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REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Molly Chythlook, Chair
Jack Reakoff, Chair

All Council Coordinator, Carl Johnson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 03/08/2016)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Good morning. Let's get started. I'll quickly go over the agenda. The very first in our agenda this morning is welcoming remarks by Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott. I don't see him.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Oh. He's right there.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh. There he is. Okay. And then youth engagement and subsistence management and the status of secretarial review. Then the Agency reports. Then the -- number seven would be awards, closing remarks, and adjournment.

So we'll start off with welcoming remarks, Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott.

(Applause)

MR. MALLOTT: Man, I haven't seen this many Natives in the room since.....

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: AFN.

MR. MALLOTT: .....the Battle of Sitka.

(Laughter)

MR. MALLOTT: Thank you all so very much for this opportunity. And I want to start by thanking all of you who are members of the various RACs across the State. You dedicate your time and your efforts. You know how important it is. And you make it happen. And you do it as volunteers on behalf of those that you represent.

During Governor Walker's transition conference we had a workgroup on subsistence. And that workgroup, which was comprised of public policy leaders from around the State including folks from the Outdoor Council, folks from the Native community, folks who had been engaged with the subsistence issue from its very inception at least under law with the passage of

ANILCA, who went through the times of litigation, the State Supreme Court determination that the State could not implement the Federal law. That it would violate the State's Constitution. The multiple efforts to change the State's Constitution in order to allow for the State to manage subsistence under the Federal law.

Folks who had just recently become involved in the subsistence issue and brought new views, new language even -- food security. The idea that the public policy issue was not resolved. That it still needed to be resolved. The group -- and it was a relatively small group, but it was as I said a group from across the State, representing most of the voices in the subsistence room.

And there seemed to be a consensus that there was support for unified subsistence management under State law. That it was time for the State Constitution or some mechanism in law to be established that allowed for a unified management structure. A sense that the current system was not working. That it was dominated by Federal agencies who have their own requirements, the own long term obligations. And that the needs of those who live a subsistence life, who depend on resources for food, a public policy that in the State of Alaska makes sense probably more than anywhere else.

The notion that the sustenance from our lands can give us food security for the long term if properly managed and if the constant refrain which is so hugely vital and central to any discussion of subsistence that the local voice be heeded and that the cultural and the traditional views, needs, aspirations of rural peoples be taken into paramount consideration.

The governor has asked me to continue the discussion with the Transition Conference Working Group to see if it is possible to get to a point where Alaskans collectively can agree that it is time to create a structure in law, in policy, and in action that allows the State to implement the Federal law so that we can have a unified subsistence management system across the State.

I feel since becoming lieutenant governor, looking at it from a little bit different perspective than I had in the past, because the governor asked me to be his fisheries advisor,

1 particularly commercial fish. And having the
2 opportunity to work this past year with the State
3 Department of Fish and Game in a way that I never had
4 in the past, I came to realize that subsistence
5 management is not isolated. It is not discreet. It is
6 not something that exists by itself. It impacts the
7 entire range, the entire structure, the entire
8 management apparatus, the entire policy regime of
9 natural resource management across the State.
10
11 And I found in working with the
12 Department of Fish and Game that that department is not
13 able to use for example the best practices that are
14 available today and overall resource management because
15 it is unable to use for example ways to create
16 collective management or co-management because of
17 Constitutional restrictions. That that creates tension
18 between not just subsistence users and the State of
19 Alaska and the Federal counterparts, because the
20 Federal government has the same issue, that a Federal
21 agency either cannot or is hugely loathe to give up any
22 meaningful management responsibility to another
23 institution.
24
25 It means that relationships are
26 affected negatively. It means that we are prone to
27 litigation in order to resolve issues as opposed to
28 sitting down, as the governor says, over a cup of
29 coffee and trying to figure it out. It means that we
30 have two separate regimes -- Federal and State --
31 trying to work across essentially a fundamental divide.
32
33 And that divide is this. Can groups of
34 people who because of their values, their beliefs,
35 their cultures, their traditions, the way they have
36 always lived, make decisions in a collective way, in a
37 community way, in a regional way, and have those
38 decisions implemented based upon their group, their
39 clan, their tribe, their village. Whatever it is that
40 cohesively makes them who they are.
41
42 The State under its Constitution says
43 no. Every application of a policy or a law or a
44 management structure needs to be focused on the right,
45 the responsibility of an individual. The State says
46 that because we are dealing with tribes that the State
47 does not recognize yet -- and we're working on that --
48 that it is impossible for us to create any kind of co-
49 management schemes where management responsibility is
50 shared or in some instances even delegated. We're not

able to do that.

And so many folks look at those restrictions as failures in public policy. And they are in powerful ways. But what happens is that because we're human beings, we live every day by the decisions that are made by these managers, we tend to personalize the decision-making. And so the State or the Feds become the bad guys.

And that impacts us. Not just in subsistence, but in managing for commercial and managing for recreation and managing for personal use and the ability of State and Federal Agencies to work together in the best ways possible. It is a broken system. We must fix it.

And I think that that's what RACs must be dedicated to. You are the voices of the folks who are served. You represent the people who want to live. Who want to have access. Who need to use the resources in ways that you know best and believe best. And more than anything else, you want to have the certainty in your life and by the work that you do and by the passion and the vision you have that flows not just from what is before you today, but from generations past. That your children will also have the same opportunities. Will also have access to those resources that you have always depended upon.

So at the State level, we don't have a specific goal, like saying we're going to amend the Constitution. We're just saying from that subsistence workgroup right now, let's continue the discussion. Let's keep the folks in the room who have the ability to influence the decisions that ultimately have to be made. Let's have a broad based discussion about how to resolve this Gordian knot, which is not just about subsistence. It is about the future of the management, the sustainability, the utilization, the capacity of the land for all purposes to be done right.

We are not doing it right today. It's not the fault of the people in this room. The agencies that are engaged are doing it to the best of their ability based upon the responsibilities that they have. The obligations they have to the American people. The obligations they feel and have clearly articulated in regulation and policy and statute regarding what and what they cannot do on the lands that they have

temporary, passing responsibility for. Responsibility that will be passed routinely to others.

The State of Alaska in many ways in the same circumstances, trying to make a broken system work. Finding that it can go only so far in reaching accommodation. And because we are not able to go to a place that satisfies the need. We suffer the inability to work together. To really get to that place where we can find common solutions.

So in many ways it is not about subsistence management. It's about what's in our minds. It's about our attitudes. It's about our beliefs and our thinking and our frames of reference. And we need to change that in order to find ways to work together to get to an ultimate solution.

Governor Walker is totally dedicated to the proposition that we will find a way to responsibly work with tribes and ultimately recognize their capacity on a government-to-government basis. He is committed to the notion -- the public policy imperative actually -- of creating a total framework for the management of Alaska's resources.

And no matter how we divvy up the land -- no matter what boundaries -- no matter what categories that we place the land in, it is still Alaska. It is still where we live. It is still where generations of us have the heartbeat and the spirit of our people still reverberating every day in that land. It is a land where new generations want to make a life for themselves and their children.

And so that tension, that conflict, that opportunity for conflict is something we need to focus on and do our best to move beyond. And Governor Walker is dedicated to that proposition.

I've been involved personally with subsistence from essentially day one. From the time of the development of ANCSA through ANILCA fought so hard to get what you know now as preserves around Federal classifications in order to allow us to continue practices that we had lived and done and, yes, taken for granted for generations. Having that signed into law with the absolute certainty that those preserves were going to allow us to on those lands continue what we had always done.

And within a very few years, seen Federal agents burn down moose camps. Burn down fish camps in preserves because it did not meet the continuing change -- the continuing change not necessarily in the words of an act, but in the attitudes and the policies and the evolution of decision-making within Agencies at a level that does not include us. At a level that does include us. Where we are never in the room. Where the decisions that are made can be done in the name of the entire nation. And appropriately so in the long run.

But it is not right, even in the name of the nation, to exclude us from critical decision-making that affect our lives every single day. I was engaged then. I'm engaged now. And I'll be engaged until the day I die to make our voices heard and to know that my children can live on the land and from the land.

Thank you so much.

(Applause)

MR. MALLOTT: I don't know who's in charge, but I'd be glad to take some questions. I think there was a discussion of that possibility. If not, I'm done.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We'll have time for questions.

MR. MALLOTT: Okay. Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If any of you have any questions for Byron.

MR. G. BROWER: Good morning. And thank you very much. Gordon Brower from Barrow. I'm on the North Slope RAC. And through my Chairman here, I'm asking a question.

MR. H, BROWER: Yes.

MR. G. BROWER: On the North Slope there's quite a bit of concerns about the caribou issues. And I think it's not only in the North Slope. And our primary concern have been the decline in Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herd and the shrinking over a decade to half their sizes. And the concerns

that we bring as a Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council is we need to start managing the sustained yield principal not when they're super declined, but on their decline so that the most impacted that use these have a priority in the use of these resources.

Some of the concerns that I've seen on the table because there's multi-jurisdictional issues at play on the North Slope with State land and Federal land adjoining each other -- and Park Service lands -- is how the herds are calculated for their sizes and availability of a harvestable surplus.

So those are some of the concerns we have. And how the State is viewing the size of the herd by combining two herds that are distinctly one herd. And I would like to see some effort by ADF&G and the State to do what we're doing locally. To look at our bag limits. And I've seen a large resistance from the State side to do some of the things that are needed today.

MR. MALLOTT: Okay.

MR. G. BROWER: And wondering how you could work with us. I wrote a few of the things which are pretty startling to me and I think very great for the State.

Thank you.

MR. MALLOTT: Okay. Thank you. Paulette Schuerch, the governor's tribal advisor, is here. She's taking notes of all of these issues.

I was in Barrow I guess a month ago now. Spent time in the hearings on the polar bear issue. Yeah. I know. Or at least have a sense of what you're dealing with. But we'll follow up and I'll speak directly with Commissioner Cotten about this issue.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

Due to time, I don't know. Are you going to be.....

MR. MALLOTT: I'm going to be here

pretty much all morning. So thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Due to time, we're going to have to move on with our agenda. And during our break, maybe you can -- you'll be able to talk with Byron.

Thank you, Byron.

MR. MALLOTT: Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Next on our agenda is youth engagement.

Amanda.

MS. ROBERTS: Good morning, everyone. I'm a stander. I apologize for having my back to half of the room, but we'll do our best to speak into the microphone.

Thank you for having me here today. My name is Amanda Smith -- Amanda Smith Roberts. Recently married. Need to remember that.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: I work for the Secretary of the Interior here in Alaska as the youth program coordinator.

My parents are Carlos and Anita Smith. My mom and stepfather, Bill Taylor, live in Oregon. And my father and stepmother come from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

I've been in Alaska for about ten years. I grew up outside of Washington, D.C. and I am so glad to not be there anymore.

I grew up in an eco-system with deciduous trees. Pine trees, rolling mountains. I saw a black bear when I was about six years old and never saw another one again in spite of spending time in the hills and mountains of West Virginia. In the spring in West Virginia all of the flowers come out and it's one of the most beautiful places in the whole world. But not enough to keep me there.

So I've been Alaska for about ten

years. Prior to working for the Office of the Secretary I worked for two non-profits focused on public lands and youth. And that is the Student Conservation Association and Alaska Geographic.

And I appreciate being here today. I understand that the Subsistence Councils are interested in recruiting more young people to be present in the Councils and to participate more actively. And so I think that that's why I was asked here today. And I hope to have a few suggestions and commiserate with you.

So as I mentioned, I work for the Secretary of the Interior. And under this administration we have a similar problem of getting young people involved. I think what happened is we looked around. We have one-fifth of our workforce that's going to retire in the next five years. We have lands that we want to keep in good use and available for the American public and for everyone. And if someone doesn't care about something, then are they likely to take care of it.

And so the Secretary of the Interior came up with a program. Priorities called Play, Learn, Serve, and Work. And in the next few years she's trying to get 1 million young people playing on public lands. 1 million young people learning on public lands. 100,000 people volunteering on public lands. Oop, I got that wrong. One million volunteering and 100,000 employed in the workforce with Federal Agencies.

And here in Alaska, I'm charged with two things. One, getting more young people involved, which I just talked about. And the other is working to help make sure that the employees of the Department of the Interior are reflective demographically of the State of -- the demographics of the State of Alaska.

And we have a long way to go to achieve that goal, but a little bit like the Lieutenant Governor mentioned, what's really important is that decisions are being made by Alaskans and people in the room. And so we're interested in getting young people involved and into the pipeline to be decision makers in the State.

So when I was asked to talk, I thought

of course. I would love to talk about why youth are important and how to bring youth into subsistence Councils. And then I thought wait a second. What better way to do that than by inviting some youth to come and speak for themselves instead of me sitting up here.

It is worth noting that according to the Department of Interior a young person is someone who is 35 and younger.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: We're generally talking about -- in this conversation, for my purposes we're generally talking about the Millennial Generation, which is young people born after 1980. 1980 until I think the -- eight years ago.

And so what did I do. I reached out to some of the young people I knew. And I said hey, would you be able to join me at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Two students, both in college, had classes. One young man had to work. One young woman, who's a professional who works for BBNC, is back in Dillingham this week.

Let's see. I did the count. I invited eight young people to come with me today. And I am so grateful that Victoria was able to join me today. And I'm going to let her introduce herself and tell that story. But that's my way of saying I commiserate with you in how difficult it can be to get young people involved. And we'll talk a little bit more about that.

But first I'd like to introduce Victoria Baalam.

MS. BAALAM: Hello. (In Native) means how is everybody doing. I'm a little nervous right now.

My name is Victoria Baalam, but my Gwich'in name is Little Baby Bear. I'm from Birch Creek. I live in Wasilla. My parents is Jacqueline Baalam and Oscar James. My grandparents on my father's side is Mary James and Winston James.

A little bit about me. I grew up in Birch Creek until I was 12. And then back and forth to Fairbanks for school. I went to high school at Mt.

Edgecumbe until I graduated in 2011. I then went to UAF for my business degree. And I had my son. His name is Johannes. He's almost three this month -- in 2013.

Today I go to school at UAF still. I am attending classes at the Mat-Su College in Palmer and my degree now is rural development and I plan to graduate next spring, in 2017.

A little -- subsistence is important to me because I grew up around it throughout my whole life, going back and forth. And my earliest memory is going geese hunting and duck-duck hunting in the spring, which I enjoyed very much. It was a big activity. You'd notice in the village a big frenzy. You would know who would be going out because you'd know whose boat is in the river.

And we'd wake up, eat breakfast, and my dad would tell us all right. Get ready. We're going to go soon. But he always says that. He actually has a mental checklist which takes him longer than us to get ready.

(Laughter)

MS. BAALAM: And so we'd get all of our winter gear. We'd get -- me and my sister had these cute, little lunch boxes and we'd fill them with snacks, which is Pilot bread with cheese, mayonnaise or butter. And we'd have little puzzle books that would keep us busy. And we would take all of our stuff. We'd carry as much stuff as we can, but we'd have to wheel barrow it down to the river. And that would take like two or three trips with like all the guns and all the people.

And the boats that we used back then was these like maybe 20, 25 feet, square boats. And they could fill up maybe eight to ten people. And we'd always invite all of our aunties and uncles. So everybody would crowd around our house. Go down to the river together. Take ten, fifteen minutes to get ready, and we'd go out to the lakes.

Once we got there my dad would slow down. Because he was always the driver. He had to be the driver. And we would all look out with our binoculars. Everybody would stand up. And we'd find the groups of

ducks. And we'd drive out very fast, but slow down all of a sudden. And I'm surprised no one ever fell overboard.

(Laughter)

MS. BAALAM: But all the men or whoever had the shotguns would stand up and just like boom, boom, boom. And you'd just see all the ducks falling.

My favorite part of all other than like looking in the river to find leeches or poke at stuff was actually grabbing the ducks out of the water. Because they would float. And we would spend as much time as possible to get all of the ducks we shot down.

And me and my sister would grab them on the side of the boat and wring their necks.

(Laughter)

MS. BAALAM: And then we would always guess which ones are female and male. And then we'd camp out on the side of the lake and we'd gut all of them. And me and my sister would always try to eat the most hearts.

And I learned how to gut ducks that way. How to prepare them, store them. I eventually looked how to cook them. The first time was not the best.

(Laughter)

MS. BAALAM: But that's why subsistence is really important to me, because it really involved a lot of learning, a lot of family. And I miss home every day. And I can't stand being away. But that's why I'm getting my education. So I could go back and do something for my community.

When I was asked to speak here, Rhonda Pitka referred me to Amanda. And she -- and I was wondering what do I talk about. And she asked me why or why not would you want to be involved with the Subsistence Council. And my first question was what is the Subsistence Council. I'm sorry. I hadn't heard of any of you before.

(Laughter)

MS. BAALAM: And my second question was what would be my role. What would I become a part of and would I be proud of it. So some incentives for me to be involved and also for other youth because in my high school years the things I looked out for were scholarships, UAF credits, internships, and programs or activities which my expenses were paid for, like boarding or travel.

And I went to a couple of programs in my high school years during the summer. After my freshman year I attended Camp Kick Ash in Galena. For three weeks we learned about ETT training and we also got our certification in that. And we learned about firefighting. Also some other areas in the health field that we can get involved with. We also earned three credits at UAF.

And behind these programs -- I didn't realize it at the time, but it gets you thinking about where you want to go. Do you want to go to school. And for me, I ruled out health. I ruled out firefighting.

So the next year I did a business program in San Jose, California. And that was called LEAD. And we grouped up in five groups of four people and we had to create a product. And whichever was the most realistic product that would actually survive in the market won. And my group actually won. And we got really cool prizes.

And that made a change in my life because that's when I started my business degree at UAF. And then after I had my son, that really got me family centered. That really made me open my eyes. So I changed my degree to rural development to get more involved in my community.

I'm from Birch Creek, like I said. I don't know if you've heard of it, but it has 30 people. And we don't really have anything there other than people. We don't have a store, school, church. And I want to change that. I want to build an economy there.

And so to answer the initial question of if I want to be involved or not, I can't exactly answer that until I get my answers. So thank you. And I hope that's helpful.

(Applause)

MS. ROBERTS: I can't help but stand up. I think Victoria's story is emblematic of a lot of young people in Alaska from across the State. There are urban twists to it and there are rural twists to the story. But it's not easy to engage young people.

Young people -- the Millennial Generation -- I'll tell you a little about the Millennial Generation. Under the age of 35, in Alaska, as well as across the country, it's the most racially diverse group of people by demographic sector. So that's really interesting. They're very culturally diverse.

It's a group of people raised with positive reinforcement. Different generations are raised different ways and the Millennial Generation has always been encouraged to participate. Team activities -- they work very well in networks. I say they. I'm sure there's an awful lot of people under the age of 35 in this -- well, there's a handful of people under 35 in this room.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: But they tend to work really well in teams. One thing that is really unique is that this generation is characterized by wanting to make a difference in their communities and in the world.

You heard that from Victoria. She wants to go back and make a positive impact on her community and help create an economy.

And this one I bet is not going to be a surprise to anyone in the room. Millennials have never known what it's like to be separated from their phones or their social networks. Right? Does that make sense to everyone?

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: I bet every young person you know is doing this a lot of the time. And it turns out a lot of us are doing this a lot of the time right now.

And what's been said about the Millennial Generation is that they have no work ethic and that they're lazy. That they don't care about what's important. That they don't have any discipline. And

that they're self-admiring. But these things have actually been said about every generation by the previous generation.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: And so that may have been said about every one of us here in the room as a group. And so if you've thought a young person is not engaged because they're sitting and looking at their phone, one way to reframe that is they're so keenly interested in being connected and being a part of their communities and being engaged that they can't separate themselves from the interactions that they've having on their devices with the interactions that they may be having one-on-one. So while it looks like they may not be paying attention to you, they're definitely paying attention.

So really why you're here and probably why you asked me at least to talk about youth is how can we get past this. How can we bridge this gap between who's a part of the Council and reaching more young people like Victoria.

I think one of the first things is to create a pathway. And it's not as easy as it sounds. It starts pretty young and it starts with experiences that happen when you're outside. And don't be discouraged by the young person who's looking at their phone or the young person who's sitting in the back of the room with their hands crossed and their eyes cast down.

When I was about 11 years old, I -- I didn't do very well in school. When I was about 11 years old, my mom sent me off to a camp. And it was a nature camp meant to be outside, you know, so we spent a lot of time outside. And we were trudging along, walking along, and our group leader is talking about the milkweed flowers. And then he points out a turkey vulture up in the sky. An East Coast Vulture. And the turkey vulture is just soaring up above.

And he said he liked birds. And he said turkey vultures and all vultures actually have a locking mechanism in their shoulders so that they can keep their wings locked out. And that way they can catch wind currents and just fly.

And I said that's dumb.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: And he said is it? And I said well, yeah. Because I was a teenager. I was actually a preteen. And he said now, Amanda. You try. Hold your arms like this and let's see if you can hold your arms out for as long as that turkey vulture is holding its arms out and supporting his entire body weight.

So I then had to put my arms up. And I did this. And after about 30 seconds my arms started to fall. And then I didn't say anything, but I remember how sheepish I felt for saying that's dumb.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: And I didn't make any more disparaging comments when I was learning about the wildlife.

Similarly, we have a group of young people with the Fish and Wildlife Service coming in and we had a presenter come in and talk to them. And the presenter said oh, that didn't go very well. And I said really? I thought it went great. The students had questions afterwards. It went really well. And he said yeah, but they just -- they just looked bored. And I said oh, you need to know that a very excited and engaged teenager's face looks like this.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: So my point is -- is that creating a pathway is something that is on the onus of the adult. It's up to us to bring those young people in. And even when we're getting cues that we think that that person is not interested, I guarantee that, what -- 20 some years later I still think about my comment about the turkey vulture being dumb. And I don't think it's dumb anymore.

Also to talk a little bit about creating pathways. Some suggestions that I heard when I talked to people about what could Subsistence Councils do to bring in more youth, someone said well, why not have a model Subsistence Council across the State. There's ways to -- where each young person for one week takes on a role of a Subsistence Council and makes recommendations.

There's a model Arctic Council meeting that will be happening in Fairbanks where students all over the world coming together next week. You could look at educational standards and figure out how what you're doing may fit into the educational system. And so when you bring a young person under your wing and you're willing as the chairperson to write a letter saying that this young person attended six meetings and made these suggestions, that young person may get credit for it. A little bit like what Victoria said would be important to her.

And then another way of creating a pathway.....

Ernest, are you willing to talk for just a minute about the hunters education program? The young hunters program up in Barrow? You can come all the way up and come to the mic.

And I'll let Ernest introduce himself, but I think the young hunter program is a good example of how to engage young folks.

MR. NAGEAK: Thank you all for being here. I'm Ernest Nageak, originally born and raised in Barrow. My parents are Roy Nageak. My grandparents are the late Finton and Rhoda and Paul Nageak of Barrow.

I work for Fish and Wildlife Service Barrow field office at the moment, but since I graduated high school one of the guys I knew was working for the State Fish and Game. So right out of high school he recruited me into being part of Wildlife. And during that time we were working with caribou. And after that I moved over to the North Slope Bureau of Wildlife, working with the migratory bird harvest surveys and doing harvest surveys with them.

And after that I moved over to our tribal government, the Native Village of Barrow Wildlife Department. And, you know, we started to see trouble with the youth, you know. Some of them dropping out of school, getting in trouble. And, you know, some of the parents would come up to us and ask if we -- you know, we would go out hunting and they'd ask us to get the youth involved.

So during that time we -- the Fish and

Wildlife Service opened up an office and we heard about this Fish and Wildlife Service tribal wildlife grant, which is a grant all the tribal governments in Alaska could apply for. A grant to provide funding for research or community events with the tribal members.

So we came up with the idea of a tribal -- or the young hunters program, where we, you know, brought these less fortunate kids that didn't have the resources to bring them out hunting. You know, just getting them out onto the land and showing them, you know, how their parents and grandparents grew up, you know.

A lot of the communities are coming -- depending on work. You know, everybody's got to work. And a lot of camping is a lot less and what I did growing up like 15, 20 years ago. So we got the youth involved. And, you know, that opened up their minds. And, you know, that you could get paid for taking care of animals and doing a lot of fun stuff like that.

So these students became, you know, hunters in the town. You know, they're still providing to this day. They went back to school. They got their education and stuff like that.

And along with that, when I moved over to the Fish and Wildlife Service, we have a program called the Eider Journey Project, where the -- our local office hires ten to fourteen students every year from the ages of fourteen until their senior year in high school.

So what they do is they go out with volunteers from all over. And go out and partake in the research of eiders in our area. So we provide them with training and they go out and walk the fields. They work with these bird nests and -- you know, there's a success story of that.

You know, my coworker who's having to be a Native that grew up and raised in Barrow -- she was part of this program and got interested in wildlife. So, you know, I'm proud to say we have our own local fisheries biologist or a local biologist working for our Barrow region.

So, you know, our elders and people that taught us about the land and animals, you know, they were our own local biologists and scientists. And

they've always helped out all the scientists that came up north with the animals, you know. If it wasn't for the local people, then maybe some of them would have drifted out onto the ice or some of them would have got lost or froze. So our people always helped out with science and animals.

So I continue to -- we need to make sure we get our kids involved and have our own local scientists, biologist, and even teachers in all of our regions. So get those kids out there and camping, you know. Even just telling stories about camping if you guys don't have the resources to bring them out, you know. Teach them about the culture and land that we all grew up on. And we want to have the future generation to be able to have the same life we had.

Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. ROBERTS: Thanks, Ernest.

So I think creating a pathway is really critical. And having something to do on each rung of that path is pretty important.

There are two more things that I think are really important to remember when recruiting youth. One is remember the why it's important.

Am I five or ten more minutes? We're still -- okay.

The why is really important. I don't imagine that when you first joined a Subsistence Board that your first thought was when you woke up that morning on your first meeting, I can't wait to sit in a room with my colleagues and have meeting minutes and have it called to order.

Today is a beautiful day. And it's beautiful outside. And I imagine most of the people in this room would much rather be outside doing the activities that you work so hard to protect and advocate for.

And when I first moved to Anchorage I wanted to be a part of the community. I already mentioned that I really like being outside. And so there's a piece of land in the heart of Anchorage called the

Campbell Tract. And it's about 700 acres. And they were looking for volunteers to help build trails. And so I signed up. I showed up and I put my safety glasses on and I started digging. And then I hauled a lot of rock. And I thought it was really fun to be outside.

And then someone said to me well, would you consider joining the Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center Board. And I thought well, I like this piece of wild land in the middle of Anchorage and I like what the Campbell Creek Science Center does, so yes, I'll join the Board. What I didn't realize is what that meant was once a month I'd have to drive -- instead of going outside and hiking. Instead of going outside and looking at birds, I would have to drive to this place and sit inside of a building and talk about how wonderful it is to be outside doing things like that.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: And then the other thing that happened is that there was a chairwoman for the meeting -- the chair of the Board. And she called everything to order and we took specific notes, which are important and required legally. But I didn't know anything about that process. And I didn't even know if it was okay for me to speak or when it was okay for me to speak. And so I just sat there quietly for six meetings.

So over six months I didn't say anything when I was inside and I would have rather been outside until I realized that it really was my place and my time to start speaking and being a part and representing.

But I wonder if sometimes there's one of the extras hurdles that we have to get over in recruiting young people is the appeal of sitting in a room like this. And making the link between why it's so important to have the Regional Advisory Councils as well as young people involved in them.

And so my next -- my number two recommendation is really consider the why. And I'm not going to put Victoria on the spot, but I bet if somebody asked her to be a part of this meeting she'd first have to think about why it was really important. And I imagine she'd think about geese hunting with her

family. I imagine she'd think about all of these things. And so drawing that connection more closely is going to be key to recruiting youth.

I'd be curious to see how many of the Subsistence Council members or those interested in recruiting youth or anyone in the room is on Snapchat or Instagram. All right.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: How about FaceBook and email. Okay. Getting a little better.

How about just telephone.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: We've got a couple of people in the room. I think one thing that's really critical important as well with connecting youth is -- and this is the hard news to break. Is that it's not about you. It's about them.

And so I'm not necessarily advocating that everybody get on board with a Snapchat account, although it's not going to hurt if you want to recruit youth. But youth -- the trend is they're moving away from Facebook and the bigger social media platforms. You know why? Because we all joined. And our parents joined.

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: And so now they're moving somewhere else because they don't want us to hear their conversations. Not because it's inappropriate, but because you don't want your parents listening in when you're talking to your friends.

So it's critical to meet young people where they're at. To think about what is interesting to them and what might be useful for them and not just about meeting location or time. Like I said, it was really hard for me to get young people to join me here today.

I will be coming back on Wednesday and Friday to really dive deeply with you on some of these topics. And I'll be bringing a couple of young people with me then.

And the third thing that I'd like to say is that you're the connection. That you sitting on this Board and the members of your community are the strongest connection that you have to the youth in your community.

As Ernest mentioned, there's some young people who don't get the opportunity to go outside very often. A lot of us have been the lucky ones because our families took us out. Some kids don't have that.

And sometimes it just takes one invitation and sometimes it takes eight. I sent at least eight invitations for a one-hour session here. I bet if I was trying to get some young people to go hunting with me, depending on who they were, how familiar they were, it might take even more than that.

And it takes a lot of effort on my part to get a young person out. And they're going to give me that face, right?

(Laughter)

MS. ROBERTS: They're going to say it's dumb. But are they really going to think that? Probably not in the long run.

So don't underestimate the power of you and yourself and all of your own knowledge. You're here because you care. And if you bring a young person with you, it's going to be absolutely clear to the young person what you care about.

And I can assure you that young people today want to make a difference and they want to be a part of their communities. So it's up to you to make it a part of their communities.

I think that that's it. Create a pathway. Remember why it's important. And remember that you're the connection to young people.

Do you have anything to add?

MS. BAALAM: Unh-unh. (Negative)

MS. ROBERTS: No?

We're happy to take questions if there are

any questions -- and time.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Is there a hand over to my right here? If not, I saw.....

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

MR. HOWARD: Good morning. My name is Albert Howard. I'm from Angoon. I'm service as mayor and the tribal president there.

I've learned something over the years of raising my son. I have to do things different than the way my father raised me, so I'm not as tough on him as I was.

I never thought in my life I would be here on this Board. This isn't something -- you know, I'd rather be home, like the young lady said, fishing and hunting.

But my life has brought me to this point and our community to this point, so to speak. And protecting the rights that were given up in -- you know, I'd like to encourage the young lady and the gentleman here, if you're going to -- at some point you're going to also be here. You're going to have no choice. Because somebody's interpretations of the laws we were given is going to put a family member in a situation where you don't think it's right.

We had a conversation with National Marine Fisheries yesterday where they're allowing 30,000 pounds of halibut and salmon bycatch. My bycatch is probably 5 sockeyes to bring home to my elders over my limit. And somebody wants to throw me in jail for that.

So keep this in mind when you're doing this. You're not going to do this for yourself. Eventually you're going to do this because you want your son to live the lifestyle that your grandparents have lived.

I'd encourage you to read something I read probably once a month. It's the speech by William Paul to AFN in 1971. It's interesting. She sparked that thought in my head when she talked about the turkey buzzard. William Paul talks about the turkey buzzard

in that speech.

(Laughter)

MR. HOWARD: It's an amazing piece of work by one of our own people.

So interpretation of the law -- a good friend of mine told me read State law concerning our rights. Read Federal law concerning our rights. We gave up something to keep something. And now somebody's interpreting that law to put us in jail. It's a basic, fundamental human right to feed our families without having to go to jail.

And whether or not you want to be on a Board, at some point in your life you're going to get so frustrated with the way you get treated when you're only trying to feed your family, you're going to end up on a Board and have your voice heard.

I've learned, you know, in politics I have a lot of critics, I guess, so I've learned to be an encourager. So this is me encouraging you and the young man here to start reading the laws. You know, when you're tired of Snapchatting and Facebooking, try to Google some of the laws.

(Laughter)

MR. HOWARD: So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well, thank you.

I think we'll take a couple more questions or comments due to time.

There's a gentleman with a white piece of paper there. I can't -- you're up next.

MR. KRAMER: Good morning, everybody. My name's Mike Kramer. I'm with Northwest Arctic. On a yearly basis we have our meetings in the villages. We alternate with Kotzebue and the village. It depends on each meeting. And when we go to the villages we stay at the school.

All the Agency do all kinds of fun projects, like salmon counting and doing all kinds of other fun

projects with the kids while we're there every day. We're only there for three or four days, but we make every day count.

We spend a lot of time with the kids. The kids come to our meetings. They're more than welcome to come in anytime they want. I know about four or five years ago I mentioned why don't we have a student Board member on each Council. Why can't we, you know. And we pick them from the 9th to 10th grade. That way we have all four years for the, you know, selecting different students each year. That way we get to spread the -- you know, the word of subsistence out.

My partner here also passed me that there's the U.S. Fish and Wildlife tribal wildlife grants that could be used to fund youth involvement. He said it requires tribal participation, subscribed research. What does that say?

MR. STEVENSON: The September application deadline.

MR. KRAMER: A September application deadline. I don't understand why we can't have a student on each Board. It helps pass on the information.

I'm 45 years old. On this Board, I'm the kid.

(Laughter)

MR. KRAMER: I'm the kid. Look at all my fellow people here.

(Laughter)

MR. KRAMER: I'm going to be one of them one year. And I hope I have all a bunch of young ones underneath me. But we have to be able to teach them what we know now to be able to stand up for what we believe in. And that's subsistence.

My dad told me a long time ago, when the Federal government came into our State, they said they were just going to make a presence. And as each year went by they took a little away at a time. But that's why they came up with the Federal Subsistence Board. To be able to control and be able to work together to

be able to still be able to do our subsistence activities in Parks and Federal lands.

I've pushed for it. Every time we have a meeting in Kotzebue I go to the high school and I pick up about 20 or 30 kids with the principal's approval. And I bring them all there. You know, I take all kinds of steps to make sure we have youth involvement.

I'd like to see the Federal Subsistence Board make a decision by the end of -- by noon to see if we can get a student on each Board. And make it up that individual Board to be able to select that student each year. That way you're spreading the word out. You're passing it on to other generations within the high school status.

That's all I have. Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well, thank you.

Let's take one more quick comment and then we'll be done.

There's a -- Carl, do you have a comment?

MR. MOTO: I'd like to expand on Mike's comment about our region. We are working with Maniilaq School Board and have a program in our schools. Every -- what they do is they come to our village and take our young people out. It's fishing or hunting. They let them learn how to.

So now we have a lot of our young people who are good hunters. And they know how to share. A lot of times they will share with the elders -- always with the elders. We are never without caribou if they go hunt. As long as there's chance to out and hunt, we'll have caribou.

And they take them to Kobuk Lake or South Lake, where the sheep is there. An outing. They take -- they go by snowmachine around April and get some.

So when you say we're not including our young people in subsistence, you're wrong. We try in our village because we know that someday we'll be gone and they have to know how to hunt and when to hunt. How much to take. And how to respect what they get.

You know, like I said, that's how it's been doing for thousands of years. When the young man -- years ago when a young man -- the father didn't take him out to hunt. It was the uncle or the older cousin take -- like if I was young, take me out hunting. Show me. It was the uncle or the older cousin's responsibility to teach that young person how to hunt and what to hunt, when to hunt.

You know, some of the rituals that they used to have. When they get a seal, first thing they do is put snow in their mouth and put it in the seal. They figure that the spirit of the seal would go to this man to give you freshwater. Then they cut the gut out. They says go to this man here while he's -- he's a good hunter. And if you don't share that with anybody, usually you don't get it.

Our region, where I came from Deering Alaska, used to be when a man's going to hunt, he never used to say what he's going to hunt. It was the same that if you say what you're going to go hunt, you won't find them. And then you don't brag about it. You bring it home and say wife, I want you to fix this worthless seal I brought. It might be the biggest and the best looking seal, but, you know, that's how we are.

A lot of our rituals were different of what we do now. The way we used to preserve our food is different. The women would get the -- because we didn't have refrigerators. So everything went into (indiscernibles) with oil. And so that's how we preserved for thousands of years.

I just thought I'd bring that up because we worry about our young people. We have Inupiaq Days. And it's once a month in our schools in the NANA region, where we have elders come in and tell stories about how subsistence was. Or some of them would say -- teach how to make mukluks. How to make things like this. Try to hand it down to generations.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

This is probably the most important part of our session. And that's to encourage our young people to get involved with the our Regional Advisory Councils. And then to connect with our elders. The

most important traditional and ecological knowledge information is in this room.

And Amanda, you're looking at the right -- the top of the people here.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: If it wasn't for this group here, you wouldn't have the people in the back. So thank you for your contribution to us. It was eye-opening and very educational.

Thank you.

Carl, do you have a comment?

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. And I just wanted to add because this is a topic that has been brought up several times over recent years by several Councils about how do we engage youth is the reason why we have a separate breakout session called Challenges and Outreach, as Amanda indicated earlier, later on this week.

This session here was to really introduce everybody to Amanda and some of her concepts. And we hope that with the breakout session there will be more opportunity for each of you to share ideas and maybe learn some things from Amanda and her youth ambassadors about what each of you can do on a region-by-region basis.

And we hope that from today's session and from those breakout sessions we at OSM can start to help you all implementing something that will work for your regions that meets your unique needs.

So I wanted to -- I really appreciate the desire of many of the Council Members to engage on this discussion and I encourage you all to do that at that Challenges and Outreach breakout session.

Thank you, Amanda.

MS. ROBERTS: I'd just like to say another special thanks to Victoria and also Ernest for participation today. Especially helpful, so thank you.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So the next item on our agenda is the status of the Secretarial review. And that will be Amee Howard and Theo.

Theo?

MS. HOWARD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Madam Chair.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Amee.

MS. HOWARD: My name is Amee Howard and I am the policy coordinator for the Office of Subsistence Management. And to my left here is Theo Matuskowitz.

MR. MATUSKOWITZ: Mr. Chair. Madam Chair. I'm the regulation specialist for Office of Subsistence Management.

MS. HOWARD: With your permission, Madam Chair and Mr. Chair, I would like to do a quick introduction of our Federal Subsistence Board members who are in the room. Would that be all right?

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Go right ahead.

MS. HOWARD: So if I can get the Federal Subsistence Board members to stand up here in the room. Bert Frost, Tim Towarak, Geoff Haskett.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Put your guns away.

(Laughter)

MS. HOWARD: Karen Clark, Tony Christiansen.

Everyone, these are our Board members here today who you will see in and out all week long. And who listen and will be helping with the decisions moving forward. And so if you have questions, if you see them, I definitely say to interact.

(Applause)

MS. HOWARD: Sorry.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Welcome, Board members.

MS. HOWARD: Sorry to put everybody on the spot.

And with your permission real quick, too, I would also like the InterAgency Staff Committee members here in the room to stand up.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Yes. Please do.

MS. HOWARD: So if we could get Glenn Chen, Pat Petrivelli, Rosalie Grant, Tom Whitford. Dan Sharp is back hiding over there. I don't believe Mary McBurney is here today, but I do believe Clarence Summers is here today. And Trevor Fox and Orville Lind.

So these are your InterAgency Staff Committee members who you will also see throughout the week. And again questions, discussions, all of those things to engage and interact are a priority. And we would love to speak with everyone. So.....

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate those introductions because many RAC members don't actually attend the Federal Subsistence Board, so it's important for the RACs to know who is making the decisions.

Thank you.

MS. HOWARD: Thank you, sir.

So today, can everyone see the screen behind you.

Or, Carl, is there any way we might be able to get this center -- we'll work on it.

So we've move forward. Theo and I are just going to go through a quick status update for the Secretarial review. And I'd like to draw your attention to page 84 in your Board materials.

On that page you will see a copy of the original letter that was sent from former Secretary Salazar to the Federal Subsistence program, outlining ten -- eleven recommendations for changes for the program.

Also on page -- did I say page 84? Sorry. On page 88 is a letter from the Federal Subsistence Board in 2012 of the then update as of 2012. So this presentation today will pretty much walk us through this same update, engaging on the ten recommendations

originally put forward by former Secretary Salazar.

So just a little background for everyone. In 1992, as you know, the Federal government takes on the management of subsistence wildlife uses on Federal public lands. In '98, Federal authority extended to subsistence fishery management, as well as the wildlife management. In 2009, Secretary Salazar initiated a review of the Federal Subsistence Management Program and in 2010 the findings of the Secretarial review were presented and specific actions were identified. Those were the actions outlined in that letter on page 84.

So after more than two decades, action by the State to regain management of Federal public lands is not being pursued and it's assumed that the Federal Subsistence Management will continue in the foreseeable future.

All of the actions identified in the review can be implemented by the Secretary of the Interior or with the Secretary of Agricultural or by the Federal Subsistence Board. Most can be accomplished as a matter of Secretarial directive or policy and sound regulatory changes have required a formal rule-making process.

So the Federal Subsistence Board prioritized the specific actions and began working on a subset in December of 2010.

So where we're at today. So the first action was develop a proposed regulation to increase the membership on the Federal Subsistence Board to include two additional public members representing rural Alaska subsistence users. And we all had the wonderful opportunity to hear one of those public members, Tony Christiansen, be our keynote speaker yesterday, which I thought was -- he did a great job.

The other public member that was added to the Board was Charlie Brower. And Charlie is from Barrow, Alaska. And again both are invaluable and assets to the Federal Subsistence Program. And their knowledge and expertise is valued every day.

Number two, as a matter of policy, expand deference to appropriate Regional Advisory Council recommendations in addition to the deference on takings, which means the taking of fish and wildlife

which already has deference to the Councils. On decisions the Board provided for under Section 805, subject to three exceptions found in that section.

So the status of this for this recommendation is complete being that at their January 5th, 2011 work session, the Federal Subsistence Board stated on the record that they will generally defer to the Councils on C&T use determinations.

As for rural determinations, that went through the Solicitor's Office and then also went through the courts and have found that rural is an absolute term and so it's not subject to interpretation. So right now rural determinations would not be given deference.

Number three, review with Regional Advisory Council input the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with the State. So this is an ongoing recommendation. There is an associated breakout session that would be really useful, Understanding Dual Management, and there's also been a lot of discussion since we've been here about re-engaging with the State.

The Federal Subsistence Board and the State -- this topic, it has a long history. I am aware that all of the Councils have seen some version of the MOU in 2011 and again in 2012. Then at the time, once the Council comments and recommendations were presented to the Board and the State there wasn't -- an agreement was not able at that time for many reasons.

So then the MOU tended to sit. And then it expired in 2014. Now, there were some contingencies -- some protocols that dis last. That kind of reverted back to an earlier version. But the 2008 MOU, which is essential to the dual management aspect between State and Federal did indeed expire.

So in 2015, in December, the Alaska Board of Fisheries met for a briefing by State Staff regarding the status of the MOU. There's a Federal State Subsistence Committee put together by the State of Alaska.

It was a very positive, very engaging discussion. Everyone within that committee and the Board of fisheries expressed that this is important. This is a high priority. It's time to re-engage. It's

time to review and get back on the same page proverbially.

So at their January 12th, 2016 work session, the Federal Subsistence Board also had the discussion about re-engaging. They expressed the need, desire, and commitment to do so with the State. And recently have sent a letter to the Board of Fish and the Board of Game recommitting that this will be a priority to get the MOU with the State back in action.

So it's kind of a heads-up to the Councils because this will be part of something that you will see and be part of, or course, going forward. How that's going to look is yet to be seen, so just please keep in mind that the MOU is back, has been re-committed to, and hopefully will have some resolutions in the coming year or so.

So number four, review with Regional Advisory Council input the customary and traditional use determination process and present recommendations for regulatory changes. We put the status for this as near completion. And I'll go into that a little bit more on the next slide, but I do want to note that in a very important associated breakout session and something that was talked about yesterday is going to be the C&T Use Determinations and Section 804 Prioritization Process.

I know that C&T came up yesterday and so I really believe that breakout session is going to be very informative, important to show how the program is moving forward with C&T.

On that note, all ten Councils were asked for their perspectives on the existing process in 2011 and 2013. So in response to the Secretarial review and questions from the Councils, the Office of Subsistence Management has developed a training that will fully explain how C&T use determinations and Section 804 are addressed by the Board.

At this time the Federal Subsistence Board is maintaining the current process. And just a note, too, no proposals to change current Federal regulations on C&T have been received by the Board to date. And we welcome proposals on C&T to come forward.

So number five is review with Regional

Advisory Council input the rural determination process and present changes -- or present recommendations for regulatory changes. This is complete. I feel that everyone in this room had a great deal to do with the success of changing the rural regulations.

So the Secretary published a final rule November 4th, 2015, which removed requirements regarding population data, the aggregation of communities, and a decennial review. This new process enables the Board to be flexible in making decisions and to take into account regional differences found throughout the State.

So where regulatory changes are concerned, please. You have my deepest respect and gratitude to the hard work that was put forward by every member of every Council on this very important change. So thank you.

Number six, review the Board's written policy on executive sessions and minimize the use of execution sessions to those cases specifically prescribed. This status is complete. The Board adopted a new policy on executive sessions in May of 2011.

The revised policy better describes when executive sessions will be used and how the public will be informed about the purpose of executive sessions.

So number seven has several different pieces. And so we'll just walk through those. So at the request of the Director of Fish and Wildlife and under departmental procedures, review and submit recommendations for departmental consideration of the annual budget for the core Federal Subsistence Program.

In developing the annual budget, the Secretary asked that the Board consider a number of actions that could improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of the program.

So first up, what we're calling 7A, hold Federal Board meetings in rural areas. So the status of this is as funding permits and issue driven. The Federal Subsistence Board met jointly with Southeast Alaska in 2012. And it was the first time that Board met jointly with the Council. And it's the first time the Board met outside of Anchorage.

It is a priority for most of our Board members to make it to as many Council meetings as they can and we're starting to see more and more of that. I believe Mike Kramer from Northwest Arctic even had a shout out yesterday for Bert being up in Buckland at the Northwest Arctic meeting in the fall.

So it's a priority, but again it's as funding permits and issue driven.

7B, increase training and support to Regional Advisory Councils. This is ongoing and as funding permits. Again, this is a priority and we do feel that the All Council meeting here is a key component to addressing this particular need or recommendation. This is an opportunity for all the Council members to participate in essential training. We've brought in a lot of really great people who are looking forward to your feedback and sharing your knowledge as generously as you'll allow, but we also hope that we're able to answer a lot of questions, clarify some things.

There's so many breakout sessions I couldn't name them. Cross Cultural Communication, Understanding Dual Management, Robert's Rules of Order, Council Member Roles and Responsibilities. The C&T breakout session. FRMP, which Fishery Resource Monitoring Program and Partners Program. There's breakout sessions for Title VIII of ANILCA, Federal Indian Law and more.

So please take advantage of as many as you can. Ask questions. Find OSM Staff. And this will continue to be a priority. And I know it's a priority for our Council coordination chief.

So 7C, implement wildlife monitoring studies. This is a priority desire, I'm going to say at this point. I've heard several times from Council members and public alike the need for an FRMP, but for wildlife and the need for more monitoring studies.

And OSM and the Federal Subsistence Board continue to look for ways to work this in as far as funding goes, as far as capacity goes. But at this point it's kind of in limbo and pending additional funding.

7D, increased tribal consultation. This status is complete and yet it is always ongoing. The

need to increase tribal consultation will always be ongoing. Associated breakout sessions for tribal consultation panel, Federal Indian Law. Those both can apply here.

In 2012, the Board approved a new tribal consultation policy and it has been implemented successfully. And the Board has committed to efficiently and adequately providing an opportunity to Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations for consultation in regard to subsistence issues and rule making.

Most of you know our Tribal liaison Orville Lind. And in the great words of Orville Lind, we can always do better and we will always get better. So we will continue to do so.

7E, increase capacity within the Office of Subsistence Management for research and implementation. This kind of in my mind goes hand in hand with the increase for wildlife research and wildlife studies monitoring and it is pending additional funding.

7F, reinstate the annual regulatory cycle. This was reviewed by the Federal Subsistence Board and the Board believes that the biannual cycle in conjunction with special action requests and requests for consideration regulations, that we're responsive to subsistence users regulatory needs and concerns.

At this time the Board will maintain the current process. And the current process, as everyone is very aware of, we alternate years. We alternate between wildlife and fish.

If we went back to an annual regulatory cycle, then we would do wildlife and fish every year. And as far as the amount of work and capacity needs, it would definitely take some reorganization to go back to that. And so doing alternating years allows for a little more room.

And I do believe as outreach gets better and as more and more people learn about the Federal Subsistence Program, we will hear more from the users and we'll have more to consider. And we'll have more decisions to make. And all of those things are good things.

Number eight, so ensure the Secretaries are

1 informed when non-department rule-making entities
2 develop regulations that may adversely affect Federal
3 qualified subsistence users. This status is ongoing,
4 as other Agencies are continually making rules and
5 regulations that could potentially impact Federally
6 qualified subsistence users.
7
8 So this was prompted by Regional Advisory
9 Council concerns and the Board is endeavoring to ensure
10 that the Secretaries are informed. This is a priority.
11 This is something that's often talked about in other
12 business. It makes its way onto agendas for work
13 sessions. When something comes up that is going to
14 have an affect or impact on our Federally qualified
15 users, the Board makes sure that it's a priority.
16
17 So number nine is review with Regional
18 Advisory Council input and present recommendations for
19 changes to Federal subsistence procedural and
20 structural regulations, which are subparts A and B, in
21 order to ensure Federal authorities are fully reflected
22 in accordance with subsistence priorities provided for
23 in Title VIII of ANILCA. That is a mouthful and it is
24 ongoing.
25
26 So the Staff from the Office of Subsistence
27 Management have completed an initial review of subpart
28 A and subpart B regulations. Additional Staff work,
29 along with review by the Solicitor's office, will be
30 conducted, followed by a review by the InterAgency
31 Staff Committee and then presentation to the Regional
32 Advisory Councils for their comments and
33 recommendations to the Board.
34
35 This is an ongoing process and it's dependent
36 on how priorities may or may not shift, but it is in
37 line. It's in the key. It's being worked on. So just
38 this one, too, is another -- like the MOU, this is
39 another kind of heads-up. Keep in mind. These things
40 are all working in the background.
41
42 So number ten, to the extent practicable
43 utilize contracting and use of ANILCA Section 809,
44 cooperative agreements with local tribes and other
45 entities in the Board's review and approval of
46 proposals for fulling subsistence program elements.
47
48 This is ongoing. ANILCA Section 809 is our
49 authority, which we can make cooperative agreements.
50 And as more and more tribes -- local tribes and

entities put forward proposals, right now one of our best vehicles for that is the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, the FRMP.

So with 2016 FRMP projects, new cooperative agreements will indeed utilize contracting and use of ANILCA's Section 809. And an associated breakout session to maybe learn a bit more or have a little more information would be FRMP and Partners Program.

So that concludes my ten recommendations in the status update. Thank you, everyone, for coming and for considering and taking the time for this update.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Amee.

And so we've got -- we're running a little bit behind on our schedule here. And I've got 10:14. We can take two comments. Very short, brief, to the point.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And this lady back here, go ahead.

MS. PETERSON: Yeah. I'm back on the letter here to Mr. Tim Towarak, Chair of Federal Subsistence Board.

MR. SHIEDT: Please speak to the mic.

MS. PETERSON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Speak into the mic, please. Tim Towarak.

MS. PETERSON: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Chair?

MS. PETERSON: Yes. On that letter. On page 84 to 85 on the binder handout.

Okay. I'm Ingrid Peterson from the Southcentral Advisory Council. In our area there's a lot of rural land where there's not even any roads. But they've taken a big chunk of that and they're calling it the Homer area.

And it runs from way outside of Homer on the east -- actually where I live out in the Bush there -- that has nothing to do with the City of Homer. And all the way up through Ninilchik. And in Ninilchik we have the Ninilchik tribal people.

They're trying to classify that and -- well, I guess it's up in the air. But the debate is should that be classified rural or non-rural. And the way it's been leaning is for non-rural, that whole chunk. And where I live there's no roads. There's not a post office. There's nothing. It's all just wild country.

So I'm just wondering. I asked previous to the meeting here, I'd been looking into that and I heard that it was going to be decided pretty soon on whether this area would be rural or non-rural.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That's off topic. And if this briefing is.....

MS. PETERSON: It's right at number six in the letter.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: It's number six in the letter.

MS. PETERSON: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: But if you listened to the briefing, the RACs do not have input into rural determination. We're consulted. And so your Council can be consulted on that. That's off topic.

And you can discuss that at your own RAC meeting.

MS. PETERSON: I was just asking a question on it. I wasn't trying to comment.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Well, you can ask the Board members about it in the back of the room, but that is off topic.

MS. PETERSON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gloria.

MS. STICKWAN: What is the budget for Section 809 and how many cooperative agreements have been done

with tribes and other local entities.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Amee.

MS. HOWARD: So we don't have a set number for Section 809. Section 809 of ANILCA is the authority for us as a program -- as the Federal Subsistence Program to make cooperative agreements.

Right now we are firmly implementing those with the 2016 FRMP. And as more proposals come in, that's our main vehicle right now. So that is something that has just been recently addressed and that we are working on and making a priority as far as our cooperative agreements go.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Gloria, do you got another question?

MS. STICKWAN: I don't understand how cooperative agreement works with the FRMP. To me, a cooperative agreement is to have an agreement with the tribe. And FRMP's working with Federal and State and tribes. And to me, that is not a cooperative agreement.

You've got a FRMP, that's a project. That's not a cooperative agreement with a tribe.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Response?

MS. HOWARD: So for us to have a cooperative agreement with any entity including tribes, we have to have a program in place where we are calling for proposals. So right now, within the Federal Subsistence Program, we have -- the only vehicle we have at this time is the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program, where we call for proposals. Then when we receive those proposals, we can enter into cooperative agreements on those projects.

It's interlacing many different facets of the program and it's not perfect, but it's at least where we can start hammering out the details in the process on how to do it. Once we have that process in place, that's when I think other programs and other avenues will open up so that we can call for proposals that more tribes and other entities would be able to submit proposals to for us to respond to.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Well, we're getting into overtime here and we've got a long -- a lot of agenda to complete. So we're going to go to a 15-minute break. And be back in 15 minutes because we're going to start this meeting in 15 minutes.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: That doesn't mean a half an hour.

(Laughter)

MS. HOWARD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And I do appreciate your presentation, Amee. It was great.

MS. HOWARD: Thanks, Jack.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So we have Gene Peltola's here. And he's going to give an Office of Subsistence Management update.

And we're currently 40 minutes behind on the schedule on this agenda. And so we're going to be -- we're going to be trying to catch up a little bit.

So go head, Gene.

MR. PELTOLA: Good morning, Madam Chair. Mr. Chair. Appreciate the opportunity, Regional Advisory Council members. Appreciate the opportunity to sit before you this morning. I'll try my best to help you catch up on some time here this morning.

My name is Gene Peltola, Junior. And I'm the Assistant Regional Director for the Office of Subsistence Management. Excuse me if I end up coughing here. I've been fighting a chest cold for about a week.

But as a little bit about myself, first I'm a Tlingit Indian and a Yupik Eskimo. Born and raised in Bethel. About a 30-year plus Fish and Wildlife Service employee. And I've been in this position here at OSM

for about three years.

Okay. I'd like to touch upon a few topics here this morning. First off, I'd like to talk about funding within OSM. The Federal Subsistence Program as a whole -- and especially more recently -- has gone through some declines with regard to funding.

Most recently OSM and the Federal program were not insulated from the sequestration hits like the rest of the Federal government. Prior to 2008, 2009, we were funded at about the $12 million plus level. Here in the last year or so we've stabilized programmatically about the $9 million funding level.

As the budgets declined over the years, so did our staffing positions. Our Full Time Equivalents or FTEs at the high were up into the mid-50s, upper 50s range. Currently we at about the mid -- mid to high 30 range within OSM. And one thing that I'd like to say about the Staff at OSM, I'm very proud of the effort they have put forth with our regular Regional Advisory Council meetings, with the day-to-day operations of the programming, in addition to putting on this meeting here. It is a great endeavor and I think that Carl and his staff and the rest of the staff at OSM really did a fabulous job of putting this together.

Here recently the two divisions which we've been really working on trying to fill some positions. One of those was our anthropology division. We about a year ago filled the chief anthropologist position there and we've hired a couple of other people within that division. And that is significant because -- and I'll address it here a little further on down in my presentation -- is that the number of special action requests that the program has addressed recently in addition to is looking at Section 804 determinations have become more commonplace. And the anthropology division is very instrumental in addressing those.

Another area where we've been working on filling the vacancies with our Fisheries Division. A little over a year ago we hired a supervisory fisheries biologist and currently we're working on getting two more of our fisheries biologist staff positions filled.

In regard to the direction of OSM. You know, OSM's role is we're supportive of the Regional Advisory Councils themselves, in addition to the Federal

Subsistence Board. And so the RACs and the Board pass on assignments to us. One of those significant endeavors which OSM has been involved in was the rural, non-rural determination, which you heard about during the Secretarial review and also you'll hear in some of your breakout sessions.

We've also put a significant effort into C&T, which you also heard about during the review and also you'll hear about in breakout sessions.

As I mentioned earlier, special action requests have increased in numbers in the last several years mainly along the lines of fisheries management.

So we're addressing those on a more regular basis and a lot of them come during in-season management, especially like I said within the fisheries realm, which means we don't have a very large -- a long amount of time to address the recommendation to the Board.

We have some Staff members during the summer putting, you know, well more than an eight-hour workday in trying to accomplish these tasks, trying to streamline those. We're trying to come up with OSM on guidance to get things out in a more timely manner.

Typically, if you look at a special action request, they could take seven to ten days or even longer to address within the program. Due to the timeliness of in-season management, that time frame has been -- you know, ideally down to four to five day realm and sometimes requests to take actions in even less amount of time. And we're trying to come up with a process within OSM to address those requests in a very timely manner, such that good management decisions could be made.

One of the advantages of the way the Federal program is established is that we have delegations of authority. We have the delegation of authority within the wildlife realm and we have delegation authority within the fisheries realm, where the local conservation manager -- either or she is delegated the authority from the Board to make those in-season management decisions. That is one of the processes which has been utilized here recently, which can potentially minimize the amount of special action requests that the program has to address. And it's a

very integral part to the Federal process.

Another item which the program however has semi-addressed here recently is we made some minor what I like to call tweaks with regard to the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. Those little -- those few changes were implemented such that we could try to make the program more transparent, equitable, and representative of the program act needs of the Federal Subsistence Program.

At times in the last couple of years, one observation was that depending on the "lobbying" effort that may be provided at a RAC meeting, some proposals had higher potential of getting funded than others. And at times the program has funded projects which may be very well written, but didn't address specific programs, subsistence needs as compared to others. So we tried to minimize that occurrence.

Each different project that is presented to us is important to each region and each individual but when we're in a reduced budget environment it becomes more crucial that we go forth with a program that gives us the most bang for the buck per se. And that's one of the reasons why we've looked at the FRMP.

FRMP, the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program, is probably the highest expenditure we have within the Federal Subsistence Management Program. In a typical year we'll fund in excess of $2 million of projects that might be new starts and some continuation because we're on multi-year funding on a lot of these.

One thing the Board did -- not this most recent round of FRMP, but the round before that -- is that we went down on our approved list and funded additional projects we had within that given year for the amount of funding we had available. We might be in a situation where we end up funding projects less than the typical $2 million threshold that we have identified in past years because we front end loaded a lot of projects about a year and a half or two years ago. So we're doing our best to try to maintain that support we provide.

A lot of the projects that we fund throughout the State are some of the only projects that address a particular resource concern in a lot of regions of our State. And we know the significance and importance of

it and we're trying to maintain that presence.

The other major outflow of funding from the program is a partners program. This is a program where we utilize and -- or excuse me -- work with rural natural resource agencies, Native and non-Native alike, and try to assist in building capacity within those organizations.

We recently went -- last year we went through a funding cycle where we were very proud of. It's becoming very competitive. A few years back we only had a handful of proposals and we were able to fund a large proportion of those proposals. Here it's become a lot more competitive. There's a lot more interest in this program that we administer and we're reaching out into regions where we have -- the program has been in the past.

Another topic I'd like to address is with regard to the Regional Advisory Councils having the more isolated rural meeting presence in some of our smaller communities. You know, the OSM and the program is committed to on a several year basis tried to meet outside the hub. And that decision is basically a -- it's a money situation. In most scenarios, meeting in a more rural or isolated community is a lot more expensive. But we understand the importance of, so we try to accommodate when we get requests to meet in a community other than, you know, one of the hubs that are approved for a meeting presence within our regions.

We deviate that from the sense that when we get a request from the Regional Advisory Council -- the Coordinator Division which Carl leads and all the coordinators assigned to each and every one of your RACs -- we do an analysis. And if we could show we could have a comparable expenditure or a savings, then we go forth and approve, you know, the meeting in a different location than our approved hubs.

It varies by region and a lot of times we're able to do that. But it's not that we don't -- do not see the value in the Regional Advisory Council meeting in a smaller, isolated -- more isolated community. We understand the value of it, but it comes down to a management decision.

Some of our RAC meetings cost us in excess of

$100,000 easily to pull off for some of the larger Regional Advisory Councils. And if you multiply that by two meetings a year times ten regions, it's a significant expense. So if and when we've ever had to deny a request, it's not because we do not want to or do not choose to have meetings. It's all based on the available funding.

And because of when we do realize some savings, we are able to at times to give another region a lot more leeway to meet somewhere else by passing those savings on elsewhere.

Another aspect which OSM regard to the more rural visits was that OSM helped coordinate a Federal Subsistence Board visit to the Kuskokwim here this past -- not this past summer, but the summer prior. A lot of the efforts and time of the Federal program has been tied up in the fisheries issues. One of those being Kuskokwim. So we took our Federal Board members -- some of our State partners -- other individuals -- and we took them to villages and communities up and down the Kuskokwim. Half the Board started in McGrath. Half the Board started out in Bethel. And then we all met in Aniak and did some side visits to communities along there.

It was well received. It got some of our Board members exposed to regions or areas they may not have otherwise or hadn't been yet. And I think it was a very well worthwhile effort.

Excuse me. One other thing is that -- that I'd like to mention is that we -- when it comes to subsistence we always hear about duality of management. And I understand the causes, the difficulties, the challenges at times, but it's not -- there's not always a negative connotation associated to it in the sense that via as I mentioned our delegations of authority earlier, those are passed on to the local conservation managers and numerous situations throughout the State our local conservation managers work in conjunction with our State partners in management and resources.

And so it happens on a fairly regular basis. But unfortunately with the difference in mandates with the Federal and the State program have at times there are certain situations where we cannot work cooperatively as we can. In addition to we also via our conservation managers or we do have those

delegation authorities in place tried to bring in a local flavor or a rural resident aspect of management. And that here was expressed most recently when the Department of the Interior asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work on a demonstration project on the Kuskokwim, which is coming to be hopefully finalized here shortly.

So that is my brief summary of OSM and my updated report. And Mr. Chair, if you thought there was appropriate time, I could probably address a few questions if you had any for me.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so much, Gene.

And we'll take some brief questions.

Della.

MS. TRUMBLE: All right. This doesn't appear to be short. Let me tell you. First of all, I'm going to apologize to my group here if what I have to say is not personal or -- I mean this has been an issue. I'm Della Trumble, Kodiak/Aleutian, from King Cove.

And when you look at our Board as a whole, there's ten of us. Seven are from Kodiak. Three of us represent the Aleutians.

I strongly feel part of that has to do with the fact that it costs us a lot of money to go to the meetings. Our hub is Kodiak. Trying to get a meeting out in our region for people to be able to come to us and say as a group, you know, this is what we see. This is what we need is extremely frustrating. And it's hard.

And I understand it's an issue of dollars, but it's very hard for us to participate and feel good about trying to do what we're obligated to be doing at this level when we can't even go to our region to meet. Like we had to go to possibly Sand Point. It's cheaper to fly Anchorage to Sand Point probably than any other community in our region.

But it makes it very hard to try to do our jobs and represent the people when they can't come to us in person. And that's basically my comment.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Response?

MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Della. I appreciate that. And that -- exactly what you stipulate is one of the reasons why we modified the meeting schedule here about a year, year and a half ago to hold a meeting of the Regional Advisory Councils in King Cove, your community itself. And we try to accommodate those to the best of our ability within our fiscal limitations.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Judy.

MS. CAMINER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

You mentioned, Gene, delegations of authority. And I know there's lots of them. How would a person find the list of all the delegations of authority that exist right now.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Gene.

MR. PELTOLA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Yeah, Judy. We do have numerous, like I mentioned, within the wildlife and the fisheries realm. We can -- OSM -- we could prepare a list of those. We go through periodically, review those delegations of authority on probably some may feel on not as a -- as frequently as we should, but we can prepare those and present those to the Regional Advisory Councils for their review.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thank you.

Other question. Brief question.

Pat.

MR. HOLMES: I'll be brief as I can.

I do recall a while back when the Fisheries Management Program was started -- the research program -- and I would like you folks to consider going back to where you had a representative -- not necessarily from every RAC. But we used to have a RAC rep that was involved in that process. A lot of it could be done teleconferencing or emails.

But I see you improving, trying to meet your budget reductions by having more and more rigid

analysis on accepting things, but I've heard some of the RACs here saying they sent in a proposal, but through some bureaucratic glitch it didn't make the deadline and you need to be a little more flexible on that.

And I would like to say maybe consider on travel accepting partnerships with tribes and other communities. We've had times when the folks in the Pribilofs offered to pay a substantial -- well more than half of our trip -- put us up in houses. And I don't think there's anybody in this room that hasn't slept on the floor of a tent or a school. And we'd be glad to do that. You don't need to have to meet all the Federal requirements for approval of housing that you do for going to Washington, D.C.

So be flexible. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Pat.

Gene.

MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Pat. Again, we would take those into consideration. And actually here with the Regional Advisory Council meeting we had last fall, I believe it was, where we had, you know, modified some of our meeting locations or bunking facilities and tried to accommodate those meetings in a more rural, isolated area.

But very good points. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Okay. Thanks so much, Gene. I think that covers it.

MR. PELTOLA: Thank you. Appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: And so we're going to go to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Tim Towarak. Welcome, Tim.

MR. TOWARAK: Thank you. I'm going to stand. I've been sitting like you guys for the last couple of days.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Totally fine.

MR. TOWARAK: And I'll make my time here a

little bit more brief. But what I'd like to do is just thank each of you for the service that you do for the Subsistence Program. I know it's all voluntary work that you do. And to me, that shows a commitment on your part to protect a way of life.

You know, to me it's always been a way of life for my family. I come from a subsistence family. I'm a subsistence user. I'm retired right now, but I've held a lot of different positions that have I think in some ways I'm probably going to make this a little bit personal, but I'm a Vietnam veteran and I was forced to feel guilty about having served the country. And it always bothered me. And it still does. You can tell by my voice.

But what I did was I committed myself to public service. And I've done that my whole life. I'm retired now. And I look back and I feel good about what I've done. And I hope each of you feel the same way about serving on your Regional Advisory Councils and as serving the people that really need it.

And I take a lot of pride in being -- when I first came on, I was the only subsistence user on the Board. All the other seven Board members were all regional directors of important agencies like Fish and Wildlife Service, the BIA. In Southeast, it's the Forest Division. But, you know, they were all bureaucrats and I felt like a lone ranger in some of those meetings.

And I know that each of you don't feel that because you guys are all subsistence users. And I think we were in it because of the pride of living a way of life that I think has been useful for our people, useful for rural people.

You know, the State reneged on representing all of Alaska by claiming that there's Constitution says specifically that we cannot isolate specific resources to specific people, like making subsistence a priority in our Constitution.

You know, one of my best friends, Byron Mallott, is part of the State, but I know he believes the same way I do. And I think there's a lot of people in the State that would like to see it change.

I get more complaints from rural people about

separating Federal jurisdiction and State jurisdiction. You know, the animals don't know whether you're on Federal land or State land. You know, we all agree that. I've heard it from almost all of you. And it's a tough battle.

Originally, the Federal Program came in to fill in the void that the State left and decided to make Federal management specifically for subsistence users. And so that's why we've got the divide between urban and non-urban.

And I know that we went through a real battle with Saxman and I'm proud to say that the majority of the Board agrees with Saxman. It's just that the bureaucracy that we have to go through to change a system that is making us kind of dragging our feet and making the right decision.

I like the thought that from now on if there's going to be a -- we've decided that if there's going to be a change in your district in naming a community rural or non-rural, it's going to have to come from you guys. I like that. It shouldn't come from the Federal Subsistence Board. The Federal Subsistence Board can make the final decision, but we need to hear the direction from the Regional Advisory Councils.

You guys are in my book -- you know, we looked at -- it's surprising, but there were ten steps that the Secretary of the Interior gave to their Subsistence Board on directions for reevaluating the program. To me, it was just like the Ten Commandments that Moses had brought down from the mountain. But the only one that I really remember is number two. And that's deference.

We need to give deference to the Regional Advisory Councils. You guys tell me how to vote. I know Charlie Brower and Anthony Christiansen from Southeast, the three of us are the subsistence users. We think that's the most important part of the decision making on the Federal Subsistence Board side, is what do our Regional Advisory Councils want.

And we've battled some of the bureaucrats in some decisions, especially when it comes to Kenai, with the bureaucracy. But you can be sure that the three of us from rural Alaska will vote however you tell us to

vote. And if I had a Bible, I would put my hand on a Bible and say I swear by that.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: But if you ever hear of me not doing what you want, you've got to let me know.

But I've been the Chairman for the last five years and I've been hearing rumors that I'm retiring.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: I really would like to retire.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: I'm 71 years old. I probably don't look like it. A lot of people tell me I don't look like I'm 71. But if you're older than 71, stand up. I want to see how many young people we have.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: Yeah. Okay. Byron is part of that, too.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: You know, I think it shows a commitment. And we respect having young kids. I really enjoyed the presentation that you had from the youth this morning. And we try. On our Board, we try to recognize the young people. And I think we should have someone from the youth sitting on our Federal Subsistence Board.

And I'm going to say something kind of personal, too. That I think there's a regulation change that needs to be made in the Federal Subsistence regulations, where instead of having the Regional Director sit on the Federal Subsistence Board, that Federal Director should be authorized to appoint someone from the Regional Advisory Council to represent them on the Board so that we have eight subsistence users rather than just three. That's my personal opinion.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: I'm going to talk to Senator Murkowski and our Federal representatives about that and see if we can make that change sometime in the future.

I think if we were fully represented by the subsistence users, our decisions would be more meaningful and they would come I think from the heart. I really respect all the State Directors. They're very qualified people. They have good staff that support them. And nine times out of ten they'll make good decisions. But I would still prefer to see that decision made by a subsistence user. I'm politicizing the process right now, but I've always wanted to say this before I retire.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: And I'm going to get away with it today.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: But one of the things that we're going to do is recognize people that have served for at least five years. And I think we've got some people that have been here since the beginning. And I think -- let me see those of you that have been on since the beginning. Stand up and be recognized.

Lester, you should stand up.

These guys have been on since what, 1994? And I think they deserve a big round.....

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: I really got a lot of respect for all of you and a lot more respect for those of you that have been on since right at the beginning.

And I will continue to support the Federal Subsistence Program. I don't give a darn if the State doesn't change their Constitution. I like what we do with the Federal Subsistence Board. There's things that we can do that the State can't do. So and I think just for that we need to protect our way of life.

And I was talking to Gene about that. He said even if the State does change their Constitution

and if they manage the whole State, the Federal Subsistence Board will always be there to look out for what we want. It will never go away. We will always have Federal Subsistence Staff.

So if the State ever changes their Constitution so that they manage all of Alaska -- and in many ways I would prefer that. It would be a lot easier for our folks in the Bush to have just one management system. This having two management system is very confusing for most of our people.

A part of our problem with the Federal Program is not very many people know what we do. And because, you know, it's such a new program. The State has been around forever. Everybody knows how the State operates. But the Federal Program is relatively new. And that shows that we are not known enough.

And I think we have plans. We'd like to have the Staff give out more information about what we do and how it's done so that people understand.

I'm taking a little bit longer than I wanted.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: I said a few things I probably will get reprimanded for, but I don't care.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: You know, this is our land, right? And we should determine how it's used.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thanks, Tim. Really appreciate your heartfelt discussion with the all RAC meeting here.

And so we're back on schedule. We'll take two comments or questions from the RACs to the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board.

We've got Mary. Mary Ann.

MS. MILLS: Thank you. And I would really like to thank you, Tim, for serving our country.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

MS. MILLS: And also for the hard work that you do. And, you know, you've been just really a good person to work with, as well as the other Board members.

And, you know, we were talking about the State being able -- you know, not being able to change its Constitution. Well, it can be changed. And that's because Alaska is a disclaimer state.

And so the Federal government -- Alaska is the only disclaimer state in the Union. And that's because of international law that we are a part of.

And so when you look at Article XII, Section 12, the State and its people -- it states that the State and its people forever disclaim our rights and property belonging to the Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut peoples. And that does and can be honored.

And then when you look at the obligation of the Federal government and you look at Indian law, Indian law doesn't mean except for -- not for Alaska Natives. Indian is Indian law. And that does provide for subsistence rights, as well as a treaty that was signed by the United States government, which is the universal covenant on civil and political rights.

So there are things that we can look at. And I agree with this young man, Albert, back here that, you know, talked about knowledge, talked about knowing the laws and being diligent and researching and trying to look for the best way, you know, to not only protect the environment, but also the right that people have to eat off the Earth.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Thank you, Mary Ann.

Do we got a question from this side of the room? Go ahead. One question.

Go ahead. Or comment.

MR. MOTO: Yes. I have a comment. You know, the definition of subsistence has changed over the years. The true definition of subsistence is survival.

All of us in this room -- if we all didn't have subsistence, we wouldn't all be here. Survival. Now we call it a way of life, but you've got to remember the true definition, survival.

I have heard so many different types of definitions of subsistence, but I always say it's survival. Survival of our peoples. Survival of other species on the land. And if we didn't have -- if they didn't survive, they wouldn't survive.

That's why when you call us Eskimos, we're real -- we're Inupiats. We're Yupiks. We're not Eskimos. That was a name given to us by foreigners. But I've always taken the exception to be called an Eskimo. I'm an Inupiat. I've been an Inupiat since I was born. I'm a young man yet. I'm only 78. So I'm still younger than most of these guys.

(Laughter)

But, you know, we watch our -- you know, how when they used to have a -- when the caribou was scarce -- things was scarce, our shaman built a circle. In that circle the shaman would have water and some (indiscernible) leaves. And he would sit in that. Hi-ya-ya. Hi-ya-ya. Sometimes he's sit in that for a week, two weeks before caribou come around. This is how our people were.

We respect the spirits of our animals we take. We respect the Earth that we take the plants, berries, and stuff. If you disrespect anything, you won't get it. You have to respect the spirit of a animal that you get.

That's all I have. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this. But thank you. And I hope I didn't -- I try to educate some of the younger people that they never lived. I grew up eating nothing but Native foods. Inupiat food. When they brought Cornflakes -- what is that.

(Laughter)

MR. MOTO: And my grandpa used to say you want a slobiaqs (ph). That was pancakes. He called them slobiaqs. But, you know, things like that -- when they first started coming up in the '40's and '50s -- early '50s, our people had nothing but Inupiat food. And then they changed it. Now we have different types of food coming around and some of our kids are forgetting the fact that this is something that you were -- like how we had used herbs and flour like (In Inupiaq) or stink weed. Tundra Tea Rosehips. We would boil the rosehips and Tundra Tea that was our cough syrup.

Thank you.

MR. TOWARAK: Thank you, Calvin.

Mr. Chair, if I could.....

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go ahead, Tim.

MR. TOWARAK: Yeah. I'd like to recognize the Bethel representative. He had asked me a question earlier and I said when it's my turn on the table, I'm going to give the floor to him. So if you don't mind, I'm going to have him ask his question.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: Go right ahead.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't anticipating getting this out here at this point in time.

The main point in what I'd asked our Chairman of the Federal Board earlier was a concern that's been echoed throughout this room and from all the Councils. And what it really comes down to is where the system is really broken and remains broken to this day, is that the management agencies are not accountable to the Board or to these RACs.

And there is no place where it's better represented than the proposed rule that has been put forward by the Fish and Wildlife Service. And I believe just about every Council here has gone on record being opposed to that.

I mean just as a show of hands, how many Councils have been opposed to that proposed rule of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

I know ours has. And we've heard it echoed throughout earlier. And I'm wondering what can we do to get that addressed through the Federal Board. I looked through the criteria that you have here and as far as notifying the Secretaries of where there's problems and one you're working on right now is to ensure they're informed when non-departmental rule making entities develop regulations. But we have a departmental developing regulation.

One of the most false promises that we've gotten when refuges were supposed to be created for the subsistence priority and you have value systems of organizations in the Lower 48 creating these rules and using the Service to implement them. There's nothing more false than when they say you're going to provide for subsistence, but you take no responsibility that there's going to be anything there to catch. What could be more involved with the takings priority that's supposed to be here for the Council.

So I'm wondering if we're able to -- and it's kind of awkward because there's not really a place for this in this meeting yet. But if we could come up with a joint statement from our Councils to the Board to inform the Secretaries of that and request that the Service and the Board with your predator management policy are supposed to assert two-year appropriate management agency; i.e., the Fish and Wildlife Service in this case that they should shelve this rule. Suspend it until such time as they come forward with their own management plan that could incorporate a predator management area.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: So Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Okay.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: At the closing comments portion, which is after this awards, each Regional Council -- in their closing comments, I would like each Regional Council to have a delegate to speak for the closing comments. We can't hear your life history. We have to have the closing comments for each Regional Council.

And if each Regional Council has an issue with the proposed rule, then bring that out in your

closing comments. And then we have our Regional Council meetings, each Regional Council can act upon the proposed rule. But this is not really the place to vote up and down the proposed rule.

I would like each Regional Council to bring that out in their closing comment. And that's what I would like to have happen in this forum.

Dan.

MR. SHARP: Mr. Chairman, thank you for your presentation today and your work. I think one of the things that none of us really like is a two management system, but we're stuck with it. And the Bristol Bay region works very hard to bring the State of Alaska and the Feds together to work on things and we've had to forced people to do some of those things and we appreciate Lieutenant Governor being here today. And our Commissioner is going to be helpful to us.

I just would like to make a comment that Title VIII does something different in the State of Alaska in that the process begins on the local level, not from up here down to the Fish Board and Game Board commissioners, advisories, and so on. We start here and we go up to your Board.

And by the way, we've had some really interesting battles since 1993 and the Agency's -- the Federal Board has not been friendly to us sometimes, but we managed by one vote to win that. So thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I appreciate that comment. This is a ground up management system, unlike the State system is seven politically appointed Board members that have a completely different objective than what this program is all about. So I agree wholeheartedly with the ground up system works the best for the people.

(Applause)

So I think we appreciate all your comments and I really appreciate the work that you do for the Federal Subsistence Board, Tim.

And so we need to move on in this agenda. And so we have the -- I'm going to turn this over to

Molly.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Number seven is awards and recognition.

And I think, Tim, you're responsible for this.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: We're going to start off with the five year awards. And I'm going to read the certificate of appreciation presented to James Showalter in recognition of his years of service to the Federal Subsistence Management Program as a member of the Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for the years 2011 through 2016. Federal Subsistence Board, USDA, and it's got my signature.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: Andrew McLaughlin, Thomas Schwantes, Hannah Loon, Vern Cleveland, Sr., Gordon Brower, and Robert Shears. If you could come up here, we'd like to present you with this certificate of appreciation.

I should get one of these five year things, too, I think.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: The next are the 15 year.

Patrick Holmes, if you could come up. In recognition of his service to the Federal Subsistence Management Program as a member of the Kodiak/Aleutian Subsistence Regional Advisory Council for the years 2001 through 2016. Congratulations, Patrick.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: Robert Walker from the Western Interior Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: I've got a granddaughter with

the last name Walker. She's one-fourth Inupiat, one-fourth Yupik, one-fourth Athabascan, and one-fourth Tlingit.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: And we have Susan Enstminger. Is Susan here? I haven't seen Susan. Oh, there she is.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: When we had a herring season in Unalakleet, Susan used to come to Unalakleet to fish for herring.

MS. ENSTMINGER: That's where we first met.

MR. TOWARAK: Congratulations, Susan.

MS. ENSTMINGER: Thank you.

MR. TOWARAK: Thank you.

And we've got Virgil Umphenour. Is he here? He's coming in tomorrow? Okay. We'll give this to him when he comes in.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: Thank you, Robert.

And finally we have the 20 year -- 20 years. So we've got the 20 year awards.

The first one is presented to Lester Wilde, Sr., on March 8th, 2016, in recognition of 20 years of service on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and a lifetime of dedication to subsistence in the region. And it's got a photo of one of the winners that we had from the children's art program.

Mr. Wilde.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: The drawing was of student art

by Gorgeous Shanigan.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: Congratulations.

MR. WILDE: Thank you.

MR. TOWARAK: Lester's an old friend of mine. He grew up as a young boy in Unalakleet. But he doesn't have too many good memories of that.

(Laughter)

MR. WILDE: One of the memories I have is packing him on my back when he was a little boy.

Thank you very much.

MR. TOWARAK: Congratulations.

MR. WILDE: Yeah. Thank you.

MR. TOWARAK: We have another one.

Stay here.

I can tell him what to do now.

(Laughter)

MR. TOWARAK: And we have another 20 year award to Peter Buck of White Mountain.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: I know I've known Peter for many years, too.

In recognition of 20 years of service in the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and a lifetime of dedication to subsistence in the region. Peter, congratulations.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: The student art on his presentation was made by (Indiscernible) of Shishmaref.

And then we have finally Raymond Stoney on March 8th, 2016, in recognition of 20 years of service in the Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and a lifetime of dedication to subsistence in the region.

Raymond Stoney.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: The student art on his presentation was drawn by Kayla Malten of Buckland, your own region.

MR. STONEY: Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: Sixty years of service.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: That's a lot of dedication. I really appreciate that. I'm proud to present those awards to those guys.

A special recognition for one of our Board members who's retiring and moving on. And that's for Geoff Haskett.

Mr. Haskett, please come up and be recognized for your service on the Federal Subsistence Board.

(Applause)

MR. HASKETT: Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: And that's actually a photograph taken by our own counsel coordinator lead, Carl Johnson.

MR. HASKETT: Thank you. It's been a pleasure working with you.

MR. TOWARAK: Yeah. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. TOWARAK: Geoff has been very valuable on

the Subsistence Board. He's got a staff that recognizes I think all of the issues involved in our decisions to make on subsistence proposals. And I appreciate all the work that he did for the years that he's been on the Federal Subsistence Board.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll move on to our next agenda item. But before I move on, I'd like to recognize Geoff Haskett from our Regional Boards here.

I think I've heard from different members here how helpful and how important he's been to our RAC processes, so on behalf of our ten regions, Geoff, we really appreciated your input and your full support in whatever we tried to accomplish. So thank you.

CHAIRMAN REAKOFF: I, too, would like to thank Geoff's service with the Federal Subsistence Board. He many times leads out of the mire -- the Board ending of moving on and building in a positive direction and worked many, many times with the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, the best interest of the resource, the best interest of the people.

And so I appreciate your work with the Councils and with the Federal Board, Geoff.

Good luck in your endeavors.

MR. HASKETT: Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're to number eight, closing comments. And we're a little bit ahead. Not a little bit ahead, but we still have time until 12:30 to make closing comments.

And if we can have each one of our ten regions give like five minutes of closing comments until we -- let's give each of our ten regions their closing comments. And then if there's a little bit of time, then the rest of us could put a little bit of input in.

So maybe like I did yesterday, I'll start off with like for instance Southeast. If you can give closing comments for your region.

And then I'll just go down the ten regions. And then if we do have time again, we'll open it up for the other rest of our Boards.

Okay. Southeast.

MS. NEEDHAM: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My name is Cathy Needham. I'm on the Southeast Regional Advisory Council. And I first want to say that it has been an honor to sit here and sit at the tables with all of the ten Councils. It's kind of an amazing experience.

I've been on the Regional Advisory Council for seven years and I really appreciated the venue that has been put forth and I look forward to working through the next week. And I know that the other members of our Council feel the same way. That we'll have these breakout sessions, which should be interesting and exciting and then be able to also do our own Council work.

One of the things that we have been talking about over the last day and a half kind of on the side is we have this wonderful opportunity to potentially bring all ten of our voices together. All ten Councils' voices together. Because we're here working together during the same week.

And we've been asking the question of ourselves, well how can we actually go about doing that. And an idea that came forth just this morning is to put a letter together that we give to the Federal Subsistence Board that raises some of the common themes and issues that we've talked about over the last day and a half.

And I highlighted four of these. And they do not have to be the only main four, but they would be things like requesting the Federal Subsistence Board to seek additional funding for programmatic needs in order for us to conduct our business. So things for increasing our ability to go out to our rural communities within our region.

Also asking the Federal Subsistence Board to seek to assure that we have adequate funding for monitoring the fish and wildlife populations. These are things that all of our regions have probably

included into our annual reports at some point in time, but by having a letter where we all sign it at the end of the week after we have our individual Council meetings might bring a unified voice to show that these things to the Board are important across the State.

Two other items that we put on the list in thinking about this. One was having the Board seek to get a designated subsistence seat on the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. And then also we heard this morning -- we talked a lot about youth. And I know our Council has talked about the importance of engaging more youth and assuring that we have subsistence resources for the generations to come and not -- so one thing would be asking the Federal Subsistence Board to designate a youth representative on each of the Councils. And I think that was an idea that came from the other side of the room, but I know has been talked about.

So, you know, in Southeast Alaska, we like to write letters. So I've been working back here drafting a letter. And we were hoping how this could go is that we could get this letter finished off today. And print them off and have them to your Council coordinators by the morning tomorrow. And then each of your Council can adopt on your agenda the action item of looking at this letter and deciding whether or not the Council wants to sign off on the letter and potentially have all ten Councils sign the letter that would go to the Federal Subsistence Board that's kind of a summary of one of the main issues that have happened in this room that we feel are important, that we want to be able to ask the Federal Subsistence Board to be able to do.

And so I will work with my Council coordinator, Robert Larson, on making sure that this letter gets some kind of draft form. And then hopefully he can coordinate with the Council coordinators.

So that's just kind of something that we've been working on back here, but I do want to reiterate that it has been a pleasure being in the same room with all of you. And I thank everyone for the time that you put into this -- and that we all put into this in order to be able to assure that we have subsistence resources for generations to come.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

The next one is Southcentral.

MR. ENCELEWSKI: My name is Greg Encelewski and I'm going to talk on behalf of Southcentral. I'm actually the vice-chair, but first of all I want to recognize Ralph Lohse. He'd been our chair for many, many years and he's been an outstanding supporter of the subsistence use. And we're really going to miss him and hope he comes back.

I've been involved in this process for quite a while. I think I -- I can't even count the years, but it's been quite a while. But I do have a couple of comments that I wanted to say.

Tim, we really respect you and we really appreciate what you've done for us in support of subsistence and what we do. And that's the backbone of all of us, is the subsistence and the lifestyle here. We are the backbone of this whole program.

The Southcentral RAC had a couple of things here that we wanted to mention. There should be that deference to the RACs. And we truly believe it. A lot of time we've seen it, but then we lose it somewhere in the bureaucracy or in the program and we're concerned about that.

We would love to see our youth engagement and we want that supported and we want to bring on new people. We have shortcomings on these RACs. And we realized that it's volunteer, but we really need to pass on our programs.

I, too, was raised with my uncles in hunting and fishing. Fished all my life. What a blessing and experience. And I teach my sons, too. They sometimes use a different law, but that's okay.

Anyway, there's some other items that we wanted -- we would like to see a briefing maybe on the sturgeon case that could possibly affect us. And we would like to see some OSM agency provide some technical assistance on proposed partners and fish monitoring also.

And I might have missed a few things because I wasn't prepared. I didn't think I was giving the

closing statement, but I'll tell you what. I sure heard some heartfelt stuff here. I heard the guy from Barrow, you know, talk about, you know, we don't need to manage the resource so much as we need to manage the people. Well, this is getting to be a times of shortage. Things are getting tough. And if we do truly have a priority, why aren't we seeing that priority. You know, we're fighting for every little scrap we get. I see big arguments fight over one moose, a few fish, where in the big scheme of things we should have a priority.

So anyway, the Southcentral RAC is pressing on. We've got very much dedication. We love everyone here in this room because that's what keeps us going.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

Kodiak/Aleutian.

MS. TRUMBLE: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I'm Della Trumble. I'm the vice-chair for the Kodiak/Aleutians. And on behalf of our Council, we'd like to thank everyone for this opportunity. I know all of us have learned I think a lot. And just being able to interact with the many Councils. Our agenda allows us to meet with Councils during the week that -- issues that affect us both on certain wildlife.

But I think the youth -- the issue with the youth I think is important and I think it really was encouraging for me to -- sometimes when you do this over and over you kind of forget -- you know, and you lose a little perspective. But it was really I think heartfelt for me to listen to some of the elders and the youth today and just a reminder of why we are here and how important it is.

I'd like to thank Tim, Geoff. Geoff and I have worked together on one of my big issues I think since he was in D.C. And I thank you. And on behalf of our Council, I thank you.

Tim and Lieutenant Myron, we thank you all for all the hard work you continue to do for us.

I'm not sure if this is the point at this point that I need to, but this Council strongly opposes the proposed rule. And let me give you a number of examples. I'll take caribou, Unit 10, Falls Pass. Wolf, predator control. You go through this EIS process and it costs -- trust me -- $90,000 or more. We cannot compete.

When you're looking -- there's no -- there is no way that we in small regions or Alaska can compete with the Lower 48. There has got to be a formula or something that -- a weigh system that allows for us to be able to protect what we're trying to protect and do what we're trying to do without competing with the rest of the nation. We cannot do it. And we'll never be able to do it.

Cagalaska caribou again. $90,000 on a EIS. Couple of hundred thousand to remove them. Is it necessary when we're looking at funding to try to get our Councils to be able to get together on more than one occasions to meet and to be able to do what we need to do.

And we all know -- myself. And this is my battle. I've been for 40 years with this road. You cannot compete with the EIS with the rest of the nation. We live in Alaska. This is where we're from. This is where all our lands and our villages are for thousands of years. We've got to have -- this is a mechanism that we're able to step forward and be able to do what we need to do, but we cannot compete and do that when we're fighting the rest of the nation.

And with that, I think on behalf of this Council, again we'd like to thank everyone. And our chair, Mitch, passed the bar to me this morning, so -- and we appreciate it. All this hard work in this Council.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well, thank you.

And then the next is Bristol Bay.

MS. LYON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I asked my Board members to pass me notes on

anything they'd like me to make closing comments on. And so I'm going to go ahead and share those with you.

And actually first I'd like to personally, as a Board member, recognize Dan O'Hara and Pete Abraham for their incredible numbers of years that they've been on this Board. And I know both of them are talking about retiring and I know that we're going to try and talk you not into retiring.

(Laughter)

MS. LYON: But sincere heartfelt thanks from not just myself, but the entire Board for the time you guys have put in. We feel really lucky and blessed to have had you for so many years. And all your knowledge and experience and the things you share with us are invaluable to us for now and into the future. So thank you both.

I'd also like to say one of my other comments that I received from a Board member was they felt it's been very interesting to have all the RACs present. It has been humbling as well as exhilarating to hear the commonality on issues and concerns, but also hear the specific regional issues that we may be able to support or at least to be able to be better informed out from our neighbors.

And I tend to agree with that. I think we've found a lot of commonality here. And a lot of the issues are tough issues, but we're here as all ten Advisory Councils and it's a perfect time to tackle them. I am in total agreement with that because we can all speak about them now under one roof at this time. And it's a perfect time to take them on.

I'd also like to say something about the issue that was just brought up. We, too, are unsure about this Fish and Wildlife proposed rule. And we're going to be revisiting it and trying to decide the position that we wish to take as a RAC Board.

We are very much -- have been for years looking for predator control. I mean I'll just kind of go off base here a little bit and say that as a Board member, you know, I'm to the point where I'm saying okay, fine. Think of me as another species then if that will get you to consider predator control. Because all of a sudden predator control only -- you

know, you've got to watch out for all your species out there. Well, then count me as a predator control because I want predator control because I need to eat. And that's how I feel about it.

So I'll leave that tantrum alone for now. But we also would like to have the Federal Board consider meeting out in Bristol Bay. We've been able and have in the past supported Board of Fish meetings and things such as that and we'd love to have you out in the Bay. And we know we can take really good care of you. And I think it would be a great consideration if that potential could be looked at in future meetings for the Board itself, too, as you move forward.

I also had a note from a Board member who would like to continue making sure that we monitor the Fukushima and protecting the subsistence resources in the saltwater that we all share and that roam around out there and could be put into potential harm.

And working on the barriers that we have all across the State to make full use of all lands for subsistence. And to eliminate as much as possible the barriers between State and Federal rules and getting ourselves in trouble and having to go to jail just to feed our families. I think that that is as important as the predator control as well. And it's an ongoing issue.

And the younger generation to become involved. I am in 100 percent agreement with that. And the sooner and the more number of our youth that we can get involved and have them feel the need, the better that torch will be carried. Because the young people -- I work with them a lot out there. I'm actually also the -- I've had some great success with a River Academy that I started seven years ago that now has a great number of our local youth involved and employed as sportfishing guides in the area. And it's huge.

So I'm a firm believer in getting the youth involved early. They have incredibly new and fresh ideas that my old brain doesn't come up with. And it's great to see what they do when they become involved. So I'm a big advocate for that as well.

I thank you for allowing us to have this meeting. And I also thank the Federal Board and Tim

for your service as well. It's meant a lot to all of us out in the villages. We do feel like you are our voice. And I thank you for that personally.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

Yukon-Kuskokwim.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yeah. I guess I get to do this again because the chairman asked me to. But I won't belabor anymore about the predator management thing at this stage, other than we did address it when it first came forward as under consideration. And at that time we had strong concerns with it and suggested several changes to the language that would make it more palatable.

But it's still -- we'll be taking our final action on it, too, since it has actually been put forward. But it would be very likely I think that we're going to be end up having to be strongly opposed to it for the reasons otherwise stated.

One thing that's been brought forward to me also -- very appreciating this gathering. There's such power and knowledge in this room. It's tremendous to be a part of it. For the Staff, you've done a great job. But the main thing people are seeing missing is an opportunity where we could get back together again and do this, you know, kind of a coalesce or some kind of an action that's reflective of the common themes and concerns from all ten Councils. And if that could be something that maybe even could be worked in again for a half hour to an hour session when we wrap up on Friday, maybe if it's a possibility we'd like to see something like that happen.

I want to also express our appreciation to Tim. Glad to hear you're not retiring officially.

And Mr. Haskett, sir, you've done a tremendous job when you're here as far as carrying the water for the RACs on so many occasions at the Federal Board for the other agencies that don't have the familiarity with our issues. We kind of look to you to do that. And we're sorry to see you moving on, but such is life and that.

And one thing I was remising mentioning as well in the opening statements, I mentioned to him

about finalization of the Memorandum of Understanding, which is with the Service. It's not with the Federal Board. And the Inter-Tribal Fish Commission on the Kuskokwim. Mr. Haskett has already signed that for the Service, on behalf, because his Staff were instrumental and he as well was instrumental in getting that put together. It's really a historical document.

We hope that you can come back somewhere around mid-April. We're looking at probably April 11th to have the ceremonial signing. Deputy Secretary Connor has been invited, along with the Associate Secretary Roberts. And so we could hope if you could find your way clear to come back and join us in mid-April when that happens.

So anyway, I guess that's -- anybody else had anything they want to add here.

(No comments)

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

Western Interior.

MR. COLLINS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

On the predator control, that's one of the issues that I raised in my opening statements, so we will be taking a position on that and certainly we're not in favor of the ruling and would like to see changes made there.

I served on the State group that was working for two years on predator management control and then that effort came to naught when we ended up back in court again, but what we were looking at in rural area is some things that would trigger predator control. And that would be that when things got out of balance, like you reached a low level of any population and there was no recruitment because of predation, you would be automatically be able to step in and try to bring some balance again and provide for calf recruitment and so on into the population or else the population's just going to stay low as has been mentioned out in Aleutian. So some kind of a ruling that would have steps in there on what would trigger predator control would be useful.

The other one was that I brought in the opening statement was this moving decision-making down. And I guess already they've started to use this delegation of authority. And what the RACs might think about is in the proposals writing in some delegation of authority when a ruling that if for one reason or another the harvest objectives are not met, that there would be a way of extending the season at the local level without having to go back to the Board, the decision. Because they haven't been provided an opportunity.

Let's say if it's a winter hunt and weather doesn't allow you to get out. But then it improves, the only thing you can do now is ask for a special action. Whereas if there's delegation of authority in there at the local level they would be able to automatically extend that season.

So we might think about using that tool in some of the other proposals that put forward that it's built right in from the beginning that you could use the delegation of authority.

And I appreciate again what was stated for others on the recruitment of youth, but we -- another thing that's come to mind, it hasn't been raised here. It's been raised in the past. And there is a problem of recruitment of middle-aged people onto our RACs, too.

(Laughter)

MR. COLLINS: I mean some of us are retired. And we stay on here and we have compensation. We can afford to come in here for a week. But for others, they're having to give up a week's work to be in here. And most our meetings take at least three or four days with travel on either end and then the meeting time. And I think the issue ought to be raised again of some kind of a meeting fee that would make them available. Because they have to either give up work or work without pay or give up subsistence activities in order to attend here.

And so I think they ought to strongly look at the issue of having a meeting fee that would allow some of those younger people to participate that may not be because they can't afford to give up the work. So I would bring that out. And I know it's come forward in

the past and they was always saying no, that it can't be done. But I think if you're looking at the future of the RACs, you need to consider something like that.

Because if the RACs don't do their work, the Federal Agencies can't do their work. And yet they're all paid for coming to these meetings and all of us are asked to volunteer totally.

So I'll just leave it there. But I think there should be discussion on that again.

And again I really appreciate all the presentations that have been made thus far. So that's all I have for now.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

Seward Peninsula.

MR. GRAY: Thank you. My name is Tom Gray. I'm from Nome. And I really appreciate the opportunity of bringing all these folks together. If you added up the years of all these people, you've got hundreds and hundreds of years I'd imagine.

And talk about background and subsistence. I mean just the amount of subsistence that's sitting here is amazing. Totally amazing.

I don't really want to dwell on issues so much as I mean there's from pollock to Tim bringing out subsistence players sitting on the Boards instead of Agencies. You know, what a great idea. I really think that's something that we should work towards.

But I do want to point out that there's been a lot of ideas, a lot of information put forward here. And I hope somebody's keeping tabs on all this stuff so we can get it back to the Boards -- all this information and ideas and issues and so on and so forth.

You know, I'm kind of a goal-oriented person. And I'd like to see goals. I'd like to see something come out of this meeting. And one thing that -- sitting here thinking what can I say. You know, I think this meeting needs to happen -- I don't know --

every five years or some -- you know, every so often. We've got to bring us all together. We've kind of been spoon fed this bringing us together now and we've got a taste of something that's been -- to me, it's been really interesting. And by the end of the week it's going to be -- we're going to way wow, that was awesome.

So I think we need to look forward and look at what are the issues that all ten regions have. And how can we get some of these into goals and get them addressed.

Anyway, I'm not the chairman, but I'm going to turn the speaker over to our chairman. He showed up here just recently and hasn't been through a lot of this.

But I'm with you, Tim, on let's get some of the subsistence users on that Board.

Anyway, Louis Green is actually our chairman and he did say he wanted to say something.

MR. GREEN: Madam Chair.

Thank you, Tommy.

I regret that I haven't been here in the last couple of days. Yesterday traveling and today there was a State Board of Fish meeting going on that I had to participate on behalf of my Native corporation in there.

And so what I wanted to say was, you know, the reason why we're all here is it's about subsistence and how important it is to us. One of the things that I -- I guess we can't stress enough is the education of it to people on the Outside that that lady over there says we have to fight against all the time. What's really amazing is that you can watch a reality show somewhere down in Homer of a family living out in the sticks out there that has to 100 pounds of this away and 100 pounds of that away. And people get the idea that, yeah, you know, that's subsistence. But they don't get the whole picture I don't think because subsistence doesn't just mean putting food away. It's having everybody take part of that in your family and your community and especially in a small community.

So the education of subsistence needs to -- you know, we need to spearhead that and make it more understandable to people on the Outside that we deal with.

The Seward Peninsula RAC last year had a session with Pat Valkenburg over predator control. And I think it's important that we need to be looking at that. You know, we're the top of the food chain, but like that young lady over there stated, that we are a species also. And it's important to us about where our food comes from and who's competing with us on it.

I've got a picture here in my phone that I just got from a fellow that has a wolf packing a salmon. That's something that I stated at one our meetings -- RAC meetings a couple of years ago that, you know, the competition just isn't with bears and salmon. It's -- you know, there's wolves.

Right now it's been really hard to take part in this for me because there's other issues. There's a caribou issue. There's a meeting at the Board of Game in Fairbanks we're missing. You know, there's a lot of us that advocate at that level and we're missing it. It's not that this is a bad thing. It's just that we've got to have these Agencies working together so that when we have these meetings, we need to be able to participate in them.

Because some of these people in here are pretty key to their communities and their regions. And, you know, if you're not able to take part in that, your area may suffer. So I would like to see that there's a more planned out -- and it's not just the Offices of Subsistence Management, but also working with the State Agencies so we don't have this issue in the future.

The idea of bringing in youth. I like this young man's suggestion that we need to make it a little bit more appeasing to the middle-aged group. They're kind of taking over. I guess I'm part of that, although I'm about 58-years old.

(Laughter)

MR. GREEN: So the youth in my area, you know, it's a good thing Tommy's one of the people that teaches young folks. I've done that throughout my life

with my older children. I've been raising children for 30 years. So their friends get a bath in subsistence lifestyle.

The importance of subsistence. Again, stipends. Meeting stipends. The Secretary of Interior needs to understand that it helps to get more people involved. And how serious is the Secretary of Interior about our subsistence needs. Well, I guess the future will remain to be seen.

I appreciate the opportunity. And Tim, good to see you again. Glad you're still here.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well, thank you.

Next is the Northwest Arctic.

MR. SHIEDT: Afternoon. Attamuk here, Northwest Alaska, from Kotzebue.

I would like to thank the OSM to make this meeting possible to see all what we Council members fight for our livelihood of being living off the land. And I will tell you right now in my meetings I always stress I do not like the word subsistence. If you translate it in the Western world, it's barely making it. So as a Native, I harvest for food. I do not harvest for antlers or any other thing. I harvest to put food on the table.

And the other concern in Northwest Alaska is the erosion problems we are having. And it's not only happening in the coastal waters, it's happening in the rivers, the erosion. It's taking a lot of our land and our resources as fish is changing. And the change is the land is drying up so much that seven years ago about 6,000 salmon died just in the month of July in one of my rivers.

Also, last summer it happened also at Kiana. We were getting so much fish that they're dying, lack of oxygen. We could not take samples to send them out to really what happened, but there's so much fish out there and we wish that somehow the price would go up as commercial fishermen. That way they could take most of our fish. Yet due to global warming, our fish are

getting so huge that last summer one of our salmon -- we weighed our chum -- 26 pounds.

(Laughter)

MR. SHIEDT: And that's big. And we get a lot of 18 and 16. But last summer they were so big that we're -- as Natives, we're seeing the change. And we're getting scared that something will happen to our salmon.

And the other problem is we are having in Northwest Alaska is the decline of our caribou. I would say crash. From 500,000 plus down to 235,000. We don't really know what they're having. Why they are crashing. Yet they're healthy. They're fat. And they're healthy. And yet when you see the fawns -- as few Natives -- I know a lot of Natives hunt, but few of us -- when we were getting -- and they went to my house and they were saying we seen young fawns, yet they're small in size. Meaning there's someplace with the feed.

And the problem -- that's what we're seeing. And the other one we have with caribou is the conflict we're having with transporters and outfitters. When we're trying to harvest caribou, they're in a river. Away from the river from the migration. And they're flying with planes and dropping off hunters. And it's hurting us.

When Noatak, my people of Noatak, I was raised at Noatak. When they have to go harvest caribou to Kiana and the trip is over seven drums of gas so they could put food on the table. They know no mileage. It's just they want to -- it's our culture to eat our food. And we are caribou people. And they will take all -- they won't worry about the money like the Western world. They worry about that. And we don't. The money we spend is putting food on the table. And that will last us for a long time to come.

And the other one is our declining of sheep. When we first tried to tell the Federal and the State that our sheep was declining 40 years ago, they did not hear us. We Natives are the eyes of the resources. When we see something going, happening. When we tried to tell them, they didn't want to hear us. And they crashed. Now they worry about it because it's too late.

Wake up, Agencies and the State of Alaska. They're the hardest ones to talk to. And when we tried to tell them, they didn't want to hear us. Now they're worried about it's too late. We need to save our resources before it's happening if we see it as is. Let's fight. Don't worry about Agencies. We need to fight with them to win our case. That way we'll have our resources for the future.

Also, the other one I'm concerning about -- and I'm one of them. We as Natives could only harvest so much resources before we start hurting our resources. We can't harvest. That's why we have a great problem when somebody tried to harvest our fawns and our young ones. When they're rearing their young we have a problem. Do not take our resources when they're rearing their young. The moms are rearing our future stock.

And also we always worry about putting regulations in place. We should have less regulation as much as possible. The less we have enforcement can't give us citations for having no regulations in place. Only time I worry about regulations should be in place if our resources are declining.

And also we need to meet every five years. Don't worry about the time. This is my time. You'll get yours later.

(Laughter)

MR. SHIEDT: I would like to meet every five years. To make it easier because we donated our time to be here. And we need to be at every often.

Also, last thing from the Council, Tim. For our meeting at least someone from the Federal Council to be in our meetings. That way we could hear what we're saying and you could take it to your table.

Now you could ding it.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

The next is the Eastern Interior.

MS. ENSTMINGER: Yes. Thank you.

My name is Sue Enstminger. I serve as the chair on the Eastern Interior and I want to thank Andrew for taking the lead this morning or yesterday morning when I wasn't able to be here.

I live near Mentasta and I had the honor and privilege of spending many decades with Katie John and learning the culture from Mentasta, an Athabascan village.

The Eastern Interior is a very interesting part of the process. We have a river system and a road system and they're actually quite different.

Andrew Firmin this morning handled a lot of the fisheries issues and the people on the road system tend to talk more about the animals and the hunting.

The Eastern Interior has been following these issues and that proposed rule by the Fish and Wildlife Service was a big one. And we probably had several meetings hearing Fish and Wildlife Service work on that. And we're very much opposed to it not just for the predator control, but having the policy put into regulation. It's totally unnecessary and it gets very restrictive. And the people in my region in Northway, they're very, very concerned about that.

And then the Park Service just recently put out another proposed rule. And I serve on the Wrangell Subsistence Resource Commission for the Park there. And we just had a meeting last week and we took up -- currently it was like ten years that our RAC had put in a proposal to sell horn and antlers for -- to just pick it up and make handicrafts and do that.

Well, it took an EA and a long process to get a proposed rule. And then all of a sudden slipped in is this definition of bear bait. It was very, very concerning. We'll be taking it up. And at our meeting -- and I have actually asked our coordinator to send the SRC letter to the other chairs here at this meeting. I think it's very concerning also.

I wanted to also mention that the warmer climates, people would like to see later seasons. And I also would like to talk about the youth. Living near Mentasta and being an outdoor person myself, I end up

taking kids out. They love to spend the night with me. And I had to laugh when one of them said no, you're not grandma. You're great-grandma. And I told her that's because I'm great.

(Laughter)

MS. ENSTMINGER: But anyway, that is important. And I just terribly enjoy it. Getting those kids out and doing things with them and see the excitement on their face when they're out in the woods, climbing around the mountains, and doing things. Sliding on a piece of plastic down the snow chutes in sheep country. It just is a joy for me to see that.

I wanted to ditto a few things that were said here earlier. When Southeast said that we should have some type of agreement, I think that's a really good idea. This type of process -- we're volunteers. We come to these meetings over and over and over again. And we like to see -- I think one person said you're a doer. You like to get things done. A goal operated. And that's -- I think we need to get something consistent that we can agree on from this meeting.

And I probably could say a few other things, but I think Andrew covered a lot of the stuff this morning. And I really appreciate -- thank everybody that works with the Councils as volunteers. It does get trying to make all the meetings. And I want to thank the Eastern Interior people. They do a really good job and very outspoken. I appreciate all the work they do.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

Harry, five minutes, North Slope.

(Laughter)

MR. H. BROWER: In that case, I'm going to pass it on to my vice-chair if it's only going to be five minutes for me.

(Laughter)

MR. H. BROWER: I'll have her start. Then I'll get my five minutes.

(Laughter)

MR. H. BROWER: Rosemary.

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary Ahtuangaruak. I'm from Barrow. I really appreciate the discussion that's been held today. It's really important that we all engage. It's very important that we've learned from the communities to the south of us and the efforts that they've engaged in, in trying to protect our way of life.

As we continue to move north, we have so many more concerns because the regulatory effort is increasing in concentration, but our animals are still our animals. Very supportive of the discussion around funding issues. That's a very big, important thing. If we don't have enough resources to get together to have our meetings or be able to reach the people who need to give us the information to make decisions, that's a problem.

Also, the fragmentation of funding. It affects the decision-making criteria. It's really important that we understand in writing what is this fragmentation of funding and whose decisions are being used to prioritize these decision-making priorities.

There's also a wonderful process on the deference to the RACs, but we need to have the documentation that shows the enforcement of the deference to our RACs on our decisions.

I'm also very concerned about the proposed rule making. There are a lot of discussions that need to be held that we have not been able to do so. And I am opposed in that consideration.

Also, we need to take this process as very precautious. Know what we have and that it is still here and that it is still safe. Be preventative. Know what we are at risk for in assessing for prevention of things continuing to go bad. Be proactive. Being able to work with us to keep living. Coming back to the table if things changed and to make this process a living process and make the adjustments as we need to under current or add to it as we need to with the regulatory processes that are changing and affecting our decisions.

But overall, being protected of human health, especially our children.

Thank you.

MR. H. BROWER: Thank you for that, Rosemary.

And Madam Chair. Co-Chair. Thank you for your efforts in helping with this meeting.

I still want to thank all the participants that are here. It's very meaningful to hear all your comments. And where is the children. You know, that's our future that we're looking and discussing.

The other comment I'd like to share is in regard to Lt. Governor Byron Mallott's statement. That he stated the possible delegation of working together on management. You know, where is this conflict. And we are identifying that conflict in the AKP area on the North Slope. They should be one of the items for discussion in this process if -- when that MOU is being discussed. I think that these are very serious issues.

You know, when the community I'm speaking about -- caribou is their main staple for the community. Caribou is very important to that community and yet they've been left without. And when there's a hardship that occurs in the hunt, we don't have the State. We don't have the Federal Agencies to come in to provide sustenance for the community. So we have to reach out to elsewhere besides our own governments. To our -- we reach out to our own people.

And I'm very thankful for you all sharing your resources. Excuse me. You know, we do have somewhat of a situation. You know, when you look at the North Slope for many different things of other resources. We need the resources. And caribou has been one of the biggest issues we've been dealing with.

Madam Chair, the thing I need to pass on is that we still need to work and communicate. Communications is very important. The interpretation in that communication is very vital. It should not be taken lightly or re-interpreted by a different communication scheme that's in place. When we say something as a Regional Advisory Council, it should be meaning that. What we stated. And put on record. It shouldn't be going to the Office of Subsistence

of the language that we've used. I don't
3 think that's what the intent of this program was.
4
5 I think there needs to be that very
6 straightforward communications to be meaningful. I
7 mean we've had a problem of our -- several of our
8 proposed regulation changes and had to suspend the
9 proposed regulation changes that we were submitting to
10 the Federal Subsistence Board and having to retrieve
11 them back to making sure that the language was what we
12 were wanting to follow through with.
13
14 So these things are very important to us and
15 they should not be hindered with and redefined in the
16 sense that there's some ramification coming back to us
17 that we were not looking to deal with.
18
19 Madam Chair, the other comment's in regard to
20 communications. You know, we try to encourage students
21 to become our next generation and our representatives
22 to these types of organizations. I think that what's
23 missing in the school programs is the teaching. The
24 teaching of ANILCA. The teaching of ANCSA. Those
25 types of teaching of what was mentioned earlier, our
26 rights within our State are not identified with.
27
28 You know, we're part of the U.S. system so
29 the teaching criteria is based on the United States
30 criteria. But maybe it needs to be centralized a
31 little bit more and address Alaska's rights, people's
32 rights on subsistence matters.
33
34 I'm trying to recall some of the other
35 comments that -- the discussion that we had this
36 morning on one of the agenda items in regards to the
37 presentations. And you're right that there needs to be
38 a little bit more straightforward communications to the
39 Council chairs. Be given an opportunity to provide its
40 comments in that structure. To be meaningful and get
41 heard from each of the ten regions.
42
43 You know, I think that would have been a good
44 process to identify with for the guest speakers, to the
45 presenters, that there's an opportunity that's
46 generated from each of our Councils and voice one or
47 two comments or issues that are -- or ideas that could
48 be passed on to identify suggestions or recommendations
49 to move forward -- further this along.
50

And I stop here. And Madam Chair. Mr. Chair. And again thank you for your efforts.

Thank you to Federal Subsistence Board Chairman Tim and Mr. Haskett, if he still here. Thank you for all the years of service that you provided.

Thank you, Geoff. And again I don't think that retiring might -- I'm not sure if you're leaving the State just because you're retiring, but we'll probably see you around some other meetings.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Harry. I almost beeped you.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We gave each of the ten regions a time to reflect from each of their areas. And I can't express the power and the blood in here. There's so much information. So much knowledge in here that it's -- you can't comprehend it.

It's just -- and this is just a reflection of what we go through at our Regional Board meetings with all the information that comes in from our elders, our traditional and ecological knowledge that's been passed on to us. And then we've also, you know, passed that on to our younger generation.

So we have about five minutes if somebody else has a burning desire to say something.

There's a hand right there.

MR. WALKER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Since I'm not running for the Western Interior Board, this is my last year. Fifteen years was very nice. I also went to Jeff Haskett to have him sign it, too. So anybody wants to have theirs signed, I mean bring it to Geoff.

Thank you.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody else.

Okay. There's a hand back there.

MR. KRAMER: I'd like to thank all ten Boards for meeting. We are very powerful people. We have a powerful say as to what goes on in this State subsistence-wise. Harvest-wise. Life-wise. Culture-wise. We are a very, very strong group of people. And we have that God given right to do so.

I'd like to thank all of you. And it's a pleasure being here with you guys. And that's coming from the Kid.

Thank you.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any -- if not -- I don't see any -- okay.

Back there.

MR. HOWARD: Just real quick, Madam Chair. One of the things that's been weighing on my mind is the extraterritorial jurisdiction petition that some people would like to see go away. The intent of that is to -- we've tried everything with the State. I've been hearing people talk about dual management. You know, the Feds may not work up in the north, in the Interior. Well, the State hasn't worked for Angoon.

We put in proposal after proposal after proposal. Our community has united. We've never done that before. Corporation, the Tribal government, and the City government. And we all submitted proposals. The one proposal that made it to the Board of Fish last year was the proposal that's most likely not to succeed and pass. That one made it. And it didn't pass. All the others were taken out of the process.

So that's something to consider. When I went to the Board of Fish, being a single parent, I had to choose whether to stay through the entire meeting or go home and take care of my son, which is my first priority. So I wasn't there to be at the end of it when they decided what was going to happen. An agreement was made with the Seiners Association that my years of experience seining showed me that that

proposal was basically put together by the Seiners Association. They closed down areas that if you look at the history of the State in Chatham Strait had been closed a long time ago. So we got nothing.

So it's just something to put in the back of your mind when you hear about the extraterritorial jurisdiction petition from Angoon. I want to keep it alive until the problem is solved. The State of Alaska was given three years to fix the problem in Angoon and it hasn't been done.

So and on a personal note -- I know I'm going to get dinged or something, but I served Desert Shield, Desert Storm. Mr. Towarak, thank you for your service. And I say that because some people say that what I served as wasn't a war. It was only 100 hours. And here's what I have to say to that. It's because of gentlemen like him who sat on the ground in Vietnam. We took that technology that was learned from Vietnam and we kicked somebody's behind with it.

And now I have kids because of your service. I was on the ground over there and somebody was saying this is going to be another Vietnam. You don't want to hear that when you're staying in a tent in the middle of the desert, hoping to go home to your family. So I appreciate your service. And I credit you and the rest of the Vietnam veterans for me being home.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank you.

I think Carl -- I'm going to give Carl the last word here. Hopefully he'll give us directions as to what we're going to do this afternoon.

(Laughter)

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Just a few items. First of all, all Council members, please take your meeting book, your notepad and your pens with you. Your Council coordinators will collect your name tags, so just leave those there.

For everybody else, this is just the beginning. Everybody who's sitting in the chairs out there, this is all for you as well. So in each of the

main meeting books there's this little room chart. And so I want to caution you against using -- relying on the numbers that are the permanent signs on the walls, but instead look to the freestanding sign as to what room is what.

There are three rooms on this side of the hall. And then when you go around the back there's three rooms back there. And those are the rooms that are on here. This is the room that's the large room. There will not be anything in here today. There will be for the rest of the week. But for this afternoon, starting at 2:00 it's in those other six rooms where your sessions are.

Also, for the newest Council members that did not have an advance per diem check waiting for you when you got here, there is now one for you out at the main table. So you can go collect that. It'll hopefully get you through the rest of the week.

And then finally I just want to thank all of the Council members for their participation in this. It makes me feel good to hear that this was valuable for you. And for those who said they would like to do this every five years or so, I'm already on board with that idea. But I'll have to keep working on the chain of command above me.

Thank you.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's these two boxes of cookies. I assume this is for Jack and I. If somebody's responsible. If they're not claimed, we'll claim them. Thank you.

(Laughter)

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 173 through 263 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the ALL RAC - FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 8th day of March at Anchorage, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 29th day of March 2016.

_____
Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/18