

1 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL

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ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

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PUBLIC MEETING

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VOLUME III

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Anchorage, Alaska - Teleconference

11

December 14, 2015

12

9:00 a.m.

13

14

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

16

17 Harry Brower, Chair

18 Rosemary Ahtuanguak

19 Gordon Brower

20 Lee Kayotuk

21 Robert Shears

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26 Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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37 Recorded and transcribed by:

38

39 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC

40 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2

41 Anchorage, AK 99501

42 907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Teleconference - 12/14/2015)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for setting up the teleconference, Eva and the Staff there with OSM. Happy holidays to you all. At this time I'd like to call the North Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting to order, the teleconference meeting, December 14 and it's 9:15 at this time.

I'd like to establish a quorum with the roll call, please.

MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. This is Lee. I'd like to establish a quorum for December 14, 9:00 a.m. follow-up meeting. I'm not too sure at this time, Mr. Chair, who is all in at this time.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Through the roll call, Lee, you'll be able to go ahead and identify the Council members that are present.

MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Good morning. At this time I'd like to do a roll call. Harry K. Brower, Jr.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MR. KAYOTUK: James Nageak.

(No response)

MR. KAYOTUK: Robert Shears.

MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Lee. I'm here.

MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee Kayotuk is here. Rosemary Ahtuanguak.

MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.

MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. At this time I don't have my book on me. I'm just checking to see who is all at the quorum at this time.

MR. G. BROWER: Good morning, Lee.

1 Gordon Brower is here. Good morning.

2

3 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: I'm wondering. We got  
6 James's resignation. I wonder if he thinks he's not  
7 obligated to go to this meeting. I don't know. My  
8 train of thought.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

11

12 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Robert.

13 Are you present at this time?

14

15 MR. SHEARS: Yes, I'm here.

16

17 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Don't mind  
18 me. I've kind of got a cold here. But, anyway, I'm  
19 trying to work our way through at this time. I'd like  
20 to continue at this time, Mr. Chair, to continue roll  
21 call and make sure everyone is present at this time.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have five that  
24 I've noted, Lee. And then there's James and Sam I  
25 haven't heard from. Regarding Gordon's comment there,  
26 I'm not sure if James is thinking that he resigned from  
27 his position last fall during our meeting, so I don't  
28 think he's obligated to call at this time. But Sam  
29 Kunaknana from Nuiqsut and I don't think we have our  
30 alternate for Point Hope or a representative from Point  
31 Hope either.

32

33 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay, Mr. Chair. I'd  
34 like to advise to continue our meeting at this time if  
35 we have a quorum.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee. We  
38 have five members on board, so we have a quorum. At  
39 this time we have an invocation. Gordon (in Inupiaq).

40

41 MR. G. BROWER: All right.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's do an  
44 invocation. I'll ask Gordon.

45

46 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning,  
47 everybody. Happy holiday, Merry Christmas to  
48 everybody. Just like Lee I've got a bad cold. I've got  
49 like cold/cough drops on one side and Cold-Eze in the  
50 other. It's that time of the year. Let's pray a

3 (Invocation)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amen. Amen, Gordon.

6 So I called to order the meeting at the beginning.

7 We're down to agenda item number four, welcome and

8 introductions. Again, my name is Harry Brower. I'm the

9 Chair of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. I

10 reside here in Barrow, Alaska. I also have other two

11 participants here, Gordon and Robert. Introduce

12 yourselves, please.

13

14 MR. SHEARS: Good morning. This is

15 Robert Shears. Everybody involved in this meeting, the

16 teleconference in Anchorage, refers to me as Bob. I am

17 glad we can get back to addressing our unfinished

18 business from last month. In Anaktuvuk Pass, that

19 business took us well beyond our time allotted on our

20 agenda. We've still got a lot to do, so I'm going to

21 try not to interfere too much with the process. Let's

22 get this thing going.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Robert.

25

26 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning,

27 everybody. Gordon Brower for the record. I'm a

28 representative out of Barrow, Alaska. I too am eager

29 to continue our meeting that we left off in November 4.

30 There was such concerns that came out of Anaktuvuk Pass

31 that we were able to quite dwell on those concerns to

32 the point that we were not able to finish our agenda.

33 I'm hoping that all is not forgotten and that we

34 continue exactly where we left off. I think we had

35 some very important issues we were talking about and I

36 hope OSM continues to support us in the way we deserve

37 to be supported.

38

39 We had some issues with proposals that

40 it didn't quite sound like the language that we were

41 using. The diligence in reading over these things kind

42 of put to light that we've got to be very careful as

43 what we move forward because it might not say what we

44 want to say on there.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

49 Our other two Advisory Council members.

50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee  
2 Kayotuk, Village of Kaktovik. Thank you all to let us  
3 continue our business on Regional Advisory Council. I  
4 just want to say good morning. Thank you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.  
7 Rose. Rosemary, you on?  
8 I'm not sure if she has her phone on mute. She was on  
9 earlier.

10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: Must be taking curlers  
12 off her hair.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'll continue with  
15 our introductions. We'll start with our coordinator,  
16 Eva.

17  
18 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Good  
19 morning, Mr. Chair and Council. Welcome and thank you  
20 for joining again today to follow up with the Anaktuvuk  
21 Pass meeting. My name is Eva Patton and I work as the  
22 Council coordinator for the North Slope Subsistence  
23 Regional Advisory Council.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.  
28 This is Tom Evans. I work as a wildlife biologist for  
29 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.

30  
31 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
32 It's Carl Johnson here at the Office of Subsistence  
33 Management. Happy to join you again to continue your  
34 meeting.

35  
36 MR. LIND: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.  
37 My name is Orville Lind. I'm the Native liaison for  
38 Office of Subsistence Management. I'm glad to be here  
39 this morning.

40  
41 MS. HYER: Yeah, good morning, Mr.  
42 Chair. This is Karen Hyer with the Fisheries Division  
43 and I'll be taking you through the Fisheries Monitoring  
44 Program later today.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

47  
48 MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
49 George Pappas, OSM, State subsistence liaison to the  
50 Board of Fish and Board of Game.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, George.  
2  
3 MS. DAGGETT: This is Carmen Daggett  
4 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Kotzebue and  
5 I have the Unit 23 results for the advisory committee  
6 meetings regarding the proposal that will be discussed  
7 today that I will share at some point.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.  
10  
11 MS. HARDEN: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
12 This is Jennifer Harden, the Anthropology Division  
13 Chief from OSM.  
14  
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jennifer.  
16  
17 DR. YOKEL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.  
18 This is Dave Yokel with the BLM in Fairbanks.  
19  
20 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning, Dave.  
21  
22 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with BLM in  
23 Anchorage.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There was two of you  
26 compounding each other. Can you restate your name,  
27 please.  
28  
29 MR. SHARP: This is Dan Sharp with  
30 Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.  
31  
32 MR. CRAWFORD: This is Drew Crawford,  
33 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Anchorage.  
34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Drew. Who  
36 else is on the line?  
37  
38 MR. GLASPELL: This is Brian Glaspell  
39 with Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brian.  
42  
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary and  
44 I'm on. Somehow we lost the ability to communicate, so  
45 I called back in.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
48 Good morning.  
49  
50 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning, Rosemary.

1 MR. ADKISSON: This is Ken Adkisson  
2 with the Park Service in Nome.  
3  
4 MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince Mathews  
5 with Arctic Refuge in Fairbanks.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Good  
8 morning, Vince.  
9  
10 MS. OKADA: Good morning. This is  
11 Marcy Okada with the National Park Service out of  
12 Fairbanks.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.  
15  
16 MS. RATTENBURY: Good morning. This is  
17 Kumi Rattenbury with the Park Service in Fairbanks.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I didn't hear her.  
20 Could you restate your name, please.  
21  
22 MS. RATTENBURY: Sure. It's Kumi, K-U-  
23 M-I, Rattenbury.  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kumi Rattenbury.  
26 Thank you, Kumi. Anybody else.  
27  
28 (No comments)  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you all for the  
31 introductions and joining us this morning to discuss  
32 our unfinished business with the North Slope Regional  
33 Advisory Council. Again, my name is Harry Brower. I'm  
34 Chair of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council.  
35  
36 We're going through our agenda items  
37 and I'm down to agenda item 5, review and adopt the  
38 agenda, at this time, Council members.  
39  
40 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I move to  
41 adopt the agenda.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Move to adopt the  
44 agenda. Motion on the floor.  
45  
46 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Bob.  
49 Discussion. I can't see anybody out there raising  
50 hands or anything, so we have to speak up if there's

1 any discussion in regard to the agenda.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe under old  
8 business if Eva can do a quick recap of things we were  
9 discussing in Anaktuvuk, if that would be -- it might  
10 be kind of helpful just to do like a summary of our  
11 discussion topics. I know we had harvestable surplus  
12 dialogues that go hand in hand with the State ANS, to  
13 other issues like that. It might be useful just to  
14 have a quick summary of those types of things.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah.

17

18 MR. G. BROWER: And some of the  
19 language issues that were kind of pretty strong with  
20 our proposals. Anyway, I'd like to add somewhere,  
21 either under old business, just a quick recap of our  
22 November 4 discussions.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's where  
25 basically I identified that you mentioned it, Gordon,  
26 on the agenda I have. It was written down.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: Okay.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

31

32 Eva.

33

34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I  
35 would be happy to provide an overview of the meeting, a  
36 brief summary of what was discussed at that time. Did  
37 you want to take that up when we get to the old  
38 business section or where would you prefer?

39

40 MR. G. BROWER: Would it be appropriate  
41 from the beginning or.....

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it might be  
44 sometime when we're having a discussion with the  
45 proposals might be -- or just before the proposals  
46 might be a good area as well.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: I'LL yield to your  
49 guys's better judgment on where that could be fielded  
50 better.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What about -- do you  
2 have a comment, Eva, regarding what I just stated?

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
5 I'd be happy to provide a brief summary next on the  
6 agenda before we get into the proposals. That's what  
7 we'll be taking up next is the remaining wildlife  
8 proposals that the Council didn't have time to take  
9 action on.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: Under new business?

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Under new business.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: That sounds  
16 appropriate.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other discussion.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a motion to  
23 approve the North Slope Regional Advisory Council  
24 agenda with a slight modification under 6, a recap of  
25 discussions for our November 4 meeting. Any other  
26 modifications or discussions regarding the motion.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: Call for the question,  
29 Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
32 If there's no further discussion I'll recognize the  
33 question and call on the motion. All in favor to  
34 approve the December 14, 2015 meeting agenda signify by  
35 saying aye.

36

37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have an agenda  
42 before us. Thank you, Council members. We'll get into  
43 our next agenda item, is the new business. At this  
44 time with the slight modification we just made, we're  
45 to have a recap on discussion from the November 4  
46 meeting. I'll give the floor to Eva.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. As  
49 you recall, the North Slope Subsistence Regional  
50 Advisory Council met in Anaktuvuk Pass on November 3rd

1 and 4th. We had quite a bit of public participation, a  
2 lot of feedback from community members in Anaktuvuk  
3 Pass discussing many issues primarily related to  
4 caribou and movement of the caribou. Also a discussion  
5 on access to Native allotment lands in the National  
6 Park.

7  
8 The Council had begun discussion on  
9 supporting the resolution that was read into the record  
10 by Anaktuvuk Pass, which was presented at AFN and the  
11 Council had wished to support Anaktuvuk Pass on that  
12 resolution. The Council had also discussed writing a  
13 letter to the board incorporating much of the feedback  
14 from the community of Anaktuvuk Pass. There was a lot  
15 of heartfelt discussion, a lot of knowledge contributed  
16 in terms of timing of the caribou and potential options  
17 for conservation management.

18  
19 So those are some things that are on  
20 the agenda to revisit at the end in terms of taking  
21 action if the Council wanted to make a motion to follow  
22 up on those letters and also a proposal to the Board of  
23 Game regarding the Controlled Use Area.

24  
25 The Council heard an update on rural  
26 determination and also the Red Sheep Creek RFR, so  
27 those processes are concluded. We had identified some  
28 of the annual report topics throughout the meeting that  
29 the Council had wanted to address and these were  
30 including food security and its role in identifying  
31 whether an area is rural for the purposes of Federal  
32 subsistence priority.

33  
34 The decline of caribou and the need to  
35 work with other hunters, such as sport hunters. If  
36 there's a Tier II or seeking out other options to  
37 protect the fall migration of caribou, access to Native  
38 allotments within the Gates of the Arctic and also a  
39 request from the Council for more detail from the Board  
40 in their reply to letters, especially in addressing  
41 some of the complex issues such as climate change  
42 impacts to subsistence.

43  
44 If the Council recalls, the retirement  
45 of James Nageak leaves the Gates of the Arctic SRC seat  
46 vacant and the Council voted to appoint Sam Kunaknana  
47 as the representative for the interim on the Gates of  
48 the Arctic SRC.

49  
50 And then the Council took up many of

1 the wildlife proposals, which I don't know -- it's  
2 helpful if you have your books there, so WP16-61, 62,  
3 63 and 64 were the primary caribou proposals that the  
4 Council had submitted yourself to the Federal  
5 Subsistence Board. On WP16-61 the Council voted to  
6 support the proposal as modified by OSM.

7  
8 On 16-62 the Council voted to support  
9 the proposal accepting only the OSM modifications to  
10 the unit descriptors. And if you recall, the proposal  
11 that the Council submitted and then a recommendation  
12 from OSM on some of them, if there's modifications that  
13 OSM had suggested.

14  
15 WP16-63, the Council voted to support  
16 the proposal as modified by OSM and WP16-64 also the  
17 Council voted to support as modified by OSM.

18  
19 And then WP16-65, if you'll recall, was  
20 delegated authority for opening the moose hunt in  
21 Kaktovik and the Council voted to support that proposal  
22 as modified by OSM.

23  
24 And WP16-66. I don't know if it's  
25 helpful for you in your books. The Council voted to  
26 support that proposal as modified by OSM. Then WP16-37  
27 was very similar -- another proposal on caribou. Very  
28 similar to the four proposals that the North Slope  
29 Council submitted, so you took no action based on your  
30 recommendations of the proposals that this Council  
31 submitted.

32  
33 And then WP16-48, which you recall was  
34 addressing the positioning of animals for hunting and  
35 the Council voted to support the proposal as written.

36  
37 Again, the Council had wanted to work  
38 on a Board of Game proposal to address the Anaktuvuk  
39 Pass Controlled Use Area and protection of the caribou  
40 herd during their migration. So you have a draft of  
41 that that I sent that the Council can work further on  
42 with community feedback, but that would be an action  
43 item if you wanted to take that up to submit it.  
44 Again, we had a lot of testimony and discussion from  
45 the community and the Council had wished to include  
46 that in their letter of support along with their  
47 resolution.

48  
49 That brings us to the proposals that we  
50 didn't quite get to, which were crossover proposals

1 with Western and Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory  
2 Councils. Unless there's any questions, we have Tom  
3 Evans here who can present those proposals. Any  
4 questions on what was covered at the previous meeting?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Eva. I was  
7 trying to stop you while you were transitioning from  
8 one portion to the next, but I didn't realize I muted  
9 the phone. There was something about the proposal for  
10 -- or right after the positioning of animals and then I  
11 didn't quite catch what that next one was.

12  
13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, are you asking  
14 about what the vote was on that proposal?

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No. What the  
17 discussion was. I think it was right before the  
18 positioning of animals by snowmachine. There was some  
19 discussion before that.

20  
21 MR. SHEARS: Wildlife Proposal 16-37.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

24  
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
26 WP16-37 was a very similar proposal to the Council's  
27 own four proposals that were submitted. So, in light  
28 of that, the Council voted to take no action based on  
29 your action on your own four proposals 16-61, 62, 63  
30 and 64.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

33  
34 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair, I've got a  
35 question.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

38  
39 MR. G. BROWER: Eva, you gave me a  
40 phone call about concerns we may have had with some of  
41 the proposals yesterday and one of the things I pointed  
42 out that I was very uncomfortable with was language  
43 that dealt with taking of a cow with calf or taking of  
44 calf. I think it's one of those crossover proposals  
45 somewhere around the border of 24 or something like  
46 that, Unit 24 or Unit 23, one of those things. And I  
47 was uncomfortable with that language and if that was a  
48 modification by OSM or if it was presented in that way.

49  
50 The reasoning being that we're trying

1 to do our best toward a conservative management and  
2 trying to bring our own proposals that are conservative  
3 in nature and it seems to me that language -- making  
4 regulatory changes that includes the taking of calves  
5 and cows, it's not a conservation measure. It should  
6 be somewhat tied to rituals or traditional take for  
7 community events or something like that, but it  
8 shouldn't be hardwired in a regulation of the everyday  
9 use of these animals as a conservative  
10 efforts.

11  
12 That was just one of my concerns I had,  
13 you know, when we're trying to think about ways to --  
14 using our own traditional ways of hunting are marching  
15 forward to using common sense like not hunt bulls in  
16 rut or things like that. So that would just be my  
17 concern. I thought pushing something like that all the  
18 way to Federal Board of Game and looking at language,  
19 oh, take calves and take a female with a calf while  
20 that calf is nursing its mom. That just doesn't sound  
21 right and seems like some of these regulatory things  
22 could be shot down with crazy language like that. In  
23 my books it just seems crazy and that could be harmful.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
26

27 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. Members of  
28 the Board. Hi, this is Tom Evans. The prohibition of  
29 taking cows with calves was added to some of the  
30 proposals that you had submitted and I think one of the  
31 reasons why we did that was, in part, because it is a  
32 conservation measure. And then we also heard from the  
33 Council and the public that hunters rarely take -- you  
34 know, won't take a cow with a calf if they don't need  
35 to. So that was the reason that we added the language  
36 to the proposals. But, you're right, it was language  
37 that we, OSM, added to our recommendations.

38  
39 Thank you.  
40

41 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, and I think  
42 that's detrimental, you know. I think we shouldn't add  
43 language like that. We recognize we can take a calf  
44 for special events or community, but it shouldn't be  
45 hardwired in a regulatory thing like this when we're  
46 trying to make conservation measures that look good in  
47 front of Federal Subsistence Board. I think that  
48 language should be taken off.

49  
50 Yeah, we'll say we take that. We can

1 take a calf, but it should be once in a great while  
2 when we've got to replace all of our drums or  
3 something. It's not something they do all the time.  
4 It might lead to more incidents that you take any  
5 caribou you see, including fawns. I think it's just  
6 prudent to make sure that our language is a  
7 conservation measure.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
12 Any comments from Eva or Tom.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If  
15 the Council had wanted to revisit that, the proposal  
16 was submitted by the Council and then the Council had  
17 supported the OSM modification. As Tom had noted, that  
18 language was recommended by OSM in order to establish a  
19 limit in regulation to prevent the take of cows with  
20 calves. If the Council wanted to revisit that, I know  
21 we have -- there's a number of other wildlife proposals  
22 yet to take action on. If you want to proceed with the  
23 other proposals, we could come back to this.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: It sounds like a good  
26 idea.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I would agree  
29 to that as well, Eva and Tom. I think it's something  
30 that kind of threw us backwards in terms of what we  
31 were trying to accomplish within our lengthy previous  
32 discussions before generating these proposals that we  
33 had with our area biologist with the State of Alaska or  
34 North Slope Borough wildlife management biologist Brian  
35 Person, who were all involved in these previous  
36 discussions before getting to this proposal or  
37 generating this proposal.

38

39 There was some really conservative  
40 measures that we were trying to apply that those  
41 lengthy discussions had reflected and requesting us to  
42 help make these changes. When this gets counter-  
43 productive, that's why I was saying it seems like we've  
44 been drawn backwards to the very effort that we were  
45 trying to work on.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Carl.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Carl.  
2 Go ahead.

3  
4 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning. I just  
5 wanted to make a couple notes here as the Council  
6 considers this. First, procedurally, if you want to  
7 revisit these, since they've already been voted on,  
8 you'll have to do a motion for reconsideration and go  
9 through that process on each of the proposals you want  
10 to revisit.

11  
12 Additionally, I just want to note that,  
13 from what I heard the Council saying at the last  
14 meeting and what I think I'm hearing today, it's  
15 generally a practice to not take cows with calves and  
16 you choose to do that as part of your traditional  
17 practice. The OSM language merely recognizes that  
18 traditional practice and puts it into the regulation.

19  
20 I'll also note that you did accept that  
21 modification on three of the four proposals. Only on  
22 62 did you not accept it when you only took the unit  
23 descriptor as part of the OSM modification.

24  
25 Finally, and, Tom, correct me if I'm  
26 wrong, but part of the original proposal included  
27 language that had a blanket prohibition on the taking  
28 of calves. That was for all four proposals. So that  
29 was actually in the Council's original proposal itself  
30 and not a part of the OSM modification.

31  
32 So I guess I'm -- what I'm hearing is  
33 that the Council thinks it is a good conservation  
34 practice to not take cows with calves, which suggests  
35 that the Council would support the OSM modification,  
36 which does prohibit the taking of cows with calves.

37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carl. I  
41 think that's why we're sitting here today, to look back  
42 into what the descriptors has identified, which we  
43 didn't reflect on very well during the Council meeting  
44 because there was no previous communication to those  
45 descriptors and they were only presented at the time of  
46 the meeting. So these type of catches we have to be  
47 careful in terms of how we're communicating and how  
48 these modifications are being proposed without any  
49 other discussion. It's only one-sided from my opinion.  
50 The change comes from the OSM staff and not

1 collaborated on until the day of the meeting, at the  
2 Council meeting.

3

4                   So that's the problem I have with what  
5 was happening. What we were trying to identify was all  
6 those discussions, previous discussions that we had  
7 with, like I said, with these other regulatory folks  
8 and North Slope Borough wildlife staff, who had a big  
9 part in providing a lot of this information because of  
10 the research they've done to this herd, the two herds  
11 we were discussing. Those discussions seem to have  
12 been displaced and other thoughts incorporated into the  
13 proposal without any real clear communications.

14

15                   Thank you.

16

17                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

18

19                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

20

21                   MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I would agree  
22 with Chairman Brower. I think some of the languages  
23 that we had in our books were clearly different than  
24 what was being read and in some cases a little bit  
25 confusing. I think once we go into meetings what you  
26 sent us should be exactly reflected on what you're  
27 working with without any modification. If there are  
28 modifications to be made, they'd be entertained on the  
29 floor by OSM, not pre-made because that gets quite  
30 confusing.

31

32                   And I would like a recap of all the  
33 proposals that we passed and you read them clearly with  
34 all the descriptors whether or not we want to  
35 reconsider those or make modifications because I feel  
36 like I'm at a disadvantage right now because it's a  
37 teleconference, for one, and we need to be able to know  
38 what you have in hand that you think should go to the  
39 Federal Board of Game for consideration.

40

41                   I'll live it at that, Mr. Chair.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

44

45                   MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Carl.

46

47                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any comments. Carl.

48

49                   MR. JOHNSON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.  
50 Chair. Through the Chair. Gordon, I apologize, but

1 I'm a little confused because the wildlife analyses  
2 that were presented to the Council at its meeting in  
3 Anaktuvuk were verbatim what was in the meeting book  
4 that was mailed out a month or so ahead of time, so  
5 there -- maybe I'm hearing you wrong, Gordon, but there  
6 weren't any changes between the meeting book and  
7 between the presentation to the Council as to what the  
8 analyses said and what the OSM modifications were.

9

10 So I guess I apologize if I  
11 misunderstand what the confusion is on that point.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you,  
16 Carl. I think there's just not one misunderstanding or  
17 not quite clear as to where these changes occurred.  
18 Regarding the written documents that were sent, you  
19 know, these were changes that were incorporated with  
20 OSM's input without any clear discussion on the  
21 document before it was sent out. That was the problem  
22 I had in my review of the materials. When we got to  
23 the meeting, that was the only other time of  
24 communications we had. So there was some definitely  
25 change or proposed changes to the document that were  
26 made without our consultation and then indicating that  
27 these were the changes that were provided verbatim from  
28 the document.

29

30 That document we didn't have an open  
31 discussion before it was sent.

32

33 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, okay. Thank you, Mr.  
34 Chair. I understand your point now. I guess I'll just  
35 want to clarify an understanding of the process here at  
36 OSM. It's fairly standard practice for the wildlife  
37 biologist or the fisheries biologist, depending on the  
38 year, to do an independent scientific review of the  
39 proposal and come up with their own recommendation, but  
40 it's just a recommendation. The Council is free to use  
41 its own knowledge and expertise to either accept or  
42 reject the recommendation.

43

44 This is a standard practice for any  
45 proposal and it's not a practice for the analysts to go  
46 back to the original proponents and confer with them on  
47 any potential changes to the proposal that might be a  
48 part of the recommendation. So it's a fairly standard  
49 thing as to how the analysts do their part of making  
50 any recommendations based on the original proposal.

1 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
4 Carl.

5

6 Gordon.

7

8 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you, Carl. I  
9 think that goes to the point and maybe the heart of  
10 the confusion when that goes on that way.  
11 Independently, biologists would analyze and make some  
12 proposal, but already write it and give it to us inside  
13 the booklet when I could clearly remember making that  
14 statement in Anaktuvuk. This is not what we agreed to.  
15 And then being presented as what we had discussed.

16

17 What I thought we had discussed was  
18 those that we made special actions -- what we made  
19 proposals on, which turned into special actions that  
20 were enacted temporarily while we're making real  
21 recommendations for the hardwired rule changing. I  
22 think it's all right for OSM biologists to make  
23 recommendations, but it should be in the list of books  
24 that you have worked on so that we have the freedom to  
25 look at what we have worked on with our own experts up  
26 here in the Arctic, with our own help, and say this is  
27 our unmolested dialogue, this is our unmolested  
28 proposal, and then at the meeting there should have  
29 been a request to make modification with language.

30

31 But incorporating it as language with  
32 modifications, I was confused at that point and I  
33 remember recalling this is not what we agreed to, you  
34 know. It gets confusing. There needs to be a better  
35 way to do these things where I feel like I'm not being  
36 fed what to say, you know.

37

38 I'll leave it at that. I think there's  
39 just cause here to be very careful as we move forward  
40 and I'd like to recap those things that we approved  
41 with the language you believe was approved. It is  
42 customary up here that we don't hunt cows with a calf,  
43 a lactating calf. I mean there might be a reason to  
44 get a calf, but we're going to single that calf out.  
45 It might be a yearling and that it looks harvestable  
46 for clothing or something else, but to harvest one  
47 that's suckling I've not been taught something like  
48 that, but it happens once in a great while.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. Carl. Just  
2 one more quick thing.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carl.

5  
6 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
7 Again, I'll just kind of reiterate the process and just  
8 remind the Council of its opportunities. The analyst  
9 reviews it, sometimes they accept it as it is,  
10 sometimes they support it with modification. In this  
11 case, for each of the four, the 61 through 64  
12 proposals, a great majority of the modifications that  
13 OSM made were actually just to kind of clean up the  
14 language and make it easier to understand as opposed to  
15 the original format, which I know is based on the  
16 State's proposals that were going through at the time  
17 in 202.

18  
19 The only substantive modifications were  
20 some of the unit descriptors like in Proposal 62 and  
21 then adding the prohibition of taking of cows with  
22 calves up until October 14th. Then that analysis goes  
23 out to you in your meeting books. We do make a solid  
24 effort to get it out to you at least a month ahead of  
25 time. It's often difficult with how long our process  
26 takes to get it to you sooner than that, two months  
27 ahead of time or whatever.

28  
29 And then always remember that even when  
30 you are at your meeting and you're being presented an  
31 analysis by the biologist or the anthropologist  
32 depending on the type of analysis you are always free  
33 to stick with your original proposal and not accept the  
34 OSM recommendation.

35  
36 The only thing that we really need from  
37 you if you do that is to just state clearly on the  
38 record why you or you did accept OSM modifications so  
39 that when the Board is considering your recommendation,  
40 the Board has a good understanding of the basis for  
41 your recommendation, so then the Board can exercise its  
42 discretion in either accepting or rejecting your  
43 recommendations.

44  
45 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carl. And  
48 we'll have an action to take later on. This is  
49 something that as a Council we'll  
50 revisit for reconsideration.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This is  
2 Rosemary.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, go ahead.

5  
6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I really appreciate  
7 the discussion in this process. It is very important to  
8 understand the terminology. Obviously there is probably  
9 a reaction with regulatory enforcement of our people  
10 and our lands and waters, which is why there is some  
11 terminology clarification that is occurring in this  
12 document. Our concerns that we have with our  
13 traditional way of harvesting our foods. We know what  
14 is good for us.

15  
16 But the insinuation that's being put  
17 forward is definitely very contrary to the discussion  
18 that we're putting forward. When you're putting in  
19 language that is saying that, I can understand the  
20 concerns from both sides. The Federal want to be able  
21 to react to any actions that are there, but in our way  
22 of life, you know, we're not doing. And it's important  
23 not to insinuate that there is being done around this  
24 wording, which is much more damaging with this past  
25 that we've had on caribou regulatory enforcement  
26 processes that we've gone through.

27  
28 For us, this process has been a  
29 piecemeal process in which we engage in our part of it,  
30 but when it goes to a different process and it comes  
31 back to us, that clarification Gordon and Harry have  
32 been putting forward very strongly. We need to be able  
33 to say we understand the changes that are being put  
34 forward and go with the wording that we feel is  
35 necessary for our way of life and the subsistence  
36 regulatory process that we have before us.

37  
38 I agree there has to be a lot of  
39 caution in this because there are reactions that  
40 happened with others in their process of dealing with  
41 the changes of numbers that we are dealing with.

42  
43 Thank you.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.  
46 Any other discussion.

47  
48 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

1 MR. SHEARS: Back in March we were kind  
2 of blindsided by the State Board of Game 202 proposal  
3 that was reducing the takes on caribou across the  
4 units. We quickly crafted a draft proposal at that  
5 time that sort of mirrored the State proposal. Our  
6 focus at that time was on the body count. We weren't  
7 getting into the details about bulls and calves, rut  
8 periods and stuff like that. But we did manage to get a  
9 draft proposal out the door in March that went back to  
10 OSM and it came back for our consideration in our  
11 packets for the November meeting.

12  
13 I think OSM did a pretty good job of  
14 working with what we provided them, what we gave them  
15 as a draft proposal, but they also took the intent home  
16 with them that we were trying to draft language that  
17 somewhat mirrored the State game proposal. Perhaps I  
18 think that might have been where the communication  
19 breakdown occurred.

20  
21 We were interested in exercising the  
22 same level of conservation that the State proposal  
23 offered. However, it's important in a State game  
24 proposal to be very clear about, you know, we don't  
25 take -- you know, letting sport hunters know that they  
26 don't take calves. That's diligent conservation.  
27 However, that does contradict subsistence. There's no  
28 way that we're going to be able to send wildlife  
29 proposals forward to Federal Game Management Board that  
30 will ever mirror State sport hunting regulations. We  
31 just can't do it. It was a nice thing for us to  
32 attempt to do. We did come pretty close, but I don't  
33 think we're ever going to be able to conform State regs  
34 with Federal subsistence regs. It's just the nature of  
35 -- they're too dramatically different. They have to  
36 be.

37  
38 We heard a lot of testimony in  
39 Anaktuvuk Pass last month that really tied up our  
40 agenda. So when we got down to the business at hand at  
41 the last half of the second day, Wildlife Proposal 61,  
42 62, 63 and 64 were before us. That did represent the  
43 harvest quantities, the dates, units that were  
44 represented, however there was still that little odd  
45 language in there that was inherited from the 202  
46 proposal on calves. Perhaps we didn't provide enough  
47 diligence in overwriting those draft -- that proposal  
48 at that time.

49  
50 I am almost to the point of making a

1 motion to recall those proposals for more work. I  
2 think we may have acted too hastily back in November,  
3 but before I do I'd like to hear some -- if our Staff  
4 could tell us -- the public hearings on these draft  
5 proposals included the calf language, the public  
6 hearings that were held in June and July. Could you  
7 tell us what the public comment was on that? Were  
8 there any public comments in regards to the taking of  
9 calves or the prohibition of the taking of cows with  
10 calves?

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
15 you are referring to the special actions which the  
16 Council developed essentially the same as the proposals  
17 that were submitted to the regular wildlife cycle. We  
18 did get some feedback from public that also similarly  
19 had identified that that's a conservation measure  
20 that's traditionally used to not take cows with calves.  
21 On just rare occasion we had a couple people that said  
22 just once in a while for a special use. The soft meat  
23 of the calf to feed an elder may be taken on that  
24 special occasion or as was discussed at the Anaktuvuk  
25 Pass meeting that on occasion for the use of making a  
26 drum or other ceremonial uses.

27

28 But overall the feedback, and these  
29 were the special action public hearings, was that that  
30 was traditional conservation measure, that people  
31 worked diligently to not take cows with calves. It  
32 might be incidental, on accident or, again, those  
33 couple special uses that were noted. But otherwise  
34 overall the feedback was that that's a conservation  
35 measure that is used locally.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
38 Eva. Any other comments.....

39

40 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....on our  
43 discussion item. State your name again.

44

45 MR. JOHNSON: This is Carl, Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl, go ahead.

48

49 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly. Thank you. I  
50 just want to note a couple of things. First, if the

1 Council is going to reconsider its actions on 61  
2 through 64, I would highly encourage the Council to put  
3 that off until it gets its other action items taken  
4 care of just so we can make sure that we do get all of  
5 your action items done in one day.

6  
7 And then secondly I will note that back  
8 in Anaktuvuk after Lincoln Parrett's presentation on  
9 the current status of the herd the Council did spend  
10 between Mr. Tom Evans's presentation and the Council's  
11 questions and deliberation approximately four hours on  
12 just Proposals 61 through 64. So I want to just note  
13 that I don't believe at the time the Council was  
14 necessarily rushed through. We definitely did rush  
15 through the things after that because then we were  
16 getting into mid afternoon and the time was definitely  
17 crashing down on us.

18  
19 I just want to make that note and  
20 encourage the Council that if it is going to reconsider  
21 these that they take it up after they complete their  
22 other action items.

23  
24 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carl.  
27 I'll definitely take it under consideration at this  
28 time. As stated earlier, we're thinking to take action  
29 for reconsideration on these Proposals 61 through 64.  
30 Again, just the nature of how things were presented  
31 kind of convoluted what we were trying to accomplish at  
32 the time, but we'll get to that and take that action.

33  
34 Any further discussion.

35  
36 (No comments)

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So in regard to the  
39 recap we've had, we've been under that discussion for  
40 at least a few minutes that we've had this morning. So  
41 not knowing if there's any other discussion, I just  
42 wanted to comment earlier in terms of some of the  
43 conservation measures on the taking of calves. You  
44 know, taking of calves in early August is primarily for  
45 clothing. You know, they're young. They take some of  
46 the young caribou to turn into parkas or pants for  
47 winter use because the fur is real short and just at  
48 the prime time, prime conditions for making clothing at  
49 that time. That's when six or seven calves are taken  
50 by people that are interested in making fur clothing

1 for the winter.

2

3                   So I just wanted to share that comment  
4 as well. You know, these are things that we continue  
5 to practice today. It's not illegal for us to utilize  
6 the resources that we depend on. It's just the nature  
7 of what we're dealing with in terms of conservation of  
8 a resource that's declining that puts us into these  
9 situations where we have to provide an explanation for  
10 the use of the resource.

11

12                   So there's some anthropology work that  
13 needs to be considered in determining these factors. I  
14 think it's very appropriate that the Anthropology  
15 Department how these resources were utilized throughout  
16 the seasons. You know, there's different timings when  
17 cows are taken. There's also a time when cows and the  
18 calves are taken in the fall. So these things could be  
19 learned about by the Federal managers or their staff as  
20 well if a little bit more historical use of the  
21 resource could be documented and shared with others.

22

23                   Any further discussion regarding the  
24 recap from our November 4 meeting. Any other item.

25

26                   (No comments)

27

28                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva. I call on Eva  
29 because you're our coordinator and I can't see you, so  
30 I have to call on you.

31

32                   MR. SHEARS: Looking for your nod.

33

34                   (Laughter)

35

36                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
37 That was it for the recap. So if the Council wishes to  
38 proceed with the remaining action items and make sure  
39 we have had an opportunity to take care of those  
40 things, we can come back around for further discussion  
41 on WP61 through 64.

42

43                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm not sure what it  
44 is that's getting close to the mic or to one of the  
45 phones that's causing a lot of feedback in the  
46 background.

47

48                   MR. G. BROWER: That's better.

49

50                   MS. PATTON: So, Mr. Chair and Council,

1 there are a couple wildlife proposals that the Council  
2 did not yet get to and those are crossover proposals  
3 with Western and Northwest Arctic WP16-49 and 52, which  
4 is addressing caribou change in harvest limits in Unit  
5 23 and then WP16-53 and 54 is addressing delegated  
6 authority for sheep. Again, that is in Unit 23.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we can start with  
9 them two and move forward from then on and follow up  
10 with the numbers as we proceed. So, Eva, at your call  
11 we'll move forward with the first proposal, crossover  
12 proposal with Western and Northwest Arctic Regional  
13 Advisory Councils and we could have a presentation on  
14 that.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: What page of our book does  
17 that start on, Eva?

18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
20 That starts on Page 224 of your meeting books.

21

22 MR. SHEARS: Oh.

23

24 MR. G. BROWER: I'm kind of looking to  
25 Bob because he has the only book.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I can run in my  
28 office and get mine. Excuse me for a second.

29

30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
31 While you're getting your other book we do have Tom  
32 Evans here and he will be able to provide you with an  
33 overview and summary of the proposals.

34

35 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. If you're  
36 ready, I'll go ahead.

37

38 MR. SHEARS: He stepped out just a  
39 second to go grab his notes. He'll be back in 30  
40 seconds I assume.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I  
43 know the three of you were, I think, gathering in the  
44 conference room there. I don't know if you have access  
45 to internet. The meeting book link is still active if  
46 you need an extra copy for easy reference it's online.

47

48 (Pause)

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Who's

1 presenting?

2

3 MR. SHEARS: We're back with Tom.

4

5 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom Evans.

8

9 MR. EVANS: If you're ready, I'll go  
10 ahead.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My ears are all  
13 perked and ready to listen.

14

15 MR. EVANS: Okay. Well, good morning,  
16 Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. For the  
17 record, my name is Tom Evans. I work with the U.S.  
18 Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence  
19 Management, and I'm the wildlife biologist for the  
20 North Slope Region.

21

22 Proposal WP16-49 was submitted by the  
23 Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
24 and it requests changes to the Unit 23 caribou  
25 regulations that includes reducing the harvest limit  
26 from 15 to 5 caribou per day, lengthening the closure  
27 on cow harvest, prohibiting harvest of cows with calves  
28 from July 1st to October 10th, and closing the bull  
29 harvest from October 10th to January 31st. Again, this  
30 is on Page 224 of your books.

31

32 Proposal WP16-52 was submitted by the  
33 Upper and Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee and it asks  
34 for a reduction of the harvest limit from 15 to 7  
35 caribou per day in Unit 23. For the analysis, these  
36 two proposals were combined under one analysis.

37

38 Now before I go on to -- you've already  
39 heard all the biology and stuff at the November meeting  
40 and I can go through all that again if you want, but  
41 our Proposal WP16-61 basically covered this region. At  
42 that time you accepted OSM's preliminary conclusion on  
43 that. So you may want to just take no action on this  
44 proposal since we sort of covered it through WP16-61,  
45 so I'll wait to get direction from you before I  
46 continue.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: If you can read WP16-  
2 61. Do you think we covered it under that if we were  
3 to take no action on this crossover proposal?

4  
5 MR. EVANS: So, Gordon, this is Tom.  
6 If I understand you correctly, you want me to read  
7 OSM's preliminary conclusion for WP16-61?

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: For Council.  
10

11 MR. G. BROWER: You told me that we  
12 don't need to take any action on this because you  
13 believe we covered it under 16-61 and is that one of  
14 the proposals we entertained in Anaktuvuk that we may  
15 have a recap consideration?

16  
17 MR. EVANS: That's correct, Gordon.

18  
19 MR. G. BROWER: So considering we may  
20 revisit 16-61, it seems like it's likely that that  
21 should be read now into the record and see what that  
22 says before adopting the language or have no action on  
23 this crossover proposal.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.

26  
27 MR. EVANS: So we read that into the  
28 record in the November meeting. Do you want me to read  
29 it again or what would you like me to do?

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's what he was  
32 asking, Tom.

33  
34 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think it's  
35 already scheduled that we're going to revisit all those  
36 proposals that we went over in Anaktuvuk Pass. It  
37 seems like this is an opportune time to go over that  
38 one and see if it's language that takes care of this or  
39 if that language we adopted in 16-61, as you believe it  
40 to be, is good enough or if it's something that we have  
41 a problem with.

42  
43 MR. EVANS: Okay. Then I'll go ahead  
44 and do that. OSM's preliminary conclusion or  
45 recommendation for WP16-61 can be found on Page 101 of  
46 your Council books.

47  
48 The preliminary modification is as  
49 follows: Unit 23 caribou, Unit 23, that portion north  
50 of and including the Singoalik River drainage, five

1 caribou per day as follows; however, calves may not be  
2 taken. Bull may be harvested from July 1st to October  
3 14th and from February 1st to June 30th. Cows may be  
4 harvested from July 15th to April 30th; however, cows  
5 accompanied by calves may not be taken from July 15th  
6 to October 14th.

7

8 This is to give the calves more  
9 protection because if calves become separated from the  
10 cow. Basically their survival increases greatly if  
11 they can stay with the cows for six to eight months  
12 after they're born.

13

14 And then for Unit 23 remainder, this  
15 wasn't part of your original proposal, but to make the  
16 unit as a whole, the recommendation was five caribou  
17 per day as follows; however, calves may not be taken.  
18 Five bulls per day from July 1st to October 14th and  
19 from February 1st to June 30th, so the same bull season  
20 for the two areas. Five cows per day; however, cows  
21 accompanied by calves may not be taken from September  
22 1st to October 14th. The cow season for the remainder  
23 was September 1 to March 31st.

24

25 That's all.

26

27 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: I think we should go  
32 into a small debate or a little dialogue about  
33 September 1 to October 14.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

36

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: I think that's just  
39 something that even during that period of time we are  
40 not going to be trying to get a calf and a cow that are  
41 paired. We're avoiding that 365 days a year. We may  
42 try to get a calf for ritualistic purposes once in a  
43 great while maybe for drum making or something like  
44 that, but we're going to try to weed out the right kind  
45 of calf maybe that's already weaned from its mama.

46

47 So I think that language to me is  
48 counter-productive. It may even look hostile to the  
49 Federal Board of Game. What are these guys talking  
50 about, cows accompanied by a calf may not be taken

1 September 1 to October 14, and all the time in between  
2 that, you know, we can take them as much as we want. I  
3 think it just sends the wrong message. I think we can  
4 already know we can get a calf. We don't need to make  
5 a regulation like this recognizing it.

6  
7 It just seems odd and it may even send  
8 the wrong message.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

11  
12 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. This is  
13 Carmen from Fish and Game. I know that you're kind of  
14 in the midst of deciding how you want to deal with this  
15 particular issue between how you want to take it up as  
16 far as 16-61 and 16-49. I would caution you at least  
17 from the Northwest Arctic side of things over in Unit  
18 23. Those discussions were voted on in the context of  
19 the original proposal, so when they voted on 16-61 they  
20 were only talking about that portion north of the  
21 Singoalik River. When it was changed to also include  
22 the remainder of Unit 23, that was not part of the  
23 discussion in the advisory committee; however, they did  
24 vote on 16-49.

25  
26 So I don't want to interrupt the  
27 discussion too much, but I just wanted to make you  
28 aware of that because when you get into  
29 the details of all of this, it kinds of makes a  
30 difference on how they supported or opposed these  
31 proposals. So I'll leave it there.

32  
33 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

36  
37 MR. G. BROWER: Thank you. It's good  
38 to hear what the other  
39 side has done. I don't know under what circumstances,  
40 if it was a recommendation that was added on, but it  
41 seems to me, you know, we're doing our part over here  
42 and if there's a dividing line on this, maybe there  
43 needs to be a dividing line. I would really think that  
44 16-61 really should be revisited, reconsidered to take  
45 out that language and just that cows accompanied by  
46 calves may not be taken period. Take September 1 to  
47 October 14th and remove that.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
50

1 Brian.

2

3 DR. PERSON: Mr. Chair. This is Brian  
4 Person, North Slope Borough, Wildlife Management. I  
5 apologize. I thought this meeting was tomorrow  
6 actually and I was just stepping in to try to catch  
7 Harry to tell him.

8

9 I guess for clarification one thing  
10 that I would encourage you to do is try to align the  
11 regulations as closely as possible to the State  
12 regulations. It may be that we change that language.  
13 In 2017, try to change that language before the State  
14 Board of Game, if that's your wish is to remove this  
15 particular cows accompanied by calves September 1 to  
16 October 14th. You know, it would be nice to have these  
17 regulations consistent between the State and the Feds  
18 and it seems that the Feds could just align their --  
19 use the same language as the State just used.

20

21 That was thought through through a  
22 number of community meetings and we did meet with other  
23 folks from Unit 23 at the Board of Game meeting. But  
24 if the language cows accompanied by calves September 1  
25 to October 14th really upsets you, then that's fine.  
26 You know, I know that cows are still lactating at that  
27 time. The whole point is we're trying to just hasten  
28 the recovery of the herd. I know hunters can figure  
29 out which cows they can probably take without much  
30 impact.

31

32 Anyway, that's all I have to say.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Brian.  
35 Any other comments. We're still under the discussion  
36 on proposal 16-49 and then revisit 16-61.

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

41

42 MR. G. BROWER: Proposal 16-49,  
43 executive summary, proposed regulation, OSM preliminary  
44 conclusion. You said if we're happy with 16-61, we've  
45 already covered it and there's no need to address this  
46 crossover proposal.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: It looks pretty aligned.

49

50 MR. G. BROWER: If we're having an

1 issue with 16-61, which we made a motion earlier that  
2 we're going to at least revisit those four proposals  
3 that were passed, read them into the record, make sure  
4 we like the language, if we remove the language  
5 September 1 to October 14 for cows accompanied by calf,  
6 it would misalign 16-61 with 16-49.

7

8 Now, if that were the case, what's the  
9 issue? What are the issues that are going to surface?

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.

12

13 MR. EVANS: So basically what we're  
14 trying to do is develop a set of caribou regulations.  
15 For Unit 23, the North Slope made a recommendation for  
16 that area basically to cover some residents from Point  
17 Hope, Point Lay and kind of the northwest corner of  
18 Unit 23. And then for the remainder of 23 that's  
19 really more of a Northwest Arctic RAC recommendation.  
20 Most of the caribou taken out of this unit are by  
21 resident hunters.

22

23 So I think, and just what Gordon said,  
24 that basically the regulations as they read now are  
25 basically aligned. So it's up to you though, the  
26 Council, to make your own recommendations as to what  
27 your recommendations will be. OSM will have their set  
28 of regulations and you guys can have yours. But I  
29 think we're basically in agreement right now. The  
30 September 1 to March 31st season is in alignment with  
31 the current State regulations for Unit 23 remainder.

32

33 So that's it.

34

35 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair, this is Carl.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl.

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
40 want to just take an opportunity to remind the Council  
41 kind of procedurally where we're at. First of all  
42 there was some discussion earlier about the potential  
43 for reconsidering 61 through 64, but there has not yet  
44 been a motion adopted to reconsider them.

45

46 Secondly, procedurally, right now we're  
47 on our presentation outline for Proposal WP16-49/52,  
48 which the analyst gives his  
49 presentation, the Council has an opportunity to ask  
50 questions and then we have a list we go through of

1 people to receive feedback from, the State, ACs, other  
2 agencies, et cetera, and then after that the Council  
3 then takes a motion as to whether or not we'll take  
4 action.

5

6 So we're kind of a bit astray from that  
7 process at this point.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for  
12 reminding us, Carl. We don't always have all the basic  
13 information in front of us and we're trying to follow  
14 through with just basic understanding that we're trying  
15 to move forward with what we're discussing. With  
16 regards to the presentation that's been given and  
17 questions from the Council to the presenter are  
18 definitely -- we're questioning whether or not we  
19 follow through with our presentation procedures or not.  
20 I think it's just to make sure we have some discussion  
21 on the matter. If it comes to following the  
22 presentation procedures, I can follow up in terms of --  
23 if Tom's done presenting with the language provided  
24 regarding 49/52.

25

26 MR. EVANS: So I'm done if you're  
27 satisfied with my presentation. Like I said, I can go  
28 into more detail, but I think you guys have all the  
29 detail and the biology and the harvest history and  
30 regulatory history from before. We've just gone over  
31 what the regulations say and OSM's preliminary  
32 recommendation.

33

34 So I think we're at a point now, unless  
35 you want further discussion or further information on  
36 16-49/52, I think my presentation is basically done.  
37 Now we're trying to decide what action to take.

38

39 Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
42 Tom. I guess the question I had is on what our  
43 procedures that we normally follow, but then when  
44 you're making a recommendation to take no action that's  
45 before us, so I'm going to follow some of the  
46 presentation procedures as outlined. Board  
47 consultation on the matter.

48

49 Eva.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
2 did not receive any tribal or ANCSA corporation  
3 comments on this proposal.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Agency  
6 comments, Alaska Department of Fish and Game or any  
7 other Federal agencies.

8  
9 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. This is  
10 Carmen Daggett with Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
11 in Kotzebue. I have four advisory committees from Unit  
12 23 that have met and discussed Proposal 16-49 and I'm  
13 happy to provide their comments regarding those  
14 proposals if you wish.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is with ADF&G  
17 again?

18  
19 MS. DAGGETT: Yes.

20  
21 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew  
22 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So who is  
25 representing who? I'm getting confused with Drew  
26 and.....

27  
28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

29  
30 MR. CRAWFORD: Let me give you the  
31 Department's comments first and then Carmen can give  
32 you the AC comments.

33  
34 Over.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue.

37  
38 MR. CRAWFORD: The Department's  
39 preliminary recommendations are to support Proposal  
40 WP16-49 as modified by OSM and take no action on  
41 Proposal WP16-52.

42  
43 Over.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

46  
47 Carmen.

48  
49 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for that, Drew.  
50 Sorry to kind of jump the gun a little bit on that. So

1 the Kotzebue Sound AC reviewed Proposal WP16-49 and  
2 they supported as amended. Their comments are as  
3 follows. There was a lot of discussion with reindeer  
4 hunters and the people from Buckland who wanted to hunt  
5 later. We hashed this out later and picked our dates.  
6 Both are running a lot later due to climate. It is  
7 good to support the RAC on merit and a motion to  
8 support the RAC. The discussion was we'd like to keep  
9 the State document and would like to make an exception  
10 for Buckland and the State dates. Otherwise support  
11 making Federal and State dates the same. That's the  
12 Kotzebue Sound AC comments.

13

14 The Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee  
15 supported WP16-49 and they said that it was good to  
16 keep the State and Federal regulations the same.

17

18 The Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee  
19 supported WP16-49 and they didn't have much discussion  
20 other than that.

21

22 The Noatak and Kivalina Advisory  
23 Committee supported as amended and their comments were  
24 that it can be difficult to figure out which cow has a  
25 calf and they supported it as amended by the Northwest  
26 Arctic RAC.

27

28 So those are the comments from the Unit  
29 23 Advisory Committees that currently met. There's  
30 only one that hasn't met yet and that's the Northern  
31 Seward Peninsula Advisory Committee.

32

33 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other agency  
36 comments.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we have any other  
41 agency comments regarding 16-49.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If none, number four,  
46 advisory group comments.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We just heard from

1 Carmen. Go ahead, Eva.  
2  
3 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair and  
4 Council. You just heard from Carmen Daggett for the  
5 relevant advisory committee recommendations. We do not  
6 have any comments or recommendations submitted by SRCs  
7 for this proposal. We're just going to grab the file  
8 that has the other RAC actions on this proposal. It  
9 might just take a moment. I don't have internet  
10 connectivity where we're meeting here right now. Carl  
11 is going to pick that up and we'll get the other RAC  
12 recommendations to you shortly here.  
13  
14 In the meantime.....  
15  
16 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're waiting on  
19 that.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Yes. In the meantime,  
22 while we're waiting.....  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can you state your  
25 name, please.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: This is Eva Patton,  
28 Council coordinator.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There was somebody  
31 else besides you, Eva.  
32  
33 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. This is Marcy  
34 Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
35 Preserve.  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, go ahead, Eva --  
38 I mean I'm sorry, Marcy. I'm getting confused with all  
39 the names. Sorry.  
40  
41 (Laughter)  
42  
43 MS. OKADA: Gates of the Arctic  
44 National Park Subsistence Resource Commission met  
45 November 9th and 10th and have voted on Proposal 16-49  
46 at that meeting. I can share with you how they voted.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, Marcy.  
49  
50 MS. OKADA: The Gates of the Arctic

1 Subsistence Resource Commission supported OSM's  
2 modification to Proposal 16-49. The justification for  
3 their vote was regulation changes are needed at this  
4 time due to declining numbers in the Western Arctic  
5 Caribou Herd.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Supported with  
8 modification.

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: Modification by OSM.

11

12 MS. OKADA: That's correct.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a question.  
15 Okay, that's correct.

16 Was that it, Marcy?

17

18 MS. OKADA: That's it. Thanks.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

21

22 Eva.

23

24 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Marcy. Mr.  
25 Chair and Council. It will just be a moment to pull up  
26 our other RAC actions on this proposal. To cover  
27 number five, summary of written public comments, there  
28 were no public comments that were submitted for this  
29 proposal. We have a summary of the other RAC members  
30 actions on this proposal here.

31

32 MR. JOHNSON: Hi, Mr. Chair. This is  
33 Carl. I'll provide those for the Council.

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a minute, Carl.  
36 I was wanting to ask were these actions taken after our  
37 meeting or before our meeting?

38

39 MR. JOHNSON: Before, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

42

43 Go ahead, Carl.

44

45 MR. JOHNSON: Certainly. The Western  
46 Interior and Seward Peninsula Councils voted to take no  
47 action on these two proposals. The Northwest Arctic  
48 Council supported with modification. Their  
49 modification is five caribou per day, bulls taken  
50 February 1 through October 31st, cows July 31st through

1 March 31st, cows with calves not taken between July  
2 31st and October 10th and a blanket prohibition on the  
3 taking of calves.

4  
5 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6  
7 And that was to apply it to Unit 23 as  
8 a whole and not to split out the areas.

9  
10 MR. G. BROWER: Well, they like it  
11 starting from July.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh (affirmative).

14  
15  
16 MR. G. BROWER: And then something  
17 about calves.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And no taking of  
20 calves throughout the whole season, is that right,  
21 Carl?

22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: That's correct, Mr.  
24 Chair. And then no taking  
25 of cows with calves between July 31st and October 10th.

26  
27 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I have a  
28 question for Carl.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

31  
32 MR. SHEARS: On the Northwest Arctic  
33 Borough's actions, what  
34 was their deliberations on the recommendations by the  
35 OSM to incorporate that middle unit and the northwest  
36 corner for Point Hope, that area north of the Singoalik  
37 River? What was their response on that? Did they want  
38 to keep 23 as a whole unit regulated uniformly or are  
39 they interested in a regulation area for Point Hope?

40  
41 MR. JOHNSON: This is Carl. Through  
42 the Chair. They wanted to regulate Unit 23 as a whole  
43 to have the consistent conservation throughout the  
44 unit.

45  
46 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other  
49 questions.

50

1 (No comments)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're down to number  
4 six, public testimony.  
5  
6 (No comments)  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Moving  
9 to number seven, Council recommendation.  
10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Motion to  
12 adopt WP16-49.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor.  
15  
16 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Tom.  
19 Under discussion.  
20  
21 MR. G. BROWER: I have a question.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
24  
25 MR. G. BROWER: I was just looking at  
26 some of the concerns. I'm kind of -- I think the  
27 Northwest Arctic Borough RAC has some of the same  
28 concerns we have. My own inclination is to think that  
29 we shouldn't put dates to protect the cow and the calf,  
30 that it's just protected, but since another RAC like us  
31 is inclined to put some date on there and it looks like  
32 July 31 is much more conservative than September 1, I  
33 think that's what I'm looking at. Cows accompanied by  
34 calves, moving September 1 to July to October 10. It  
35 derives a lot more conservative measures for almost two  
36 months.  
37  
38 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon's still  
41 speaking Carl, just a  
42 second.  
43  
44 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, I'm sorry.  
45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: It's just under  
47 discussion item and I think that's what I'm led to  
48 believe that the Northwest Arctic RAC is supporting  
49 with modification to some dates on the cow and calf  
50 take.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further  
2 discussion, Gordon.  
3  
4 MR. G. BROWER: I'll stop there as a  
5 discussion item.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl.  
8  
9 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
10 wanted to do this for Gordon's benefit since you were  
11 wondering about the Northwest Arctic's intention. I  
12 thought I would read a summary of their deliberation,  
13 their justification for how they modified this  
14 particular proposal if the Council would like to hear  
15 that, Mr. Chair.  
16  
17 MR. G. BROWER: Please do.  
18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Carl.  
20  
21 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
22 This is just a summary of the Council's deliberation.  
23 WP16-49 as written would put a hardship on the users  
24 and the resource including not providing enough  
25 protection of cows with calves. Amending the bull  
26 season dates would make it easier for users to harvest  
27 bull caribou, especially in areas where bulls are not  
28 available until after October 9th. Due to warming  
29 trends, it is staying warmer longer and with the dates  
30 as written bulls are not yet in rut.  
31  
32 The modified dates for the cow season  
33 and associated portion that is closed to the take of  
34 cows with calves would also allow for the protection of  
35 calves to help ensure a better chance for survival.  
36 Starting the cow season on July 31st would make it  
37 easier to identify cows with calves. Overall, this  
38 Council is concerned about the population of the herd  
39 into the future and it's adamant about protecting the  
40 herd from overharvest.  
41  
42 That is all I have. Thank you, Mr.  
43 Chair.  
44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
46 Carl.  
47  
48 MR. G. BROWER: An additional question,  
49 Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Carl, you mentioned  
4 that the rut as being subject to climate change and I  
5 would like to make sure that -- you know, if the  
6 caribou are driven by the climate for rut season,  
7 whether it's cold or warm, there be some science being  
8 able to determine whether or not the rut is changing.

9

10 I know from elders that were reindeer  
11 herders at one time, my father, Arnold Sr., he was a  
12 reindeer herder and often talked about rut and caribou  
13 interference with reindeer. They had a month's  
14 difference in calving and rut season. Coming from an  
15 elder that did reindeer herding and knew a lot about  
16 the caribou, that's easier to swallow because they seen  
17 it, they walk the talk.

18

19 But for an individual herd their rut to  
20 be driven by climate change, I think you need to have a  
21 little bit more information whether if it stays warmer  
22 longer, if the rut is not going to occur until it gets  
23 colder. I've seen the caribou and it's been warm where  
24 we're at too and they're still doing it. They're still  
25 acting like -- you know, they're guarding their females  
26 pretty good.

27

28 I don't know about this correlating  
29 climate change with the rut time. We know when they're  
30 rutting. Maybe you can make me understand a little bit  
31 better what the Northwest Arctic RAC. If the changes  
32 are consistent with 16-49 or did they want to change  
33 those dates as well. Even October 14 for bulls is  
34 stretching it I tell you, you know, October 6, October  
35 10. I've gotten a bull on October 6 and it's terrible.  
36 I think October 14 is even stretching it.

37

38 That's my train of thought and that's  
39 from a guy that likes to be out there hunting the right  
40 food and I don't waste nothing. If it's not edible, I  
41 ain't gonna eat it, man.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom or Carl, any  
44 comments.

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. This is  
47 Carl. I can just tell you that the Council's  
48 deliberations on the effect of climate change was based  
49 on local observations and in an area that's in the far  
50 Western Arctic from where Gordon and others in some

1 parts of your region may be hunting. So I could see  
2 how it's possible that local observations may be  
3 different. Tom was telling me that as far as he knows  
4 there's nothing that's any established peer-reviewed  
5 science yet specifically on the change of the rut in  
6 connection with climate change, but this is based just  
7 on local observations.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

12

13 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I just  
14 wanted to add one thing.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue.

17

18 MR. G. BROWER: There are big caribou  
19 and they're just not capable of challenging and being  
20 rutful. They're kind of like big bucks, you know.  
21 Their antlers are a little bit smaller, but they're  
22 fat, but they're not challenge-worthy and you can tell  
23 in how they act. Sometimes I seek those ones out. If  
24 not, I'm going for cows that are not with calves at  
25 that point because those cows are the best testing out  
26 of all of the bunch at that point.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

29

30 Council member discussion.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: I would move that we  
37 amend the language to include July 31.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amending motion.

40

41 MR. G. BROWER: For the -- where is  
42 that. This section, cows may be harvested; however,  
43 cows accompanied by calves may not be taken September 1  
44 to October 14 and go align ourselves with the Northwest  
45 Arctic Borough RAC to July 31. I don't know if October  
46 14 was the same date. If they're off by four days, I  
47 don't think it makes a difference, but I think July 31  
48 certainly makes a difference.

49

50 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a motion on  
2 the floor here, Tom. Just a second. Amending motion  
3 to be able to take cows not accompanied by a calf to be  
4 harvested but to leave the cow/calf pairs alone. I  
5 think that's right, Gordon, with the dates.

6  
7 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, the dates. My  
8 inclination is not to have a date, but since the  
9 Northwest Arctic Borough has a date. I mean if I  
10 wasn't going to put a date, I would recommend  
11 additional language like, you know, cow accompanied by  
12 calf may not be taken except for a ritual or  
13 traditional activities that require that take.

14  
15 And I wouldn't give you a date. If you  
16 need to make new drums in July, you get them in July.  
17 If you need to make new drums in October, you make them  
18 in October. I think that's intended to preserve them  
19 in my own view, but nobody else seems to want to take  
20 the date off, but extend it as a conservation measure  
21 and I'll tend to be inclined to those additional  
22 measures.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have an amending  
25 motion on the floor.

26  
27 MR. SHEARS: I understand it. I second  
28 it.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Bob.  
31 Further discussion on that amending motion.

32  
33 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.

36  
37 MR. EVANS: Just for a little bit of  
38 clarification I think we're talking about Unit 23  
39 remainder and I just thought that should be part of  
40 your motion.

41  
42 Thank you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're talking Unit 23  
45 as a whole, I think.

46  
47 MR. SHEARS: So far. Mr. Chair. This  
48 is Bob. It's leading up to a follow-on amendment that  
49 I'm going to prepare to ask that we incorporate the  
50 language for the north of Singoalik River drainage to

1 cross over with our Proposal 61. So, yes.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Under discussion, I  
8 think I just want a little clarity. Does that mean our  
9 16-61 would need to be amended to include? Because I  
10 think the date is September 1 to October 14. But we're  
11 going to go up for reconsideration later on. I thought  
12 we included that in our motion in the beginning.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I  
15 just want to make a clarification. So the Council is  
16 taking action on WP16-49/52 and that has Unit 23 and  
17 Unit 23 remainder broken out in two sections.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a lot of  
20 background noise happening from other phones. I'm not  
21 sure if you can help mute the phone if you're not  
22 talking. There's some feedback, like VHF radios and  
23 somebody talking away from the mic causing some  
24 disturbance with discussion.

25

26 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

29

30 MR. G. BROWER: I want to understand a  
31 little bit more  
32 clearly. We're discussing this regulation and when we  
33 make a clarification that this is for the remainder,  
34 what is the language as a whole and what is for the  
35 remainder? I mean that -- sometimes I get a little bit  
36 mixed up when you're talking about a regulatory for  
37 Unit 23. We talk about it and we talk about it and  
38 then when we start to do an adoption, oh, you're just  
39 talking about the remainder. So what are the remainder  
40 we're talking about and what is the language for Unit  
41 23 as a whole.

42

43 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.  
44 I can respond to that.

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

47

48 MR. JOHNSON: I apologize for the  
49 confusion. The Council's original motion was related  
50 to 16-49 as proposed, which does not split up the unit.

1 It's the OSM modification that splits up the unit. So  
2 we confused you on our end as to what you were  
3 discussing. So because your original motion dealt with  
4 the proposal as submitted, not as modified by OSM, you  
5 are discussing about the Unit 23 as a whole.

6

7 Also I just want to note that to  
8 clarify Gordon's language regarding his amendment,  
9 which would remove the date restriction on the taking  
10 of cows with calves and then just saying no taking of  
11 cows with calves except for as needed for ceremonial  
12 ritual purposes. It's my understanding that it's  
13 calves that are used for ceremonial purposes. So  
14 saying that you can't take a cow with a calf except for  
15 ceremonial purposes would actually authorize the taking  
16 of the cow, not the taking of the calf.

17

18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for piling  
21 it on, Carl.

22

23 (Laughter)

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got two pages  
26 all written up for under the discussion, so I'm.....

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: So our motion on the  
29 floor -- Mr. Chair, I'm sorry.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Gordon.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: So we have the  
34 proposal, we've got a motion on the floor to adopt 16-  
35 49 as modified, but with an amendment to the language  
36 consistent with the Northwest Arctic Borough's  
37 amendment to it as well for this language. It's  
38 probably the last item. Cows may be harvested  
39 September 1 to March 31; however, cows accompanied by  
40 calves may not be taken July 31 to October 14th. That  
41 was the modification amendment that's on the floor  
42 right now just as an amendment to entertain, consistent  
43 with what the Northwest Arctic Borough's RAC has made.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's the amending  
46 motion. We're still under discussion of the amending  
47 motion. Cows may not be harvested; however, cows  
48 accompanied by calves may not be taken  
49 September 1 to October 14. Any further discussion on  
50 the amending motion, questions, clarification.

1 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
4  
5 MR. JOHNSON: Carl. Point of  
6 clarification.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll have Gordon and  
9 then Carl.  
10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: All right. Yeah, Carl,  
12 the language was just additional dialogue that in a  
13 better scenario I would have really wanted somebody,  
14 even from the Northwest Arctic Borough, to have  
15 entertained language that said -- and this is just an  
16 example. However, cows accompanied by calves cannot be  
17 taken except for traditional or ceremonial purposes.  
18 Traditional activities or ceremonial purposes. Meaning  
19 there has to be some sort of event that's coming along,  
20 like the need to make new drums as a traditional  
21 activity.  
22  
23 But since nobody entertained that, and  
24 I think the Northwest Arctic Borough has made a little  
25 bit more conservative measure to look at the population  
26 as a whole to try to protect that and noting that  
27 calves and cows are some of the most vulnerable  
28 population of the caribou, that was how I thought would  
29 be more in alignment with some other RAC that's  
30 harvesting for the same purpose. I thought amending it  
31 to July 31 instead of September 1 would help a lot.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
34  
35 Carl.  
36  
37 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
38 Gordon just made the point of clarification I was  
39 making, is that his motion was for the date starting  
40 July 31st, not September 1.  
41  
42 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: July 31.  
45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: Motion's on the floor.  
47 I don't know. We're on discussion.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon, this is the  
50 amending motion.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, just the amending.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The amending motion  
4 is cows may be harvested; however, a cow accompanied by  
5 a calf may not be taken July 31 to October 14, is the  
6 amending motion.

7

8 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

11

12 MR. G. BROWER: Let me just pose this  
13 to Carl.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

16

17 MR. G. BROWER: Let's say we -- that  
18 this amendment fails and somebody posed a new -- and  
19 there was another amendment that just put in that  
20 language, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken  
21 except for a traditional activity or for ceremonial  
22 purposes. What would be the effect of that? Is there  
23 a qualification to make the take then?

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Question to you,  
26 Carl.

27

28 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29 Well, two things. First of all you would eliminate a  
30 season. Our biologist here highly encourages there  
31 being some type of season prescribed in the regulations  
32 for cows.

33

34 Secondly, the way the wording is, if  
35 you were to say no cows with calves may be taken except  
36 for ceremonial purposes, the regulation as written  
37 would only authorize the taking of a cow with a calf.  
38 It would not authorize the taking of calves because the  
39 remainder -- now this proposal doesn't have it, but you  
40 still have the issue of whether or not taking of calves  
41 is prohibited. So your hypothetical amendment there,  
42 Gordon, would be to authorize the taking of a cow with  
43 a calf, but not the taking of a calf.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: Here's the concern.  
46 You authorize the taking of a cow accompanied by a calf  
47 and you're almost making  
48 a way for somebody to -- they'd have to kill that calf  
49 first. They'd have to kill that calf.

50

1 MR. SHEARS: I think what Carl is  
2 saying is your amendment as you suggested, that would  
3 only allow the take of the cow, not the calf. So I  
4 think that language -- yeah. What you're talking about  
5 is taking a calf. There are ways to do that. The  
6 State can authorize that through emergency order and  
7 area biologists to allow that. I don't know what the  
8 Federal side of things are.

9  
10 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, it's just  
11 alarming. I mean if you're starting to look at the  
12 details on something like this. I don't hunt cows  
13 accompanied by calves period, all right. I don't know  
14 what the intent is. To have a law that says cows  
15 accompanied by calves may not be taken September 1 or  
16 July 31 to October 14th. Just be cows accompanied by a  
17 calf shouldn't be taken. That there would be no season  
18 for that. But cows may be harvested because we  
19 routinely harvest cows. We weed them out very good.

20  
21 I think there is a need to harvest a  
22 calf and I don't know if this is the wrong language to  
23 try to look for ways to harvest a calf. It just looks  
24 troubling because if you shoot the cow and there's a  
25 roaming around calf because I've seen a calf roaming  
26 around with no mom. All the other living creatures in  
27 the world are trying to kill it. Like I've seen a fox  
28 chase a calf so much that it exhausted to death. It  
29 had no potential.

30  
31 But anyway it's kind of troubling to  
32 me. Maybe it just seems to be that they were thinking  
33 about -- there's a season for cows even though it has a  
34 calf on it. Maybe it is the wrong language.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just to further the  
37 discussion, I think the question we also have in hand  
38 is how is this going to affect the Proposals 61 to 64  
39 if we make this modification at this time. I suggest  
40 not to take action until we revisit these other  
41 proposals from 61 to 64 and then we revisit this one as  
42 well. Once we make a change to the ones that we  
43 haven't taken action on, then we'll have to keep  
44 referencing this action that we just took in terms of  
45 how we address these other proposals that we're going  
46 to be revisiting. I mean that's just food for thought  
47 for you guys.

48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: I think the Northwest  
4 Arctic Borough has very good intentions and they're  
5 thinking the same train of thought in looking at  
6 putting it to July 31, but I think it still goes  
7 against our own conservation, traditional conservation  
8 efforts that we do on our part. I'm always telling my  
9 son and any other hunter, hey, watch out for that cow  
10 over there, it's got a fawn, don't shoot that one. You  
11 know, look for the one that the bull is actively  
12 scaring around. Those ones are good ones. Don't shoot  
13 the bull either because he's stinky. Try to get that  
14 female that he's protecting from other bulls.

15

16 I know there might be and there always  
17 is an incidental harvesting of a cow that's accompanied  
18 by a calf. Any good hunter would put down the calf as  
19 soon as he killed the mother because he is allowing  
20 that little calf to suffer because they will suffer  
21 from predators.

22

23 I think that's the understanding and  
24 that's what's always been bothering me, is who is  
25 putting the date. You know, who wanted a date of  
26 September 1 to October 14. I recall that the special  
27 actions and before that that we were talking about  
28 making regulations for just prohibiting the take of  
29 cows accompanied by calves, you know. If it's the  
30 State, you know, boo-hoo to the State, you know.  
31 That's, I think -- it's not traditional common practice  
32 to take a cow accompanied by a calf. You can take the  
33 calf, you know, that's already nursing. He's fattened  
34 up because some of these calves are about the size of a  
35 female and they're good to eat.

36

37 Anyway, we're deliberating this too  
38 long. Maybe my amendment should die and should be  
39 changed and just take September off and put -- you  
40 know, that shouldn't be. There's  
41 already regulations in place I think for traditional  
42 activities and ceremonial purposes to take animals in  
43 whatever condition we need them to be in.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So this is the  
46 amending motion we're discussing.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Cows may be

1 harvested; however, a cow accompanied by a calf may not  
2 be taken July 31 to October 14. That's the amending  
3 motion. Any further discussion.

4  
5 (No comments)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Council members.

8  
9 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This.....

10  
11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Rosemary.

14  
15 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think it's really  
16 important that we  
17 recognize that we're in important discussions because  
18 we have the numbers and taking the most protective  
19 measures, but recognizing our way of uses, the way that  
20 we have to go forward with this. We have different  
21 discussions coming from elsewhere, but our way of  
22 subsistence is important to the regulations that we're  
23 discussing. I appreciate thoughts to consider other  
24 areas and their discussions towards ours, but staying  
25 with our most protective mechanism is important because  
26 we have these numbers that are affecting our decisions  
27 and discussions today.

28  
29 Thank you.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

32  
33 Gordon.

34  
35 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. I'm  
36 even still alarmed at my own amendment, you know,  
37 because I'm trying to agree with another Council that I  
38 think has the same concerns.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

41  
42 MR. G. BROWER: Hey, man, who is trying  
43 to kill all the calves with cows September 1 to October  
44 14. Let's put them more off limits to July 31. When  
45 the intent was, hey, we don't hunt these things, you  
46 know, and we tell our kids don't shoot the mama and the  
47 calf, you know.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With the concurrence  
50 of the second you can

1 remove your motion as well without us putting it to  
2 vote.

3

4 MR. G. BROWER: I mean I'm  
5 uncomfortable with my own amendment. I'm comfortable  
6 that it adds another month or two, but I'm  
7 uncomfortable because it's putting language in our  
8 mouths what our traditions are.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

11

12 MR. G. BROWER: I don't know if your  
13 traditions are the same as mine. I don't know if  
14 Brian's is the same as mine. I don't know if Bob's is  
15 the same as mine or Rosemary's is the same as mine, but  
16 mine are handed down from my folks, my dad. And then I  
17 tell my son look at what you're shooting at and select  
18 the ones that are -- you know, shoot the cow, it's fat,  
19 if it has no calf. If it has a calf, most of those  
20 don't even have a lot of fat because the mom's baby is  
21 suckling and there's just stress on that cow because of  
22 trying to get this calf to -- it's trying to increase  
23 its mortality for the year and all that.

24

25 I'm uncomfortable that it's talking  
26 about what I've been taught and to put a date on it  
27 when there shouldn't be a date on it.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: I'm comfortable in that  
32 it moves it a month or two to July because that's my  
33 inclination, is to protect that kind of pair, that  
34 sector of the population, especially when it's  
35 declining. Anyway, if somebody wants to take their  
36 second off, I would be happy to withdraw that  
37 amendment.

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.

42

43 MR. SHEARS: I've got an idea that may  
44 offer another opportunity to steer this problem in  
45 another direction.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: If we were to withdraw the  
50 motion, I've got another way to bring it back in.....

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
2  
3 MR. SHEARS: .....for your  
4 consideration. If I withdraw my second, would you  
5 withdraw yours?  
6  
7 MR. G. BROWER: Yes.  
8  
9 MR. SHEARS: Because I'm preparing to  
10 offer an amendment to the motion that we adopt OSM's  
11 preliminary conclusion, which is bring the language  
12 into 49, back in that we brought into 61. First align  
13 the language and then under the following amendment we  
14 come in and put the dates on harvesting of cows with  
15 calves.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So withdraw the  
18 motion with concurrence of the seconder.  
19  
20 MR. SHEARS: I concur. I withdraw my  
21 second then, Mr. Chair.  
22  
23 MR. G. BROWER: I concur as the  
24 motioner and withdraw my amending motion.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. We're  
27 back to the main motion. The amending motion has been  
28 withdrawn. The main motion.  
29  
30 MR. G. BROWER: The main motion is to  
31 adopt WP16-49.  
32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Adopt 16-49 with  
34 modification.  
35  
36 MR. SHEARS: So 49, as it's written  
37 right now, does not recognize the drainage north of  
38 Singoalik River, the Point Hope special need. I can  
39 understand. They're pretty remote. They're pretty  
40 detached from that area and it's not recognizing that  
41 it has a separate -- it has a season that is  
42 significantly different than the season of the other  
43 communities on the North Slope Arctic enjoy.  
44  
45 I think that we got it right in our  
46 Proposal 61 in adding the language defining the special  
47 boundary in Unit 23, that portion north and including  
48 the Singoalik River drainage for Point Hope. I'd like  
49 to again send that forward as an aligning principal for  
50 Wildlife Proposal 49 with a -- so I'd like to make a

1 motion for that specific purpose to incorporate OSM's  
2 recommendation for modification to WP 16-49 to  
3 similarly align it with Wildlife Proposal 16-61.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The main motion is to  
6 adopt 16-49 and the amending motion is to support the  
7 proposal with the modification to add Singoalik River  
8 drainage area for the harvest of calves to align the  
9 State season dates. Was that the one?

10  
11 MR. SHEARS: Adding.....

12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or did I state too  
14 much?

15  
16 MR. SHEARS: .....all the language.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Adding that whole  
19 language?

20  
21 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. Entirely.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. OSM's  
24 preliminary conclusion language as an amending motion.

25  
26 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

27  
28 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I've got a  
29 question.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a motion on  
32 the floor, amending motion.

33  
34 MR. G. BROWER: Seconded for discussion

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Gordon.  
37 Go ahead, Gordon. Discussion.

38  
39 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. I'm a little bit  
40 more confused now after the dialogue about -- I'm  
41 uncomfortable with even putting a date at the bottom  
42 here and to align WP 16-49 with what 16-61, those two.  
43 A little bit more clarification. What does it do good  
44 to allow the language to be in there? Is it just so  
45 that we could close the books on this chapter and just  
46 move forward and all the areas of Unit 26 and other  
47 areas that we've seen fit to just put a prohibition on  
48 calves, cow/calves, that's already taken in a majority  
49 of the populated areas? I just wanted to know what the  
50 reasoning behind that would be.

1 MR. SHEARS: The original proposal  
2 that's on the floor did not have enough language in it  
3 for us. Now with this amendment I'm proposing now we  
4 have open language. Now we can put the details of  
5 discussing cow/calves, calves only. A special unit,  
6 Point Hope versus Noatak. That's kind of the intent of  
7 my motion is to open it up, break it down. The  
8 original motion on the floor didn't have enough  
9 language to amend.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Did that  
12 help, Gordon?

13  
14 MR. G. BROWER: That was worse.

15  
16 (Laughter)

17  
18 MR. SHEARS: When we start making  
19 amendments to amendments.

20  
21 MR. G. BROWER: All right. You have an  
22 amendment on the floor to the original motion WP16-49,  
23 right?

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

26  
27 MR. G. BROWER: And as amended support  
28 with modification. So the amendment is to support with  
29 modification and that includes this dialogue.

30  
31 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

32  
33 MR. G. BROWER: Let's just say we  
34 support with amendment. We're at that stage. That's  
35 going to allow this language to persist in this one  
36 once we go back to the main motion.

37  
38 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

39  
40 MR. G. BROWER: And then once we go  
41 back to the main motion do we adopt it with the stuff  
42 we just were talking about saying that we're disgusted  
43 with that language?

44  
45 MR. SHEARS: If we do.....

46  
47 MR. G. BROWER: It would be inclusive  
48 of the language.

49  
50 MR. SHEARS: If we do, it further

1 changes -- it kind of sets the ball rolling that we're  
2 going to have to come back at the end of this meeting  
3 and recall.....

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 61.

6  
7 MR. SHEARS: .....for reconsideration.

8  
9 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, because they're  
10 aligned with 16-61 now?

11  
12 MR. SHEARS: Exactly. Right now.....

13  
14 MR. G. BROWER: And now you can deal  
15 with both of them in one swoop when we go back to  
16 reconsideration of 16-61.

17  
18 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If that's how you  
21 want to look at it.

22  
23 (Laughter)

24  
25 MR. G. BROWER: I know, but it just  
26 seems like we're creating more work for us.

27  
28 MR. SHEARS: Well, we are.

29  
30 (Laughter)

31  
32 MR. SHEARS: We certainly are.

33  
34 MR. G. BROWER: I would have thought  
35 you were going to make a new amendment that said, well,  
36 you know, however, cows accompanied by calves may not  
37 be taken September 1 to September 4, you know, giving  
38 only 3 days that they can do it.

39  
40 (Laughter)

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you have an  
43 opportunity to do so, it's very opportunistic. We have  
44 an amending motion.

45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

49  
50 MR. G. BROWER: You know, I don't know,

1 but just hearing the train of thought and the being  
2 able to -- we're now going to be able to amend because  
3 on the table our agenda includes the four proposals  
4 that were previously passed in Anaktuvuk to read them  
5 in entirety to see if we're happy with that and if we  
6 want to reconsider them to make those changes as  
7 necessary. We will be adding these into the loop  
8 because the language would be consistent with that  
9 language in some of that. I don't know what's the  
10 train of thought behind that.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're making a full  
13 circle.

14  
15 MR. G. BROWER: I still think we're  
16 going to have to amend it if we're unhappy with 16-61.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I mean that's what I  
19 was saying, that we need to look back into how that's  
20 going to be reflected. So if we take action on these  
21 two action items, we'll come back around and see how it  
22 chimes together.

23  
24 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. Mr. Chair.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

27  
28 MR. G. BROWER: I don't know if anybody  
29 else has any other questions. If not, I would call for  
30 the question on the amending.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
33 If there's no questions.....

34  
35 MR. G. BROWER: Are we on the amending?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

38  
39 MR. G. BROWER: Or are we on the main  
40 motion?

41  
42 MR. SHEARS: I don't think we've  
43 seconded it yet.

44  
45 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, no, I seconded it  
46 for discussion.

47  
48 MR. SHEARS: Okay, okay. I'm sorry.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Thank you.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Unless there's an  
2 objection to the question.....  
3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's what I'm after  
5 to find out.  
6  
7 MR. SHEARS: Is there staff online  
8 following us?  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm trying to figure  
11 out if even our Council members are following us.  
12 Rosemary or Lee.  
13  
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, good morning. Yeah,  
15 I'm hear listening. I'd like to continue and move  
16 forward as the meeting goes on today at this time.  
17  
18 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.  
21  
22 Rosemary.  
23  
24 (No comment)  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're on amending  
27 motion for OSM to include -- the amending motion is to  
28 support Proposal 16-49 with  
29 modification to add the Singoalik River drainage hunt  
30 area, the harvest of calves, align the State season  
31 dates and simplify regulatory language. That's the  
32 amending motion. Any further discussion on the  
33 amending motion.  
34  
35 (No comments)  
36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's what I'm  
38 trying to find out from Rosemary or Lee.  
39  
40 MR. KAYOTUK: Not at this time on the  
41 amending motion. Thank you.  
42  
43 MR. G. BROWER: I think I called for  
44 the question. I just wanted to know if there was an  
45 objection to the question.  
46  
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm sorry. I'm just  
48 getting overwhelmed with the language that I've been  
49 provided. Recognizing the question, all in favor of  
50 the amending motion signify by saying aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 (No opposing votes)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, are you  
6 still on? Mute button if your phone is muted. I'm not  
7 sure if she's still on. She kind of lost us earlier.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No comments from  
12 Rosemary at this time. We're back to the main motion on  
13 16-49, which supports proposal now with a modification  
14 we just acted on.  
15  
16 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
19  
20 MR. G. BROWER: I know OSM's  
21 preliminary conclusion that we just added as  
22 modification, it has a little clause there about  
23 Proposal 16-52. What is that?  
24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.  
26  
27 MR. EVANS: So Proposal 16-52 was  
28 basically submitted by the Upper and Lower Kobuk  
29 Advisory Committee that asked for a reduction of  
30 harvest limit from 15 to 7 caribou per day in Unit 23.  
31 OSM's recommendation was to -- preliminary  
32 recommendation was to support the -- preliminary  
33 conclusion was for Unit 23, decrease harvest limit from  
34 15 to 5, not 15 to 7 like Proposal 52 did. Prohibit  
35 the harvest of calves and shortening the cow and bull  
36 seasons and with that cow and calf restriction and the  
37 changes to the hunt area descriptor for the north of  
38 Singoalik River.  
39  
40 So on Page 224, 225 you can see OSM's  
41 preliminary recommendation for this Proposal 49/52. I  
42 think basically you're supporting that maybe with one  
43 exception is that where it says September 1 to March 31  
44 for the protection of cows with calves, that you wanted  
45 to change that from July 15th to October 14th. So  
46 that's the gist of where I think we are.  
47  
48 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

1 MR. SHEARS: One more thing. We  
2 recalled hearing about how the Northwest Regional  
3 Advisory Council considered it and they changed -- they  
4 made a few minor modifications that were notable too.  
5 One of theirs that was most indicative is that they  
6 want to have their bull season open all the way to  
7 October 31st. Should we recognize their desire for  
8 that I'm wondering for the Unit 23 remainder, the areas  
9 where they hunt. They get -- their caribou reach them  
10 later than they reach -- then we have to deal with  
11 that. Perhaps we should recognize their desire and  
12 incorporate it in our proposal.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I thought we were  
15 trying to keep from going too much more south of that  
16 Point Hope area.

17  
18 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's the area that  
21 was added on for Unit 23 in regards to how the OSM  
22 identified that river drainage.

23  
24 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that's what we're  
27 trying to.....

28  
29 MR. SHEARS: Stay out of their  
30 business.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, stay out of  
33 their business kind of. We don't want to be generating  
34 addendums to other region's hunting opportunity. I  
35 think it's getting close to lunch. My bells are  
36 starting to ring.

37  
38 (Laughter)

39  
40 MR. SHEARS: Should we delete our  
41 language entirely for Unit 23 remainder then?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're on the main  
44 motion.

45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. We're on the  
47 main motion.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're back to the  
50 main motion on 16-49.

1 MR. G. BROWER: All right. And we've  
2 included support with modifications, right?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

5  
6 MR. G. BROWER: And that would mean to  
7 add the Singoalik River drainage hunt area, prohibit  
8 the harvest of calves, align with the State season  
9 dates and simplify the regulatory language. Oppose  
10 WP16-52. The modified regulation should read Unit 23  
11 caribou. Unit 23, that portion north of and including  
12 the Singoalik River drainage, five caribou per day as  
13 follows, however calves may not be taken. Bulls may be  
14 harvested July 1 to October 14, February 1 to June 30.  
15 Cows may be harvested July 15 to April 30; however,  
16 cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 15 to  
17 October 14. Unit 23 remainder, five caribou per day,  
18 as follows; however, calves may not be taken July 1 to  
19 October 14. Bulls may be harvested February 1 to June  
20 30th. Cows may be harvested September 1 to March 31;  
21 however, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken  
22 September 1 to October 14.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

25  
26 That's the main motion.

27  
28 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

31  
32 MR. G. BROWER: Do I make the motion to  
33 adopt?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, you did. We've  
36 got to do the main motion.

37  
38 MR. G. BROWER: All right. Then second  
39 it.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes. We're under  
42 discussion. We're still under discussion.

43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Now it might be just the  
45 amendment.

46  
47 DR. PERSON: Mr. Chair.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Brian, we're in  
50 discussion of a motion.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. In the best  
2 interest of the whole world, I'd like to hear Brian.

3  
4 DR. PERSON: Any amendment that we make  
5 at this point is going to move the regulation out of  
6 alignment with the State and you are going to open  
7 Pandora's Box.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're on the main  
10 motion as stated.

11  
12 DR. PERSON: If that's the wish. But I  
13 mean this is their resource as well.

14  
15 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

18  
19 MR. G. BROWER: I'm just listening to  
20 Brian. We should once in a great while open Pandora's  
21 Box to doing what's right, you know.

22  
23 DR. PERSON: You're going to do  
24 whatever you want anyway, Gordon.

25  
26 MR. G. BROWER: You know, sometimes I  
27 don't agree with the State whatsoever when you look at  
28 harvestable surplus and the ANS. I think they're in  
29 cahoots with somebody else, you know. I think that's  
30 the wrong thing and the wrong direction and sends the  
31 wrong message.

32  
33 I think we've bent over backwards to  
34 align ourselves with State regulatory things just to be  
35 consistent. But when we're talking about traditional  
36 knowledge, when you're talking making traditional  
37 knowledge into regulatory things, we shouldn't be  
38 pushed into a corner. Now my traditional knowledge is  
39 going to say, oh, I can hunt calves and kill them all  
40 off between this date and that date. It's going to  
41 send a message to even the young folks. Between these  
42 two dates cows accompanied by calves may not be taken  
43 September 1. Anything outside of that date it's open  
44 season.

45  
46 It's a convoluted message. It's almost  
47 deceiving in nature. It shouldn't even have a date or  
48 it should have a different kind of a clause. It should  
49 just say that there is no open season on calves, but if  
50 you're going to take a cow, it's legal for that calf to

1 roam around and suffer and Mother Nature is going to  
2 kill it because that's just how it is. A calf needs to  
3 have a mama.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me just remind  
6 people on the teleconference there's people that are  
7 making some noises right next to the phone, pages  
8 turning and other things happening. So if you could  
9 mute your phones if that's possible, please mute them  
10 so they can have this discussion accordingly.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I'd make an  
15 amending motion to the main motion.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amending motion to  
18 the main motion. The amending motion is.....

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: I'd strike September 1  
21 to October 14th. I think it's just traditional  
22 knowledge and traditional things that we pass down.  
23 You don't put a date on something that is traditional  
24 in nature. If it fails, it fails. That's fine with  
25 me.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So that's an amending  
28 motion. Cows may be harvested; however, cows  
29 accompanied by calves may not be taken September 1 to  
30 October 14, striking those dates.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: However, cows  
35 accompanied by calves may not be taken.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: I think we might need  
38 to rephrase all that thing. You know, cows may be  
39 harvested; however, cows accompanied by calves may not  
40 be taken. Period.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And no dates. The  
43 page we're referencing is Page 225 in our booklets and  
44 it's the very last sentence on the first box. That's  
45 what we're referring to on Page 225 of our Council  
46 booklet. Amending motion on the floor.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: I like that, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second it.

1 MR. SHEARS: Lee, Rosemary.  
2  
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Seconded.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.  
6  
7 Further discussion.  
8  
9 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl. We have an  
12 action item, but go ahead.  
13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. And that's why I  
15 waited until you got to your discussion point. I just  
16 want to clarify the Council's intent because right now  
17 under the OSM modification the language cows may be  
18 harvested September 1 to March 31 places some  
19 limitations as to the length of the cow season. So you  
20 can't harvest cows between April 1st and July 31st  
21 under the current OSM modification. If you eliminate  
22 that language, then it means cows can be harvested year  
23 round and then you would have the prohibition without  
24 dates of cows with calves may not be taken. But if you  
25 eliminate both sets of dates, then cows would be able  
26 to be harvested year round.  
27  
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we were  
31 trying to be focused on the cow accompanied by calf.  
32  
33 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Mr.  
34 Chair. I thought I was hearing a discussion about  
35 eliminating both dates, not just the prohibition on the  
36 cows being accompanied by calves.  
37  
38 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
39  
40 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
43  
44 MR. G. BROWER: See how easy it is to  
45 get mixed up? You know, we say something and you  
46 misunderstand it and you say something and we get a  
47 misunderstanding. It's so easy to do that.  
48  
49 Okay. We've got some cows may be  
50 harvested; however, cows accompanied by calves may not

1 be taken. Now how do we have two different dates and  
2 we take one motion to take the date off. We would have  
3 to do a motion to take the date off this July, this  
4 thing here.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: And the remainder -- the  
7 Singoalik River and the remainder.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we have some  
10 written language on Page 225 that Gordon was  
11 referencing. If you start from the top, bulls may be  
12 harvested, then it goes cows may be harvested and then,  
13 however, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken  
14 July 15 to October 14. It comes on down, five caribou  
15 per day as follows: however, calves may not be taken  
16 for a date and then, again, bulls may be harvested with  
17 a date. On the bottom it reads cows may be harvested;  
18 however, cows accompanied by calves may not be taken  
19 September 1 to October 14. The other date that was  
20 identified on the top there, July 15 to October 14. So  
21 there's two dates that's been offered in the same  
22 preliminary conclusion by OSM on Page 225.

23

24 MR. SHEARS: So in keeping with the  
25 period of that, would it be considered an amendment to  
26 the amendment to additionally remove the dates  
27 constricting -- in regards to cows accompanied by  
28 calves in that area north of Singoalik River, removing  
29 the dates July 15th to October 15th.

30

31 DR. PERSON: I think your intention is  
32 just prohibitive, taking cows accompanied by calves  
33 year round.

34

35 MR. SHEARS: Any statement would then  
36 say, however, cows accompanied by calves may not be  
37 taken period.

38

39 MR. G. BROWER: I think that's our  
40 intent.

41

42 MR. SHEARS: For both areas of Unit 23.

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Uh-huh. And it says  
45 cows may be harvested July 15 to April 30 and then cows  
46 may be harvested September 1 to March 30 on the  
47 remainder.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: You know, there's a  
2 period of time where you want to preserve the cow. And  
3 it's hard to tell, but if it was not really pregnant,  
4 you know, because we get those caribou and we bring  
5 them in the house in February and March and they've got  
6 these (in Inupiaq) in them. They look like a little  
7 caribou in there.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Pregnant female.

10  
11 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.

12  
13 MR. G. BROWER: You want to try to  
14 preserve some period of that, you know. I think March  
15 15th till about when they're dropping them. Those are  
16 great dates to try to preserve these unborn. You're  
17 not going to be able -- you're not going to eat the (in  
18 Inupiaq). You're not going to be able to eat that.  
19 It's just one of those things. You should have a date  
20 that reflects because we're looking out for that too.  
21 I mean I -- you know.

22  
23 But we've got two different dates on  
24 the remainder and the main body, two different dates,  
25 when I think there should be consistency. You know,  
26 September 1 to March 31 seems like the best date to be  
27 consistent, you know. Maybe even July 15 to March 31.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amending motion.

30  
31 MR. EVANS: Harry.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who is this?

34  
35 MR. EVANS: This is Tom.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Tom.

38  
39 MR. EVANS: So I think, you know,  
40 there's some different biological reasons. When you  
41 guys made your regional proposal for 61, you just did  
42 it for the northwest corner and you discussed those  
43 dates that are currently seen for the north area there  
44 and I think you all agreed that that provided some  
45 opportunity to harvest cows, but it also gave some  
46 protection for the cows accompanied by -- well, your  
47 original proposal was no calves, but anyhow, the way  
48 the proposal is written now it provides some protection  
49 for cows accompanied by calves to allow the calves to  
50 remain with the cows for a period of about six months.

1  
2 Unit 23 remainder, that's a more  
3 southerly area. The migration patterns of the caribou  
4 are a little bit different, so that was a  
5 recommendation that was thought about a lot by the  
6 State and the Northwest RAC basically had slightly  
7 different recommendations for that, but they still had  
8 a -- their cow season for the Northwest Arctic  
9 recommendation was a cow season from July 31st to March  
10 31, which was a little different than the September 1  
11 to March 31st.

12  
13 So I think you need to look at the two  
14 areas kind of separately and decide what you want to do  
15 on the north area and then the south area and then  
16 combine it all. So that's my recommendation when  
17 trying to approach this.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, we were just  
20 trying to figure out the Singoalik area and now we're  
21 getting even more convoluted with north and south now.  
22 I think just trying to figure out the area that we're  
23 concerned about is the Singoalik River drainage. The  
24 original language in the preliminary OSM conclusion.  
25 Support with modification to add the Singoalik River  
26 drainage hunt area, prohibit the harvest of calves,  
27 align with State season dates and simplify regulatory  
28 language and oppose Proposal WP16-52. That will take  
29 care of the crux of our issues on our segment area that  
30 we're concerned about and not deal with this other  
31 added language that's for the remainder of the  
32 proposal.

33  
34 MR. EVANS: Yeah, that's correct.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we have an  
37 amendment and an amendment.

38  
39 MR. G. BROWER: Let's see where we're  
40 at here. I'm a little bit confused. Bob, where were  
41 we?

42  
43 MR. SHEARS: The first amendment.....

44  
45 MR. G. BROWER: Was to take out  
46 September 1 to October 14.

47  
48 MR. SHEARS: .....was dealing with the  
49 Unit 23 remainder, the Noatak/Kivalina region and  
50 Kotzebue region, the area of Unit 23.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And we don't want to  
2 do anything for it.  
3  
4 MR. SHEARS: Maybe we should just  
5 withdraw our amendment.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It will bring us back  
8 to the main motion and back to the stated language that  
9 we're concerned about. With the concurrence of the  
10 seconder, the motioner will withdraw the motion,  
11 amended motion.  
12  
13 MR. G. BROWER: I concur. I withdraw  
14 my amending motion.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob and  
17 Gordon.  
18  
19 MR. SHEARS: Go back to the main  
20 motion.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Now we're back to the  
23 main motion. The main motion reads support with  
24 modification. Under the OSM preliminary conclusion on  
25 Page 224 add the Singoalik River drainage hunt area,  
26 prohibit the harvest of calves, align with State season  
27 dates and simplify regulatory language and oppose  
28 Proposal WP16-52. All in favor of the motion signify  
29 by saying aye.  
30  
31 IN UNISON: Aye. (Two votes)  
32  
33 MR. G. BROWER: A question, Mr. Chair.  
34 Question. No, no, not question, discussion. Sorry.  
35  
36 (Laughter)  
37  
38 MR. G. BROWER: My brain is getting  
39 fried.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A question on the  
42 motion, is that what you're.....  
43  
44 (Laughter)  
45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: It's a few minutes to  
47 12:00.  
48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Question on  
50 the main motion. All in favor of the motion signify by

1 saying aye.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. So support with  
4 modification this language you just read right here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: On Page 224.

7

8 MR. G. BROWER: And that wouldn't mean  
9 -- does that mean include this modified language should  
10 read stuff and exclude all of that or just support with  
11 modification to add the Singoalik River drainage hunt  
12 area, prohibit the harvest of calves, align with State  
13 season dates and simplify regulatory language.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's the portion  
16 that we're.....

17

18 MR. SHEARS: This part is for Point  
19 Hope.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Uh-huh. And leave it  
22 at that?

23

24 MR. SHEARS: Do we want to change -- do  
25 we want to delete that date?

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We could give it a  
28 try and just leave it as is.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: We were just down that  
31 rabbit hole for the last 30 minutes.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, just leave it  
34 as is.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: You mean however cows  
37 accompanied by calves may not be taken and keep the  
38 date there July 15 to October 14. That's what Point  
39 Hope wants.

40

41 MR. SHEARS: It's currently there. The  
42 date is in there.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If we have any  
45 problems coming from Point Hope, we can always make an  
46 amending proposal.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Why don't we put a vote  
49 to it so that there can be -- dissenters can be  
50 recognized.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure.  
2  
3 MR. G. BROWER: That way I won't feel  
4 offended, you know. That's the majority rule.  
5  
6 MR. SHEARS: Question.  
7  
8 MR. G. BROWER: Question.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
11 called on the motion. Now we're going to a vote again.  
12 Support with modification to add the Singoalik River  
13 drainage hunt area, prohibit the harvest of calves,  
14 align with State season dates and simplify regulatory  
15 language as found on Page 224 and oppose Proposal  
16 WP16-52. All in favor of the motion signify by saying  
17 aye.  
18  
19 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I would  
20 recommend we do a roll call vote.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Roll call vote  
23 requested. Mr. Secretary.  
24  
25 MR. KAYOTUK: At this time I'll do a  
26 roll call vote. Robert Shears.  
27  
28 MR. SHEARS: Yes.  
29  
30 MR. KAYOTUK: Gordon Brower.  
31  
32 MR. G. BROWER: No.  
33  
34 MR. KAYOTUK: Harry Brower.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here. Yes.  
37  
38 MR. KAYOTUK: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.  
39  
40 (No comment)  
41  
42 MR. KAYOTUK: Lee Kayotuk. Yes. Mr.  
43 Chair, at this time I have -- I'll do the count at this  
44 time for roll call.  
45  
46 MR. G. BROWER: Three yes and one no.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Three yes and one no.  
49 Thank you. Eva, we just got done with this first  
50 proposal and it's lunch hour. I'd like to take a

1 recess until 1:00, 1:30.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: 1:00 o'clock.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 1:00 o'clock and  
6 we'll be back here by 1:00.

7

8 MS. PATTON: Okay, 1:00 o'clock sounds  
9 good. We will reconvene the teleconference at 1:00 and  
10 continue with the next wildlife proposal on the agenda.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You might check with  
13 Rosemary, Eva, and see if she's having problems with  
14 her phone.

15

16 MS. PATTON: Yeah, I'll give her a call  
17 right now on her cell phone.

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you,  
20 everyone. We'll be back at 1:00.

21

22 (Off record)

23

24 (On record)

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do we need to wait  
27 for anybody else to get started here, Eva?

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Gordon just came in.

30

31 MS. PATTON: Okay. Yes, if we have  
32 Gordon, we have a quorum to begin.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're still under new  
35 business. We're down to the crossover Proposal WP16-  
36 53/54.

37

38 MR. EVANS: Okay. If you're ready to  
39 go, again, this is Tom Evans. I work as a wildlife  
40 biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of  
41 Subsistence Management and I'm the biologist for the  
42 North Slope Region.

43

44 This again is a crossover proposal, so  
45 this is not one of the main proposals that you guys  
46 submitted. Proposals 53 and 64 were combined into one  
47 analysis. Proposal WP16-53 was submitted by the  
48 National Park Service, requests a revision of the  
49 harvest limits and closure of the Federal sheep season  
50 in the Baird and DeLong hunt areas of Unit 23.

1 Proposal WP16-54, also submitted by the  
2 National Park Service, requests that the Federal  
3 subsistence season for sheep within Unit 23 remainder,  
4 which is in the Schwatka Mountains, be split into two  
5 areas by establishing a new hunt area.

6  
7 The analysis of this was very similar  
8 to the Proposal WP16-66 that we discussed back in  
9 November. At that time for 66 the Council had voted to  
10 support OSM's preliminary recommendation to create a  
11 may-be-announced season and remove the regulatory  
12 language and give delegation authority to the Western  
13 Arctic Region for developing regulation, closing and  
14 opening the season.

15  
16 Once again, I can go through the  
17 regulatory history and the biology if you want me to,  
18 but basically in a nutshell the low population numbers,  
19 low number of rams, low recruitment rates suggest any  
20 further harvest could be detrimental to the populations  
21 and could prolong or worsen the current decline and  
22 hamper recovery.

23  
24 The State has responded by closing all  
25 resident and non-resident sheep seasons for Unit 23 for  
26 2015-2016. It is thought that closure of this unit to  
27 hunting is necessary to assure the continued viability  
28 of this population and providing delegated authority to  
29 the Western Arctic National Parklands will allow  
30 management flexibility to allow the Park to open up the  
31 season once the sheep in the affected area are  
32 sufficient populations to allow for a harvest.

33  
34 I'll end there for a minute and see  
35 where we want to go from here. I should mention that  
36 our recommendation was the same as for 66, was to  
37 create that may-be-announced season and give delegation  
38 of authority to the Western Arctic Parklands.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom, I'm hearing a  
41 bunch of numbers that I'm not really familiar with. I  
42 hear WP16-53/54 and I'm hearing a 56. Can you give me  
43 clarification on these numbers, please.

44  
45 MR. EVANS: Yes. So the crossover  
46 proposals we're discussing right now are WP16-53 and 54  
47 and the sheep proposal that we dealt with back in  
48 November was Proposal WP16-66.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: How does it chime in

1 with this? Because in the book I see WP16-53/54 and  
2 now you're adding on a 60-something number.

3  
4 DR. PERSON: 66 was one we dealt with  
5 in November. That was for Unit 26A on our side of the  
6 border.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

9  
10 MR. EVANS: And it's just a comparison.  
11 We basically dealt with the same issues with Proposal  
12 WP16-66 back in November, so I just mentioned that as  
13 maybe a help in making a decision on these two  
14 proposals that we have in front of us right now, the  
15 crossover proposals.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 16-53 and 16-54.

18  
19 MR. EVANS: Yes, that's what we're  
20 discussing now.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Number two in terms  
23 of our presentation procedure for the proposals is  
24 report on Board's consultation with tribes and ANCSA  
25 corporations.

26  
27 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We  
28 did not receive any tribal consultation comments on  
29 this proposal.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm  
32 trying to take notes as we're moving along. Number  
33 three, agency comments.

34  
35 MR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Chair. This is Drew  
36 Crawford with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in  
37 Anchorage. The Department's preliminary recommendation  
38 for Proposal WP16-53/54 is to support as modified by  
39 OSM.

40  
41 Over.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Number  
44 four is advisory group comments.

45  
46 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. This is  
47 Carmen with Fish and Game in Kotzebue. I'm going to  
48 review again the same four advisory committees and  
49 their comments regarding WP16-53. The Upper Kobuk  
50 Advisory Committee voted to support that proposal.

1                   The Kotzebue Sound Advisory Committee  
2 voted to oppose it, suggesting that they should go  
3 through motions every year to close the season down and  
4 expressed concerns of a potential future problem of  
5 opening the season if it were to go into effect given  
6 the past history of difficulties encountered with  
7 National Park Service and opening seasons in the past.  
8 And the potential to have all new people working at the  
9 National Park Service during the time when it needs to  
10 be opened and them not being clear on the history of  
11 the hunt. The National Park Service cannot assure the  
12 difficulties would not arise in the future. Those were  
13 the comments again from the Kotzebue Sound Advisory  
14 Committee.

15  
16                   The Lower Kobuk Advisory Committee  
17 voted in full support of this. The Noatak and Kivalina  
18 Advisory Committee voted to support it 5-0 saying that  
19 the sheep numbers are low in their area.

20  
21                   Mr. Chair.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Who was the last  
24 advisory committee?

25  
26                   MS. DAGGETT: Noatak and Kivalina  
27 Advisory Committee.

28  
29                   MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.

30  
31                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.

32  
33                   Carl.

34  
35                   MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chair. I have a  
36 report on the action from the Northwest Arctic  
37 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. They supported  
38 these proposals with modification. They actually  
39 wanted to take conservation a step more fully. They  
40 want a full closure for all of Unit 23 including Gates  
41 of the Arctic National Park and no may-be-announced  
42 season.

43  
44                   They noted that the rapidly occurring  
45 extreme weather changes, the hunting pressure and  
46 predation has put the stock of Dall sheep at a critical  
47 level. The entire range needs to be protected and  
48 harvest should stop completely until the population  
49 recovers and a sustainable harvest can be provided.  
50 When those levels are achieved, then only Federally

1 qualified subsistence users should be allowed to first  
2 hunt before any other groups.

3

4                   The Council noted concern about  
5 accurate counts of the population due to weather and  
6 believes that the hunt should be closed until data is  
7 available that supports a sustainable hunt.  
8 Conservation efforts should be made to protect the  
9 future stock of this resource for the continuation of  
10 subsistence use.

11

12                   That's all I have, Mr. Chair.

13

14                   Thank you.

15

16                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks, Carl. Any  
17 other regional council, commissions, Subsistence  
18 Resource Commission.

19

20                   MS. OKADA: This is Marcy Okada for  
21 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

22

23                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Marcy.

24

25                   MS. OKADA: Gates of the Arctic  
26 National Park and Preserve SRC voted to support WP16-54  
27 with modification. They did not  
28 vote on WP16-53. They're supporting it because  
29 regulation changes are needed at this time due to  
30 declining numbers in the Dall sheep population in the  
31 Schwatka Mountain.

32

33                   That's it.

34

35                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Summary  
36 of written public comments.

37

38                   MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. There were no  
39 written public comments submitted for WP16-53 or 54.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Public testimony.

42

43                   (No comments)

44

45                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: No public testimony.  
46 Number seven is Regional Council recommendation.  
47 Motion to adopt. What's the wish of the Council  
48 regarding WP16-53 and 54.

49

50                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
2  
3 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to make a  
4 motion to adopt  
5 16-53/54 and read it in its entirety just the way it's  
6 going to sound like.  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, Gordon.  
9  
10 MR. SHEARS: The OSM recommendation?  
11  
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We need a second to  
13 the motion. Motion to adopt.  
14  
15 MR. SHEARS: Are you talking about  
16 OSM's recommendation for 53?  
17  
18 MR. G. BROWER: The proposed  
19 regulation.  
20  
21 MR. SHEARS: Okay.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Second.  
24  
25 MR. SHEARS: Then I second that.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, Gordon.  
28  
29 MR. G. BROWER: Is that starting on  
30 Page 239?  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: 239, yes.  
33  
34 MR. G. BROWER: I'll just read that.  
35 Is that the one that starts off with WP16-53, Unit 23C?  
36  
37 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
40  
41 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. Units 23 south  
42 of Rabbit Creek, Kiyak Creek and the Noatak River, and  
43 west of the Cutler and Redstone Rivers (Baird  
44 Mountains). Harvest quotas will be announced annually  
45 by the Superintendent of Western Arctic National  
46 Parklands. Federal public lands are closed to the  
47 taking of sheep except by Federally qualified  
48 subsistence users.  
49  
50 Units 23 north of Rabbit Creek, Kiyak

1 Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Aniuk River  
2 (DeLong Mountains). Harvest quotas will be announced  
3 annually by the Superintendent of Western Arctic  
4 National Parklands.

5  
6 It goes on to read -- that was WP16-53,  
7 right?

8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: And goes on to WP16-54.  
12 Unit 23 sheep. Unit 23, remainder (Schwatka  
13 Mountains), that portion within Gates of the Arctic  
14 National Park, one ram with 7/8 curl or larger horn.  
15 Unit 23, remainder (Schwatka Mountains), that  
16 portion within Gates of the Arctic National Park, one  
17 sheep. Unit 23, remainder (Schwatka Mountains) except  
18 for that portion within Gates of the Arctic National  
19 Park, one sheep by Federal registration permit. Annual  
20 harvest quotas will be announced by the Superintendent  
21 of Western Arctic National Parklands.

22  
23 Is that where it ends or do we  
24 include.....

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's the proposed  
27 language.

28  
29 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. That's read into  
30 the record as a motion for discussion.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, we're under  
33 discussion.

34  
35 MR. SHEARS: Second, Mr. Chair. We're  
36 going into discussion?

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. Any further  
39 discussion.

40  
41 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

44  
45 MR. G. BROWER: This might be some  
46 questions probably for the biologists. Unit 23 sheep  
47 in WP16-54, that portion within Gates of the Arctic  
48 National Park, one ram with 7/8 curl or larger horn.  
49 Unit 23 within Gates of the Arctic National Park, one  
50 sheep. Are these for Federally qualified subsistence

1 users, is my question.

2

3 MR. EVANS: Yes, for Federally  
4 qualified subsistence users on Federal public lands.

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: Here's the follow-up to  
7 that. In the reasoning behind Northwest Arctic, and I  
8 kind of understood them to say, no, let's just close  
9 this. The sheep population in these areas should be  
10 allowed to increase uninterrupted by opening and  
11 closing. Maybe we can get three this year, maybe we  
12 can do four next year and have limited openers, type  
13 things. It would seem to me it would make sense to  
14 have -- to remain cautious about the decline, whether  
15 it's hunting pressure, predators or just climate  
16 related, that there should be some caution in the wind  
17 here to talk about the recovery of these populations.

18

19 The other question I have, in terms of  
20 State regulation, did I hear that there is no State  
21 hunt or is there a tier type of state hunt going on in  
22 their regulatory scheme? Maybe I could hear a little  
23 bit more about what the State regulatory is.

24

25 MR. EVANS: Okay. In 2015, the Board  
26 approved a temporary -- so the Federal Subsistence  
27 Board closed the sheep season in Unit 23 except for  
28 those lands within Gates of the Arctic Preserve and 26A  
29 west of Howard Pass and Etivluk River. The State  
30 Alaska Board of Game adopted Proposal 203, which closed  
31 all the sheep seasons in Unit 23 and 26A west of Howard  
32 Pass and Etivluk River. That's for the 2015-2016  
33 season.

34

35 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

38

39 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, that's alarming  
40 because population trend declines, conservative  
41 management levels be established. Instead -- what was  
42 the previous regulatory scheme of the State? Was it a  
43 tier hunt all this time or was it a non-resident hunt?  
44 What was going on with the State to go all the way into  
45 closing it to everybody?

46

47 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom  
48 again. The thought behind that was, again, due to the  
49 decline in the populations. Prior to the closure there  
50 was both a resident and non-resident hunt in Unit 23

1 for sheep and they had -- and as of the current  
2 regulations there's no open season at all in any parts  
3 of 23 right now. I only have the current State reg  
4 books in front of me, so I can't talk about what there  
5 were in the past.

6

7

MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Continue, Gordon.

10

11

MR. G. BROWER: I hate to bomb-blast  
12 any of the regulations, but it seems to me that we pull  
13 things out of a hat when we're not supposed to. We're  
14 supposed to be able to manage these things and watch  
15 for the trend at least on the State side. You know,  
16 going from resident hunt and non-resident hunt, not  
17 even to a tier hunt, which we're actually trying to  
18 provide here if it were a State regulatory process.  
19 This would be some sort of a tier hunt for one curl or  
20 one and 7/8ths curl ram. Am I correct or do I stand to  
21 be corrected? If this were a regulatory scheme, we're  
22 talking about the State, we would be talking about now  
23 a tier hunt.

24

25

MR. EVANS: I believe that to be  
26 correct, but Drew or somebody else from the State could  
27 chime in here.

28

29

30

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The 2014 preliminary estimate was 359  
sheep, which was an 80 percent decline since 2011.  
Again, this was because of the severe winter  
conditions. It had nothing to do with regulations or  
hunting pressure. The Schwatka Mountains they were not  
surveyed, however the 2014 preliminary estimate for the  
Itkillik Preserve was 646 sheep, which was a 60 percent

1 decline since 2011.

2

3 Populations are currently very low. If  
4 hunting continues with any sheep bag limits,  
5 overharvest will likely occur and recovery of  
6 populations will be delayed. To aid in conservation of  
7 sheep in these areas in March of 2015, the Alaska Board  
8 of Game closed the sheep season in Unit 23 and the  
9 western portions of Unit 26A effective regulatory year  
10 2015, which is the hunting season we're currently in,  
11 which runs July 1, 2015 to June 30th, 2016. The  
12 previous regulatory year, 2014, in this area the season  
13 was closed by emergency order effective August 2014.

14

15 Over.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Drew.

18

19 MS. RATTENBURY: Mr. Chair. This is  
20 Kumi Rattenbury with the Park Service in Fairbanks, if  
21 I may.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Kumi.

24

25 MS. RATTENBURY: So we participated  
26 with the State and had the surveys in 2014 across all  
27 of Noatak National Preserve and the Wulik pretty much  
28 indicated those declines that Drew was just mentioning.

29

30 This past summer we surveyed all of  
31 Gates of the Arctic, so that covered that Schwatka area  
32 within Gates of the Arctic Park. That's one of the  
33 areas mentioned in Proposal 54, I think. And then we  
34 also did the western Baird Mountains, which is north of  
35 Kotzebue and east of the village of Noatak, and that  
36 area has been surveyed almost every year since 1986  
37 with a couple breaks.

38

39 That area is continuing to decline, so  
40 you're looking at maybe 200 sheep there and also had  
41 really low lamb recruitment numbers for the July survey  
42 in 2015. That area also has been Federal only hunting  
43 since the early 1990s. In the DeLongs, both areas have  
44 had a quota since the '90s both for the Federal and  
45 State hunts.

46

47 Then we did the Itkillik area that Drew  
48 mentioned again as part of the Gates of the Arctic  
49 survey of 2015 and that area looks like adult numbers  
50 have stabilized and their land numbers are high this

1 year. Forty lambs per 100 ewe-like sheep, which  
2 includes some young rams and that's what we saw across  
3 most of Gates of the Arctic, so the Central Brooks  
4 Range looks a lot better than the Western Brooks Range.

5

6

7

8 For that Schwatka area, we did a  
9 separate estimate for  
10 that area, so it includes the area on your maps in GMU  
11 23, but also includes some sheep habitat west of the  
12 Alatna River, so a little bit of 24B. In that area you  
13 may have like -- the preliminary estimate for that area  
14 like around 1,000 sheep. On the low end, there might  
15 be about 700 adults still in that area. That's kind of  
16 why it's been separated out. That area also had 40  
17 lambs per 100 ewe-like this year. Most of those sheep  
18 that are hunted by subsistence users are in the Upper  
19 Noatak River valley way up in Gates of the Arctic.

19

20

21 The only community that can hunt in  
22 that part of the Park for sheep are Shungnak, Kobuk and  
23 Ambler, so it's a very small number of people that can  
24 actually hunt those sheep and those sheep appear to be  
25 doing better than what's going on in the Baird and  
26 DeLong Mountains.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Kumi.  
28 Further discussion on the motion.

29

30

(No comments)

31

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion to adopt WP16-  
34 53 and 54 as written in the booklet on Page 239 and  
35 240.

35

36

37 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I have a  
38 question for Staff on the language in (indiscernible -  
39 paper shuffling). When they're describing Unit 23  
40 remainder, which I assume is that region east of Howard  
41 Pass, they talk about areas inside the Gates of the  
42 Arctic National Park and Preserve. Not having a map in  
43 front of me to follow, how does this impact the  
44 community of Anaktuvuk Pass? Does this impact their --  
45 will this regulation, if adopted, supercede their  
46 community quota?

46

47

48 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. This is Marcy  
49 Okada with Gates of the Arctic National Park and  
50 Preserve.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Marcy.  
2  
3 MS. OKADA: In answering Mr. Shears  
4 question, this proposal would have no affect on  
5 Anaktuvuk Pass because it only pertains to Unit 23.  
6  
7 MR. SHEARS: Thank you.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.  
10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
14  
15 MR. G. BROWER: In the same line of  
16 questioning as Bob's, because there's no impact to  
17 Anaktuvuk, is the portion that you're talking about  
18 potentially accessible by Anaktuvuk as a crossover  
19 proposal? Because we might have subsistence users from  
20 Anaktuvuk go in this area once in a great while or  
21 something.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom or Marcy. Like  
24 we say, we don't have a map in front of us. Which  
25 communities are really getting affected? Is AKP or  
26 Point Hope?  
27  
28 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. This is Marcy  
29 Okada.  
30  
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Marcy.  
32  
33 MS. OKADA: I think if you go to Page  
34 247 in your meeting booklet there's a map. On this map  
35 you'll see the westernmost portion of Gates of the  
36 Arctic National Park and it's also labeled Schwatka  
37 Mountains. So, as you can see, the three Upper Kobuk  
38 communities of Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk, those are  
39 the communities that would primarily go into the  
40 Schwatka Mountains of Gates of the Arctic.  
41  
42 Anaktuvuk Pass residents have a lot of  
43 sheep habitat in their area in Unit 26A and 26B and  
44 also 24B, so they have more than enough sheep hunting  
45 grounds to go hunting in. Chances are they wouldn't go  
46 west into the Schwatka Mountains to go hunting for  
47 sheep.  
48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: All right. Mr. Chair,  
50 I'm just trying to -- maybe somebody needs to advise us

1 as to why this crossover needs attention by Region 10  
2 up in the Arctic.

3

4 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Marcy.

7

8 MS. OKADA: I think this proposal is a  
9 crossover proposal for your RAC because of Point Hope  
10 heading south into the DeLong Mountains, which are in  
11 Unit 23.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, that's why I  
14 was asking to see which  
15 community would be most affected earlier. Thank you  
16 for your question. So it would be Point Hope in Unit  
17 23 closer to the DeLong Mountains. The recommendation  
18 is to close all of the hunts except for Federally  
19 qualified hunters. No Federal open season.

20

21 MR. EVANS: Harry, this is Tom. So the  
22 proposal is to have no Federal open season for the  
23 Baird Mountains and the DeLong Mountains, so that's  
24 currently the recommendation. No Federal open season  
25 on Federal public lands. To be closed to the taking of  
26 sheep except by Federally qualified subsistence users.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
29 Just to confirm, that's the proposal as written, is  
30 recommending no Federal open season except for Unit 23  
31 remainder.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm having a little  
34 difficulty trying to understand the proposal. It said  
35 no Federal open season.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: Except by Federally  
38 qualified subsistence users.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And it's going to  
41 close the season. That's what Eva was just talking  
42 about. There would be no more hunting in that area.  
43 Without having the representative from Point Hope it's  
44 kind of difficult to make a good discussion point in  
45 terms of the significance of sheep harvest in the  
46 community. I know they did take a few sheep from the  
47 DeLong Mountains area from the pass. If we put a  
48 closure to the hunt, what does it mean to the community  
49 and its impacts for resource availability?

50

1 MR. EVANS: Harry, this is Tom again.  
2 So between 2004 and 2014, the annual sheep harvest was  
3 23 animals in Unit 23 an 26A under both the State and  
4 Federal subsistence regulations. It ranged from a  
5 low.....  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Twenty-three.  
8  
9 MR. EVANS: Twenty-three, yeah.  
10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Twenty-three annually  
12 or 23 in combined years?  
13  
14 MR. EVANS: Annually.  
15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
17  
18 MR. G. BROWER: What did he say, the 23  
19 were.....  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Harvested.  
22  
23 MR. G. BROWER: Annually by Federally  
24 qualified users only?  
25  
26 MR. SHEARS: And State.  
27  
28 MR. G. BROWER: State residents.  
29  
30 MR. SHEARS: And State recreational.  
31  
32 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
35  
36 MR. G. BROWER: If I can get a  
37 clarification on this language on Proposal WP16-53,  
38 Units 23 south of Rabbit Creek, Kiyak Creek and the  
39 Noatak River, and west of the Cutler and Redstone  
40 Rivers (Baird Mountains). Harvest quotas will be  
41 announced annually by the Superintendent of Western  
42 Arctic National Parklands. Federal public lands are  
43 closed to the taking of sheep except by Federally  
44 qualified subsistence users. Now what does that mean?  
45 It's closed, but there's an except by Federally  
46 qualified subsistence users.  
47  
48 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom  
49 again. So if there is a season, if a season was  
50 opened, then, like the Western Arctic Parklands opened

1 a season, if there was a season, then it would only be  
2 open to Federally qualified subsistence users.

3

4 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. Thanks for the  
5 clarification. Sometimes, you know, we need a little  
6 of these things to turn the squirrel cages around.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question in  
9 regards to the bold  
10 language. Harvest quotas will be announced annually by  
11 the Superintendent of Western Arctic National  
12 Parklands. Who is that superintendent and where does  
13 he reside?

14

15 MR. EVANS: Marcy or Kumi, do you want  
16 to take that one.

17

18 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. This is Marcy  
19 Okada.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, go ahead, Marcy.

22

23 MS. OKADA: Currently there's an acting  
24 Superintendent of Western Arctic National Parklands.  
25 The previous Superintendent has since moved on. The  
26 Superintendent position  
27 will be filled hopefully within the next few months and  
28 the Superintendent would reside in Kotzebue.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And this regulation  
31 will not be in effect until -- when does the effective  
32 start date begin?

33

34 MR. EVANS: These regulations would  
35 start in 2016, so July 1st, 2016 and go to June 30th,  
36 2018.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that said, will  
39 be there be public  
40 notices going out to these communities that subsist off  
41 of these  
42 sheep?

43

44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If  
45 this proposal is supported by the Councils and  
46 supported by the Federal Subsistence Board, then they  
47 would go into regulation. OSM has the news release  
48 notification process and a new regulatory book that  
49 goes out to the communities. Marcy may be able to  
50 respond to the outreach that the Park Service

1 themselves may do in those communities.

2

3 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. This is Marcy  
4 Okada. In regards to the Upper Kobuk communities of  
5 Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk, Gates of the Arctic  
6 National Park and Preserve will be visiting those  
7 communities and doing some education and outreach.  
8 Right now I can't speak for Western Arctic Parklands, I  
9 don't technically work for them, but I imagine they  
10 would be going out and traveling to those affected  
11 communities in Unit 23.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you want to write  
14 the question because we don't have a representative  
15 here and there's a Superintendent position not filled  
16 and the lack of that position being filled, I'm not  
17 sure how that follow-up communications would be with an  
18 interim staff to inform these people that this hunt is  
19 going to be closed and whether there's been follow-up  
20 communications prior to the proposal being generated.

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. This is  
23 Carmen from Fish and Game. Maybe I can help you out a  
24 little bit here.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

27

28 MS. DAGGETT: So I have connections  
29 with all of the village  
30 Councils in each of the upper river villages, Kobuk,  
31 Shungnak and Ambler, and there's an advisory committee  
32 that represents those communities as well. So I guess  
33 they voted on that same proposal you're discussing  
34 under the Upper Kobuk Advisory Committee report that I  
35 gave you earlier. So the advisory committee themselves  
36 is aware of as well as the individuals who were at that  
37 meeting are aware of this change coming their way. So  
38 in addition to whatever National Park Service does, I  
39 can also help distribute that information to those  
40 communities at least through fax and email to the  
41 cities and IRA councils.

42

43 Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that  
46 Carmen. I'm really more voicing my concerns regarding  
47 Point Hope. That's the community that keeps getting  
48 missed or not mentioned when these efforts of  
49 communications are going out.

50

1 MS. DAGGETT: Right. I can include  
2 them in that distribution as well.

3

4 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

7

8 MR. G. BROWER: Language says harvest  
9 quotas will be announced annually by the Superintendent  
10 of Western Arctic National Parklands. I'm wondering  
11 what that process is going to be for the Superintendent  
12 of the Western Arctic National Parklands. Will there  
13 be a notification to the communities on an intended  
14 harvest and will that be based out of a census  
15 information and will that census reflect a community's  
16 needs and if those needs are below the level of  
17 community needs, it should reflect because there's  
18 always issues surrounding who's going to be able to get  
19 what.

20

21 I'm just a little concerned about how  
22 you get harvest quotas and to announce that annually.  
23 It sounds like the Superintendent is not filled and who  
24 is going to make that determination in that absence?

25

26 MS. RATTENBURY: Mr. Chair. This is  
27 Kumi Rattenbury with the Park Service in Fairbanks if I  
28 may.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Kumi, go ahead.

31

32 MS. RATTENBURY: So just when everybody  
33 was hanging up for lunch Ken Adkisson mentioned that  
34 the office in Nome is closing up because of a severe  
35 weather storm or system coming in and he mentioned he'd  
36 try to call in from his house, but I imagine he hasn't,  
37 otherwise he would probably be able to answer this, but  
38 I think he would probably be spearheading that effort  
39 to communicate with villages and with OSM and to hold  
40 public meetings as needed.

41

42 The Park Service is committed to doing  
43 a survey in the Baird Mountains annually until the  
44 hunts can open up. It will probably be for a long time  
45 afterwards to track what the population does following  
46 this decline. And they're planning on doing more  
47 frequent aerial surveys in the DeLong Mountains as  
48 well. So those typically happen in July, which is just  
49 before the hunting season opens up, so that can be  
50 tricky sometimes, I think.

1                   But I think probably Ken Adkisson could  
2 answer this question the best and it would most likely,  
3 after we finish the survey and have information for  
4 him, to be able to communicate with communities and the  
5 RACs, Fish and Game and the ACs as far as what's going  
6 on with that including with the community of Point  
7 Hope.

8

9                   MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

10

11                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

12

13                   MR. G. BROWER: Just one little follow  
14 up. I understand there's a weather front or something  
15 for people to be able to hunker down. You know, like  
16 minds think alike sometimes too. I heard the RAC from  
17 Northwest Arctic Borough say -- you know, they didn't  
18 like the idea of developing a harvest quota annually.  
19 I think it's all right that you develop a harvest quota  
20 annually, but it should be based on a principal, not  
21 just because there's 60 new recruits, but the mature  
22 ones that allow those to mature.

23

24                   That when there is an opportunity  
25 created to hunt that it's sustainable and that the next  
26 following year we're not going to stifle the necessary  
27 growth of these populations by incrementally harvesting  
28 them as they just become available. Like if you keep a  
29 ram out there a little longer, it's going to mate the  
30 next year. At least give him five or six mating  
31 seasons before we harvest it.

32

33                   That would be my concern is to barely  
34 -- at least these populations be sustainable before  
35 running a small Mom and Pop store on these things when  
36 they should be allowed to grow a little bit more and a  
37 little bit more sustainable hunt be in that process for  
38 harvest quotas to be announced. Maybe they don't need  
39 to be announced for that very reason.

40

41                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
42 Gordon.

43

44                   MR. EVANS: So, Mr. Chairman.....

45

46                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other discussion  
47 on.....

48

49                   MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Tom.

2

3 MR. EVANS: So OSM's preliminary  
4 recommendation, kind of following along with what  
5 Gordon had just said, was to have a may-be-announced  
6 season by the Western Arctic Parklands and that would  
7 allow them more flexibility to open it up if the survey  
8 data indicated that there could be surplus harvest that  
9 could be used by Federally qualified subsistence users  
10 or any users, but for this case it's probably mostly  
11 Federally qualified subsistence users. So just  
12 bringing that up. The process might be a little  
13 simpler and quicker under the may-be-announced season  
14 versus having to announce the quota and then going from  
15 there.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

18

19 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

22

23 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, and what Tom was  
24 just saying kind of leads me to look at OSM's support  
25 with modification right here at the bottom of Page 240.  
26 We're looking at the main motion and they're suggesting  
27 maybe we should take out the delegation to the Park  
28 Service on announcing, you know, the ability and not  
29 the opening. Retain the power to consider future  
30 openings at this level.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So how do we take  
33 that, as a good thing or is that a bad thing?

34

35 MR. SHEARS: It's a good thing. We  
36 kind of heard it from the other regions that they  
37 weren't very supportive of delegating that authority to  
38 the National Park Service either. So perhaps an  
39 amendment to the motion to adopt OSM's modifications.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The preliminary  
42 conclusions?

43

44 MR. SHEARS: Under the preliminary  
45 conclusions on Page 240 would be appropriate at this  
46 point.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
49 the Council. We're still under Regional Council  
50 recommendation, motion to adopt -- we made a motion to

1 adopt the proposed regulations.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: We read it to its end  
4 right here.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

7

8 MR. G. BROWER: And it would be  
9 appropriate to read the  
10 preliminary conclusion section.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: As an amending motion?

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Let's read it first, I  
15 guess, because we're under discussion of the main  
16 motion. If you want to do that there, Bob.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Sure, I can. For  
19 consideration, it's OSM's preliminary conclusion to  
20 support with modification. It establishes a  
21 may-be-announced season instead of a no Federal open  
22 season and it removes the regulatory language  
23 referencing harvest quotas and the delegations of  
24 authority to open  
25 and close the season. Also it determines the annual  
26 harvest quotas and limits via a delegation of authority  
27 letter.

28

29 If we were to consider an amendment,  
30 the modified regulation could read Unit 23 sheep, south  
31 of Rabbit Creek, Kiyak Creek and  
32 the Noatak River, and west of the Cutler and Redstone  
33 Rivers (Baird Mountains), a season which may be  
34 announced.

35

36 A substatement to that is that Federal  
37 public lands are closed to the taking of sheep except  
38 by Federally qualified subsistence users. A clause  
39 that would take effect if we were to exercise the may-  
40 be-announced clause.

41

42 The next region is that Unit 23 north  
43 of Rabbit Creek, Kiyak Creek and the Noatak River, and  
44 west of the Aniuk River (DeLong Mountains). An area  
45 that adjoins our unit.

46

47 Moving on to the alignment with the  
48 Proposal 16-54 the language for the Unit 23 remainder  
49 (Schwatka Mountains) except for those lands within  
50 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, one

1 sheep by Federal permit may-be-announced. And then  
2 there's Proposal 54 language in here. The Unit 23  
3 remainder (Schwatzka Mountains), those lands within  
4 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, one ram  
5 with 7/8 curl horn or larger August 10th to September  
6 20th. And Unit 23 remainder (Schwatzka Mountains),  
7 those lands within Gates of the Arctic National Park  
8 and Preserve, one sheep October 1st to April 30th.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And that would be  
11 the.....

12

13 MR. SHEARS: That's the proposal in its  
14 entirety as a supporting proposal with modifying  
15 language to the original motion. It's not perfect. I  
16 like the first part.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of  
19 the Council.

20

21 MR. SHEARS: Maybe a mechanism or  
22 something that we can work with if we were to adopt it.  
23 I mean if we were to adopt it as an amendment, then we  
24 can continue working it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Then we'll just use  
27 the OSM preliminary conclusion.....

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: .....for  
32 consideration. What's the wish of the Council.  
33 Amending motion.

34

35 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

38

39 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to entertain a  
40 motion as an amendment to the main motion to support  
41 with modifications as read in the OSM preliminary  
42 conclusion.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Amending motion on  
45 the floor.

46

47 MR. G. BROWER: Now what are we looking  
48 for?

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Council members, we

1 have an amending motion.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: That amending motion  
4 with the preliminary conclusions were just read in its  
5 entirety by Bob Shears.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Found on Page 240.

8

9 MR. SHEARS: I second this.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Bob.  
12 Further discussion on the amending motion.

13

14 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: The may-be-announced  
19 clause, we heard testimony from the other regions that  
20 they're not very supportive of that. They're kind of  
21 like -- they're more aligned with a hard closure.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. SHEARS: Even so, at least the  
26 language -- the delegation of authority for that  
27 western area, the area that potentially affects Point  
28 Hope, this amending motion now takes that authority  
29 away from National Park Service and puts it back in  
30 front of us on the table. Now we're back in the  
31 driver's seat on this in the future if we want to  
32 change it. So where does the may-be-announced  
33 authority lie now is my question to Staff.

34

35 MR. G. BROWER: Good question.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.

38

39 MR. EVANS: Mr. Chairman. This is Tom  
40 again. So the may-be-announced season allows -- so the  
41 delegated authority is still going to be with the  
42 Western Arctic Parklands, but they will have the  
43 flexibility to announce seasons quicker than as under  
44 -- if the season is fully closed, then in order to open  
45 a season you need to go through the special action  
46 process and that can take some time and it would be not  
47 as fast of a process. So by giving delegated authority  
48 to the Western Arctic Parklands it allows them to open  
49 a season sooner and with more ease than if the season  
50 was totally closed.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And the authority  
2 still remains with the Parklands.  
3  
4 MR. SHEARS: You didn't answer my  
5 question. Are you following what we're discussing,  
6 Tom?  
7  
8 MR. EVANS: Yes. Maybe I -- go ahead,  
9 Bob, ask your question again.  
10  
11 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Let me rephrase it.  
12 Right now a motion under discussion to amend removes  
13 the language where the Superintendent of Western Arctic  
14 National Parklands will announce closures.  
15  
16 MR. EVANS: No, not exactly. It will  
17 remove -- what it will remove will be the announcement  
18 of harvest quotas, it will remove the closed Federal  
19 open season, but it will still -- the delegation of  
20 authority will still give the Western Arctic Parklands  
21 the ability to open and close the season and determine  
22 harvest quotas and limits.  
23  
24 MR. SHEARS: Okay.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we've got a  
27 segment that's OSM's preliminary conclusion maybe  
28 stopping at where it's indicating support with  
29 modification to establish a may-be-announced season.  
30 Okay. Maybe, maybe not. It will remove regulatory  
31 language referencing harvest quotas and delegated  
32 authority to open  
33 and close the season and determines the annual harvest  
34 quotas and limits via a delegation of authority letter.  
35  
36  
37 MR. SHEARS: Okay.  
38  
39 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
42  
43 MR. G. BROWER: So I'm understanding,  
44 it's still the same language, but it's just taking will  
45 be announced and making that into may-be-announced,  
46 right?  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tom.  
49  
50 MR. EVANS: The season before under the

1 proposed regulation is for a no Federal open season and  
2 now it will go to may-be-announced open season.

3

4 MR. SHEARS: So does this put the  
5 requirement to study the matter every year squarely on  
6 the shoulders of the National Park Service to continue  
7 an annual analysis of it?

8

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10

11 MR. SHEARS: I love it.

12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any discussion of the  
14 amending motion.

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: No further discussion  
19 from the Council.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Hang on, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

24

25 MR. G. BROWER: I know Bob loves it. I  
26 heard him.

27

28 (Laughter)

29

30 MR. G. BROWER: But what was the  
31 requirement before that? I mean wasn't there always a  
32 requirement to provide a method by which a harvest  
33 level will be established? And who was doing that?

34

35 MR. EVANS: Okay. So before this  
36 proposed regulation there were seasons in the  
37 regulations for harvesting sheep in each of the  
38 subunits within Unit 23. Once again, Federal public  
39 lands were closed to the taking of sheep except by  
40 Federally qualified subsistence users. So prior to  
41 this there were seasons.

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: There was an establish  
44 season?

45

46 MR. EVANS: Correct. That was from  
47 August 10th to April 30th. It had a little caveat  
48 under the previous regs that said if the allowable  
49 harvest regulations are reached before the regular  
50 season closing date, the Superintendent of the Western

1 Arctic Parklands will announce an early closure.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Who was responsible for  
4 the harvest quota?

5

6 MR. EVANS: That would be the Park  
7 Service.

8

9 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl.

12

13 MR. JOHNSON: If you want to look at  
14 this kind of in a simple way under the existing  
15 regulations, it was open until closed by the  
16 Superintendent and now we're flipping it on this  
17 proposal. We're closing it until the Superintendent  
18 determines there's enough to harvest and that's either  
19 under the proposal, which has the language harvest  
20 quotas will be announced annually by the Superintendent  
21 or a different way, the way the OSM modification to it  
22 is, to not have a reference to any delegation of  
23 authority in the regulation, but instead do it by a  
24 delegation of authority letter.

25

26 I just want to let the Council know  
27 that a little of this is kind of an ongoing  
28 housekeeping issue that the Federal Subsistence  
29 Management Program has been working on the last couple  
30 years and that is any time there is a proposal made  
31 that affects a regulation that has in regulation a  
32 delegation of authority to a land manager, the idea is  
33 to remove that delegation of authority from regulation  
34 and put it in a letter and that allows more flexibility  
35 of changing what the delegated authority is through the  
36 letter process as opposed to through the regulatory  
37 process.

38

39 So there's just a little bit of that  
40 going on here as well. It essentially -- it doesn't  
41 change the practice, but it changes it from being in  
42 regulation and putting it in a delegated authority  
43 letter. So I hope that helps to add a little bit of  
44 clarity to the Council.

45

46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks, Carl.

49

50 MR. G. BROWER: So we're writing a

1 letter to the Western Arctic National Parklands. We're  
2 in a sense writing them a letter delegating them the  
3 authority to open and close a season via a delegation  
4 of authority letter and that's what we're doing.

5  
6 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. I can  
7 respond. This is Carl. Essentially what happens is the  
8 Federal Subsistence Board will issue a letter to the  
9 land manager saying you have the authority to open  
10 seasons, close seasons, change harvests, whatever the  
11 delegation is, for a particular species and then within  
12 a particular unit or land management area. So the  
13 letter will specify specifically what that delegation  
14 is.

15  
16 And if you go to Page 256 of your book,  
17 appendix one, there is the example of what the letter  
18 that would be issued to the Superintendent for Western  
19 Arctic National Parklands would look like if the  
20 Council were to support the OSM modification and the  
21 Board were to adopt that proposal.

22  
23 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that.  
26 We're on discussion of the amended motion to support  
27 with modification OSM's preliminary conclusion.  
28 Further discussion.

29  
30 MR. G. BROWER: We're just reading over  
31 the appendix 1. I think this kind of is -- you know,  
32 when we're supporting it with the preliminary  
33 conclusions, it kind of aligns itself with the  
34 Northwest Arctic Borough RAC, it's kind of doing the  
35 same thing but with processes in place to review this  
36 quite a bit is what I'm kind of getting out of it.

37  
38 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. If we don't like  
39 it, we can change it later if it stops functioning.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or we get some kind of  
42 concerns voiced from Point Hope whether it's working  
43 for them or not.

44  
45 MR. SHEARS: Right.

46  
47 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. One more  
48 question.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Let's say that we adopt  
2 this as our recommendation and then got adopted by the  
3 Federal Board of Game, will we be hearing from the  
4 Superintendent in our annual meetings or winter and  
5 fall meetings of any actions taking place under their  
6 stewardship under that delegation?

7  
8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
9 The Council can request those reports from the National  
10 Park as part of the regular meeting updates as we  
11 usually have with the agency reports. So at the  
12 Council's request and Point Hope's request specifically  
13 we can be sure to add that onto the agenda to have that  
14 dialogue ongoing.

15  
16 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

19  
20 MR. G. BROWER: I would support that  
21 only because we should be well informed and see what  
22 the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National  
23 Parklands is doing on our annual meetings affecting our  
24 constituents over in Point Hope and seeing what kind of  
25 decisions they're making in terms of the health of the  
26 population of that sheep over there. I would have no  
27 further questions on the amendment. We are on the  
28 amendment, right?

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

31  
32 MR. SHEARS: Call for question.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
35 called on the amending motion to support OSM's  
36 preliminary conclusion found on Page 240. All in favor  
37 of the motion signify by saying aye.

38  
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40  
41 MR. G. BROWER: Can we have a roll call  
42 vote.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We'd ask for a roll  
45 call vote.

46  
47 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I'll do a  
48 roll call vote at this time, December 14. Harry K.  
49 Brower.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.  
2  
3 MR. KAYOTUK: Gordon Brower.  
4  
5 MR. G. BROWER: Yes on the amendment,  
6 right?  
7  
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh.  
9  
10 MR. KAYOTUK: Robert Shears.  
11  
12 MR. SHEARS: Yes on the amendment.  
13  
14 MR. KAYOTUK: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.  
15  
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.  
17  
18 MR. KAYOTUK: Lee Kayotuk, yes.  
19  
20 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
23  
24 MR. G. BROWER: We're back on our main  
25 motion.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The amending motion  
28 passes and we're back to our main motion to adopt  
29 Proposal WP16-53 and 54.  
30  
31 MR. SHEARS: Question on the main  
32 motion.  
33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
35 called to adopt WP16-53/54. All in favor of the motion  
36 signify by saying aye.  
37  
38 IN UNISON: Aye.  
39  
40 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I would say  
41 aye with the caveat that we get an update at our annual  
42 meetings from the Superintendent of the Western Arctic  
43 National Parklands to see what's going on with these  
44 groups.  
45  
46 MR. SHEARS: A report on how they  
47 intend to manage this by their authority.  
48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: Uh-huh.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did you get that,  
2 Eva?

3  
4 MS. PATTON: Absolutely.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So the motion to  
7 adopt WP16-53/54 passed by the Council. The next  
8 agenda item is new business, item B, 2016 Fisheries  
9 Resource Monitoring Program project. Karen.

10  
11 MS. HYER: Yes. Hello, Mr. Chairman,  
12 Council members. This is Karen Hyer, fisheries  
13 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.  
14 I'm going to talk today to you about the Fisheries  
15 Resource Monitoring Plan, the draft plan, and to get  
16 your input.

17  
18 So the book discussion starts on Page  
19 259, but I am going to have you join me back on Page  
20 269 and I just want to kind of -- it's been a while  
21 since we've talked about this, so put this whole thing  
22 in the timeline context and then I'll share with you  
23 where we are and then I'll ask for your input.

24  
25 If you remember back in the fall of  
26 2014, we have kind of continually been talking about  
27 the priority information needs, but we formalized the  
28 discussion at that fall meeting so that we could put  
29 those priority information needs out with our call for  
30 proposals. If you look at this page, from the bullets,  
31 I know that they're not numbered, but from the sixth  
32 bullet down to the 11th bullet are the priority  
33 information needs we discussed in that fall meeting.  
34 So I'm going to briefly go over those.

35  
36 One thing that was deemed a priority  
37 was the description and analysis of sharing networks  
38 and customary trade of salmon in the villages of  
39 northern Alaska. I'm just going to pause for a minute  
40 and make sure we're all on the same page.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Can I just ask to  
43 make sure I'm following along. I just want to see what  
44 that asterisk right next to the projects.

45  
46 MS. HYER: Oh that dot.....

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

49  
50 MS. HYER: .....in the front of the

1 projects? That's just for recordkeeping instead of  
2 having numbers. So if you count down to the sixth dot  
3 -- the way this is organized is the priority  
4 information needs discussed at Northwest Arctic are the  
5 first on the list, the second group is the group we  
6 discussed and the third is the priority information  
7 need from Seward Peninsula and because the three RACs  
8 are all in the northern region, they're all wrapped  
9 into one list. But the ones that are directly  
10 applicable to you start at the sixth dot.

11  
12 Since I can't see you guys give me a  
13 high five, can you just let me verbally know. Are we  
14 all on the same page?

15  
16 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, what page is it  
17 on?

18  
19 MS. HYER: Page 269.

20  
21 MR. SHEARS: Page 269, the sixth  
22 bullet.

23  
24 MR. G. BROWER: Okay.

25  
26 MS. HYER: Okay? All right. So.....

27  
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're all on board.

29  
30 MS. HYER: Everybody with me?

31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

33  
34 MS. HYER: All right. Great. So the  
35 last time we formally talked about this again was the  
36 fall 2014 when we talked about what the priority  
37 research needs were in your area. We came up with a  
38 list which we added to the other two Councils' list to  
39 make up the whole northern region. So what I want to  
40 do is just remind you of what that discussion was  
41 before we launch into kind of an update as to where we  
42 are.

43  
44 So in 2014 at the fall meeting through  
45 discussion with the Council you basically came up with  
46 these priority information needs and they start kind of  
47 if you count down to bullet six and they go through the  
48 11th bullet and they're not numbered, but if you just  
49 count the little dots, it's the sixth through the 11th.  
50 I'm going to go ahead and just read them to you.

1                   The first one is description and  
2 analysis of sharing networks and customary trade of  
3 salmon in villages in northern Alaska.

4  
5                   The next one that the Council deemed  
6 important was  
7 documentation of longevity, age of maturity, and the  
8 abundance of fish of a given size range or maturity  
9 status for lake trout in the upper Anaktuvuk River.

10  
11                   Then the next one was description of  
12 temporal changes in subsistence harvest patterns and  
13 resource availability of broad whitefish, Arctic cisco  
14 and burbot in the Nigliq River.

15  
16                   Then description of changes in harvests  
17 and relative abundance of broad and round whitefish  
18 observed by subsistence fishers in the context of  
19 climate change on the Meade River.

20  
21                   There are two more. Description of  
22 environment conditions leading to increased expression  
23 of Saprolingi -- I always have trouble with this,  
24 excuse me. Saprolingi.....

25  
26                   MS. PATTON: Saprolegnia.

27  
28                   MS. HYER: Okay. Exactly what Eva just  
29 said, fungus, that fungus, you know, in broad whitefish  
30 in the Colville River drainage.

31  
32                   And then finally the last one was  
33 identification of overwintering areas for Dolly Varden  
34 in the Hulahula River including demographic qualities  
35 of overwintering fish and estimating overwintering  
36 fidelity of fish.

37  
38                   So through discussions this is what we  
39 put into the notice of funding opportunity, which is  
40 what we call it, but it's basically our notification  
41 that we have -- we are asking for projects and  
42 proposals to evaluate to fund for further research. So  
43 that went out in the fall of 2014 and we received  
44 several proposals and the very first part of that then  
45 once the proposals arrive in our office is the  
46 Technical Review Committee reviews the proposals and  
47 they have access to all the proposals and they rate  
48 them on the criteria listed on Page 264.

49  
50                   So if everybody can turn to 264, I'll

1 just remind you of their criteria.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe just a  
4 question. You said that the Council made a priority  
5 list during that earlier discussion in 2014. Did I  
6 capture that right?

7

8 MS. HYER: Yes, that's exactly right.

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: Karen, you said go to  
11 Page 264.....

12

13 MS. HYER: Yes.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: .....for strategic  
16 priority.

17

18 MS. HYER: Right.

19

20 MR. G. BROWER: Are we to put those  
21 studies that you were just pointing out that affect the  
22 North Slope and categorize them in terms of A, B, C, D,  
23 E, F, G?

24

25 MS. HYER: Okay. So when we announce  
26 that we have funding and we're seeking proposals, we  
27 announce those priority information needs that we just  
28 went over together. So those were listed on Page 269.  
29 We put out an announcement that we're going to fund  
30 projects, we ask for people to submit proposals to us.  
31 Then the proposals came in and they were due, I think,  
32 in December or January of 2015 or maybe it was even  
33 February. I don't remember exactly. But the proposals  
34 come into our office and the very first thing that  
35 happens is the Technical Review Committee reviews them  
36 and they review them based on this criteria that starts  
37 on Page 264.

38

39 They look at strategic priority, they  
40 look at technical and scientific merit of the proposal,  
41 they look at the investigator's ability to do the  
42 research, they look at the partnership and capacity-  
43 building component and they look at the cost benefit.  
44 They are our Technical Review Committee, so they  
45 evaluate the proposals just based on these five things  
46 and that's all they do and they make a recommendation  
47 just based on those.

48

49 So I just wanted to review that. Now  
50 we're going to turn to

1 Page 270. Let me know when you're at Page 270.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, Karen.

4

5 MS. HYER: Okay. So if you look at  
6 this table at the bottom of 270, Table 1, you'll see  
7 the projects and these are the listing of all the  
8 projects we received. So we received 10 projects. The  
9 Technical Review Committee ranked those 10 projects  
10 based on the five criteria that we just went over. So  
11 this project has the Technical Review Committee's  
12 ranking in it and it has the name of all the proposals.

13

14 So now I need RAC input because we take  
15 the Technical Review Committee's input and we take the  
16 RAC's input and the Staff Committee, which are the  
17 Staff of the Board make a recommendation also and all  
18 those recommendations go to the Federal Subsistence  
19 Board and they give approval for what to fund or what  
20 not to fund.

21

22 So this is where I need your input of  
23 what you deem important from a subsistence perspective.  
24 I'm going to go ahead and go over these proposals with  
25 you and then I'm going to ask for your comments and  
26 then I will write down all the comments because that's  
27 what's important to go forward to the Federal  
28 Subsistence Board is what your comments are on these  
29 proposals and how they relate to what you view as  
30 important subsistence issues in your area.

31

32 I'm only going to go over the proposals  
33 that are relevant to your area. I met with Northwest  
34 Arctic RAC and we went over the proposals that were  
35 relevant to their area and somebody else met with the  
36 Seward Peninsula and they went over the proposals that  
37 were relevant there.

38

39 So let's start here on Page 270 and  
40 271. The first proposal that's relevant to your area  
41 is the North Slope Overwintering Aerial Monitoring  
42 Dolly Varden project and this project is aerial  
43 monitoring of Dolly Varden overwintering abundance in  
44 the  
45 Anaktuvuk, Ivishak, Canning, Hulahula and Kongakut  
46 Rivers. This project was initiated in 2006 through  
47 2009 and aerial surveys were flown in this area to  
48 monitor these populations. They monitor the Dolly  
49 Varden in their overwintering habitat.

50

1                   So this project would build on that  
2 information and it would revisit the Dolly Varden  
3 populations for a period of four years to establish a  
4 trend in abundance. So that's the first project from  
5 your area.

6  
7                   The next project is the Chandler Lake  
8 Spawning Aggregations of Lake Trout. This project is  
9 an estimation of yield potential, identification and  
10 sampling of lake trout spawning aggregations, and  
11 abundance estimation of lake trout in Chandler Lake.  
12 It's a mark/recapture. The last time this population  
13 was estimated was 1987 through 1989. So the  
14 investigators want to revisit the population and re-  
15 estimate the abundance to evaluate how the population  
16 is doing.

17  
18                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's for Chandler  
19 Lake?

20  
21                   MS. HYER: Pardon? Chandler Lake.

22  
23                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Chandler Lake?

24  
25                   MS. HYER: Yeah. Out of Anaktuvuk  
26 Pass.

27  
28                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: For some reason I was  
29 hearing Handler Lake. I said what Handler Lake.

30  
31                   MS. HYER: No, Chandler Lake.

32  
33                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Continue.

34  
35                   MS. HYER: Okay.

36  
37                   MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Allow me to  
38 interrupt Karen just for a second.

39  
40                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

41  
42                   MR. SHEARS: I had the opportunity to  
43 be at Anaktuvuk Pass for the Council meeting on the  
44 evening of November 12th to hear the National Park  
45 Service presentation on the details for this project.  
46 Just a comment. Carry on, Karen.

47  
48                   MS. HYER: Okay. Yeah, that would be  
49 great. We're going to circle around because after that  
50 meeting we've had a lot of discussion with the

1 investigator and the Park Service. So if we can just  
2 hold those comments until I get done here, then I want  
3 to hear everything you have to say.

4  
5                   The next one that is in your area is  
6 the Meade River Changes in Subsistence Fisheries and  
7 it's evaluating changes in harvests and abundance of  
8 broad whitefish and other non-salmon and salmon  
9 species. They want to evaluate the subsistence harvest  
10 and how it's changed over time. They also want to  
11 evaluate possibly what the causes are of those changes  
12 and as they're kind of tied into the climate change  
13 that's happening up there.

14  
15                   The next proposal that is relevant to  
16 your area is the radio telemetry investigation of  
17 overwintering habitats of Dolly Varden in the Canning  
18 River. This project asks for funding for six aerial  
19 surveys and analysis of the data that's collected  
20 during these aerial surveys. Currently there is a  
21 radiotelemetry project on the Canning River for Dolly  
22 Varden and they've initiated the research already and  
23 the investigator is just asking for some supplemental  
24 funding to ensure that there are enough surveys to  
25 collect the proper radiotelemetry data.

26  
27                   Then the last two are the environmental  
28 conditions in the Colville River drainage potentially  
29 leading to increased expression of that freshwater mold  
30 which I cannot pronounce and the investigator here  
31 would examine the environmental conditions such as  
32 temperature and would also collect information from  
33 subsistence fishers and try to correlate changes in  
34 temperature or water with the occurrence of the  
35 disease.

36  
37                   And then the last one is seasonal  
38 habitats and migrations of Arctic grayling within the  
39 Nuiqsut subsistence fishery of the lower Colville  
40 River. There's very little known about grayling in  
41 this area and the investigator wants to identify  
42 overwintering habitat and timing of the migration to  
43 and from their seasonal habitats to be able to evaluate  
44 what these habitats are and predict what might affect  
45 this species in their vulnerable times of year.

46  
47                   So those are the projects that were  
48 proposed in your region. With that then, I will let  
49 you tell me what you think is important or if there's  
50 anything you think isn't important or any comments you

1 might have. I'm going to record all these comments as  
2 you discuss and what I'd really like at the end is --  
3 I'll summarize everything for you and then wrap it up  
4 into a motion because that makes it clean to take to  
5 the Board that this was something the Council as a  
6 whole supported.

7

8 So, anyway, with that I will start  
9 listening to what you have to say.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
12 Karen. I guess some of the language has kind of  
13 changed from when we first had discussion about some of  
14 these fisheries in different areas. The one I'm  
15 thinking about is just starting on the bottom on the  
16 Colville grayling. When we were discussing grayling,  
17 discussions were voiced from Point Hope regarding our  
18 representative at the time who had questions regarding  
19 grayling near their community in Point Hope. Now we  
20 have a proposed project in the Colville for grayling.  
21 That's very different from what we originally  
22 identified.

23

24 And then the Meade River changes in  
25 subsistence fisheries. You know, I think that the  
26 concern was to address the fish regarding whitefish,  
27 the primary species that were being harvested in the  
28 Meade River. Now it's all the fisheries.

29

30 Then the North Slope overwintering  
31 aerial monitoring of Dolly Varden. I guess the concern  
32 at the time that was being voiced regarding Dolly  
33 Varden in the Chandler area and then there's some kind  
34 of disease that's been identified on the flesh. This  
35 was in the fish in the Chandler area with the fish  
36 being all runny. The muscle wasn't all muscle, it was  
37 kind of jelly-like stuff that was affecting the fish.

38

39 So those were the concerns that were  
40 voiced before and now I see these have changed and  
41 shifted a little bit in terms of identifying the  
42 species, but the research is somewhat different from  
43 what we had originally identified.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: I'd like to question  
50 the ranking of No. 9,

1 changing conditions in the Colville River leading to  
2 the increased mold on whitefish. Being that whitefish  
3 is an important fish resource which is traded  
4 throughout the North Slope and beyond the North Slope,  
5 traded with many whaling captains, traded with inland  
6 folks to coastal folks and important. The concerns we  
7 hear out of Nuiqsut this year again continues to be a  
8 mold year for whitefish. I'm not sure other fish are  
9 getting it, but I've heard it's been again an issue  
10 with whitefish.

11  
12 I'm afraid for that mold to start  
13 coming in the Ikpikpuk River area. I haven't seen it.  
14 I fish quite a bit for whitefish and I keep a good  
15 lookout, but that continues to be an issue  
16 in the Colville River where they're harvesting. I  
17 think there's potentials for partnerships with this.  
18 The importance of that to the communities. I think it  
19 would behoove us to start to think about re-ranking No.  
20 9 as one of the more prominent issues up here on the  
21 North Slope.

22  
23 I'm not trying to minimize the concerns  
24 on the North Slope overwintering aerial monitoring for  
25 Dolly Varden or any other species, but I think  
26 whitefish is a major traded subsistence item up here in  
27 the Arctic and worthy of figuring out what's going on  
28 with its habitat, whether that mold is related to  
29 climate change or man-induced habitat changes like the  
30 concerns we hear out of Nuiqsut with debris coming down  
31 from Umiat landfill being undermined, by spring  
32 overflow, to some concerns about all the drilling  
33 that's going on in Alpine.

34  
35 That amounts to hundreds of wells below  
36 the Colville River delta area and all that production  
37 is at about 160 degrees Fahrenheit coming out of the  
38 reservoir down there could be impacting temperature and  
39 the thaw bubble that was maintained for hundreds of  
40 years and now may be susceptible despite putting a  
41 little Bunsen burner underneath something for 15 years  
42 now and if that could be suspect.

43  
44 But I don't know how you would do that  
45 other than by studying another equally important  
46 habitat on the North Slope that hasn't yet been  
47 impacted and that's the Ikpikpuk area where many  
48 whitefish spawning activities occur. I think that's --  
49 to me, that one kind of points out at me as we should  
50 attempt to try to re-rank that.

1 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council  
2 members. Can I make two comments?

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Karen.

5

6 MS. HYER: So just related to the  
7 rankings, those are the Technical Review Committee's  
8 rankings. If you feel like you want to rank things,  
9 you're welcome to do that, but what Gordon just said is  
10 really important. Your comments are probably the most  
11 important thing I need to capture because if the  
12 resource -- if the project is a really important  
13 resource, that's what I want to hear because that's  
14 what I'm going to write up and take to the Staff  
15 Committee and the Federal Subsistence Board. So that  
16 is exactly the input I'm looking for.

17

18 The other thing is I just wanted to  
19 mention that even though we put out a call for  
20 proposals sometimes there are things that were in that  
21 list that we didn't get because we can't control what  
22 the investigators give us. We can just control what  
23 we're asking for. So a lot of the projects you see  
24 here are simply how the investigators interpreted what  
25 we asked for or what they felt they could deliver on or  
26 what they felt was most important to their particular  
27 agency and that's kind of why we come up with this  
28 group of projects. It was completely what was  
29 submitted to us.

30

31 Okay. That's all I had. Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I've kind of lost  
34 my steering in the sense that some of these comments  
35 that were generated years ago have never been trying to  
36 get addressed, but now we're stuck with we can only do  
37 so much for whoever applies for request for proposals.

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Uh-huh, yeah. That's the  
40 initiator.

41

42 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

45

46 MR. G. BROWER: I think the way Karen  
47 put it when we talked about the importance of the  
48 species, I don't think we're -- they've already been  
49 ranked here, but the dialogue that we present over the  
50 importance of the study and the resource itself. If

1 you're going to think about the importance of whitefish  
2 and it's important to the community of Barrow,  
3 important to Nuiqsut, important to.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Atqasuk.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: .....Atqasuk. And the  
8 importance to Atqasuk was stated at one time by Paul  
9 Bodfish, Sr. with the fish and being -- I think he  
10 wanted a different kind of a study to look at why the  
11 fish was -- the fleshy parts of the meat was not  
12 normal. I don't know if it was a stress to the fish,  
13 but I don't know if it's resolved over time because  
14 it's been quite some time since Paul had requested that  
15 to be reviewed and he had pointed that out. But it  
16 could be related, you know, the stresses of that fish  
17 and the movement of broad whitefish in the area pretty  
18 well documented and they move quite a long distance  
19 especially in the spawning season.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.  
22 Council members. Rosemary, Lee, any comments.

23

24 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I know that we've  
27 had.....

28

29 MR. KAYOTUK: Oh, sorry.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Rosemary.

32

33 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: A concern that we've  
34 had from studies that have been done on the Colville  
35 River on the broad whitefish over the years I think  
36 that might have tied into part of the factor as to why  
37 it was located as No. 9. I agree with you that the  
38 importance of this fish is very important to all  
39 regions and the distribution and sharing network is  
40 well established and shares much farther than just  
41 within our boundaries of the North Slope Region.

42

43 The concern also had discussion around  
44 other fish that may be impacted with a similar type of  
45 event. There were people that had talked about their  
46 grayling also being impacted and concerns that the  
47 Arctic cisco may also be impacted with the changes that  
48 are happening contributing to the changing of this  
49 specific species.

50

1 I agree that it is important to look at  
2 the priority ranking of the process, but I also  
3 recognize what it takes to get a study process through  
4 the system and want to take that into consideration  
5 that we're sharing a process of looking at our fish as  
6 a whole with a process of trying to attempt to take a  
7 look and that's important to remember as we're looking  
8 at this prioritization.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

13

14 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. This is Karen  
15 Hyer. Can I ask Rosemary a question.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Karen, go ahead.

18

19 MS. HYER: I'm sorry, Rosemary. I'm  
20 having a little bit of a hard time hearing you and I  
21 just want to make sure I heard you right. You were  
22 talking about the grayling being important for  
23 distribution and sharing and you talked about the  
24 Arctic cisco and I know you mentioned Nuiqsut, but I  
25 thought you mentioned another community too that I  
26 might have missed.

27

28 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That was the main  
29 community that I was talking about in Nuiqsut. We had  
30 additional discussions that came up when the concern  
31 about the fish and the possible mold that was  
32 developing in the harvest, but there were additional  
33 comments that were brought by the community members  
34 that had concerns that this may be crossing over into  
35 additional species of the grayling as well as the  
36 Arctic cisco. It's not something that we have secured  
37 any assessment of, but it is part of the discussion  
38 that has come forward.

39

40 In previous discussions we did bring up  
41 discussions around Anaktuvuk Pass. James had brought  
42 up the concerns around Summit Lake over there or Red  
43 Salmon Lake, but concerns around contaminants  
44 especially after that event where they had to do a  
45 rescue in the one lake and there was exposure with  
46 responders around that lake response.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee.

see a 2016 Fisheries Resource Monitoring  
3 Program projects. Is this a proposal going out towards  
4 Council for 2017?

5

6 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
7 members. This is actually for what we're going to fund  
8 next summer. This call for projects went out in the  
9 fall of 2014. So we're actually at the end of this  
10 cycle and what you see before you are projects that  
11 were submitted to the Office of Subsistence Management  
12 for possible funding.

13

14 Now we're going to finish this  
15 discussion and we're going to launch right into a  
16 discussion about the next funding cycle at our March  
17 meeting, so it's an ongoing discussion, but right now  
18 the projects you have before you are what we're sending  
19 forward for possible funding to the Board.

20

21 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair and  
22 Council.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further  
25 discussion on No. 4 and No. 9 identified earlier  
26 numerous times and these other ones could probably get  
27 restructured into where 9 and 10 go.

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Robert.

32

33 MR. SHEARS: Hi, Karen. I mentioned  
34 earlier that I heard some discussion on item 3, the  
35 Chandler Lake study. It's a National Park Service  
36 presentation to the Anaktuvuk Pass City Council back on  
37 November 12th. You said certain things have changed  
38 since then in regards to that scoping of that project.  
39 Can you explain?

40

41 MS. HYER: Yeah, hi, Bob. Let me just  
42 ask. Brendan, are you online?

43

44 MR. SCANLON: Yes, Karen, I'm here.

45

46 MS. HYER: Okay. So we had a meeting  
47 right after we left Anaktuvuk Pass between the  
48 investigator who is on the line now and the Park  
49 Service and were sort of trying to quicken the process  
50 a bit because Al, who actually was their seasonal in

1 Anaktuvuk Pass, was leaving so we were in a bit of a  
2 hurry to get his input before he went on furlough. So  
3 since then there have been some concerns about the  
4 caribou and the migration was raised and we have asked  
5 Sport Fish to kind of restructure how they're going to  
6 sample so that won't be an issue, but I will let  
7 Brendan talk about that because he's online to address  
8 that.

9

10 MR. SCANLON: Thanks, Karen. My name  
11 is Brendan Scanlon. I am the area management biologist  
12 for Sport Fish Division for Northwest and North Slope,  
13 the Department of Fish and Game. We submitted from our  
14 office the proposals to do the lake trout work in  
15 Chandler Lake and as well as the aerial Dolly Varden  
16 monitoring program.

17

18 So for the lake trout project.  
19 Initially when we wrote up this proposal we were trying  
20 to find spawning areas and also to conduct the  
21 mark/recapture to estimate abundance. We were going to  
22 use radio tags to help find these spawning areas as  
23 well as look for any movement in and out of the lakes  
24 and see if it drops into the Chandler River. There's  
25 several connected lakes right there. We wanted to see  
26 what kind of movement they were doing in and out of the  
27 lake for abundance. Also just to get some idea of  
28 summer feeding areas as well.

29

30 Lake trout spawn in the fall, usually  
31 mid to late September at night, and there was concern  
32 having planes flying in and out of Chandler Lake during  
33 the caribou migration and hunting season could disrupt  
34 migration patterns. So we understand that concern and  
35 we proposed to rewrite this just to reflect two summer  
36 events instead of a fall and a summer.

37

38 So starting July 2017 we would go in,  
39 mark a bunch of fish with floy tags, we take lengths  
40 and weights and we put out some radio tags, a tracking  
41 station at the outlet of Chandler Lake. Then we would  
42 do one or maybe two tracking flights in the summer just  
43 to see if they drop out of the lake and download the  
44 tracking station, but then not to come back to do work  
45 on the lake until June and July of 2018.

46

47 That would be our second event. We  
48 would capture fish and we would see how many fish we  
49 caught that were marked in 2017 and this would give us  
50 a marked/unmarked ratio and from that we could estimate

1 abundance of fish in the lake.

2

3                   There hasn't been any lake trout  
4 research done in almost 30 years and what we'd like to  
5 do is estimate abundance, look at interlake movement  
6 and update what we think is sustainable yield.  
7 Essentially number of fish that could be harvested a  
8 year and still be sustainable.

9

10                   So I can take any questions or keep  
11 going.

12

13                   MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Brendan.

14

15                   MR. SCANLON: Sure.

16

17                   MR. SHEARS: This is Bob Shears again.  
18 It sounds like you captured the community's concerns.  
19 That's what I was hoping to hear.

20

21                   MR. SCANLON: Great. I'm glad we did  
22 that. Also with having two summer events we hopefully  
23 have the opportunity to hire students from Anaktuvuk  
24 Pass who is off for the summer. We've also built money  
25 into the budget to hire an ANSEP student to come out  
26 and help with sampling and radio tracking and maybe  
27 turn this into some kind of independent study project  
28 for credit  
29 for college. Thanks.

30

31                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have another  
32 question with regards to what about community  
33 interaction to minimize the impacts caused by the  
34 research?

35

36                   MR. SCANLON: Well, there shouldn't be  
37 much if any at all from what I understand and you  
38 probably know better than I do. Much of the fishing on  
39 Chandler Lake goes on in March and April when there's a  
40 lot of light and it's easy to travel over there to ice  
41 fish. We'll probably fly in and out of Bettles on  
42 float planes. So I won't actually stop in the village  
43 except for perhaps a pre-season meeting. Maybe I could  
44 talk to everybody and let them know exactly what we're  
45 going to do and get some input and maybe ask some  
46 questions and see if anybody wants to come out and see  
47 our work.

48

49                   Also I'll come back at the end of the  
50 project and explain our results of what we found and

1 leave copies of the report there. But I don't  
2 anticipate really any disturbance of people of  
3 Anaktuvuk or any of their hunting.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I know they're  
6 looking to try and stay focused on the caribou hunting  
7 during the fall. That's when the greatest hardship for  
8 caribou. If there's that activity going on, it could  
9 pose a threat to the caribou migration.

10  
11 MR. SCANLON: Sure. I don't anticipate  
12 any flying around after late July, early August. We  
13 think just one or two flights in in an Otter to drop  
14 everybody off and all our equipment, to get in and out.  
15 We'd probably be there for two weeks in July doing our  
16 sampling, but we'd be out of there before hunting  
17 season.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that.

20  
21 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
22 members.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

25  
26 MS. HYER: I have one other thing I'd  
27 like to add to the discussion. You mentioned  
28 contaminants in Chandler Lake and I wasn't aware of  
29 this until we went to Anaktuvuk, but there has been  
30 some work done in that lake with contaminants by U.S.  
31 Fish and Wildlife Service.

32  
33 So I contacted the investigator upon  
34 return and they're waiting for the last of their data  
35 to come in and then they will finish their analysis and  
36 they'll have a report out, which I'll make sure that  
37 the RAC gets. We're also going to at that time  
38 hopefully schedule the investigator to report back to  
39 the RAC so you're aware of what the ongoing research  
40 is.

41  
42 But I wasn't aware that that was even  
43 going on until after I talked to the people of  
44 Anaktuvuk and they were asking me about it. Anyway, we  
45 have pursued that and we will circle around and get  
46 back to the RACs on that.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that.  
49 Bob.  
50

1 MR. SHEARS: My next question is on  
2 Project 16-108, the changing conditions of Colville  
3 River leading to increased mold on whitefish. How is  
4 that project going to add value to the research that  
5 the North Slope Borough has already done, which exceeds  
6 that by a factor of 10? \$185,000 is nothing compared  
7 to what the North Slope Borough has spent on  
8 researching this project to date. How does this  
9 project add value to what's already been done or is it  
10 just doing what we've already done?

11  
12 MR. SCANLON: This is Brendan again.  
13 I'm sorry, the Department of Fish and Game didn't  
14 submit a proposal to do that work, so maybe Karen could  
15 answer that.

16  
17 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, this is to Karen.  
18 I'm sorry, Brendan.

19  
20 MR. SCANLON: Oh, okay.

21  
22 MR. SHEARS: Thanks for your  
23 explanation. We're done with you.

24  
25 (Laughter)

26  
27 MR. SCANLON: Okay.

28  
29 MS. HYER: Excuse me, Chairman, Council  
30 members. It's my understanding because this project  
31 was submitted by the North Slope Borough they will add  
32 to what's going on, so it will be a subcomponent of a  
33 bigger look at what's going on in the area.

34  
35 MR. SHEARS: Oh, okay.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other question.

38  
39 MR. SHEARS: I guess, Mr. Chair, I'm  
40 ready to provide my comments now.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Bob.

43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Item ranking the second  
45 item 16-106, the overwintering aerial monitoring, I  
46 think is an important project to understand the  
47 behaviors of all overwintering species. Dolly  
48 Varden may not necessarily be a priority to me, but I  
49 think it lends credibility to be extrapolated to other  
50 species that overwinter, so I'm supportive of that.

1                   The testimony that I heard from the  
2 public in Anaktuvuk Pass for the Chandler Lake research  
3 is important to them. They do subsist off of that  
4 fishery and they would like to have a more recent  
5 understanding of what changes may be observed since the  
6 study was last done in 1987.

7  
8                   16-152, the Meade River changes in the  
9 subsistence fishery, I don't believe you can get a full  
10 understanding or analysis of the Meade River fishery  
11 without also studying the Inaru River, which shares a  
12 common outlet. The Inaru River is very supportive of  
13 the Meade River and vice versa. I think you're missing  
14 the whole scope of the work on that project.

15  
16                   MS. PATTON: Bob, can I interrupt. Can  
17 you please restate the name of the river that you  
18 wanted to focus on.

19  
20                   MS. HYER: And can you spell it for me,  
21 Bob.

22  
23                   MR. SHEARS: The Meade River shares a  
24 common outlet with the Inaru, I-N-A-R-A-H-U. Did I get  
25 that right?

26  
27                   MR. G. BROWER: I think so.

28  
29                   MR. SHEARS: You'll find when you're  
30 studying broad whitefish in the Meade River you'll find  
31 that there's a strong -- it has a strong relationship  
32 with the population of the Inaru and I think they're a  
33 common population.

34  
35                   The Arctic Dolly Varden telemetry, the  
36 additional funds to complete the research that's going  
37 on near Kaktovik. I don't understand why they need to  
38 continue spending funds. Additional field research is  
39 needed there, but budgets get broken, I understand  
40 that. You can make conclusions from the initial study.  
41 I support that being in there.

42  
43                   About the changing conditions of the  
44 Colville River. You explained that is a grant request  
45 that's being sponsored by the North Slope Borough.  
46 Along with my fellow Councilmen, I strongly recommend  
47 elevating that.

48  
49                   The Colville grayling habitat and  
50 migrations. I see you have some strong matching funds

trying to understand why we don't already have that  
3 research done because that area has been under a  
4 microscope for many years now since the development of  
5 the oil industry out there.

6  
7 I'm trying to understand what is  
8 unknown there. Is it the Fish Creek tributaries or the  
9 other minor tributaries of the Colville? I can  
10 understand it being elevated there, but I think it's  
11 probably appropriately scaled where it's ranked today  
12 as No. 10.

13  
14 Anyway, those are my comments to add to  
15 the others. That's all I have to say on this subject,  
16 Mr. Chair.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I'm not  
19 sure how much longer we're anticipating to be here. I  
20 know we were looking to conduct a meeting about the  
21 proposals that we had considered during the meeting in  
22 Anaktuvuk, but then I skipped a page and there's a  
23 whole bunch of other items that need to be followed up  
24 or I thought were going to be tabled until our next  
25 meeting.

26  
27 Karen, how much more do you have for  
28 your presentation?

29  
30 MR. HYER: Mr. Chairman. Council  
31 members. You've given me a lot of information. I  
32 would just type this up and present it to the  
33 Interagency Staff Committee and also I'd have that  
34 available for you when you come into the Federal Board  
35 meeting. But you have given me plenty of information.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Karen, for  
38 your presentation. At this time I'd like to entertain  
39 a 10-minute recess.

40  
41 MR. G. BROWER: I've got no place to  
42 go.

43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Yes, please.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I'd like to  
47 take a little break here. We've been sitting for at  
48 least a couple hours. We need to take a slight break  
49 here from all the discussions that we're having. We'll  
50 take a 10-minute recess.

1 (Off record)

2

3 (On record)

4

5 MS. PATTON: Greetings. Just checking  
6 back in to see if our Council has joined us again.

7

8 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, we're back here.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Do we have Lee and  
11 Rosemary back online?

12

13 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hey, Eva, this is  
16 Harry. Like I stated earlier in regard to the length  
17 of our meeting, I was looking forward just to getting  
18 action items done. I'm not sure where -- and I  
19 thought we had tabled all these other items until our  
20 next meeting and now we have a whole full agenda again.  
21 I had other things that I needed to address with my  
22 work. I'm also traveling again tomorrow and I'm not  
23 going to be here throughout the whole day.

24

25 I wasn't anticipating to be here a full  
26 day trying to conduct a full day's meeting. I would  
27 like to know why you've got added on a whole bunch of  
28 other stuff besides the action items that I was  
29 questioning in regard to the Council members and the  
30 proposals that we have identified here during the  
31 Anaktuvuk meeting.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So  
34 in the followup with the Council there were the  
35 remaining action items, one of which is the Refuge's  
36 proposed rule, which is coming up next. The  
37 agency reports were also of interest to the Council in  
38 follow up to the questions and concerns that were  
39 raised in Anaktuvuk Pass. In particular, updates from  
40 the Park Service and we had Council member requests for  
41 the BLM reports and information on the Board of Game  
42 process.

43

44 So my apologies. It was my  
45 understanding from the Council that we would take up  
46 all of those remaining items. What we can do if you  
47 need to leave.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's where I'm  
50 having a problem. I remember we tabled all these other

1 items until our next regular meeting and we were just  
2 supposed to address the action items at this meeting.  
3 Now we're overburdened with all these other items as  
4 well.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Sure. Mr. Chair and  
7 Council, what we can do is focus on the remaining  
8 action items. Again, the Refuge's proposed rule is  
9 before the Council if you wish to make any  
10 recommendations on that. We did need to circle back  
11 around. So the Council had quite a bit of discussion  
12 in Anaktuvuk Pass with the community and those items  
13 are listed under number nine.

14

15 The Council did want to provide a  
16 letter of support for the Anaktuvuk Pass resolution and  
17 incorporate in the letter a summary of the community's  
18 concerns regarding caribou and then also develop a  
19 Board of Game proposal for Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled  
20 Use Area. We ran out of time, so we didn't circle  
21 around and make a formal motion by the Council to draft  
22 those letters and proposals. So those are action  
23 items.

24

25 As the Council wishes, those are the  
26 remaining action items in addition to the proposals if  
27 you'd like to take those up first.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: So start from number  
32 nine?

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: That's what we're  
37 talking about?

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes.

40

41 MS. PATTON: We do have 7(a), the  
42 Refuge's proposed rule and Brian Glaspell is online and  
43 that is an action item if the Council wants to make a  
44 recommendation. Brian had offered to provide an update  
45 with just the changes from the last presentation that  
46 you had received.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And I thought that  
49 was supposed to be at the next meeting as well.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
2 This would be the opportunity if the Council wishes to  
3 make a recommendation. They're anticipating that the  
4 proposed rule will go to the Federal Register, so this  
5 would be the timing for the Council to make any  
6 recommendations if you wish.

7  
8 MR. GLASPELL: Mr. Chair and Council.  
9 This is Brian Glaspell. I can offer a brief bit of  
10 clarification on the timeline and you can decide how to  
11 proceed from there if you like.

12  
13 MR. G. BROWER: Well, might as well  
14 hear the timeline issue.

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Brian.

16  
17 MR. GLASPELL: Sure. Just real  
18 quickly. This is merely an update. You may recall  
19 that I presented on the same topic at your March  
20 meeting in Barrow. There are a few substantive changes  
21 to the details of the proposed rule, but we've  
22 continued to invite feedback in all different formats  
23 and that has pushed the process forward. So at this  
24 time we're planning for publication of the draft of the  
25 proposed rule.

26  
27 These are the regulatory changes that  
28 would apply on all wildlife refuges, Federal wildlife  
29 refuges in Alaska. That draft publication would occur  
30 in January and at that time it will be open for formal  
31 public comment. That can come from individuals as well  
32 as councils like yours.

33  
34 You don't necessarily have to make a  
35 statement or offer specific feedback at this time.  
36 You'll get a chance to do that again when the draft  
37 rule is published in January. The only difference is  
38 this is kind of an advanced bite at the apple. There's  
39 still an opportunity to tweak some details if you  
40 wanted to before that draft comes out.

41  
42 MR. G. BROWER: So we'll take that up  
43 in the....

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: January.

46  
47 MR. G. BROWER: .....January or  
48 February meeting.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Uh-huh. That's the

1 understanding I had when we left Anaktuvuk, to continue  
2 these items at our next regular meeting.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
5 Maybe just to confirm with Brian. The next scheduled  
6 Council meeting is the all-Council meeting, which will  
7 take place in March. So I just wanted to confirm with  
8 Brian the timing of the public comment opportunity.  
9 The Councils may meet after that closes. I just want  
10 to confirm.

11

12 MR. GLASPELL: Sure. Mr. Chair, I can  
13 respond to that. The exact timing here is still a  
14 little bit up in the air. Those publications in the  
15 Federal Register are not something that we can control  
16 the exact date of, but it's anticipated to be published  
17 in mid-January and then there would be an extended  
18 public comment period. That probably would extend into  
19 that March period when you meet again, although I want  
20 to be careful about promising that here because those  
21 details are not something that I control or anybody in  
22 our regional office controls specifically.

23

24 The goal though is to give everybody an  
25 extended period to comment once they have all the  
26 details and the full text of the proposal in front of  
27 them. So if that doesn't happen or there isn't enough  
28 time provided, then we would certainly look to extend  
29 that comment period. The bottom line is I think you  
30 will have a chance as a Council to comment before this  
31 process goes on to the next stage.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Thank you for  
34 that. We'll consider it. Anyway, I wanted to get back  
35 into the action items. Agenda item nine. Give our  
36 support for Anaktuvuk Pass resolution.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. As  
39 you'll recall, the Council had extensive dialogue with  
40 the community of Anaktuvuk Pass concerning their  
41 observations and concerns about timing and deflection  
42 of or disturbance of the caribou herd and also meeting  
43 their needs with the herd not coming through the  
44 community of Anaktuvuk.

45

46 They presented a resolution at AFN and  
47 they read that into the record to the Council outlining  
48 their concerns and their requests. At the meeting the  
49 Council had discussed that they would like to write a  
50 letter of support to that Anaktuvuk Pass resolution.

1 Again, we just ran out of time in terms of circling  
2 back around to make that a formal motion.

3

4 The other was again the discussion with  
5 the community of Anaktuvuk Pass about developing a  
6 Board of Game proposal that would add more restrictions  
7 for the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area. I did send  
8 you a draft that the Council had worked on before  
9 earlier. Again, if the Council wants to pursue that,  
10 just a formal motion to develop that proposal. We have  
11 some of the draft language and information based on the  
12 dialogue at the meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass and the  
13 Council's work on language for the Controlled Use Area.

14

15 We could continue to work with the  
16 community of Anaktuvuk Pass on specific details to  
17 include in that proposal, but as long as it was a  
18 formal motion on the record, then we can proceed with  
19 that. So those were two key action items that just  
20 need a formal motion left over from the Anaktuvuk Pass  
21 meeting.

22

23 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

26

27 MR. G. BROWER: I recall that the  
28 letter of support for Anaktuvuk Pass resolution was  
29 more into the AFN resolution and that we would support  
30 the resolution as it was read because it had  
31 thoughtfully been evaluated through the AFN and AFN  
32 made it a wide-ranging resolution. That was read to us  
33 during the November 4 meeting. I don't know exactly  
34 how we want to craft the motion. Whether just a motion  
35 for a letter of support for Anaktuvuk Pass resolution,  
36 I would want to find out the resolution number that  
37 we're talking about and then thoughtfully craft our  
38 support with some language that it's dealing with.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, do you have any  
41 idea what the numbers might be for that AFN resolution?

42

43 MR. SHEARS: 15-7.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It  
46 was AFN Resolution 15-7.

47

48 MR. G. BROWER: Is it in our book here  
49 somewhere?

50

1 MS. PATTON: That letter was read into  
2 the record by Larry Burris at the meeting in Anaktuvuk  
3 Pass.

4  
5 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I thought  
6 Larry had suggested that we support the resolution in  
7 the regulation proposals that would start to reflect  
8 these concerns as dealing with caribou in and around  
9 that impact that community.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If I'm understanding,  
12 we don't have a copy of that resolution.

13  
14 MR. SHEARS: Nor a draft letter.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Nor a draft letter.

17  
18 MR. G. BROWER: So, Mr. Chair, maybe we  
19 should make a resolution -- a motion to support the AFN  
20 resolution that was adopted by AFN and with the  
21 resolution number. I'm sure we could come up with  
22 language. Maybe OSM can help develop that language.

23  
24 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
25 Yes, there was actually quite a bit of dialogue on the  
26 record at the meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass with Larry  
27 Burris and the points of that resolution and the  
28 Council had also discussed including much of the public  
29 testimony that was provided that really addressed where  
30 those concerns were coming from and people's  
31 observations and the challenges that they're faced  
32 with. So there's quite a bit of dialogue and  
33 discussion on the record from the meeting that the  
34 Council had discussed including in the letter as  
35 support to that resolution.

36  
37 MR. G. BROWER: Let me try to make some  
38 language here. Eva is bringing back some good memories  
39 here about that meeting. Okay, for an example, I would  
40 make a motion for a letter of support for AFN  
41 Resolution.....

42  
43 MR. SHEARS: 15-7.

44  
45 MR. G. BROWER: .....15-7 recognizing  
46 the preponderance of the evidence that Anaktuvuk Pass  
47 is heavily dependent on the annual migration of the  
48 Western Arctic Herd to be in their area and adopting  
49 and supporting this resolution to be forwarded to the  
50 Federal Board of Game.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A motion on the  
2 floor.  
3  
4 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, second.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Bob.  
7 Further discussion.  
8  
9 (No comments)  
10  
11 MR. G. BROWER: Rosemary and Lee, do  
12 you guys recall that meeting we had in Anaktuvuk and  
13 the concerns that were raised by the community, the  
14 testimony by Sollie Hugo and others.  
15  
16 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, this is Lee. I  
17 recall that very clearly. Thank you.  
18  
19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I was on and off the  
20 call with my other meeting that was going on at the  
21 same time, so I didn't get all of the discussion, but I  
22 did hear and was able to read the summary of the report  
23 that was sent to us by email. So I understand the  
24 concern that Anaktuvuk has been put forward. It's been  
25 a discussion that has long been held with the village  
26 of Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk over the years. It's not  
27 something that's new. It's been many decades of  
28 process and communication on this specific issue.  
29 Trying multiple ways to try to address it with having  
30 limited success in the process. So I support their  
31 effort to try to move forward in a stronger way with  
32 getting a supporting document from us.  
33  
34 MR. G. BROWER: I have no further  
35 questions.  
36  
37 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.  
40  
41 MR. SHEARS: So we're forming a  
42 resolution to submit our position to the Federal Board  
43 of Game that we're in support of AFN Resolution 15-7.  
44 Would we want to consider further amending this  
45 resolution to add language requesting some type of  
46 action by the Federal Board of Game asking them to  
47 adopt its recommendations or asking them to forward its  
48 recommendations to the Department of Interior?  
49  
50 MR. G. BROWER: I think those are

3 MR. SHEARS: A powerful action request.  
4 You know, it's one thing just to declare a position,  
5 but to actually request an action is another matter.

6  
7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If  
8 I can clarify or get understanding here. Are you  
9 asking to submit the letter to the State Board of Game?

10  
11 MR. SHEARS: I'm sorry. The Federal  
12 Subsistence Board.

13  
14 MS. PATTON: To the Federal Subsistence  
15 Board.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: To the Federal  
18 Subsistence Board is what Robert was saying.

19  
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
21 Absolutely. We can submit this letter to the Federal  
22 Subsistence Board. It will bring awareness there. My  
23 understanding from the community of Anaktuvuk is that  
24 they were also seeking support to submit a letter to  
25 Board of Game, which manages the sport hunt in the  
26 area.

27  
28 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

31  
32 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I kind of  
33 distinctly recall that and that's what I was going to  
34 add, that this also be provided to the State Board of  
35 Game because of the north being State controlled lands.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. So the  
38 motion was to submit a letter of support to the Federal  
39 Subsistence Board and to the Board of Game indicating  
40 that the North Slope Regional Advisory Council is in  
41 support of this resolution.

42  
43 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. The Board of  
44 Game would be copied on it, but the resolution should  
45 be aimed to the Federal Subsistence Board. The  
46 resolution will be cited in a follow-on action to the  
47 Board of Game to be addressed under our next item of  
48 business under item nine.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The controlled use?

1 MR. SHEARS: Which is the controlled  
2 use.  
3  
4 MR. G. BROWER: Sounds good.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So were you able to  
7 capture all that, Eva?  
8  
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
10 Yes, I believe I have your intent to submit a letter to  
11 the Federal Subsistence Board stating your support of  
12 the resolution from Anaktuvuk Pass and the concerns of  
13 the community, to copy the Board of Game on that letter  
14 and then to follow up with the proposal and cite the  
15 resolution as supporting information in the proposal.  
16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.  
18  
19 MR. SHEARS: You nailed it.  
20  
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Further discussion.  
22  
23 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.  
24  
25 MR. G. BROWER: Yes, Carl.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl.  
28  
29 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
30 would just encourage that given that the Board of Game  
31 has areas of jurisdiction that could address some of  
32 the problems that the Federal Subsistence Board does  
33 not, that the letter be jointly addressed to both the  
34 Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board rather  
35 than just copying the Board of Game because some of the  
36 action that's sought in the resolution could not be  
37 done by just the Federal Subsistence Board. It would  
38 have to be done by the Board of Game.  
39  
40 So I think it sends a strong message  
41 that both the Federal and the State regulatory agencies  
42 that are involved in changing regulations both have to  
43 come up with a joint effort to address the problem,  
44 which I think was sort of the spirit of the resolution.  
45  
46 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
47  
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So are you indicating  
49 that we need an amending motion?  
50

1 MR. JOHNSON: I think at this point in  
2 time, Mr. Chair, we're just clarifying the underlying  
3 intent of the original motion itself.  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So that's  
6 clear.  
7  
8 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.  
11  
12 MR. SHEARS: We don't have the AFN  
13 resolution in front of us. Who is addressed to, the  
14 governor?  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
17 Let me pull that up here to double check.  
18  
19 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I kind of recall,  
20 Mr. Chair, that we thought the middle man in this would  
21 be pushed to the wayside, that we needed to have a  
22 high-level direction.  
23  
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My eyes are getting  
25 heavy because I'm being quiet.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. My  
28 apologies. I have -- that resolution was scanned into  
29 email and I'm not able to get in there. Are you able  
30 to access it?  
31  
32 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, I'm looking it up  
33 right now. Mr. Chair. This is Carl. I have it. So  
34 the last paragraph, Now therefore be it resolved by the  
35 delegates of the 2015 Annual Alaska Federation of  
36 Natives convention that AFN urges the Alaska Department  
37 of Fish and Game, the Alaska Board of Game, the  
38 National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management,  
39 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Federal  
40 Subsistence Board Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
41 to take the following action.  
42  
43 So it actually addresses the  
44 Department, the Board of Game, Park Service and the  
45 Federal Subsistence Board, all of them to take action  
46 to address the various concerns that are raised in the  
47 resolution.  
48  
49 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
50

1 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, that's great to  
6 hear that and to find that. And I'm wondering in  
7 support of this and how we move it to the Federal  
8 Subsistence Board and the Board of Game. It seems like  
9 there's going to be a need for somebody to coordinate  
10 these entities to work together. I'm trying to make  
11 this a way that somebody can grab the bull by the horns  
12 here and put everybody in the room together and say,  
13 hey, let's cut off the nonsense and get to working on  
14 community needs here.

15

16 You might want to have a TV show like  
17 Jim Shockey or Ted Nugent, have a good hunt show, but  
18 at the expense of little children going hungry in a  
19 village kind of concept. Those kind of things come to  
20 mind, you know, when you look at ANS, harvestable  
21 surplus issues and the newest way of calculating that  
22 by combining the two herds together come to mind.

23

24 Thank you. I think it's important to  
25 know who it's being addressed to and this Regional  
26 Subsistence Advisory Council supporting that and  
27 wanting the Federal Subsistence Board to get the ball  
28 working on working together. I think that resolution  
29 should somehow reflect all of this in a nutshell.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Gordon. I  
32 just want to make sure we're clear on the motion. The  
33 follow up action on this is in the last therefore be it  
34 resolved in the AFN Resolution 15-7. It captures the  
35 direction that this Regional Advisory Council is  
36 looking to take.

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I would  
39 call for the question on this.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
42 called on the motion regarding AFN Resolution 15-7  
43 letter of support by the North Slope Regional Advisory  
44 Council. All in favor of the motion signify by saying  
45 aye.

46

47 IN UNISON: Aye.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Opposed say nay.

50

1 (No opposing votes)  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: None noted.  
4  
5 Thank you.  
6  
7 MR. SHEARS: Item B.  
8  
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Board of Game  
10 proposal, discussion on Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use  
11 Area.  
12  
13 Eva.  
14  
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
16 Both via email and then at your request, Harry, I also  
17 faxed the draft proposal for the Anaktuvuk Pass  
18 Controlled Use Area. The Council had actually begun  
19 work on this proposal a couple years ago and we had  
20 started drafting the language for it. So what you have  
21 is that draft, which we'll still need feedback from the  
22 community in terms of specific timing for when closures  
23 or restrictions should be in place and where. But if  
24 you would like to take a moment to review that draft  
25 proposal.  
26  
27 What we would need is a motion to  
28 submit a proposal and then we will continue to work  
29 with Anaktuvuk Pass in terms of their feedback and  
30 details that should be included in that proposal.  
31  
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question to  
33 you, Eva. Gordon, go ahead.  
34  
35 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. The  
36 controlled use area is, I think, multi-jurisdictional  
37 in nature, right? Some National Park Service, some  
38 State lands.  
39  
40 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair and Council.  
41 There is an area that's within Gates of the Arctic  
42 National Park. The area that's of primary concern that  
43 was raised by the community of Anaktuvuk Pass resides  
44 on State lands on their controlled use area and that  
45 was -- the proposal that the Council was working on was  
46 to the State Board of Game to address the controlled  
47 use area language on the State side.  
48  
49 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: In conjunction with our  
4 just passed resolution in support of Anaktuvuk Pass and  
5 the AFN resolution, would provide some meat and many of  
6 the testimonies that were given for the need and  
7 credence needed to make an effective controlled use  
8 area and taking out the loopholes. The language I  
9 think needed to be a little bit more stern, I think, in  
10 that the controlled use area seemed to have language  
11 that had enough bite to it.

12

13 If we could harvest some of that  
14 language, put some solid dates that would be supported  
15 by the AFN resolution and the Anaktuvuk resolution. I  
16 think the intent is to try to preserve -- as the herds  
17 decline dramatically, try to preserve the migratory  
18 movements in these areas to try to get that caribou  
19 herd to move normally how they moved in the past.

20

21 I don't know if it's going to have that  
22 effect or not, but I think there's a need to try to  
23 address these concerns in making a proposal to amend  
24 the controlled use area language maybe from July 15 to  
25 September 31 could be a sufficient period of time to  
26 have this controlled use area to take in this way so  
27 that the first herd -- the first movement of animals  
28 that are expected to come by would be well established  
29 on their way in the eyes of that community. That's  
30 what I would offer.

31

32 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: The draft wildlife  
37 proposal that we're considering here, we've always  
38 noticed there was a loophole in the Anaktuvuk Pass  
39 Controlled Use Area. There's a stipulation that says  
40 that current restrictions are the area is closed to the  
41 use of aircraft for hunting caribou specifically. That  
42 leaves a lot of other aircraft traffic opportunities in  
43 the area, which appear, from the testimony that we're  
44 receiving from that community, are most certainly  
45 impacting the migration.

46

47 We saw the radio tracking telemetry  
48 data from this last year showing when we were at the  
49 meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass back in November where they  
50 showed how the Western Arctic Caribou Herd was

1 migrating in an easterly direction across the Brooks  
2 Range, was heading straight for Anaktuvuk Pass in late  
3 July, early August. The lead caribou were even  
4 reaching the areas of the upper Chandler Lake region  
5 when an area behind them to the west in the Howard Pass  
6 region the main body of the herd turned 180 degrees and  
7 began their migration to Noatak.

8  
9                   They say that you let the leaders go  
10 and the others will always follow. Well, that  
11 certainly wasn't the case because the leaders had  
12 already passed through the Howard Pass region,  
13 traveling easterly towards Anaktuvuk Pass, was within  
14 40 miles of the community when the main body of the  
15 herd behind the leaders turned around and started  
16 leaving and then a week later, the leaders, realizing  
17 they had lost control of their main herd behind them,  
18 turned around and followed them back out.

19  
20                   That's indicative of a major event to  
21 have caused that. We've heard testimony about how it's  
22 impacting the community to the north as well. Maybe  
23 not this year, but in past years.

24  
25                   So the language that we're being asked  
26 to consider is -- we were looking through the game regs  
27 and we see that Noatak Controlled Use Area special  
28 provisions where they actually put restrictions in the  
29 Noatak Controlled Use Area to read the area is closed  
30 for the use of aircraft in any manner for hunting  
31 ungulates, bears, wolves, wolverines or for  
32 transportation of hunters for harvested species. Now  
33 there's some strong language for limiting air traffic.

34  
35                   I think that's what we're seeing, is  
36 we're seeing the controlled use area as being impacted  
37 not by caribou hunters, but by other types of hunters  
38 and by other types of air traffic. Air traffic  
39 relating to hunting. So I think what we would like to  
40 do is adopt a proposal for the Anaktuvuk Pass  
41 Controlled Use area that employs that stronger language  
42 such as Noatak Controlled Use Area employs.

43  
44                   Eva, I see that you have prepared draft  
45 documents that kind of leads us up to our subject of  
46 discussion today. Do we want to submit a wildlife  
47 proposal to the State Board of Game that requests this  
48 stronger language limiting air traffic. I, as one  
49 Council member, support it. The dates for air traffic  
50 closure, I agree with what Gordon said, July 15th to

1 the end of September. I think it was an appropriate  
2 period of time to control the air traffic in that  
3 region.

4

5 That concludes my comments.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: I think it's important  
12 to realize what we're looking at here from the  
13 testimony of the community and their constant needs to  
14 put food on the table in the same way that we looked at  
15 how their regulatory regime around bowhead whales to  
16 have stopgap measures so that the migration can be  
17 uninterrupted until these communities can have their  
18 quotas met.

19

20 This one village within the North Slope  
21 Borough that has, I think, a preponderance of the  
22 evidence, a dependency on the movement of these  
23 terrestrial animals, caribou, to come in their range to  
24 be able to harvest for their community knowing that I  
25 would say probably 60 to 80 percent of the population  
26 -- there's just not that many jobs. A lot of people  
27 depend on the resources to put food on the table and  
28 the cost of living is so important for them to be  
29 successful to harvest when those resources become  
30 reasonably available to them and I think there's been a  
31 lot of evidence providing that it has been unreasonable  
32 for that community for quite some time with the  
33 interference of the migration herd.

34

35 That's some of the reasoning behind all  
36 this and the testimony given by the community. I think  
37 it's important. Let me try to reflect this. Even if  
38 it has to be a tiered hunt between that July 15 to  
39 September 30, because if those animals are not in  
40 reach, it's the same as depleting the resource for  
41 those communities. It should be a tiered hunt.

42

43 I don't know exactly what the term is,  
44 if it's a Tier I in the State regs versus a Tier II  
45 that it's a more conservative management, then it  
46 should be just only period of that migration that the  
47 tier hunt in that controlled use area be looked at as  
48 well. Meaning that the community of Anaktuvuk being  
49 singled out in this area.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
2  
3 Any other comments.  
4  
5 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I was just going to  
8 restate the title of the draft proposal for the North  
9 Slope Regional Advisory Council. This is in regard to  
10 caribou in the controlled use area.  
11  
12 Carl.  
13  
14 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I  
15 just wanted to note now that we have that significant  
16 testimony from the residents of Anaktuvuk Pass on the  
17 record, and to note Gordon's a couple of times  
18 referring preponderance of the evidence, I think we can  
19 add additional language to your proposal under question  
20 two, what is the problem you would like the Board to  
21 address, with specific  
22 instances of testimony provided by the community.  
23  
24 And then similarly also with question  
25 number three, what will happen if this problem is not  
26 solved. Again, I think there's some good testimony on  
27 the record that could be added to both of these  
28 questions as far as the answers and information goes  
29 that's provided in your proposal that would kind of  
30 further add to the proposal and include a lot of that  
31 preponderance of the evidence that Gordon has referred  
32 to a couple of times.  
33  
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.  
35  
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that as  
37 well, Carl. At this time I would ask what's the wish  
38 of the Council.  
39  
40 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I had a  
41 question also. Does the wording that we have on this  
42 proposal cover the difficulties that we had in the  
43 previous effort to have a controlled use area to  
44 protect caribou hunting and allowed other species hunt?  
45 Is it going to have the language in this proposal that  
46 allows us to try to increase the restrictions that did  
47 not meet the needs of our previous attempts to provide  
48 a controlled use area?  
49  
50 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council, if

1 I may. So absolutely we will be including -- this is  
2 just a rough draft to get some of the core regulatory  
3 language that the Council had been working on or  
4 seeking to achieve greater conservation or protection  
5 of caribou efforts during the fall migration. We will  
6 be including much of the information provided by the  
7 community as justification.

8  
9                   Rosemary, for your question, the  
10 language that's in the Noatak Controlled Use Area, as  
11 Bob and Gordon had referred to, currently the  
12 controlled use area just refers to flights for the  
13 hunting of caribou. The additional language would  
14 include restrictions that the area be closed for the  
15 period from -- and this is where the exact dates we  
16 were needing more feedback from the community to  
17 confirm the key dates and times and locations that  
18 would be important to protect, but the area closed for  
19 the period from date to date.

20  
21                   We did have one recommendation in terms  
22 of timing there, but we'd want to get that feedback  
23 from Anaktuvuk for sure. Use of aircraft in any manner  
24 either for the hunting of -- and this is where the  
25 greater specificity comes in, not just for caribou but  
26 for an ungulate, bear, wolf or wolverine or for  
27 transportation of hunters or harvested species. So it  
28 adds language that would  
29 restrict air traffic around that timeframe for many of  
30 those activities.

31  
32                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And then one of the  
33 other areas that led to some of the difficulties or  
34 concerns in Nuiqsut one year was the reality that we  
35 put in recommendations around some of our concerns, but  
36 they did not apply to transportation plans that were  
37 allowed to occur in spite of our efforts to decrease  
38 some of these conflicts.

39  
40                   So I was wanting to reference that  
41 there are other agency decisions that may impact these  
42 concerns and we needed to look at addressing something  
43 along those lines so that we also recognize other  
44 activities in our lands and waters that may impact our  
45 subsistence resources of Anaktuvuk.

46  
47                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that,  
48 Rosemary. So I think we need a motion to take action  
49 on this. Take this draft and make it into a formal  
50 proposal to submit to the Board of Game.

1 MR. SHEARS: Yes. Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Robert.  
4  
5 MR. SHEARS: A motion that we forward  
6 this to OSM so we  
7 can have a draft proposal to consider at our next  
8 regular meeting.  
9  
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is the one  
11 that's been stamped draft?  
12  
13 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. The preliminary  
14 draft, yeah.  
15  
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
17  
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: A motion on the  
19 floor. I'm sorry, Eva.  
20  
21 MS. PATTON: Maybe I can clarify. The  
22 Council does have an opportunity -- if the core  
23 language and details are discussed and voted on on the  
24 record, the Council does have an opportunity to still  
25 work on the details that go into that proposal or  
26 letter. So if the Council wished to develop this and  
27 submit it prior to the next meeting, that is an option  
28 as long as we have the core language for the proposal  
29 and the intent.  
30  
31 You can put in the motion as well, you  
32 know, that there will be consultation with the  
33 community of Anaktuvuk Pass in terms of timing when  
34 those closures should occur. So that work can continue  
35 and I can work back and forth with the Council so you  
36 have an opportunity to review that final draft and  
37 details if the Council wishes to proceed with it prior  
38 to the March meeting.  
39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It is captured in the  
41 preliminary draft and we'd like to make this into a  
42 formal proposal to get it -- go ahead, Gordon.  
43  
44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. So  
45 what do we need, a proposal that say that -- a motion  
46 on the floor to amend the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use  
47 Area to be more restrictive to reflect Noatak's  
48 Controlled Use Area and put dates of July 16 to  
49 September 30 or as consulted with Anaktuvuk Pass.  
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.  
2  
3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: If that's the  
4 motion, I second it.  
5  
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have a motion on  
7 the floor and seconded as stated by Gordon. Any  
8 further discussion.  
9  
10 (No comments)  
11  
12 MR. SHEARS: Question.  
13  
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
15 called on the motion. All in favor of the motion  
16 signify by saying aye.  
17  
18 IN UNISON: Aye.  
19  
20 (No opposing votes)  
21  
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion passes. We  
23 have four, so the motion passed the Council.  
24  
25 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.  
26  
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.  
28  
29 MR. G. BROWER: I recall that we had  
30 considerable dialogue about the harvestable surplus and  
31 any ANS that were combined under the State's regulatory  
32 regime and I would make a proposal because there was  
33 extensive dialogue about this that might be, I think --  
34 I don't know if it was publicized or not or if we had  
35 any opportunity to impact the harvestable surplus and  
36 the actions taken by -- was it the Board of Game -- to  
37 combine Teshekpuk Herd and the Western Arctic Herd to  
38 have a combined amounts necessary for subsistence. I  
39 would propose that we have the State reverse their  
40 decision on the harvestable surplus calculation for the  
41 ANS.  
42  
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So this would be a  
44 request for a reconsideration. An action by Gordon to  
45 generate a proposal to the Board of Game to reverse its  
46 action on the process that was used to address the  
47 amounts necessary for subsistence combining both the  
48 two herds, the Teshekpuk Herd and the Western Arctic  
49 Caribou Herd. We have a motion on the floor.  
50

1 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

4

5 MR. SHEARS: Verification, Gordon. Are  
6 we asking for a letter to the Board of Game asking them  
7 to reconsider their harvestable surplus calculation and  
8 to pursue a calculation based on separate calculations.

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe I need to be  
11 knowing more of the process that would be necessary to  
12 impact that because if that needs to be -- I don't know  
13 if they do that under a proposal or if that's conducted  
14 under internal processes or the calculating of the ANS.  
15 I just don't know what regulatory process is used when  
16 the harvestable surpluses are low. That would need to  
17 be adjusted because some of the dialogue I recall, and  
18 I think Sam Kunaknana had also posed a question, was  
19 this ANS combined so that non-resident hunts can  
20 continue.

21

22 And if you disassemble the harvestable  
23 surplus to recalculate the ANS, would it support a  
24 non-resident hunt provision. I think the answer was,  
25 yes, that in fact it would affect non-resident hunts.  
26 It wouldn't be supportable if it went back to only be  
27 calculated by the Western Arctic Herd because it had  
28 sufficiently declined to where it wasn't sustainable to  
29 do that. But you add Teshekpuk Herd to the mix,  
30 suddenly you've got what is a dwindling herd by far  
31 from the Western Arctic Herd. You just add that to the  
32 mix and your harvestable surplus -- now you're able to  
33 calculate an ANS that supports a non-resident hunt  
34 even.

35

36 MR. SHEARS: State sport hunt in  
37 Kotzebue. I second Gordon's proposal. I would very  
38 much like to help sponsor a letter to the State Board  
39 of Game requesting them to reconsider their current  
40 methodologies and requesting them to break out their  
41 calculations and each herd is an individual herd.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Further discussion on  
44 the motion.

45

46 MR. JOHNSON: Mr. Chair. This is Carl.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carl, go ahead.

49

50 MR. JOHNSON: Since we're kind of

1 unclear as to what would be the best procedural  
2 approach to get the State to do this, whether it's a  
3 letter or a request for reconsideration, whatever their  
4 process is, or a new proposal, you could broadly word  
5 your motion to just direct OSM Staff and your  
6 coordinator to, based on the Council's wishes, to take  
7 whatever action, submit whatever sort of document is  
8 necessary in order to ask the Board of Game to reverse  
9 its position, whatever that may be, and that gives us  
10 an opportunity to research it and figure out the best  
11 way to approach that for the Council.

12

13 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14

15 MR. G. BROWER: I think that sounds  
16 good. It's a starting point, you know.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think the motioner  
21 and the seconder agree with you, Carl. And then to get  
22 us started on record and I think sharing what gets  
23 generated between myself, Bob and the Council, I should  
24 say the entire Council, that the communications needed  
25 for that to move forward be inclusive of the Council as  
26 well.

27

28 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

31

32 MR. G. BROWER: If we can have a few  
33 periodic updates to that process every chance we could  
34 get would be wonderful.

35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further  
37 discussion.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 MR. G. BROWER: Call for the question,  
42 Mr. Chair.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
45 called on the motion to get a request for  
46 reconsideration to the Board of Game, a letter drafted  
47 for the ANS amounts on caribou, the two herds,  
48 Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Caribou, signify by saying  
49 aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.  
2  
3 (No opposing comments)  
4  
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All ayes. Motion  
6 passed. Scheduling our next meeting.  
7  
8 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. This is  
9 Carmen with Fish and Game. I just have one thing that  
10 you guys verbally want to discuss before you close your  
11 meeting.  
12  
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.  
14  
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
16 The State had submitted a letter to the Councils, which  
17 you received as part of your supplementary materials,  
18 inviting RAC representation on a sheep working group.  
19 They've selected some of those representatives already,  
20 but Carmen was going to provide the Council with that  
21 letter update.  
22  
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think we had  
24 already gone through the selection and I identified  
25 Sam.  
26  
27 MS. PATTON: Sam was selected to serve  
28 on the Gates of the Arctic SRC. This is actually a  
29 letter coming from the State of Alaska inviting the  
30 Council to serve on a sheep working group and this was  
31 addressed to all the Councils within the regions where  
32 the sheep are. George Pappas is also here and he's our  
33 State liaison. So this is actually addressing sheep  
34 management concerns with the State. I have a copy of  
35 that letter. It was sent to you with your meeting  
36 materials, but we can certainly read that to you.  
37 Carmen is online and George Pappas is also here.  
38  
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I identified Sam  
40 because he's the only one that's within our regional  
41 advisory council that's subject to communicate on the  
42 take of sheep. Nuiqsut and Kaktovik and Point Hope are  
43 the three communities within our region that are sheep  
44 hunters. Sam, being our Subsistence Resource  
45 Commission member, I thought I made that point having  
46 identified as part of that committee.  
47  
48 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.  
49  
50 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yes, Bob.

1 MR. SHEARS: My jaw just dropped. A  
2 sheep working group? How many more working groups do we  
3 have to have?

4  
5 MR. G. BROWER: I know.

6  
7 MR. SHEARS: Please explain why the  
8 State needs a sheep working group. Continue. I just  
9 wanted to express my exasperation there for a minute.  
10 Sorry. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

11  
12 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. Would you  
13 like me to address some of this? This is Carmen from  
14 Fish and Game.

15  
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I guess. Go ahead.

17  
18 MS. DAGGETT: So with the dramatic drop  
19 in sheep throughout different parts of the state, the  
20 Department, the Board of Game in particular, voted to  
21 start this sheep working group to try to address some  
22 of these problems and deal with the dramatic declines  
23 in sheep from a grassroots sort of perspective similar  
24 to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. So  
25 that's why it was established, because the Board of  
26 Game voted to do so.

27  
28 There have been members that have  
29 already attended one sheep working group meeting that  
30 happened at the beginning of December and there is two  
31 more meetings that are going to be held. One at the  
32 end of January as of now and then one shortly after  
33 that. There have been representatives from the other  
34 Regional Advisory Councils as well as members of the  
35 advisory committees that have already participated in  
36 one of these meetings. So the State is hoping that  
37 someone from your RAC would be willing to participate  
38 in this working group to better inform the State on how  
39 to deal with sheep declines.

40  
41 So that's kind of the brief synopsis of  
42 what's been happening so far and what will continue to  
43 happen in the future.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Heads it's Lee, tails  
46 it's Sam that's going.

47  
48 MR. SHEARS: Carmen, is there a  
49 resident in Anaktuvuk Pass participating in the sheep  
50 working group?

1 MS. DAGGETT: There is not anyone as  
2 far as I can tell from the North Slope that has  
3 currently been identified to participate in that. Not  
4 that they weren't invited. From what I understand, I  
5 sent the notice of the meeting information to the North  
6 Slope Borough Wildlife Department because that's who  
7 generally I work with when addressing advisory  
8 committee related issues and then followed up with them  
9 to see if somebody had been identified to serve in that  
10 role.

11  
12 From what I understand in the first  
13 sheep working group meeting there wasn't someone from  
14 the North Slope overall that had been sent to that  
15 meeting. From what I can tell from the website and  
16 from what I understand from the communications I've had  
17 with people. So that's what I know as far as North  
18 Slope involvement in this working group.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So our local advisory  
21 committee for the North Slope Borough Fish and Game  
22 Management Committee and they only meet twice a year  
23 and there's no other means of communication. You might  
24 have to redirect that to Mike Petersen.

25  
26 MS. DAGGETT: That was exactly what I  
27 did. I spoke directly with Mike about it and he said  
28 that they were trying to figure out if there was  
29 somebody from the North Slope Borough Wildlife  
30 Department that would go, some staff that represent the  
31 North Slope versus somebody on the advisory committee  
32 that might be able to attend and that's the last I  
33 heard from him.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: To many committees  
36 and commissions. We're overwhelmed.

37  
38 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Gordon.

41  
42 MR. G. BROWER: Shouldn't we have a  
43 muskox working group and a moose working group?

44  
45 MR. SHEARS: There are.

46  
47 MR. G. BROWER: Oh, there are?

48  
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I haven't heard of  
50 them, but yeah.

1 MR. G. BROWER: I wish I was on the  
2 muskox one because I would have started cloning by now.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, Carmen, I can't  
5 state as to who -- like I said, flip a coin. Heads is  
6 Lee and tails is Sam. They're the ones I know of.

7  
8 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. This is Lee  
9 in Kaktovik. I figure it's pretty important. You  
10 know, sheep issues in different regions, it is highly  
11 important to hear what other people are saying, but,  
12 you know, I never heard of a sheep working group  
13 before. Anyway, I find it very interesting to -- and  
14 support of other villages that, you know, are in need.  
15 So thank you.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Lee, you're  
18 interested in serving as a person for the sheep working  
19 group from the North Slope Regional Advisory Council?

20  
21 MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, it is, if it's  
22 listed and I would agree to that to fill in that  
23 position to help either others in order to hear of this  
24 sheep working group.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee, for  
27 that. Carmen, I guess you can get some information in  
28 a side conversation with Lee and Eva and give you some  
29 information as to how you can contact Lee at different  
30 times.

31  
32 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Back to our agenda.

35  
36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Time and date of next  
39 meeting, future meeting dates of winter 2016 all-  
40 Council meeting and March was identified. Our next  
41 Council meeting is in March. Eva.

42  
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.  
44 Yes, the all-Council meeting is scheduled for the week  
45 of March 7th through the 11th. Again, all 10 Councils  
46 will be meeting together at that time. We'll be having  
47 joint breakout sessions for common issues such as  
48 Western Arctic Caribou Herd. But that date is set  
49 March 7th through 11th. So it's the fall 2016 meeting  
50 that's left.

1                   In the back of your book you have a  
2 fall calendar and now that all the Councils have met  
3 and selected their dates opportunities for the Council  
4 to meet -- there's just one other Council meeting, so  
5 this timeframe that the Council had selected for this  
6 time around, the week of October 31st and November 3rd,  
7 that week is open. That's similar to the timeframe  
8 that the Council met this fall.

9  
10                   Typically the Council chooses to meet  
11 either before or after the fall whaling season. So  
12 there.....

13  
14                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: November 1, 2 and 3.  
15 Most of the majority of our subsistence activity will  
16 be coming to a close by that date.

17  
18                   MR. SHEARS: I agree.

19  
20                   MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, I think so. That  
21 would be good for me somewhere around there.

22  
23                   MR. SHEARS: Me too.

24  
25                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Me too.

26  
27                   MR. G. BROWER: November something.  
28 All the subsistence hunts are winding down.

29  
30                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lee and Rosemary.

31  
32                   MR. KAYOTUK: Yes, I agree that  
33 November 1, 2 and 3 would be fine. Thank you.

34  
35                   MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you. I think  
36 that's good.

37  
38                   CHAIRMAN BROWER: So, Eva, you can work  
39 with those dates.

40  
41                   MS. PATTON: Absolutely. And if the  
42 Council would like to request a location, we, of  
43 course, have Barrow as the community hub, but if you  
44 have a request as we're coming up into the future --  
45 again, the funding is limited, so we don't have an  
46 opportunity to travel to one of the rural communities  
47 every cycle, but if the Council has a community that  
48 you would like to aim towards holding a meeting there,  
49 you can let us know that too.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Any  
2 suggestions from the Council.  
3  
4 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. March 7th,  
5 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, is that in Barrow.  
6  
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anchorage. Eva,  
8 Anchorage?  
9  
10 MS. PATTON: Yes, the all-Council  
11 meeting will be held in Anchorage.  
12  
13 MR. KAYOTUK: Okay. Thank you.  
14  
15 MR. G. BROWER: Lee, you got any  
16 preference for the fall meeting location?  
17  
18 MR. KAYOTUK: Kaktovik.  
19  
20 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I think last  
21 year we had kind of forwarded a recommendation to go to  
22 Kaktovik. However, it was superceded by Anaktuvuk  
23 Pass's concerns this year. So we're still due to meet  
24 in Kaktovik.  
25  
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for that  
27 Bob. Eva, I think we can see how those arrangements  
28 pan out for us.  
29  
30 MS. PATTON: Yes. And we will keep  
31 these requests in mind and continue to work on meeting  
32 in another community that has an issue of interest and  
33 concerns. Again, budgets still are an issue and we've  
34 been offered to meet every couple meetings  
35 outside of Barrow, but we want to keep these  
36 communities in mind.  
37  
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Those having  
39 been decided we're down to adjournment.  
40  
41 MR. G. BROWER: Motion to adjourn, Mr.  
42 Chair.  
43  
44 MR. SHEARS: Second.  
45  
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion to adjourn and  
47 seconded. Thank everybody for taking the time to be  
48 here with us today. It's 4:33 by my clock. Thank you  
49 all.  
50

1 MR. SHEARS: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been  
4 called on the motion. All in favor signify by saying  
5 aye.

6

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8

9 MS. PATTON: I want to thank everyone  
10 who joined us on teleconference today and thanks to  
11 Staff.

12

13 (Off record)

14

15 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

