLER: Sue, this is Will, could
13 I just say one thing.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
16 ahead, Will.

17

18 MR. KOEHLER: I would just like to say
19 that, you know, I'm a licensed vendor for the State of
20 Alaska and I used to do everything via paper but I've
21 moved -- I have internet out at my place and I've moved
22 to doing everything online. I would say that -- well,
23 I also have the paper documents on hand in case
24 something is wrong with the internet and there was a --
25 there was a situation here this last fall where ADF&G's
26 system crashed for like 24 hours or so and so I was
27 unable to use the online system. But I just wanted to
28 say that the combination of the paper system and the
29 online system seems to work quite well and I had two
30 customers this last year for my licensed -- through my
31 licensed vendor work, I had two customers that had
32 obtained their license and tags for hunting in
33 Fairbanks from Fish and Game and their -- they did not
34 have everything that they needed to go, in both cases
35 they were missing a harvest ticket, which is a pretty
36 common error that happens frequently, so just the fact
37 that I was able to -- in that case, I used the online
38 system to print out a harvest ticket for them. So I
39 would say the system of having both the paper system
40 and the online system can work very well as long as
41 they're seamless together, it's not like separate
42 permits or anything. It seems to be working -- the
43 State system seems to be working quite well from my
44 personal experience working with it.

45

46 That's all.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
49 Will. Anyone else.

50

0254

1 (No comments)

2

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You know I'm
5 sitting here thinking, I'm wondering if the Council was
6 supposed to be part of the budget -- the office of --
7 whatever that is.....

7

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MR. GLANZ: OMB.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: OBM [sic] --
so it made my brain go a little bit further and I think
I would point out to them that the numbers of permits
that you guys are issuing are probably, and the paper
they're saving is probably minuscule compared to what's
going on around the country. And then -- and then
someone has to create the system, it might cost more
than the paper you saved. I'm just saying. But I
agree with everyone here that's saying, you know, it is
-- I know we're coming to the internet but we've also
got to have another option and I don't ever want to
lose the option of being able to call an office and
them helping us through it and sending us a permit.

So if no one has anything else, I hope
that's enough information for you guys, Theo.

MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Yes, that's excellent
and I appreciate it very much.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
and I thank you. Anything else on that topic, Scott.

MR. AYERS: That is the end of that
topic, I'm ready to move on to the next one if you are.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep, we are.
Briefing on Secretarial Regulations Proposing the
Inclusion of Identified Submerged lands in the Tongass
National Forest, and you might tell us why we have that
on our agenda.

MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
Again, this is not an action item and there is no
action required on the part of this Council. This is
informational and it's gone out to all of the Councils.
Would you like me to proceed.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Please, thank
you.

0255

1 MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 This is the second rulemaking on this subject. The
3 first taking place with the publication of a proposed
4 rule in June 2016 and the final rule in May 2018.

5
6 To comply with a court order,
7 Peratrovich, et al., versus United State and the state
8 of Alaska. The Secretaries were directed to initiate
9 regulatory proceedings to identify those submerged
10 lands within the Tongass National Forest that did not
11 pass to the state of Alaska at statehood, and,
12 therefore, remained Federal public lands subject to
13 Federal subsistence provisions. This task was
14 forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board by the
15 Secretaries. This proposed rule would add to the list
16 of submerged parcels in the Federal subsistence
17 regulations that have been identified through agency
18 review. This purpose of this proposed rule is to
19 complete regulatory proceedings addressing submerged
20 public lands within the Tongass National Forest, as
21 directed by the court.

22
23 The majority of these submerged lands
24 are low-water lines, reefs, rocks and very small
25 islands, like 100 yards to a half a mile in length.

26
27 This document is expected to be
28 published in the Federal Register in February 2022 and
29 will have a 60 day comment period. The exact dates
30 will be announced by news and social media.

31
32 If you or the public desires to comment
33 on this proposed rule you may submit comments
34 electronically or by mail. Information is at our
35 website -- is at our website or you can reach out to
36 Staff if you would like to know more.

37
38 And as a Council, if you desire to
39 comment on this proposed rule, you may submit your
40 comment to your Council Coordinator and then Theo
41 Matuskowitz is also online if there are any questions
42 related to this topic as well.

43
44 Thank you, Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Council
47 members, any questions.

48
49 MS. EVANS: Not really.
50

0256

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, there
2 are no questions here unless -- well, any of the
3 Council members online have any questions.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
8 Hearing none, thank you Scott. Okay, next on the
9 agenda is the agency reports. And I will remind
10 everyone we do have a 15 minute limit and in all
11 respect to Council members, I would really request that
12 you try to stick to that. First is tribal governments,
13 are there any reports from tribal governments.

14
15 (No comments)

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Then
18 next is Native organizations. Tanana Chiefs, Bruce.

19
20 (No comments)

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bruce.

23
24 MR. ERVIN: Hi, can you hear me.

25
26 REPORTER: I can hear you Bruce.

27
28 MR. ERVIN: Hello, Chair Sue.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Bruce,
31 go ahead.

32
33 MR. ERVIN: Hi, sorry, I was trying to
34 unmute my phone and then hitting star, six, and I'm
35 glad you guys can hear me now. I'll go ahead and -- I
36 just wanted to check really quick to see if my
37 colleague Brooke was online.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. ERVIN: Okay, I'll just go ahead
42 and go forward then.

43
44 MS. WOODS: Hi, Bruce, I'm on. Also I
45 am next door to the meeting, is it a public meeting,
46 there's a lot of conversation about public
47 participation.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
50

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1 asking me a question about being in the room or what?

2

3 MS. WOODS: Yes, I'm next door and will
4 be presenting to you but I can also be in the room but
5 I could do it from the phone next door if that's the
6 way the meeting is designed.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It is right
9 now, Brooke, I'm sorry. But you could step in and say
10 hi later.

11

12 MR. ERVIN: Okay, thank you, Chair Sue.
13 This is Bruce Ervin with Tanana Chiefs Conference. And
14 I just wanted to share our TCC Tribal Resource
15 Stewardship Program report with the EIRAC today. Thank
16 you for allowing us to participate.

17

18 TCC has been listening to the concerns
19 of tribes throughout the region and we're determined to
20 ensure they have representation, a strong voice, and a
21 seat at the table to protect our ways of life.
22 Recently we created the Tribal Resource Stewardship
23 Program and what this does is it combines the Hunting,
24 Fishing and Gathering Task Force and the Yukon River
25 InterTribal Fish Commission under the one umbrella term
26 but, you know, I'd like to really -- I'd like to
27 emphasize that the Fish Commission and the Task Force
28 still exists but we just grouped them both under the
29 TRSP name.

30

31 We are also still going through
32 strategic planning and reorganizing so we will continue
33 to change and evolve in ways that benefit our Interior
34 tribal members.

35

36 The Tribal Resource Stewardship Program
37 continues to update our website to include information
38 on the Task Force, Fish Commission, climate change and
39 also the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.
40 We are working on our -- with our TCC communications
41 department to figure out better ways to offer
42 notifications of events, trainings, and meetings that
43 benefit all TCC and Interior tribes. We will continue
44 to look for ways to make our website more user friendly
45 and provide information that our tribes can access.

46

47 The TRSP continues to attend various
48 State Advisory Committee meetings with focus on the ACs
49 that impact our TCC Interior tribes, you know,
50

0258

1 personally, myself, I really enjoy attending the
2 different ACs and I appreciate the ability to
3 participate and learn more about what these different
4 ACs -- what their area's face with their hunting,
5 fishing and gathering ways of life. And, you know,
6 it's really -- it's a really great opportunity to
7 really learn about what's going on in the area so I
8 recommend it to anybody to attend those meetings. We
9 will continue to reach out to our tribes that are
10 impacted by these ACs and also our help and support on
11 any questions or advocacy efforts they have or may
12 need.

13
14 Also the TRSP geared up for the
15 statewide Board of Game and we attended the meeting
16 from March 4th to the 7th, in-person and we continue to
17 monitor while they're going through their proposal
18 deliberations. With the help of our TCC communications
19 department we reached out before the statewide Board of
20 Game to our TCC Interior tribes to provide training and
21 we offered and held two Zoom meetings that explained
22 the Board of Game process, advocating, also how to
23 provide testimony. We had a great turnout of
24 participants and plan to continue these trainings in
25 the future.

26
27 And also we've been working on getting
28 information and announcements from the Federal
29 Subsistence Board and also the State ADF&G out to our
30 tribes through our TCC website and other social media
31 platforms. Some of our announcements and outreach were
32 listed in the news and updates and then the events and
33 deadlines sections of our TCC website. Some of those
34 examples include the Yukon River Panel meeting that was
35 in January. The application deadline for the Federal
36 Subsistence Board RAC membership, that was in February.
37 And also the statewide Board of Game meeting that
38 started March 4th through the 12th.

39
40 And also just from my part, I just
41 wanted to mention that our TCC Annual Convention will
42 take place March 14th through the 17th next week at the
43 Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks.

44
45 And at this time I'll go ahead and pass
46 it over to Brooke and she'll pass it back to me to
47 close out the report. Thank you, Brooke.

48
49 MS. WOODS: Thank you, Bruce. Can you
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0259

1 guys hear me okay.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Very well,
thank you.

MS. WOODS: Great, thank you Sue. I
wanted to start by saying that our Yukon River
InterTribal Fish Commission has established an
executive council and we met weekly in-season reviewing
data and run size to make our weekly recommendations.
Our Fish Commission partnered with several Yukon River
organizations and statewide partners and we met
biweekly in preparation for the North Pacific Fisheries
Management Council, specifically for the October 2021
meeting requesting reduction of king salmon bycatch and
a hardcap for chum. We had over 20 testimonies from
across the state. I created a Yukon River situational
report and we had a meeting with the Department of Fish
and Game North Pacific Fisheries Management member,
Rachel Baker and Doug Vincent-Lang. We hosted our
annual post-season meeting in December. It had to be
online just because of Covid numbers and concern of it
going into communities. And in December, Kawerak, the
Association of Village Council Presidents, the
Kuskokwim River InterTribal Fish Commission, the Yukon
River InterTribal Fish Commission, the Aleut Community
of St. Paul, the Bering Sea Elders Group requested to
the Department of Commerce take emergency action to
eliminate chinook salmon bycatch and set a cap on chum
salmon in the Bering Sea pollock trawl fishery for the
2022 season. Without this emergency regulation, the
pollock fleet can catch up to 45,000 king salmon and an
unlimited amount of chum. The petition represented
nearly 110 tribes and communities in the Kuskokwim and
the Yukon watersheds. In January of 2022 that petition
was denied. And last week with about 50 percent of the
pollock A season harvested, the bycatch rate is 3,699.
That was last week, total. And the chum bycatch
usually starts later. Following the denial of the
emergency petition, AVCP, Kawarek, the Kuskokwim Fish
Commission, TCC, and the Yukon River Fish Commission
submitted a joint letter to the Department of Interior
and the Department of Commerce asking the United States
government, through their agencies, to uphold the trust
responsibility to our tribes. And this was -- this is
the Arctic, Yukon, Kuskokwim tribal consortium to
strengthen that consortium, the two fish commissions
were -- were asked to join and we put our tribal
request forward and it's quite a large list -- I'm

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1 happy to share that out with the Council. We did meet
2 with Brian (indiscernible), the Assistant Secretary for
3 the Interior and Raina Thiele, the Senior Advisor to
4 the Secretary for Alaska Affairs last month about our
5 tribal request and from the NMFS engagement session on
6 bycatch that happened in January, (Indiscernible) with
7 TCC requested a tribal consultation which we held on
8 January 21st around bycatch and our emergency petition.

9

10 We also participated in the Department
11 of Interior USDA consultation on subsistence in Alaska
12 in January. I believe they held four consultations.

13

14 And the Tribal Resource Stewardship
15 Program received and partnered with several partner
16 organizations for a competitive NASA (ph) grant to do
17 freshwater river ice monitoring and we tit led it Fresh
18 Eyes on Ice. I am a co-PI on this project and it is in
19 partnership with UAF, National Weather Service of
20 Alaska, Pacific River Forecast Center, NASA Global
21 Learning and Observation.

22

23 And I will briefly -- I'm trying to be
24 mindful of time, we partnered -- the Fish Commission
25 partnered with YRDFA, YDFDA, AVCP and TCC to declare
26 the 2020 and 2021 Federal fisheries disasters on the
27 Yukon.

28

29 And last week, February 28th through
30 March 2nd, the Tribal Resource Stewardship Program held
31 a very successful Yukon River salmon summit and I
32 really enjoyed what was shared by our elders, our youth
33 panel, our partners and Staff on looking at the
34 decline, our run sizes, what we're doing as far as
35 tribal governments, and on the Thursday we invited
36 agencies and Alaska Delegation to join us and during
37 the meeting we did create our tribal priorities moving
38 into the next fishing season and into five years.

39

40 Very briefly, Bruce and I worked with
41 UAF and the Subsistence Division at Fish and Wildlife
42 -- or excuse me, Fish and Game, and we do have a
43 subsistence plan use paper that was accepted by the
44 Ecology Society and so that's a pretty big deal.

45

46 And I am going to end with my personal
47 announcement, I am leaving TCC. I have served the
48 Hunting and Fishing Task Force and the Fish Commission
49 for six years. I will continue as the Chair for the

50

0261

1 Yukon River InterTribal Fish Commission, and also the
2 Commissioner for Rampart. The contacts for the Yukon
3 River InterTribal Fish Commission will be Ben Stevens
4 and Shannon Earhart and Bruce Ervin will be overseeing
5 the Hunting and Fishing Task Force.

6
7 Thank you so much for your time.

8
9 MR. ERVIN: Thank you, Brooke. Really
10 appreciate the report. This is Bruce Ervin again and,
11 you know, I just want to say thank you, I really
12 appreciate all the amazing work that you've done and,
13 you know, you've made a really big impact and it was
14 really awesome working with you and hope to continue it
15 into the future and, you know.

16
17 So I just wanted to, in closing, that
18 I'd Brian McKenna is actively looking for applicants,
19 he works for the fisheries program at TCC and he wanted
20 us to mention that he'll be hiring up to four seasonal
21 fisheries technicians to support the Henshaw Creek
22 weir, and any interested applicants can reach out to
23 Brian and/or the announcement for the TCC careers page.
24 Positions will begin in mid to late May and run through
25 mid to late August and you can find it on our website.

26
27 Thank you, again, Brooke, I really
28 appreciate you and it was a real blessing to work with
29 you and appreciate all you did for tribes and I'll say
30 Baasee and thank you, EIRAC for all your hard work and
31 letting us present today. In upper Tanana we say,
32 thank you, we say (In Native).

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, thank
35 you very much Bruce. Bruce, I want to compliment you
36 and Brooke, you guys do a great job and good to have
37 you. Linda had something to comment.

38
39 MS. EVANS: Yes, this is Linda Evans.
40 I just wanted to thank Brooke for her deep involvement
41 in the fisheries on behalf of the tribes and our
42 people, and also Bruce, I think it's -- it's
43 unfortunate you're department but I can understand, you
44 know, six years, it's a good dedicated time and you did
45 a great job.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.

50

0262

1 Charlie.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair,
4 this is Charlie Wright. I'd also like to thank Brooke
5 for all you've done for the people in our region,
6 bringing us all together and keeping us informed and
7 doing the hard work. I really commend you for all
8 you've done. Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, Brooke,
11 if you are next door, why don't you pop your head in
12 here at lunch, we'd love to all say hello and wish you
13 luck.

14

15 MS. WOODS: Thank you.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
18 welcome. Okay, she just -- okay, sounds good. I think
19 we're -- now, let's see now it's 10 minutes too, do you
20 guys want to take a break now and have a long lunch --
21 I think we're going to take a lunch break and come back
22 at 1:00 o'clock. Thank you. We'll see you all then.

23

24 (Off record)

25

26 (On record)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, okay,
29 we are ready to resume the meeting. My apologizes for
30 being three minutes late. We've been visiting here and
31 I think we had a nice heart to heart here and I won't
32 go into it. It was very wonderful to sit here and
33 visit with Bill. And let's see now, Charlie Wright, I
34 think he said he was going to be doing another
35 something here.....

36

37 (Various people talking in Fairbanks)

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, he's on
40 a -- he's talking on a task force and he'll be back in
41 a -- 10 minutes it sounds like. And Andy contacted us
42 and Andy you are online.

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Roger. Roger.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And so
47 Jody and -- you're on?

48

49 (No comments)

50

0263

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you are
2 on, you might not unmute your phone.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
7 guess, Katya, do we need to confirm who's on -- what
8 Council members are on.

9
10 MS. WESSELS: Yes, I would recommend to
11 do the roll call.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think I
14 need you to do it because I didn't hear Jody.

15
16 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you, Madame
17 Chair.

18
19 Linda Evans.

20
21 MS. EVANS: Present.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Linda is
24 here.

25
26 MS. WESSELS: Nicholas Henry.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MS. WESSELS: Looks like he is absent.

31
32 Bill Glanz.

33
34 MR. GLANZ: I'm here.

35
36 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

37
38 Andy Bassich.

39
40 MR. BASSICH: Here.

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

43
44 Charlie Wright.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MS. WESSELS: Charlie, are you on.

49
50

0264

1 (No comments)

2

3 MS. WESSELS: It looks like Charlie's

4 not there.

5

6 Charlie Jagow.

7

8 MR. JAGOW: Present.

9

10 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

11

12 Don Woodruff.

13

14 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.

15

16 MS. WESSELS: Thank you.

17

18 Will Koehler.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Will, are you online.

23

24 (No comments)

25

26 MS. WESSELS: It sounds like Will is
27 not online either.

28

29 Jody Potts.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MS. WESSELS: Okay, sounds like she's
34 not there either. So we have six out of 10 seated
35 Council members present so we have a quorum, Madame
36 Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
39 you. All right.

40

41 (Teleconference interference -
42 participants not muted)

43

44 REPORTER: Is somebody trying to speak,
45 if you are we can't hear you right now, it's kind of
46 muffled.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it
49 sounded like they needed to mute their phone.

50

0265

1 MR. GLANZ: Yep.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

4

5 REPORTER: Yeah, go ahead and mute then
6 if you're not addressing the Council. Thank you.
7 Okay, the next thing on the Council's agenda is the
8 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, Serena.

9

10 MS. FITKA: Yes, I'm online, can you
11 hear me fine.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can.

14

15 MS. FITKA: Great, thank you, Madame
16 Chair. And the rest of the RAC Members. Thank you for
17 this opportunity to provide this update on our projects
18 and activities. My name is Serena Fitka, I'm the
19 Executive Director of the Yukon River Drainage
20 Fisheries Association. Catherine Moncrieff, apologizes
21 for not being available to give her report, she's busy
22 with other obligations at this time. So if you have
23 any specific questions for her you can email her at
24 catherine at yukonsalmon.org, or call her at 272-3141.

25

26 So right now I'd like to update you on
27 some of the FRMP projects that Catherine has been
28 working on and then I'll follow up with other projects
29 that may be of interest to you.

30

31 The In-Season Salmon Harvest Survey
32 program is gearing up for the 2022 season by rehiring
33 our surveyors, or hiring new surveyors in a couple of
34 the communities which are preparing -- which we are
35 preparing for their travel arrangements for their
36 annual surveyor training event which will take place on
37 Wednesday on March 23rd in Anchorage. The surveyors
38 will also attend the pre-season planning meeting on
39 Thursday, March 24th.

40

41 (Pause)

42

43 REPORTER: Hi, Sue, are you there. I
44 feel like I just lost this call.

45

46 (Pause)

47

48 REPORTER: Okay, then I'm going to
49 disconnect and call back in.

50

0266

1 (Pause)

2

3 REPORTER: Okay, this is Tina, I'm back
4 online and sorry about that.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, this is Katya, do
9 you know if Serena needs to start from the beginning.

10

11 REPORTER: So it just went blank, Serena
12 was -- I would say from listening to the report in
13 previous meetings she was probably a quarter of the way
14 through her report when it went blank so I'm not sure
15 where you guys were when it went blank because of
16 course I didn't hear anything after that. Okay.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: So perhaps it's better to
19 restart the whole report.

20

21 REPORTER: Sure, but whatever the
22 Council wants to do. Were you into asking questions
23 already or, I don't know.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.

26

27 MS. WESSELS: We did not.

28

29 REPORTER: I would say that she should
30 continue on from where she was.

31

32 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

33

34 MS. FITKA: Okay, for the record.....

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
37 Serena.

38

39 MS. FITKA: Thank you, Madame Chair.
40 This is Serena Fitka, Executive Director for the Yukon
41 River Drainage Fisheries Association and I'll be
42 reporting on the FRMP projects that Catherine has been
43 working on.

44

45 The In-Season Salmon Harvest Survey
46 program is gearing up for the 2022 season by rehiring
47 our surveyors, or hiring new surveyors in a couple of
48 the communities which are preparing -- which we are
49 preparing for their travel arrangements for their

50

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1 annual surveyor training event which will take place on
2 Wednesday on March 23rd in Anchorage. The surveyors
3 will be attending the pre-season planning meeting on
4 Thursday, March 24th. Surveyors who are participating
5 virtually will have the option as well. This year we're
6 updating some of our survey questions to reflect the
7 needs of the current fishery. This program is funded
8 through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
9 through March of 2024.

10

11 The next FRMP Project I'd like to
12 update you on is the Local and Traditional Knowledge of
13 Anadromous Fish in the Yukon Flats with an emphasis on
14 the Draanjik Drainage. This project is in its final
15 stages. We completed our biological field work with a
16 fixed-wing flight in December and a helicopter flight
17 to attempt to document coho spawning salmon areas that
18 is not yet in the Anadromous Waters Catalog. This
19 location has been identified by traditional knowledge
20 and with positive eDNA analysis. In December the pilot
21 spotted coho salmon but when the team landed in January
22 they were not able to find any coho. So this location
23 has been added to our recommendations for future work.
24 We had planned to travel to Venetie, Fort Yukon and
25 Chalkyitsik to provide a community review but cancelled
26 due to Covid issues. Instead we sent the three
27 communities a box of smoked salmon strips, a brochure
28 summarizing the project and a binder of salmon-related
29 school activities. We will be working with the
30 communities to finalize the brochure before we print
31 the final version to be shared with the RACs and
32 others. Final steps in this project include
33 nominations to the Anadromous Waters Catalog for the
34 following species and location. And I do apologize if
35 I mispronounce any of the locations. The rearing
36 juvenile chinook salmon in the Tahadjiik (ph) and
37 Drifting Snow Creek, spawning adults and rearing
38 juvenile coho salmon at Nehdiji Ni'inlii at Teedraanjik
39 Creek drainage, presence of adult and juvenile
40 roundfish in Kevinjik Creek, Drifting Snow Creek and
41 Graylingfork Black River and finally presence of
42 juvenile Arctic lamprey in Kevinjik Creek, Tahadjiik
43 Creek and Graylingfork Black River, this project will
44 end on March 31st of this year, 2022.

45

46 Next, I'd like to update you on two
47 other projects that may be of interest to you. The
48 first is titled: They Told Us There'd Come a Time,
49 Conserving Fish, Preserving Traditions on the Yukon
50

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1 River, a catalog of elders warnings. This project is
2 funded by the North Pacific Research Board, YRDFA is
3 partnering with the Tanana Chiefs Conference with the
4 Young Adult Emerging leaders to document the research
5 documented, local and traditional knowledge of salmon
6 and search for advice or warnings from the elders. We
7 are entering year two of this project and planning our
8 second training event which is taking place in
9 Fairbanks today and tomorrow. At this event our team
10 will review the archival research and each will have
11 been engaged in -- during year one and prepare our
12 qualitative interviews with elders.

13
14 Finally, I'd like to update you on our
15 Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund Project: Integrated
16 Local and Traditional Knowledge into the Anadromous
17 Waters Catalog and Fish Inventories of Select Drainages
18 of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers 2021-2023. This project
19 is a partnership between YRDFA and the Alaska
20 Department of Fish and Game. Last summer we traveled
21 to Tanana, Manley Hot Springs and Nenana to interview
22 knowledgeable fishers and hunters about fish locations.
23 We have completed the transcriptions of the interviews
24 and summary -- and will summarize the results for our
25 partners at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
26 prepare for biological field work this summer which
27 will attempt to document fish presence, rearing and
28 spawning locations. The research team hopes to stop in
29 the communities to share information about the project
30 again, this summer, as they travel along the river in
31 early June, in late July and at the end of September.

32
33 I have some other important items to
34 discuss and please mark your calendars for upcoming
35 meetings. The annual YRDFA board meeting will take
36 place in Anchorage at the Alaska Pacific University
37 Campus, at the CH2MHill Conference room March 22nd and
38 23rd. We had to change the location due to Covid
39 restrictions, which was originally was going to be at
40 the BP Energy Center. Due to the lack of funding, we
41 will not have the full Board in person and this will be
42 a hybrid meeting with the option of in-person, virtual
43 and call-in options. The agenda will be posted to our
44 website and emailed to tribal offices for public
45 posting. Highlights of the meeting will be elections,
46 research presentations, presentation on the Federal
47 action request, a bycatch report and Board of Fish
48 proposals. Again, the agenda will be posted to our
49 website and emailed to the communities. This meeting
50

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1 is open to the public and we encourage your attendance.

2

3

4 The Yukon River salmon management pre-
5 season meeting will be on March 24th, 2022 at the
6 Embassy Suites in Anchorage. A letter and registration
7 form was sent to the tribal councils last month to
8 designate a representative from their community to
9 attend. We have representatives from almost all the
10 tribal governments from the Yukon River. The option to
11 attend the meeting in-person and virtual is also
12 available. This meeting is open to the public and,
13 again, we encourage your attendance. The agenda and
14 information is posted on our website under the events
15 tab. Please visit our website at yukonsalmon.org. We
16 encourage tribes to also submit their membership fees
17 when submitting registration forms.

18

19 We also encourage everyone to like our
20 Facebook page and visit our website frequently as we
21 post other important meetings that take place, such as
22 the House Fisheries Committee meeting, the Federal
23 Subsistence Board, North Pacific Fishery Management
24 Council and the bycatch task force and other important
25 meetings that discuss and affect the Yukon River
26 fisheries.

27

28 An update on the Comprehensive Salmon
29 Plan. I have been assisting with the former committee
30 members on updating the committee. There has been a
31 few changes, two committee members with turnover and
32 we'll be calling on (indiscernible) to discuss the
33 draft plan and review the public comments. A meeting
34 will be scheduled soon to resume the process of
35 approving the draft plan. I will be sure to make --
36 make sure everyone is made aware of the meeting date on
37 our website and Facebook page.

38

39 An update on the fisheries disaster.
40 The fisheries disasters for 2020 and 2021 were approved
41 by the Department of Commerce. In October I was
42 fortunate to travel to Washington D.C., to meet with
43 the U.S. Delegation, and the Senior Advisory -- or
44 Advisor for the U.S. Department of the Interior to
45 discuss the hardships the Yukon River people have been
46 facing the last two years. With the hard work of the
47 people who continuously voice their concerns, the
48 communities who submitted resolutions and the many
49 organizations supporting us, we are one step closer to
50 receiving the necessary assistance to our fishers. The

51

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1 next step is to keep informed of what NOAA is doing and
2 work with the U.S. Delegation and the State of Alaska
3 to acquire the necessary funds to assist with Yukon
4 River fishers needs.

5

6 And I actually just got an email from
7 Murkowski's office that NOAA will announce their
8 allocations in the coming weeks. A (indiscernible)
9 time will be created by the ADF&G in consultation with
10 NOAA in Pacific states and we will be hearing from
11 ADF&G to hold public comments on the (indiscernible)
12 plan. So we will be actively engaging with the State
13 of Alaska to make sure that we're aware of the public
14 comment date.

15

16 And last I'd like to announce that
17 YR DFA has launched our Andrew Firmin, Young Fisher
18 Internship Program Fundraiser. As you all know Andrew
19 was a huge advocate for his region and for the
20 subsistence way of life. His leadership started at a
21 young age and was voted to the YR DFA Board as an
22 alternate when he was 31 years old. YR DFA wants to
23 ensure that we instill the leadership qualities that
24 Andrew has displayed over the many years of service to
25 the next generation. The five week internship will be
26 funded by the generosity through donations. We have
27 launched our donation page on our website under the
28 about tab at our website at yukonsalmon.org.

29

30 That concludes my report.

31

32 Again, thank you for the opportunity
33 and I will be available for any questions.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair, I have a
38 question.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
41 Bill.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: This report was in our book
44 that they mailed us about a month ago and most of us
45 have read it already and this is pretty redundant to
46 us. I realize there's people in the audience that
47 never had the report, it takes a lot of valuable time
48 off of our time listening to the same thing we've been
49 reading.

50

0271

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, Bill,
5 yeah. I really would like to say that I appreciate,
6 first of all that award that you're doing for Andrew
7 Firmin. I applaud that, that's awesome. But if we can
8 keep our reports to 15 minutes that would be great. I
9 hate to time people but that was one thing Andrew would
10 do when he was sitting next to me, he said run the
11 timer Sue, we're going to remind them that 15 minutes
12 are up. But I don't mean to pick on anyone
13 specifically, that was good -- a good report but if we
14 can keep it down to 15 that would really be
15 appreciated.

15

16 Any questions of the report.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sorry,
21 Serena, we're not picking on you but thank you very
22 much.

23

24 MS. FITKA: You're welcome.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
27 is the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And it is in
32 our book, it's Tab 9, we have seen it so just in -- we
33 just would like to keep things consolidated so go
34 ahead, Tim.

35

36 (No comments)

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Tim
39 Lorenzini, are you on.

40

41 MR. BAYLESS: Madame Chair, this is
42 Shawn Bayless. Maybe Brent's on, Brent Jamison, are
43 you on.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MR. BAYLESS: Well, I guess I'm holding
48 the bag, Madame Chair, if you want to listen to me.

49

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I bet
2 you could keep it brief.

3
4 MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, I sure could.
5 Well, for the record, Shawn Bayless, Tetlin Refuge
6 Manager in Tok. And I really don't have much to add to
7 the report that Tim and Brent put together for you.

8
9 We're currently in week three of our
10 2022 lynx trapping and collaring effort. And as of
11 last night I think we're up to only three lynx, so
12 that's two more than last year, which might mean that
13 the cycle is on the upswing finally but very few lynx
14 out there, very few bunny tracks, but I mean lots and
15 lots of snow, it's been a real challenging year for my
16 crews this year so hat's off to them.

17
18 The visitor center stuff, I'll leave
19 that alone and just look at it in your handout. We
20 will be opening both visitor centers this year.

21
22 I have not heard whether Canada is
23 going to ease the restrictions on travel for tourists
24 through Canada, I have not heard that yet. We're
25 hoping that's going to be the case.

26
27 No Staffing changes to report.

28
29 The subsistence hunt for caribou and
30 moose has been very, very low this year, mostly because
31 of access due to the heavy snow but also the caribou
32 for the most part, the Nelchina Herd, they raced
33 through the Refuge early where we had enough snow for
34 snowmachines and they went northeast, there's only just
35 a very few out on the Refuge and I think maybe we've
36 had two or three reported is all. And I don't know
37 about moose, I don't think there's been any moose
38 reported being harvested yet. So a tough year from
39 food security standpoint for sure for the Upper Tanana
40 folks.

41
42 And that's the end of my report.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
45 Shawn. Any questions.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go
50

0273

1 ahead.

2

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. Yeah, I
5 just wanted to say I still remember that presentation
6 you gave us a few years ago on the lynx tracking and I
7 was quite fascinated with that and you mentioning that
8 right now just brought up an incident that I just
9 witnessed this past week and that was -- and I just
10 wanted to share this with the Council. We have seen
11 almost no caribou around here at all this entire
12 winter, but two days ago while out mushing, I saw a
13 lone caribou out in the middle of the Yukon River and a
14 very large Tom lynx was stocking and trying to take him
15 down and I sat and watched it and then the next day we
16 came by the same place and the lynx had just taken down
17 that caribou and was camped out by him and it was
18 probably one of the largest lynx I've ever saw. At
19 first we thought it was two caribou standing next to
20 each other. But I just wanted to share that with you
21 because I've actually never heard of a lynx taking down
22 a caribou before. Kind of an interesting thing. So I
23 think a lot of the predators are pretty hungry this
24 year is what I'm noticing and they're doing whatever
25 they can to feed themselves.

25

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So I just thought I'd share that with
the Council. It's kind of a unique thing for me to see
anyway.

Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
you, Andy. My son who gets out a lot and trapping and
he reported the exact same thing that he found and I
said are you sure that the lynx killed the caribou
because the lynx was on the caribou and he said there
weren't any other tracks there and it was a fresh kill
so he couldn't believe otherwise that the lynx had done
the same thing. So it is interesting. And maybe it's
easier to do if the caribou falls through the snow a
little more and lynx is walking on top but I don't
know, it's very interesting. I wouldn't have believed
it actually, but that's interesting.

MR. BAYLESS: Yeah, Madame Chair, Shawn
Bayless again. I will mention that they're kind of bred
for that with those big paws, and it gives them a
distinct advantage for sure, especially this year with
so much snow and crust halfway through the snow, you

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1 know, these caribou and moose are having a heck of a
2 time getting around and even for a lynx, probably even
3 a coyote if he was bold enough would be able to
4 eventually take one down. It's not surprising but,
5 yeah, it's interesting though.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
10 thanks everyone. Any questions.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks
15 Shawn. Next would be the Park Service, first is the
16 Wrangell-St. Elias. Barbara.

17
18 MS. CELLARIUS: We can go ahead -- I
19 thought that -- I thought there was another Refuge but
20 we can go ahead and do our report if the other Refuge
21 isn't there.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. My
24 brain is going too fast. Yeah, I'm sorry, Yukon Flats,
25 go ahead.

26
27 MR. FOX: Madame Chair, yes, Jimmy Fox,
28 Refuge Manager, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
29 Good afternoon to you and the Council members. Thank
30 you for your service.

31
32 I'll start off -- I'll keep this brief
33 -- I'll start off with the Staff updates. As you all
34 probably know after we lost our Deputy Refuge Manager,
35 Nathan Hawkaluk, that position has remained vacant and
36 at the end of December we had two retirements, Mimi
37 Thomas from Fort Yukon, retired, we will not be able to
38 refill that position, and Vince Mathews, as you all
39 know, retired in December, and thanks to funding from
40 OSM we are in the process of trying to get that
41 positioned refilled ASAP.

42
43 Another thing I'll mention, it was in
44 the report last fall, but we have a new annual funding
45 agreement with the Council of Athabaskan Tribal
46 Governments and that will start April 1st. We are
47 continuing the hunter liaison contract with CATG. And
48 I'm happy to report that Arctic Refuge and Yukon-
49 Charley Park and Preserve are helping us out with the
50

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1 hunter liaison positions.

2

3 We hope to expand the Eyes in the Bush
4 project also so we'll have locals in the villages
5 reporting on changes that are going on out there on the
6 landscape.

7

8 Also we mentioned in our report last
9 fall that we were initiating the review of various uses
10 on the Refuge, conducting .810 analysis on those and an
11 update to our compatibility determinations and that
12 process is ongoing, consultation is ongoing.

13

14 The last thing I'll mention, hopefully
15 last fall I believe you received a hardcopy of a
16 changing environment booklet about the Yukon Flats and
17 we did that in partnership with CATG and the University
18 of Alaska Fairbanks and it chronicled the various
19 environmental changes that are being observed on the
20 Yukon Flats and there were local observations, quotes
21 from folks from the villages in that report and I hope
22 you still have that. Hopefully you've taken a look at
23 it and you've noticed that there are a lot of changes
24 that are happening out there, and you all know that,
25 we've been hearing about it the last day and a half.
26 One thing that I wanted to mention is the USGS has done
27 a lot of work in trying to understanding what's the
28 trajectory for these changes into the future. And I
29 just want to briefly mention these future changes
30 because I think it's -- it's easy for me to get really
31 focused on the here and the now, you know, all the
32 fires around me right now, but it's hard to take a step
33 back and think about the future and so when I saw all
34 these trajectories for Yukon Flats Refuge from USGS I
35 thought, wow. So I'll just mention briefly to you all
36 that USGS has done this for Yukon Flats Refuge, they've
37 also created these trajectory predictions for some of
38 the other Refuges also. And so what you may have seen
39 in that report last fall about changes on the Yukon
40 Flats you'll see that since 1950, annually, the
41 temperature has warmed almost five degrees fahrenheit
42 overall. But if you just looked at the winter
43 temperature increase on the Yukon Flats, it's almost
44 nine degrees fahrenheit since 1950. And that outreach
45 booklet talked about some of the effects that we're
46 seeing and that the locals are seeing; you know,
47 earlier breakup, higher river flows in the fall and the
48 spring; of course more fires, so the USGS projections
49 -- the trajectories obviously are showing, you know,

50

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1 increasing warming temperatures and particularly on the
2 Yukon Flats, even at the statewide level, Yukon Flats
3 Basin is just a bright red kind of bull's eye in the
4 state of Alaska. They're also projecting increasing
5 precipitation, but because of the warming there's
6 actually likely a slight water deficit because of that
7 evaporation that's going to be happening. The number
8 of snow months are predicted to decline. A number of
9 wildfires are predicted to increase. Permafrost thaw
10 will increase. And then the vegetation will change
11 likely too. So projecting more disigeious trees and a
12 decline in black spruce and white spruce.

13

14 If this information is interesting to
15 the Council, and, again, the USGS Alaska Climate
16 Adaptation Science Center in Anchorage produced these
17 projections for the Yukon Flats Refuge and I think
18 they've done some work for other Refuges so I just
19 wanted to mention that to you all.

20

21 We could spend days catching up on lots
22 of things but I'll yield back the remainder of my time,
23 Madame Chair. Thank you.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
26 Jimmy, and I'm sorry I missed you there. Council
27 members, any questions of Jimmy.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
32 Hearing none, we'll move on to the National Park
33 Service. Wrangell-St. Elias, Barbara.

34

35 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you. This is
36 Barbara Cellarius with Wrangell-St. Elias and the
37 Wrangell-St. Elias reports are under Tab 10 in the
38 meeting materials that were sent out ahead of the
39 meeting except for Judy Putera's wildlife report, which
40 was emailed to the Council members and is available
41 under supplemental No. 9 on the meeting web page. I'm
42 going to invite, first, Dave, and then Judy to cover
43 their reports and then I will address the other two
44 reports.

45

46 MR. SARAFIN: Yes, good afternoon,
47 Madame Chair. This is Dave Sarafin, Fisheries
48 Biologist at Wrangell-St. Elias. If you're ready I
49 could go ahead with my report.

50

0277

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. SARAFIN: Okay, yes, the fisheries
5 report for the Wrangell-St. Elias should be in your
6 materials as Barbara described. I'll try to provide
7 just a brief summary of that report.

8
9 So fisheries research monitoring
10 projects, we do have two ongoing FRMP projects. The
11 Tanada Creek weir, and also a burbot population
12 assessment project for small lakes within the Park or
13 Preserve of Upper Yukon drainage. For 2022 we plan to
14 operate the Tanada Creek weir. We attempted to recruit
15 local residents to the project, however, two rounds of
16 job announcements resulted in no applicants so we're
17 currently looking through a list of non-local
18 applicants to try to hire for the needed crew. And
19 with lingering concerns of Covid19 it is unlikely we
20 will be able to perform the burbot study due to
21 anticipated limitations of Park employee safety
22 guidelines.

23
24 Additionally, Wrangell-St. Elias has
25 recently collaborated with researchers of various
26 agencies in development of successfully funded
27 proposals for Copper River salmon research. And
28 further details of these are provided in the Parks
29 Resource Stewardship and Science report.

30
31 For 2021 the Copper River salmon
32 season, the -- the salmon returns started with low
33 numbers in both sockeye and chinook. In response the
34 State limited early season commercial fishing
35 opportunities. The late start was then followed by an
36 increasing strength of sockeye return with the final
37 estimate from Miles Lake sonar exceeding the
38 accumulative in-river management objective. However,
39 total return estimates are likely to end up well below
40 average of the past 10 years. King salmon, once again
41 returned in very low numbers. Managers believe the
42 24,000 fish sustainable escapement goal was not
43 achieved, which will be the fourth time in the last 10
44 years. During the season the Department of Fish and
45 Game enacted king salmon closures in all up river State
46 fisheries. There were no actions taken in the Federal
47 fisheries. For Federal subsistence permits we issued
48 354 for the Glennallen subdistrict, 194 for the Chitina
49 subdistrict and one for the Batzulnetas area. And
50

0278

1 historical harvest for the upper Copper River Federal
2 subsistence fisheries are provided at the end of the
3 report.
4

5 And in late -- the end of November, and
6 into early December there was a recent Board of
7 Fisheries meeting in Cordova and during this meeting
8 only one proposal was adopted in the State subsistence
9 salmon fisheries of the upper Copper River district,
10 this was Proposal No. 7, which was adopted with
11 modification to prohibit professional guide services
12 from assisting subsistence fishermen while fishing from
13 a vessel in the Glennallen subdistrict. Proposal No.
14 5, although requested to be withdrawn by the proponent
15 was addressed by the Board of Fisheries as originally
16 proposed to change the chinook salmon escapement goal
17 from a lower bound sustainable goal of 24,000 fish to
18 an optimum escapement goal range of 24,000 to 40,000
19 fish. This proposal failed to carry, however, an ADF&G
20 revision to the escapement goal is scheduled to take
21 effect beginning the 2022 season that will change the
22 sustainable escapement goal from a lower bound of
23 24,000 fish to a range of 21,000 to 31,000 fish. So
24 this will have a minimum goal reduction of 3,000 from
25 the 24,000 to 21,000 for chinook salmon. The 2022
26 preseason Copper River salmon forecast that Alaska
27 Department of Fish and Game puts out is for 1.4 million
28 sockeye salmon and this is 34 percent below the recent
29 10 year average. The chinook salmon forecast was not
30 available at the time of this report.
31

32 That concludes my report and I'm
33 available for any questions if you have any.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
36 questions.
37

38 MR. GLANZ: Pretty good report.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, very
41 good report. Thank you.
42

43 MR. SARAFIN: You're welcome.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is Judy.
46

47 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go
50

0279

1 ahead.....

2

3

MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:Andy.

6

7

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, quickly I was just
-- thank you. I'm just very interested in some of the
reasoning behind dropping the king salmon escapement
goals in that fisheries. Does the presenter have any
detailed knowledge as to the justification of why they
lowered escapement goals when they're not meeting
escapement to begin with, and they haven't reached
escapement goals for a number of years. i'd just like
to hear the reasoning behind that, it just seems like
that is absolutely counter-productive to what you would
want to do when you are trying to rebuild a fishery.

18

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MR. BASSICH: Follow up question,
Madame Chair.

40

41

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

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50

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so it's probably
more of a comment than a question. But I've been doing
a lot of research on rebuilding salmon stocks world-
wide, and this is a very common scenario for collapsed
fisheries. And the reason I'm bringing that up is
because we're dealing with the exact same thing on the
Yukon River. We haven't been reaching escapement
goals, we're at about 60 percent of reaching our

0280

1 escapement goals over the last 10 years and if the
2 tendency is always to lower the escapement goals if
3 they can get fish to people, or commercial entities,
4 depending on where they are at, because people are
5 demanding that, and the end result is that the fishery
6 just continues to decline, decline, decline until it
7 has to be a moratorium. And I'm just bringing that up
8 because that's what all of my research and in the way
9 things are happening around the world in the past have
10 ended up and I'd hate to see that happen on our river
11 and our resource that is so critical to subsistence
12 users. So I just want to make people aware of that, we
13 are working on the same issues on the Yukon River and
14 I'm very concerned about trying to lower escapement
15 goals when we're not even meeting escapement goals.

16
17 And I also want on the record that one
18 of the things that's very, very important is that our
19 fish are coming back smaller and younger and that means
20 they're carrying less eggs. And, also when you have
21 that happening your productivity is going to go down in
22 the spawning grounds, so we're having productivity
23 problems out in the marine environment and when you
24 start to reduce your returns, and you're getting
25 smaller fish, you're getting smaller eggs, which is
26 also reducing your productivity in the spawning
27 streams.

28
29 And I just want that more as
30 informational for our Council members to have as we
31 move forward talking about rebuilding our fisheries.

32
33 Thank you, Madame Chair. And thank you
34 very much for the report.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Andy,
37 and I think it has a lot of merit on our upcoming
38 meeting on Wednesday with the Southcentral. These are
39 all kinds of things that we need to remember when we
40 talk about these issues, you know, and keep your minds
41 way open when we take this up at the next meeting
42 because what happened on the Copper is really relevant
43 to what has happened on the Yukon. And we don't want
44 to see it happen in another fishery.

45
46 MR. SARAFIN: Madame Chair, this is
47 Dave Sarafin.....

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Did you have
50

0281

1 a comment.....

2

3 MR. SARAFIN:could I provide a
4 little followup.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, go
7 ahead.

8

9 MR. SARAFIN: Yes. Also related to
10 that proposal on the chinook salmon escapement goal
11 revision, I would like to mention that the Wrangell-St.
12 Elias Superintendent, as in-season manager, submitted
13 both an agenda change request to address an apparent
14 error of inconsistent escapement goals found in two
15 Copper River salmon management plans, and then also a
16 separate comment letter to support maintaining the
17 24,000 chinook salmon sustainable goal and to
18 reemphasize the inconsistency in the plans. So these
19 were submitted to the Board of Fish for consideration.
20 The concerns expressed in the letter, they were
21 referenced in Board of Fish discussion but did not
22 impact the end result of the 3,000 fish reduction for
23 the chinook salmon goal. The apparent error of
24 inconsistent escapement goals in the management plans
25 was not addressed or acknowledged during the discussion
26 at the meeting. Some of that information may also be
27 in the Resource Stewardship and Science report as well,
28 maybe in some more detail too.

29

30 So that's it.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: More
33 information. Thank you, Dave.

34

35 MR. SARAFIN: You're welcome.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
38 questions, Council members.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
43 questions.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thanks
48 Dave. Next is Judy.

49

50

0282

1 MS. PUTERA: Hi. Judy Putera, Wildlife
2 Biologist. I'm just giving a really quick report on
3 the Chisana Caribou Herd comp count from last fall,
4 which was not available at the time of the fall
5 meeting. That was conducted October 11th and the 14th,
6 2021. The bull/cow ratio was 45 bulls per 100 cows and
7 that was the highest observed since 2016. The cow/calf
8 ratio was 12 calves per 100 cows which was the lowest
9 recorded since 2003. The bull/cow ratio remains above
10 the minimum threshold set in the Chisana Caribou Herd
11 management plan for allowing continued subsistence
12 harvest. The three year rolling average calf/cow ratio
13 was 14 cows [sic] per 100 cows [sic], which is under
14 the minimum 15 per 100 threshold set in the management
15 plan.

16
17 I also do want to point out that there
18 was not a comp count performed in 2020 so, you know,
19 the ratio -- or the three year rolling average, I
20 guess, technically, could be higher, or lower, but I
21 guess the -- the management team for the herd would
22 just get together and discuss that and -- ahead of
23 setting the quota or having a harvest next fall.

24
25 And that's basically all I'm -- all I
26 have.

27
28 Also, just really quickly, Sue
29 mentioned just, you know, concern for sheep in Unit 11
30 [sic] and I had talked to Jeff Wells a little bit. I
31 know they're -- they've had a lack of funding for sheep
32 surveys the last several years and that sounds like
33 that might be the case again this year and I've just
34 let him know that, you know, any funding that we have
35 for sheep surveys I would put totally towards, you
36 know, GMU 12, over in the -- in that part of the
37 Wrangells.

38
39 So that's it.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
42 Any questions.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think you
47 said Unit 11 first Judy but you meant Unit 12.

48
49 MS. PUTERA: Yes, sorry about that.
50

0283

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Yeah.
2 All right, thank you.

3
4 MS. PUTERA: Yeah, because our -- yeah,
5 thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Barbara.

12
13 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, this is
14 Barbara Cellarius again. I'm the Cultural
15 Anthropologist and Subsistence Coordinator. And I was
16 going to go over the Resource Stewardship and Science
17 report but Dave actually covered most of the things
18 that I was supposed to highlight in that so I'll just
19 let you know that we are working with a variety of
20 partners, including the Alaska Department of Fish and
21 Game, the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, the Prince
22 William Sound Science Center and Native Village of Eyak
23 on three upcoming Copper River fisheries projects that
24 were prompted, in part, by concerns about recent low
25 returns. So you can read about those projects and
26 these are funded by the Park Service -- you can read
27 about those projects in the Resource Stewardship and
28 Science report. And then also in the Resource
29 Stewardship and Science report is a copy of the letter
30 that the Superintendent sent to the Alaska Board of
31 Fisheries about the proposed change in the escapement
32 goal and inconsistency in how king salmon escapement
33 goals are described in two Copper River management
34 plans.

35
36 So unless there's questions about that
37 I will go on to the subsistence management policy
38 report.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
41 questions.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
46 Barbara.

47
48 MS. CELLARIUS: So the first thing that
49 -- the first couple of pages in the Subsistence and
50

1 Anthropology report covers Federal subsistence permit
2 highlights and including where we issue those reports
3 and how many permits we issued. I just -- a couple of
4 highlights for Unit 12, a handful of permits were
5 issued for the Chisana Caribou Herd hunt in the
6 southeast corner of Unit 12, and the elder sheep hunt,
7 which is in all of Unit 12 in Wrangell-St. Elias, no
8 harvests were reported. There's a joint State/Federal
9 moose permit for a -- that -- a hunt area that includes
10 portions of both Unit 11 and Unit 12, it's a very
11 popular moose hunt, and so 282 permits were issued
12 including 167 to Federally-qualified subsistence users,
13 23 animals were harvested, (indiscernible - fades off)
14 16 were harvested by Federally-qualified subsistence
15 users.

16
17 The report also describes several
18 ongoing projects including TEK projects on caribou and
19 on local knowledge of winter environmental conditions
20 and also we've got a remote sensing project about river
21 ice conditions that we're doing with the University of
22 Alaska at Fairbanks. And we're also just getting
23 started on a project to assess subsistence harvest in
24 the upper Copper River, in upper Copper River
25 communities with Park Service funding and that's going
26 to be a cooperative project including both ADF&G and
27 AITRC, and that's in an effort to build local capacity
28 for this type of project. And then, finally, I want to
29 mention two research projects that provide additional
30 information for people harvesting fish and wildlife in
31 the Park. One is a new online mapping tool. So if
32 anybody uses georeference maps and is interested in
33 coming to the Park to hunt, I'd encourage them to check
34 that out. There's a link in the written report and
35 it's also -- the mapping tool is also accessible from
36 the map page of the Park website. It allows people to
37 create georeferenced PDF maps of areas of interest and
38 then those maps can be used on a GPS enabled mobile
39 device, such as a smartphone. And then the other
40 project that we recently completed was a new users
41 guide to hunting, trapping, fishing in Wrangell-St.
42 Elias and this is targeted for people who might be
43 harvesting resources under State of Alaska regulations.
44 And, again, there's an electronic version on the Park
45 website with links in the written report and eventually
46 we will also have printed copies.

47

48 And that concludes my report.

49

50

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1 If there's any questions I will provide
2 you answers to the best that I can.

3
4 Thanks.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
7 Barbara. Are there any questions.

8
9 (No comments)

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
12 questions.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like the
17 idea of that -- I don't like the idea actually, I like
18 my old way of doing things, just get your backpack out
19 and go hunting, but now you can map out your hunt
20 online.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you did
25 that, Barbara, does that put a record that you've been
26 hunting in the Park?

27
28 MS. CELLARIUS: No, what it does is it
29 allows you to have -- and I don't have -- I don't have
30 a phone that's this smart but my understanding is that
31 if you download the maps and put them on your
32 smartphone then it will then show you where you are and
33 where you are in relationship to the boundary of the
34 Game Management Unit, or the boundary of the RM291 hunt
35 area. So it's really to sort of help you understand,
36 you know, if we have -- say if we have people hunting
37 under State regulations they can hunt in the Preserve
38 but not in the Park, it will help them understand where
39 they are in relationship to those boundaries.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that
42 different than HuntX.

43
44 (Teleconference interference -
45 participants not muted)

46
47 MS. CELLARIUS: There are a lot of
48 commercial -- there are commercial products out there,
49 this is just a Park product that provides that kind of
50

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1 information. And you can go in and you can make
2 customized maps, we made sure that it has current land
3 status, the location of easements, the location of our
4 trails, so there might be other ways to get that
5 information. It's just something that the Park is
6 providing as a service for our visitors as well.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
9 Barbara. Any other questions.

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, next is
14 Mary with Yukon-Charley National Park and Preserve, or
15 Preserve, no Park.

16

17 MS. OKADA: No Park.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right, okay.

20

21 MR. GLANZ: (Indiscernible - away from
22 mic)

23

24 MS. OKADA: Madame Chair. Council
25 members. This is Marcy Okada, Subsistence Coordinator
26 for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and you can
27 find our update behind Tab 11. And I can highlight
28 this update. I don't have to go through it in detail
29 because I think most of you folks have already looked
30 at it.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

33

34 MS. OKADA: We do have an Eagle
35 subsistence working group and we continue to meet
36 regularly. Our last meeting was in October. We'll
37 have another meeting in April and it's to provide
38 updates and provide an avenue for discussion between
39 Eagle, Eagle Village and Park Service management Staff.

40

41 Moose studies continue. There's
42 currently 32 collared adult cow moose in the Preserve
43 Unit, it's an ongoing five year study and it's to
44 better understand moose survival and recruitment.
45 It'll be interesting because they plan on surveying
46 these collared moose this spring and given the deep
47 snow year that we've had this winter it'll be
48 interesting to see those results and then hopefully
49 share them with you at your next meeting.

50

0287

1 Going on to the Fortymile Caribou Herd.
2 There's a joint project between researchers from
3 University of Montana, Bureau of Land Management,
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Yukon-Charley
5 Rivers National Preserve. it's looking at summer diets
6 of caribou from the Fortymile Herd. One thing that's
7 interesting is -- that this study has shown that
8 despite the strong urge that caribou have to spend time
9 foraging on shrubs in the summertime, insect harassment
10 proves to be a detriment during warm summer months and
11 it really affects the caribou as they're trying to put
12 on some weight on good shrub forage.

13

14 We continue to monitor wolves in the
15 Preserve. As we speak our biologists are currently in
16 the field collaring wolves and they continue this study
17 in order to evaluate how wolf deaths in the pack
18 affects pack structure and productivity and continue to
19 identifying pup rearing sites within the Preserve.

20

21 And then lastly dall sheep. Our
22 biologists are scheduled to do a dall sheep survey this
23 summer. The last survey was conducted in 2018 and so
24 we're long due for another survey.

25

26 That's it, Madame Chair.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks,
29 Marcy. Any questions.

30

31 (No comments)

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks again,
34 Marcy. And next is Denali National Park Preserve, Pat.

35

36 MS. BORG: Yes, hi, this is Bridget
37 Borg, I will be doing the update for Pat today.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

40

41 MS. BORG: Can you all hear me?

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can hear,
44 go ahead.

45

46 MS. BORG: Okay, great. So thank you,
47 Madame Chair, and members of the Council. So my name
48 is Bridget Borg and I'm a Wildlife Biologist for Denali
49 National Park and I work with Pat Owen. I see that you

50

0288

1 have the information in a report under Tab 13. I will
2 provide a little bit more information about the status
3 of our sheep surveys and sheep population today, and if
4 you want an updated report with that information
5 included I shared that with Amy Craver as well.

6
7 So I'm going to hit a few of the
8 highlights here since you guys have a lot of the
9 information already available. The Park Road will be
10 closed at approximately Mile 43 this summer due to a
11 landslide at the Pretty Rocks Corner near Polychrome.
12 This opportunity means that about half of the Park
13 Road, which is the main access of Denali National Park
14 will be closed to all traffic. Given this scenario for
15 reduced traffic we are planning to do a study on the
16 behaviors of grizzly bears and we will be placing 10 to
17 20 collars on grizzly bears on the western portion of
18 the Park, this is the portion that won't have any
19 traffic during this time period, in order to understand
20 a little bit more about the use of that road side
21 habitat in the absence of traffic and compare during
22 traffic periods.

23
24 Moving on to caribou, this past fall we
25 had a preliminary fall herd estimate of just over
26 2,200, which is down from the previous year of 2,400
27 and -- and approximately 50 -- calf survival this fall
28 was low, below our long-term study average and for the
29 second year in a row cow mortality was also notably
30 high. So the estimated mortality rate was about 23
31 percent for adult females which is the second highest
32 rate of mortality and notably greater than the long-
33 term study average from 1986 to 2016 of about 11
34 percent.

35
36 Wolves are up to 120 wolves in packs
37 that mainly reside within the Park, 121 wolves in 12
38 packs. We have one pack up to a -- up to 22 wolves
39 which is a pretty remarkable pack size. That happens
40 when we have conditions such as we've had in recent
41 winters where we have the deep snow that allows for a
42 little bit easier travel for wolves and hinders the
43 mobility and access to nutrition for some of their
44 ungulate prey, such as the moose, caribou and dall
45 sheep. So considering those conditions that we've had
46 in recent years, sheep are also an area of concern, I
47 know, across the state and with -- in our Park as well.
48 So we -- you know, the long-term monitoring of these
49 sheep populations on Park lands has been accomplished
50

0289

1 in recent years through aerial surveys using distant
2 sampling methods starting in around 2009. Using these
3 methods we've seen periods of time where there's a few
4 large declines, like related to these winter and snow
5 conditions, so if we think back to the winter of 2012
6 and 2013 we had a very late spring snow off date, which
7 had impacts to sheep and particularly land survival and
8 we seen corresponding declines from that. We've also
9 had some challenging conditions for sheep in recent
10 years, 2019 was a particularly cold winter, 2020 we had
11 another late March snow with a late spring snow off.
12 And our preliminary estimates from the 2020 aerial
13 survey indicate a potential population decrease from
14 that. So, you know, our estimate in 2019 were over
15 2,000 for the total population which went down to just
16 about 1,000 in 2020. That drop should be interpreted
17 with some caution because there are some, I think,
18 improvements we can make in the methodology that we're
19 using and there's a project that's now funded by the
20 Park Service that will start in the fiscal year 2024 to
21 address some of those issues and to improve our survey
22 design, particularly as we suspect as populations
23 continue to decline, you know, finding animals when
24 they are at low density can require a little bit more
25 focused approach and so hopefully and so hopefully
26 we'll be able to address some of that as well. We do
27 have a survey planned for this summer for sheep with
28 the hopes of getting the aerial resources that we need
29 to accomplish this.

30
31 And that is the end of my report and
32 I'm happy to take any questions.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
35 your report. Are there any questions.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
40 thank you for the report. Next would be the BLM, Jim
41 Herriges.

42
43 MR. HERRIGES: Good afternoon, Madame
44 Chair. I'm Jim Herriges, Wildlife Biologist with the
45 BLM Eastern Interior Field Office. Are you hearing me
46 okay.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

49
50

0290

1 MR. HERRIGES: Thanks. I'll just
2 briefly highlight some of the items in the written
3 reports that's in the supplemental materials and add a
4 few additional notes.

5
6 Our office is in the office of
7 completing environmental assessments for the Steese and
8 White Mountain travel management plans. We're
9 currently revising two alternatives to address concerns
10 by ADF&G about limitations to their ability to achieve
11 moose and caribou harvest goals and we will produce the
12 final assessments hopefully soon, in the next month or
13 so.

14
15 The Army is preparing an environmental
16 impact statement to evaluate the continued military use
17 of the Yukon and the Donnelly training areas near
18 Fairbanks and Delta. They use areas around BLM lands
19 that are currently withdrawn for military training to
20 2026. BLM is a cooperating agency on the EIS and will
21 utilize the information in the EIS to conduct the
22 ANILCA Section .810 analysis evaluating the effects of
23 the renewal on subsistence uses.

24
25 A quick update on the Fortymile hunt
26 and Fortymile movements this winter. Much of the herd
27 moved farther to the west in October as far as we've
28 seen in the radio collar, some as far as Minto in the
29 (Indiscernible) Mountains, where a few hung out all
30 winter. Most seemed to return to the White Mountains
31 where they've been concentrated all winter. Notably a
32 few of the GPS collars also moved way to the southeast
33 into the Yukon in early winter so at that time there
34 were caribou, or much of the winter there's been
35 caribous in this herd spread out at over 300 miles
36 distance from each other so they're definitely pushing
37 the edges of their range outwards. Total winter
38 harvest as of the 25th of February was 1,550 caribou,
39 so on top of the fall harvest of approximately 2,500
40 brings the total for the year at roughly 4,000 caribou.

41
42 And Marcy mentioned the video collar
43 study. There were a few other notable findings of that
44 study, which the University of Montana has worked on as
45 part of a BLM funded cooperative agreement that caribou
46 spend about 70 percent of their time eating and
47 (indiscernible - muffled), mostly eating, not too
48 surprising for (indiscernible - muffled) I guess. And
49 in terms of the diet, videos gave a more detailed
50

0291

1 picture of the diet than previous fecal pellet
2 information did changing our understanding somewhat.
3 Both methods showed that lichen or -- predominant
4 summer forage across the summer, followed by shrub,
5 which was mostly willow, videos, however showed a
6 greater use of shrubs and a lower use of lichen than
7 did the fecal pellet analysis and this makes a little
8 bit more sense given that the shrubs have a much higher
9 protein content and caribou have high protein needs in
10 summer. Lichen are slow growing, and slow to recover
11 from grazing so this may have a little bit more
12 positive implications for eventually recovering animal
13 nutrition levels from the recent population highs. And
14 there's links to the paper and a compilation of
15 interesting video clips in the written report.

16
17 And a couple responses to some RAC
18 member comments or questions made earlier. In answer
19 to Don Woodruff's questions about the effects on range
20 conditions of the recent high use of Fortymile Herd of
21 the Steese and the White Mountains area, we did know
22 that lichens -- we don't have a definitive answer, but
23 we do know that lichens, at least, are more depleted in
24 the middle of the range and in the more peripherally
25 areas, such as the Steese area. There's undoubtedly
26 been a reduction in available lichen in the Steese area
27 from the generally high levels of use by the herd in
28 recent years. But we do have some work that indicates
29 that lichen cover and availability remains generally
30 high in that area. We are hoping to remeasure some
31 vegetation monitoring plots this summer so we'll have a
32 little bit better feel for the answer to that question.
33 And also the summer range is thought to likely be more
34 of a limiting factor for the herd at this time than
35 winter range. And the herd hasn't used the Steese
36 Highway area prior to August until the last couple
37 years and so that's kind of a -- our best guess is to
38 the answer to that question, I guess, or my best guess.

39
40 An update on the Draanjik and Little
41 Black River moose telemetry project. The repo --
42 completing the deployment, or actually the Yukon-
43 Charley capture crew is completing the deployment of
44 remaining radio collars this week and last. And I
45 would note that the moose collared last year seemed to
46 be concentrated much more heavily this winter on the
47 winter bottoms than last winter. And it's likely as a
48 response -- response to deeper snows and that may help
49 Andy Bassich's interpretation of what he was seeing on
50

0292

1 -- near Eagle. And I'll also note that one of the
2 moose collared in the Little Black River is currently
3 hanging out out on the Yukon River in the middle of
4 Yukon-Charley, so interesting side note there.

5

6 That concludes my presentation, thank
7 you, Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
10 Jim. Any questions of Jim, BLM.

11

12 MR. GLANZ: I have one.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

15

16 MR. GLANZ: Jim, Bill Glanz here.
17 Anyway, are they still going to do the -- weigh the
18 calves again this spring, I hope, what's going on with
19 that. In other words, I'm wondering if you're taking
20 5,000 out of the herd and they were trying to get
21 10,000, is that alleviating some of the problem or are
22 we going to have another shoot 'em up this coming fall
23 again, you know.

24

25 MR. HERRIGES: Well, yeah, Fish and
26 Game is planning to continue to capture and weigh both
27 yearlings this spring and they're continuing their calf
28 mortality studies so they will be weighing calves at
29 birth basically as well as they also weigh calves of
30 the year -- some calves of the year in the fall. So
31 they are continuing all that work for the time being
32 and hopefully that will give us a better picture. The
33 question which we don't know is, and I kind of alluded
34 to in my diet talk, is how soon a reduction in
35 population level is going to translate into increased
36 nutritional -- those indices of nutritional conditions
37 into increase and that is kind of the -- a big question
38 right now and so we'll see, I guess.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: Okay. That's what I was
41 wondering what they were going to try to do this fall.
42 And we still got a lot of caribou hanging around the
43 Central area which anybody can tell by the radio stuff.
44 But, anyway, thank you, Jim.

45

46 MR. HERRIGES: Thanks.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
49 questions.

50

0293

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
2 Don.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
5 Don.

6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, Jim, thank you for
8 that report, it was a good report. Do you think that
9 we're approaching the carrying capacity of 50, 55,000
10 caribou for the Fortymile Herd, or do you think that
11 the reduction from 80,000 has put us in a reasonable
12 place for herd sustainability?

13
14 MR. HERRIGES: That is kind of
15 venturing into the realm of I would say Fish and Game
16 management. They're -- we mostly rely on them to
17 basically, you know, set the herd quotas and we try and
18 manage subsistence harvest within that. But -- but I
19 don't want to totally avoid your question so yeah the
20 hope is that because it appears that the herd was above
21 carrying capacity in 2017 when the last census took
22 place, and has both declined naturally and, or it is
23 believed to have declined naturally as well as some --
24 had some help by hunters to something in the 50,000
25 range or possibly below that that should alleviate much
26 of that range pressure and -- but what I -- there is --
27 but nobody knows whether the herd will continue
28 declining for years, and that depends a little bit on
29 exactly how that range recovers. So most caribou herds
30 decline for a period of years after they started a
31 decline and maybe the -- the hope is that the
32 reductions have kind of like sped that process -- have
33 got the herd to a sustainable level. But the -- but
34 the population levels when the herd -- or the -- those
35 indices when the herd was at, you know, approximately
36 50,000 were -- were much better than they have been
37 recently so -- so it -- at some point in time in the
38 future we should see a return to similar nutritional
39 conditions, we just don't know when.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Bill
42 has a question.

43
44 MR. GLANZ: No, I don't have a
45 question, Jim, I just have a comment. Because remember
46 for years before we organized the caribou boards -- or
47 bringing the caribou up, they were talking about three
48 to 400,000 used to run that range, that was totally
49 impossible because we haven't lost any of that range,
50

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1 sure we got a burn in '04 but that'd alleviate a bunch
2 of the -- but there were never three or 400,000, I
3 would really doubt that for sure. But anyway thanks
4 Jim for your work.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

7

8 MR. BASSICH: Sue, this is Andy.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, go
11 ahead.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, quick question for
14 Jim. Is the -- how close is the collaboration between
15 ADF&G and the Canadian counterpart on the caribou
16 migrations. Because I -- you know, for about two or
17 three years when we were really concerned about the
18 high numbers of caribou -- we saw a lot of caribou in
19 the Eagle area crossing over into the Ogilvie range and
20 probably mixing some with the herds over there in
21 Canada, I believe they call that the Porcupine Herd
22 over there, but what I witnessed, firsthand, from my
23 perspective, was we saw a lot of caribou moving over
24 into Canada in the fall but I never saw hardly any
25 caribou coming out of that country in the spring to
26 return back into Alaska lands. And so I'm just curious
27 if they saw an increase of some caribou in the past
28 couple of years to their herds over in Canada or not,
29 and, if so, that might also be impacting what we
30 consider to be a decline in the herd. So just a point
31 of observation and -- and I don't know if biologists
32 have talked about that at all but it would be an
33 interesting thing to look at.

34

35 That's all, Madame Chair, thank you.

36

37 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, Madame Chair, I --
38 the Yukon biologists and Fish and Game and BLM
39 collaborate pretty extensively and get help from the
40 Park Service also and the -- I think that if any
41 movement to other herds would have happened that -- in
42 those movements that we would have noticed it in VHF
43 radio collars and GPS collars and to my knowledge that
44 has not happened. So I don't think that is a concern.
45 More likely, and I think this -- I'm trying to
46 remember, it seems like the caribou generally come back
47 a little bit farther south than they've gone over into
48 the Ogilives but I could kind of take a look at and
49 kind of check on that for you.

50

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1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay,
2 anything else.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 (Teleconference interference -
7 participants not muted)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, hearing
10 no more questions, the next is Alaska Department of
11 Fish and Game. Thank you, Jim.

12
13 (Pause)

14
15 MS. STUBY: Hello, this is Lisa Stuby,
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of
17 Sportfish. I did give my Nome, Beaver Creek grayling
18 project update yesterday during new business but if
19 you'd like I can go ahead and give it again.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
22 totally not necessary, thank you. And are there any
23 other Fish and Game people that have a report.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
28 Hearing none, next up is the Office of Subsistence
29 Management report, Scott.

30
31 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
32 Katya.....

33
34 MR. AYERS: All right, Madame Chair.

35
36 MS. WESSELS:Wessels. Oh, Scott
37 are you there.

38
39 MR. AYERS: I am still here, Katya,
40 I've got plenty of time now, thank you very much.

41
42 MS. WESSELS: Okay, thank you.

43
44 MR. AYERS: Madame Chair, if you're
45 ready.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, we are.

48
49 MR. AYERS: Okay. Well, I'll wrap
50

0296

1 things up here today. Thank you, Madame Chair and the
2 members of the Council for your patience with all of
3 the information that I've presented today. I'll close
4 out my comments at this meeting with the OSM report.

5

6 On behalf of OSM, I want to thank all
7 Council members for the work that you do on behalf of
8 your communities and user groups. We value your
9 experience and the contributions of your knowledge and
10 experiences to the regulatory process.

11

12 I've got a couple of different things I
13 want to talk to you, and I'm just going to kind of give
14 you a heading and we'll go through them.

15

16 Teleconferences.

17

18 We are holding all 10 winter 2022
19 Regional Advisory Council meetings via teleconference.
20 The DOI guidelines advises that people avoid travel and
21 refrain from meeting in person to minimize risk and
22 help prevent the spread of Covid19. OSM received
23 direction from the Department of Interior that no
24 Federal Advisory Committee Act Committee meetings would
25 be held in person during winter 2022 meeting cycle,
26 which includes all of the Regional Advisory Councils.
27 The Federal Subsistence Management Program recognizes
28 that in-person meetings are preferable, however, we
29 must follow guidance and hold all meetings via
30 teleconference for now. We thank you again for being
31 willing to participate in the lengthy teleconferences
32 and appreciate your patience as we deal with the
33 various technical issues that arise.

34

35 OSM Staff changes.

36

37 We are very pleased to announce the
38 following OSM Staffing changes that have occurred since
39 your last Council meeting in fall 2021.

40

41 I have been hired as the OSM Fisheries
42 Division Supervisor. I worked as a Fisheries Biologist
43 for OSM several years before taking another job with
44 another Fish and Wildlife Service Program and I'm very
45 happy to be back.

46

47 Within the Fisheries Division at OSM,
48 both Jarred Stone and Cory Graham have both been
49 promoted. Two additional Fisheries Biologists, Kevin
50

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1 Foley and Justin Koller have been hired. The Fisheries
2 Division is now fully staffed.

3
4 In January, Sherri Gould-Fehrs, OSM's
5 Administrative Support Assistant was temporarily
6 promoted to the ARD Secretary position.

7
8 And Kayla McKinney stepped up to
9 temporarily serve as Subsistence Outreach Coordinator.

10
11 Within the Anthropology Division, Liz
12 Williams and Jason Roberts were hired. Liz worked for
13 OSM about 12 years ago and is returning.

14
15 OSM is pleased to welcome three newly
16 hired Subsistence Council Coordinators, Nissa Bate
17 Pilcher, Leigh Honig, and Brooke McDavid, all with a
18 wealth of knowledge and experience in working with
19 rural users and communities as well as Alaska
20 subsistence issues.

21
22 We bid a fond farewell to
23 Administrative Staff Catherine Avery and Ricky Cabugao.

24
25 The OSM Team continues to work on
26 rebuilding our capacity and hope to advertise positions
27 in our regulatory and administrative support functions
28 soon.

29
30 Next is DOI and USDA conduct listening
31 sessions on Federal Subsistence Policy.

32
33 U.S. Departments of Interior and
34 Agriculture conducted virtual listening sessions and
35 Tribal consultations on January 10th, 20th, 21st and
36 28th, 2022 on Federal Subsistence Policy. The
37 Secretaries requested input from Tribes, Tribal
38 consortia, and Alaska Native Organizations and
39 Corporations. The DOI Senior Advisor for Alaskan
40 Affairs and Strategic Priorities met with Federal
41 Subsistence Board members prior to the consultations to
42 introduce Board members and Department of Interior
43 leadership and to provide Board members with an update
44 on DOI activities related to subsistence management.

45
46 RealID for travel to Council meetings.

47
48 Over the past two years we have been
49 reminding Council members about the change in
50

0298

1 requirements for IDS at airports. Beginning May 3rd of
2 2023, every air traveler will need to present a RealID-
3 complaint driver's license, or other acceptable form of
4 identification, like a passport, to fly within the
5 United States. This is applicable even when you fly on
6 small Bush carriers. Please note that all Council
7 members will need to make sure they have the required
8 RealID for the fall 2023 Council meetings.

9
10 Lawsuit with the State of Alaska.

11
12 As you've been previously briefed, on
13 August 10th, 2020 the State of Alaska filed a lawsuit
14 against the Federal Subsistence Board after it adopted
15 Emergency Special Action WSA19-14. This special action
16 allowed the Village of Kake to engage in a community
17 harvest of up to four bull moose and 10 male Sitka
18 black-tailed deer. Also included in the lawsuit was
19 temporary special action WSA20-3 which closed Federal
20 public lands in Units 13A and 13B to moose and caribou
21 hunting by non-Federally-qualified users for the 2020-
22 2022 regulatory cycles. As part of the lawsuit the
23 State asked the court to issue two preliminary
24 injunctions. One to prevent the Unit 13 closure from
25 taking effect and another vacating the Kake hunt and
26 prohibiting the Board from allowing any additional
27 emergency hunts related to the impacts of Covid19.

28
29 On December 3rd, 2021, the U.S.
30 District Court denied the State's request for a
31 declaratory and permanent injunctive relief finding in
32 favor of the Federal Subsistence Board on both matters.

33
34 The court found that, first, it lacks
35 jurisdiction over the issues associated with the Kake
36 hunt because that portion of the State's claims are
37 moot. And, two, the Federal Subsistence Board's
38 decision to close Unit 13 and 13B to non-subsistence
39 was both legally permissible and supported by the
40 information on record. The State recently filed an
41 appeal of the District Court's decision but the Ninth
42 Circuit has not yet set a schedule for briefing.

43
44 Art Contest.

45
46 The Federal Subsistence Management
47 Program is sponsoring its annual art contest for all
48 students in Alaska, grades K through 12. The deadline
49 for submission is April 1st, 2022. This year entities
50

0299

1 [sic] may focus on either subsistence, wildlife or fish
2 and two winners will be selected. The winners artwork
3 will be published on either the cover of the 2022 to
4 2024 subsistence management regulations for the harvest
5 of wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska book, or
6 the 2023 to 2025 subsistence management regulations for
7 the harvest fish and shellfish on Federal public lands
8 in Alaska book, both distributed statewide. The art
9 contest offers an exciting opportunity for students to
10 express their talent and creativity while sharing their
11 knowledge of subsistence resources. You can find
12 directions on how to submit your artwork and further
13 information on our website.

14
15 I'd be happy to answer any questions
16 from any of these materials that I just provided.

17
18 Thank you, again, Madame Chair, and
19 Council members for letting me get through all of that
20 material.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
23 Council members, do you have any questions.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I actually
28 have a point of clarification. When you talk about
29 teleconferences, you said we are holding all 10 2022
30 Regional Advisory Council meetings by teleconference,
31 and I think you said winter -- oh, yeah, it says
32 winter, I'm sorry, I'm reading this -- right now is
33 winter 2022, correct.

34
35 MR. AYERS: Yes, that is accurate.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
38 don't know what is happening in the fall of 2022 just
39 yet.

40
41 MR. AYERS: That is correct. We have
42 not yet received guidance on the fall.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
45 questions.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, thank
50

0300

1 you.

2

3

MR. AYERS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

4

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank you for that. Future meeting dates. We're going to confirm 2022 meeting dates, the fall one, which is under Tab 15, it's the first page. We have already penciled in the 5th and 6th of October and, Bill, did you have something.

MR. GLANZ: Yes. The problem is if we hold this meeting on -- if we go to Fort Yukon or wherever we're going to have it, on Wednesday and Thursday, there's Andy Bassich, me and Don, there's a few other ones that -- well, most of us, actually, if we fly in on a commercial -- not commercial, but like Warbelos or something like that, the last time we had a meeting on Wednesday, Thursday and they flew us back to Fairbanks on Friday, I sat in there until the following Wednesday because there was no airplanes flying. And so it really -- it's really better to go to Tuesday/Wednesday to have our meetings, that way Thursday, if it's bad weather, we'd get stuck somewhere maybe Friday we can get the heck out of there. But it's bad news to have our meetings where it ends on a Thursday where we have to commute back to Fairbanks and we get to Fairbanks and there's no plane flying that day, they're not going to fly Saturday and Sunday because there's no air transport to Central and Eagle and some of the other villages on that weekend. So I was stuck there at the Extended Stay, I think. I can't remember who was our Coordinator at that time, but I had to keep calling them and they kept having me stay another day at the hotel, another day at the hotel. So I'd like to try to eliminate Thursday or Friday meetings if it's possible for us because only a few of us live in the Interior where you can get a plan any day.

So, anyway, guys, that's my wish.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So your suggestion is Tuesday, Wednesday.

MR. GLANZ: Yes.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is there any objection to moving our meeting Tuesday,

0301

1 Wednesday, October 4th and 5th.

2

3 (Teleconference interference -
4 participants not muted)

5

6 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
7 Katya.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Katya.

10

11 MS. WESSELS: I guess I have a question
12 to the Council members. Wouldn't this be an issue on
13 the front end then for the members from Eagle because
14 they will need to fly from Eagle on Monday and they
15 probably won't be able to make it there on Tuesday to
16 Fort Yukon so that -- which means that they would need
17 to fly from Eagle on Friday and spend the whole weekend
18 in Fairbanks. I don't know if you can make it in one
19 day all the way from Eagle to Fort Yukon, I don't know
20 if those flights connect. We have not looked at that
21 as of late so I'm just asking Council members what they
22 know.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: I have to agree with you
27 100 percent on that because we don't know what weather
28 is going to prevail there so like you said -- whatever,
29 Tuesday, Wednesday, I don't know, but.....

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's hard
32 to get in also.

33

34 MR. GLANZ: Yes, it is, hard to get in.
35 Only I can drive in but most of the other members
36 can't, Andy and them can't drive in, and Don.

37

38 (Teleconference interference -
39 participants not muted)

40

41 MS. WESSELS: Madame Chair, this is
42 Katya. If you change the location of your meeting
43 because if we're allowed to have the meeting in person
44 then, you know, it might be easier to have the first
45 meeting in Fairbanks. This is also just a suggestion.

46

47 (Teleconference interference -
48 participants not muted)

49

50

0302

1 REPORTER: Okay, before you go, Sue,
2 hang on, hang on. I'm getting a lot of tapping on the
3 line and I don't know where it's coming from but it's
4 making it break up. So whoever's still left on the
5 line, if you guys could check your phones, mute them
6 please, quickly, so we can, you know, finish up the
7 meeting, I'd appreciate that.

8
9 Go ahead, Sue.

10
11 (Teleconference interference -
12 participants not muted)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, thank
15 you, Tina. I can hear it too, it's pretty loud. All
16 right, so just to help out here. I believe at our last
17 meeting when we set this to be at Fort Yukon, we also
18 had an alternate place of Fairbanks.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: Yes, that was, yeah.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
23 just -- are you adamant you want to change it to 4/5?

24
25 MR. GLANZ: No, it was -- I mean if we
26 can use an alternate or whatever.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So what I
29 mean is if this meeting occurred in Fort Yukon, do you
30 want to change the date to Tuesday, Wednesday instead
31 of Wednesday, Thursday?

32
33 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, either way, it's
34 going to -- like you said, it'll work out, probably yes
35 Tuesday, Wednesday could at least.....

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
38 guess you could say, okay, if the planes don't get in
39 and we're going to Fort Yukon, I mean I think it's
40 happened to Andy and several.....

41
42 MR. GLANZ: Oh, yeah, it has.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:in the
45 past, you don't make the meeting.

46
47 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, right. Yes, exactly.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you have
50

0303

1 that to look at. So I guess I want a feeling from what
2 do you want, which way do you want to go.

3

4 MR. JAGOW: Would it be better to have
5 the date.....

6

7 MS. CELLARIUS: Madame Chair.

8

9 MR. GLANZ: Hold on, we got someone
10 here too.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie
13 Jagow, would you ask that question again and then we'll
14 go back to -- was that you, Katya.

15

16 MS. CELLARIUS: It was Barbara.

17

18 MS. WESSELS: No, it wasn't me.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay,
21 hang on. Charlie.

22

23 MR. JAGOW: Wouldn't it be better to
24 just leave it as is so you can definitely make it into
25 the meeting and pretty good chance you'll make it home
26 rather than maybe not just make it into the meeting.

27

28 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, it's half a dozen to
29 one or the other.....

30

31 (Various people talking in Fairbanks)

32

33 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, excuse me. That's
34 right, Charlie, I agree with you, it's a half a dozen
35 to one and six to the other so.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you okay
38 letting it stay as it is then.

39

40 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, we'll just keep it as
41 is, if I get stuck here again for four days, or five,
42 that's just the way life is.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was just
45 a bad deal that time. As I recall we got stuck in Fort
46 Yukon.....

47

48 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

49

50

0304

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:first.

2

3 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Yeah. And then we
4 got stuck in -- and everybody else got to go home.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it
7 was two days in Fort Yukon.

8

9 MR. GLANZ: It was three days.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: In Fort -- we
12 were stuck.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, we were stuck.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, we
17 couldn't get out of Fort Yukon.

18

19 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, we couldn't do
20 anything, and the liquor store was closed, you talk
21 about bad deal.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: At any rate,
26 I don't foresee that as.....

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Bring a just in case jug.

29

30 (Laughter)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, it's
33 good to have a little laughter at the end of the day
34 here. Yeah, I guess we can just say that we don't
35 foresee that as the norm.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Okay. We'll just stick
38 with what days we got then, we'll just try that.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that okay
41 with everyone.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Yes.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right,
48 did I hear someone want to say something else.

49

50

0305

1 MS. CELLARIUS: It was Barbara
2 Cellarius.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we're
5 going to stick with -- yes, did you have something to
6 say about our dates?

7
8 MS. CELLARIUS: I just wanted to remind
9 you that the Wrangell-St. Elias has -- SRC has October
10 3 and 4 as their backup dates.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13
14 MS. CELLARIUS: For your information.
15 But it sounds like.....

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, which
18 would be perfect for getting it before our meeting.
19 Barbara, remind me, what was the other date, we
20 had.....

21
22 MS. CELLARIUS: It was September
23 28th.....

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:3 and 4
26 -- okay.

27
28 MS. CELLARIUS:September 28 and
29 29 or October 3/4 were -- you were trying very hard to
30 meet before the RAC meeting.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's
33 happening.

34
35 MS. CELLARIUS: Yeah, anyway. If you
36 moved the RAC meeting up it might be tough so I was
37 just making that point. So I was just making that
38 point but it sounds like you're fine.

39
40 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, this
41 is Katya.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

44
45 MS. WESSELS: If the meeting is still
46 on the 5th and 6th you will probably be traveling on
47 the 4th, and if it's in Ft. Yukon, you might be
48 traveling on the 3rd and 4th of October.

49
50

0306

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
2 speaking to Sue, specifically, because of the SRC
3 meeting?

4
5 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, I'm speaking to
6 you, Madame Chair, yes, because of the SRC meeting.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So if
9 the meeting.....

10
11 MR. BASSICH: Sue, Andy.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, Andy,
14 go ahead.

15
16 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, just a question, I
17 can't really remember. You know the other possibility
18 for making logistics work on a Monday flight would be,
19 I don't know if OSM has been given the authority to
20 charter a plane but if a chartered plane came into
21 Eagle picked up Don and myself and then went to Circle,
22 picked up Bill, or Central or wherever, and then flew
23 to Ft. Yukon, there might actually be a cost savings
24 there and then for their, you know, return flight back
25 to either through Fairbanks or that way. I don't know
26 if that's possible but logistically it would be no
27 problem to make it there in one day as long as the
28 weather is cooperating, if that's a possibility, but I
29 don't know how the Feds work in that realm. Just a
30 suggestion.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, that's
33 a good one.

34
35 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, Madame Chair, I
36 have a -- you know, something to contribute to this.
37 This is Katya.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

40
41 MS. WESSELS: Yeah, you know, thank you
42 Member Bassich for this suggestion. You know, of
43 course, it's possible that we can charter an airplane
44 but I just want to remind this Council that we haven't
45 done travel now for two years so there are all kinds of
46 rules and regulations that have changed. We are going
47 to be reinstating all this travel and it's going to be
48 a lot of, you know, work, so it's just going to be very
49 complicated to do a charter on the first -- for the
50

0307

1 first meeting back in-person. I'm just being honest
2 with you that, you know, we might not be able to pull
3 it off for this. So just having a meeting in
4 Fairbanks, if the Council chooses to do it, might make
5 it a little bit easier for the logistics to have a
6 successful first meeting back together.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, I think
11 it is logistically easier not to have to go out to a
12 village when you're flying from Fairbanks.

13

14 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it just
17 makes my travel longer. Yeah, and I guess I take that
18 suggestion, do you want to plan -- do you all agree or
19 not agree to let's have Fairbanks for our next meeting
20 in-person meeting.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Yes. Yep.

23

24 MR. JAGOW: How about Fairbanks in the
25 fall and then Fort Yukon this time next year.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's fine.
28 I.....

29

30 MR. GLANZ: Well, it's not in stone so
31 if we can do Fort Yukon, I say let's go with Fort -- or
32 Fairbanks, I mean.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I think
35 we had Fort Yukon as the one we chose and then we were
36 going to an alternate as Fairbanks, and I think that's
37 where it would end up going.

38

39 MR. WRIGHT: First it was Arctic
40 Village, then it went to Fort Yukon, now we're in
41 Fairbanks.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's
44 all because of the -- I see your hand, yeah, it's all
45 because of how these fisheries and game -- we want to
46 be in the village whenever it's the most important
47 thing.....

48

49 MR. WRIGHT: I understand, yeah.

50

0308

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:for --
2 Linda, go ahead.

3
4 MS. EVANS: I think the reason we chose
5 Fairbanks [sic] was to be in the village, to be with
6 our constituents because this is the fisheries meeting,
7 right.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

10
11 MS. EVANS: Yeah.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You said
14 Fairbanks but you meant Fort Yukon.

15
16 MS. EVANS: I mean Fort Yukon.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, uh-huh.
19 Yeah, uh-huh. So.....

20
21 MS. EVANS: I would prefer to stick with
22 that.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Stick with
25 Fort Yukon and then Fairbanks as an alternative.

26
27 MR. JAGOW: I guess the question would
28 be whether it would be more important to be there in
29 the fall or the winter next time.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's a
32 fisheries proposal and it's the Yukon River and in Fort
33 Yukon it's very important to be there on the fisheries
34 and then it's -- it's wildlife and we end up in Arctic
35 Village mostly. So we're not changing anything, let's
36 go -- everyone agree that it's Eastern -- October 5th
37 and 6th, Fort Yukon with Fairbanks as alternative.

38
39 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
42 disagree.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Or forever
47 hold your peace.

48
49 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

50

0309

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is the
2 winter 2023 meeting. Did Western Interior make theirs
3 already and Southcentral.
4

5 MS. WESSELS: Yes, Madame Chair, the
6 Western Interior and Southcentral chose their dates.
7 And you will -- you don't have it, of course, in your
8 calendars there in your meeting materials but the open
9 period is between February 21st and April 7th. The two
10 weeks that have already been taken by two Councils is
11 March 13th through 17th, and that's when Southcentral
12 meets, during that week, and then the other week that's
13 taken is April 3rd through 7th, and that's one of the
14 Councils that meets that week is Western Interior. So
15 the week of February 21st, February 27th, March 6th,
16 March 20th and March 27th are open. Those are five
17 weeks that you can choose your dates from.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you
20 just give us the dates instead of the week because
21 they're not meeting all seven days.
22

23 MS. WESSELS: I'm just saying that
24 those weeks you can choose the dates. That you have
25 the calendar in front of you, you can see that -- you
26 can choose your dates during the week of February 21st,
27 February 27th, March 6th, March 20th and March 27th.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. At
30 this table we're saying March 7th and 8th and choose a
31 place.
32

33 MS. WESSELS: You can choose March 7th
34 and 8th if you -- if the Council decides to do that.
35 The one Council that meets this week -- oh, yep, you
36 know, your Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid, just
37 wrote to me, that will be an overlap for her because
38 she will also be Coordinator for Northwest Arctic
39 Council so she can't do that that week.
40

41 So your choices are February 21st week,
42 February 27th, March 20th and March 27th.
43

44 (Various people talking in Fairbanks)
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're just
47 looking at dates, I have no suggestions yet. I'm just
48 going to have to -- Katya, in all our times of doing
49 this we always have been given the two days and we can
50

0310

1 have two Council meetings on one week.

2

3 MS. WESSELS: Yes.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As long as

6 they're not -- yes. So that's why asked for those

7 days, I don't know why we can't know the two days.

8

9 MS. WESSELS: You want me to choose the

10 dates for you?

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, you're

13 not understanding what I'm saying. I'm saying what are

14 the dates Southcentral are meeting on that way and what

15 are the two days that Western Interior.....

16

17 MS. WESSELS: 16th and 17th of March.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, that's

20 what I want to know.

21

22 MS. WESSELS: Southcentral 16th and

23 17th of March. But you can't meet that week because

24 Bristol Bay is meeting March 14th through 15th.

25

26 MR. GLANZ: That's what we wanted to

27 know.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the

30 kind of stuff.....

31

32 MS. WESSELS: The.....

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we need

35 to know -- thank you. What was that overlap on March

36 7th and 8th, with the -- what Council.

37

38 MS. WESSELS: Northwest Arctic.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What days.

41

42 MR. WRIGHT: What day.

43

44 MS. WESSELS: Northwest Arctic meets

45 March 6th and 7th.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: Okay, now, we got something

48 figured out.

49

50

0311

1 (Pause)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we can
4 meet the 8th and 9th.

5

6 MS. WESSELS: No, you cannot, because
7 you have the same Coordinator with Northwest Arctic.

8

9 MR. WRIGHT: But they'll be done.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's travel.

12

13 MR. WRIGHT: Okay.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They need to
16 travel.

17

18 (Various people talking in Fairbanks)

19

20 MS. WESSELS: And also the preparation
21 logistics, it's too difficult for a Coordinator to
22 prepare for two meetings in one week.

23

24 MS. EVANS: Okay, moving down the line,
25 or up -- move up then, because we're.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
28 March 1 and 2. How is March 1 and 2.

29

30 MS. WESSELS: That would work for OSM.

31

32 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pick a place,
35 hum.

36

37 MR. GLANZ: Maybe we can go to Arctic
38 Village then.

39

40 MR. JAGOW: Is that during the
41 wildlife.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

44

45 MR. WRIGHT: Hawaii.

46

47 MR. GLANZ: Hawaii, yeah.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I like that

50

0312

1 idea.

2

3

MS. EVANS: That's a good one.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For two weeks. God Bless, Brooke, she just sent me what's on there already.

7

8

9

MS. EVANS: Oh.

10

11

12

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so March 1 and 2, where do you want to meet, Arctic Village, did I hear.

13

14

15

MR. GLANZ: I said that, yes.

16

17

18

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Two of you said that -- three of you said that.

19

20

MR. JAGOW: Sue, isn't it fisheries.

21

22

23

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it's the call for wildlife proposals.

24

25

MS. EVANS: I don't think so.

26

27

MR. JAGOW: No, okay.

28

29

MR. WRIGHT: That's why we.....

30

31

MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Yeah.

32

33

MS. EVANS: Oh, yeah.

34

35

MR. WRIGHT:wanted to meet in Arctic Village.

36

37

38

MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

39

40

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. So Arctic Village, what's your alternative.

41

42

43

MR. GLANZ: Fairbanks is.

44

45

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Arctic Village or Fairbanks.

46

47

48

MR. GLANZ: Whatever.....

49

50

0313

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everyone
2 agree.

3
4 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, well.....

5
6 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

7
8 MR. WRIGHT:if we have problems
9 then.....

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's an
12 alternative.

13
14 MR. WRIGHT:there you go.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There you go.
17 Okay.

18
19 MR. WRIGHT: Most of the time it'd be
20 the weather.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's March
23 1st and 2nd, Arctic Village with an alternative as
24 Fairbanks.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: All right.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If there's no
29 objection that will be our dates.

30
31 (No objection)

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And next on
34 the agenda is our closing comments. Anyone.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, Andy.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
39 Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
42 Just wanted to say good job to the Chair. I think the
43 meeting went quite well, there's always a few hiccups
44 but compared to the last meeting, a great improvement.

45
46 I also wanted to mention -- I can't
47 remember if there was really much discussion about
48 Vince Mathews retirement but I want to shout out to
49 Vince that really appreciate all the time and effort he
50

0314

1 put into our RAC over the years, and especially want to
2 thank him for the last couple of years trying to keep
3 the hunter ethics program alive. I know he and Katya
4 worked hard to keep that in the forefront and keep it
5 alive during the Covid. I really appreciate that, kind
6 of above and beyond. And I don't know if there's going
7 to be any formal recognition, but I did want to
8 recognize Vince for all the great service he gave us.

9
10 And once, again, I also wanted to -- I
11 don't know if any of you in Fairbanks have met Brooke
12 McDavid, who's hopefully going to be our new
13 Coordinator here to take the pressure off of Katya,
14 but, anyway, I've worked with Brooke in the Subsistence
15 Division with ADF&G over the years, with a lot of the
16 subsistence reporting and stuff, and found her to be
17 quite -- quite capable and pleasant to work with and I
18 really look forward to having her as our Coordinator.

19
20 And I think that's about all I had to
21 say other than I know it's -- the issues on the Yukon
22 River with fisheries are really tough. We've got a lot
23 of hard work to do, a lot of hard decisions to make and
24 I'm hoping we'll get there and it's just going to take
25 everybody kind of working together and communicating a
26 lot for us to come with a plan that allows for fish to
27 get up river to spawn, but also some sort of a small
28 harvest to keep the fish alive in the culture and in
29 people's world along the Yukon River. But I know it's
30 going to be a long time before the fish really rebound
31 well. But I think if we all work together and come up
32 with a good plan we can make it happen if we're willing
33 to commit for a long time.

34
35 That's all I had to say.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair, for a good
38 meeting.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
41 Andy. Other reports -- or closing comments, I'm sorry.

42
43 MR. GLANZ: Go ahead.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie
46 Wright, please -- is next, and then Bill.

47
48 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 I'd like to first thank all the Council members for
50

0315

1 your dedication, sacrifice in volunteering working on
2 these tough subjects like Andy said, the salmon's in a
3 bad place, we all work really hard -- up hill battle to
4 try to keep that wild stock in the river. And people
5 listening, I thank everybody for their concern with
6 conservation and doing all the hard work that people
7 have been doing along the river, the sacrifice, a
8 moratorium in the past, was really working hard to keep
9 the salmon in the river.

10

11 I'd like to thank the Chair for all
12 your hard work. Great meeting.

13

14 I'd like to thank Katya and the rest of
15 the crew at OSM for all you do for us.

16

17 And I'd also like to welcome Brooke
18 McDavid to the -- to her new position, we look forward
19 to working with you.

20

21 And I wish everybody safe travels on
22 their way home. Ana'Baasee, thank you guys for
23 everything. That's all, Madame Chair.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

26

27 Bill.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: Bill Glanz. I just want to
30 thank everybody that made it into the meeting here.
31 And we met -- got some new members and also very happy
32 to meet them. And I thank Katya and the OSM crew who
33 did a fine job another year for getting this all
34 together. And all I can do is just echo the thanks of
35 what Charles said there. So see everybody at the next
36 meeting. Bye.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Other closing
39 comments.

40

41 Linda.

42

43 MS. EVANS: This is Linda Evans. I'd
44 just like to thank everyone. I sure appreciated
45 hearing everybody's input and comments and happy to
46 hear all the reports from the different offices that
47 are all working toward the same goal as to trying to
48 provide subsistence to the people. This was a good
49 meeting and it's a long time to be sitting in a
50

0316

1 meeting, a couple days, but it was a good opportunity
2 to talk and discuss things that are very dear to our
3 hearts as subsistence users.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 MR. GLANZ: Sue, I.....

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
10 Council members.

11

12 MR. GLANZ:this just a repeat on
13 me, Bill Glanz. But I want to thank Marcy for setting
14 this up, and helping us to make this meeting, with us
15 coming together here.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, thanks,
18 Marcy.

19

20 MR. WRIGHT: Thanks for the coffee,
21 Marcy.

22

23 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, coffee and donuts.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, she's
26 been great. Anyone else.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, this is
29 Don.

30

31 MR. KOEHLER: Sue, this is Will, can
32 you hear me.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We'll
35 go with Don and then Will.

36

37 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
38 I think that the Council seems more engaged with this
39 meeting and I think it has to do with your leadership
40 and pulling some people together so that they could
41 share.

42

43 And I appreciate the fact that
44 everyone's trying to work together to solve these Yukon
45 River issues. And perhaps we'll get some chum in the
46 fall.

47

48 Thank you, Council members and the
49 Staff for helping us out to get through this meeting.

50

0317

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
4 Don, I appreciate that.

5

6 Will.

7

8 MR. KOEHLER: Yeah, this is Will. Just
9 wanted to say it's good to be back and sorry my cell
10 phone has not been working very well. I'll really look
11 forward when I can participate in-person again. So
12 I'll look forward to seeing you guys all in the fall.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I pray it
15 happens and thanks, Will.

16

17 MR. JAGOW: Yeah, and this is Charlie,
18 just wanted to thank everybody for their hard work and
19 Sue for pulling together this sort of informal get
20 together here and hopefully we'll see everybody in the
21 fall and we can get through with doing it on the phone.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Hey,
24 Jody, did you have anything, are you on.

25

26 (No comments)

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay,
29 it's my turn. I have a prayer request, one for Bill
30 who lost his wife, and one for Don, Don, who is being
31 treated for cancer, and also one for Tom Kron, who also
32 lost his wife this -- I think it was January, and I
33 want you all to be thinking about these people and the
34 hardships they're going through so a little prayer
35 request. And if I miss anything and didn't know about
36 somebody, I apologize.

37

38 I do want to apologize to Serena
39 because I think she did a really good job of her report
40 and I guess I think we could have been a little more
41 polite with you Serena and I want you to know that, if
42 she's not here, that I'm going to send her an apology
43 letter.

44

45 And then I want Andy to know that we
46 did have a chance to meet Brooke out in the parking
47 lot.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

0318

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And so it was
2 just awesome to meet her, see her personally and I
3 think you're right, we're going to have a -- work well
4 together. So if no one has anything else -- I mean I
5 want to appreciate all of you guys too.

6
7 MR. GLANZ: Okay.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Every one of
10 you guys, I mean I really appreciate it and I do try
11 really hard to drag things out of you. And I might ask
12 a couple of stupid questions but I do it on purpose
13 because I think it brings out more discussion and so
14 really appreciate all of you very much and I thank you.

15
16 So, now, guess what, a motion.

17
18 MR. GLANZ: I'll make a motion to
19 adjourn.

20
21 MR. JAGOW: Second.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill has made
24 the motion and Charlie Jagow has seconded it. All in
25 -- I ask for unanimous consent, anyone opposed say it.

26
27 (No opposing votes)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, we're
30 done, thanks everyone.

31
32 MR. WRIGHT: Over and out.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Over and out.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: Roger.

37
38 MR. WOODRUFF: Goodbye.

39
40 (Off record)

41
42 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

0319

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the
8 state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court
9 Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through
12 ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the
15 9th day of March 2022;

16

17 THAT the transcript is a true and
18 correct transcript requested to be transcribed and
19 thereafter transcribed by under my direction and
20 reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and
21 ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or
24 party interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th
27 of April 2022.

28

29

30

31 _____
32 Salena A. Hile
33 Notary Public, State of Alaska
34 My Commission Expires: 09/16/22

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