

1 SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 PUBLIC MEETING

5
6
7 Egan Convention Center
8 Anchorage, Alaska
9 March 9, 2016
10 8:30 a.m.

11
12 Members Present:

- 13
14 Louis Green, Chairman
15 Peter Buck
16 Fred Eningowuk
17 Tom Gray
18 Theodore Katcheak
19 Ronald Kirk
20 Charles Saccheus

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26 Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

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39 Recorded and transcribed by:
40
41 Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
42 135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
43 Anchorage, AK 99501
44 907-227-5312; sahile@gci.net

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/9/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, ladies and gentlemen, guests in the room, staff and fellow Council members. I'd like to call the meeting to order. This time is now 8:50 according to Mr. Buck's watch. I'd ask for the roll call from the secretary, Mr. Buck.

MR. BUCK: Theodore Katcheak.

MR. KATCHEAK: Here.

MR. BUCK: Louis Green, Jr.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Here.

MR. BUCK: Tom Gray.

MR. GRAY: Yes, sir.

MR. BUCK: Joe Garnie.

(No response)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Joe is excused.

MR. BUCK: Amos Oxereok.

(No response)

MR. BUCK: Fred Eningowuk.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Here.

MR. BUCK: Elmer Seetot, Jr.

(No response)

MR. BUCK: Absent. Charles Saccheus.

MR. SACCHEUS: Here.

MR. BUCK: Ronald Kirk.

MR. KIRK: Here.

1 MR. BUCK: We have a quorum.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Buck.
4 I'd ask those three be excused. I'm not clear on why,
5 but they're not here. I'd ask Mr. Buck to do the
6 invocation, please.
7
8 (Invocation)
9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess I'm supposed
11 to call to order the meeting. I'd like to welcome
12 everybody again. Introductions. I'll start over there
13 and then go to the staff.
14
15 MR. SACCHEUS: Charles Saccheus from
16 Elim, Alaska.
17
18 MR. KATCHEAK: Theodore Katcheak from
19 Stebbins.
20
21 MR. BUCK: Peter Buck from White
22 Mountain.
23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis Green, Nome.
25
26 MR. GRAY: Tom Gray, Nome.
27
28 MR. ENINGOWUK: Fred Eningowuk,
29 Shishmaref.
30
31 MR. KIRK: Ronald Kirk, Stebbins.
32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Can we have the people
34 in the audience, starting with the front row in the
35 corner there.
36
37 MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon. I work
38 for Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division.
39 I'm also on the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional
40 Planning Team.
41
42 MR. ASHENFELTER: Roy Ashenfelter with
43 Kawerak.
44
45 MS. MCBURNEY: Mary McBurney with the
46 National Park Service.
47
48 MS. ATKINSON: Hannah Atkinson with the
49 National Park Service in Kotzebue.
50

1 MS. ROBISON: Hilary Robison, wildlife
2 biologist with the Park Service in Kotzebue.
3
4 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson with the
5 Park Service in Nome.
6
7 DR. CHEN: Aloha, Council members. My
8 name is Glenn Chen. I'm with the Bureau of Indian
9 Affairs.
10
11 MS. MAAS: Lisa Maas, Office of
12 Subsistence Management.
13
14 MR. MOTO: Calvin Moto, Deering,
15 Alaska.
16
17 MR. CRAWFORD: Drew Crawford, Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game, Federal Subsistence
19 Liaison Team.
20
21 MR. SHARP: Dan Sharp with Bureau of
22 Land Management. I serve on the Interagency Staff
23 Committee.
24
25 MR. LIND: Orville Lind, Native liaison
26 for the Office of Subsistence Management.
27
28 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine,
29 anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
30 Management.
31
32 MR. MCKEE: Chris McKee, Wildlife
33 Division Chief, OSM.
34
35 MS. WORKER: I'm Suzanne Worker. I'm a
36 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management.
37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'd like to thank you
39 all. What about you?
40
41 MS. DEATHERAGE: Good morning,
42 everybody. My name is Karen Deatherage and I am the
43 Council coordinator for the Seward Pen Regional
44 Advisory Council.
45
46 Thank you.
47
48 REPORTER: And I'm Penny Reagle-Smith
49 with Computer Matrix.
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, folks. I
2 need to review and adopt the agenda. I know we've got
3 a lot of extra stuff here on the table that just got
4 handed to us this morning. Karen nicely placed this
5 handwritten sheet about changes to the agenda. One of
6 them is in the minutes. On page 41, but it's SP8. It
7 says to strike a sentence.

8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: We're not at that
10 point yet.

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So I guess I'd
13 ask for a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes
14 to be made.

15
16 MS. DEATHERAGE: These, sir. These
17 change and this changes.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do it now?

20
21 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. We need to
24 adopt this into old business for the rural update and
25 the new business the letter to the Federal Subsistence
26 Board commissioner. It's this letter we went over a
27 few minutes ago. I don't know if anybody has any
28 concerns with the letter. I don't. I'd ask for a
29 motion to approve the change.

30
31 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I have one
32 issue that we might consider. I'm not sure if I should
33 bring it up now or during our joint meeting. Over here
34 on item two or number two it says request the Board
35 seek increasing funding for conducting fish and
36 wildlife population. In my experience growing up, one
37 of the things I was concerned about was the migration
38 route changing from one area to another and what is
39 changing that. Do you think that's an issue, Mr.
40 Chair?

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are you talking about
43 game or fish?

44
45 MR. KATCHEAK: Birds, migratory birds,
46 because to me I think that will tell us how to gauge
47 what to expect during migration routes.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I think
2 that would be a great discussion to have under new
3 business when we discuss that letter and whether or not
4 the Seward Pen RAC would like to sign onto it. So
5 that's a good idea, Ted, and I think it would be great
6 to put it under new business when we discuss it.

7

8 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Back to the motion.
11 I'd ask for a motion from the committee or the Council
12 to approve the agenda with the additions that we're
13 going to include in there. If there are any other
14 corrections or anything like that, I'd take it at this
15 time.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nothing. You did a
20 perfect job. There's no mistakes.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: In the agenda?

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In the agenda. I'm
25 just teasing you. Can I have that motion.

26

27 MR. BUCK: I make a motion to accept
28 the agenda as amended.

29

30 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Seconded by Fred. All
33 those in favor say aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Against same sign.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. We're
42 at the election of officers, so I guess we get to the
43 point of asking for nominations if we're going to do
44 that now. Go ahead, Karen.

45

46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 My understanding is the protocol as DFO I would go
48 ahead and call for any nominations for the chair
49 position. Once those are made, the motion is closed,
50 then you would proceed to call for nominations for the

1 vice chair and the secretary position.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That would
6 be whoever gets the Chair seat. So I'd ask for
7 nominations for the Chair at this point from the
8 Council.

9

10 MR. ENINGOWUK: Nominate Louis Green.

11

12 MR. KIRK: Second.

13

14 MR. KATCHEAK: I move the nomination be
15 closed and I'd ask for unanimous consent.

16

17 MR. ENINGOWUK: Seconded.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
20 confidence, folks. So we move on into the vice chair
21 seat. I'd ask for a nomination for the vice chair.

22

23 MR. ENINGOWUK: Nominate Tom Gray.

24

25 MR. KIRK: Second and ask for unanimous
26 consent.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Unanimous consent is
29 heard and I think, Tommy, you are now the vice Chair.

30

31 MR. GRAY: Thank you, guys.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.
34 We needed a second on that motion. I thought he asked
35 for consent.

36

37 MR. KIRK: I seconded the motion and
38 asked for unanimous consent at the same time. Mr.
39 Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's all right, Karen.
42 You're doing fine. So I'd ask for a nomination to the
43 secretary.

44

45 MR. ENINGOWUK: Nominate Peter Buck.

46

47 MR. GRAY: Second, and ask for
48 unanimous consent.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Unanimous consent has

1 been heard. Mr. Buck, you are the secretary. Thank
2 you. So now we move on to reviewing and approving the
3 previous minutes. Can we reflect on that a couple
4 moments, folks, if there's anything in there you might
5 want to add.

6

7 (Pause)

8

9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I think we're all on
10 the same page here now. Karen, you have an addition on
11 there in the minutes that you wanted to talk about.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
14 This is Karen Deatherage, Council coordinator. First,
15 if you wouldn't mind, I'd like to ask if there's
16 anybody on the phone that would like to introduce
17 themselves.

18

19 MR. GORN: Tony Gorn is here from Fish
20 and Game up in Nome.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tony.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
25 On page SP8 of the Council meeting book, first
26 paragraph, which was Wildlife Proposal 16-47, the
27 second to the last sentence should be stricken.
28 Population estimates show moose in 22E have decreased
29 14 percent annually over the last three years. As a
30 point of reference in the book, it is a report from Mr.
31 Gorn in ADF&G that gives a table of population
32 estimates for those moose in 22E.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.
37 Having made that subtraction, I'd ask for a motion to
38 approve the minutes from the October meeting.

39

40 MR. GRAY: So moved.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Gray.
43 Is there a second.

44

45 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Buck.
48 All those in favor say aye.

49

50 IN UNISON: Aye.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
2 sign.

3
4 MR. KIRK: Abstain. I'm a new member.
5 I'd like to abstain from the motion.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So noted, Mr. Kirk.
8 You know, I wasn't in attendance. Do I abstain?

9
10 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, if you're
11 comfortable with the minutes, then you can go ahead and
12 vote, but if you don't feel comfortable, that's really
13 your choice.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm comfortable.
18 Thank you, madame. This brings us to the section of
19 reports under eight. Do we have any Council member
20 reports at this time.

21
22 Mr. Buck.

23
24 MR. BUCK: I guess I'd just like to say
25 that our ice edge is getting really thin now in our
26 area. We usually go oogruk hunting until the end of
27 April but I don't know if it's going to last that long.
28 Once that happens, once the oogruk ladies have their
29 babies, there will be no ice to put them on. They're
30 going to have to be going to the shore again and I
31 think that's going to be a problem for them.
32 Especially with the thin ice and if there's a storm,
33 they can't sit anywhere. I think that's one of the
34 problems that we're going to have. Other than that I
35 think White Mountain has been good this year. We got
36 snow.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Gray.

39
40 MR. GRAY: This is the first year in
41 how many years, three years, that we've had any kind of
42 snow, lots of snow. It's been warm, 30 degrees all
43 winter long. Pete is right, our ice conditions aren't
44 very good. The caribou came early last fall. Well I
45 shouldn't say early, they came probably on schedule,
46 but because of regulations we had quite a few citations
47 given to locals. Caribou bull hunting closed October
48 15th and opened February 1st, which was not a good
49 thing, so some of the locals have gotten together and
50 put an ACR into the Board of Game to get this fixed.

1 We still have a lot of wolves.
2 Probably more so than any other year. I have heard of
3 lots of conditions where there's packs of 15 wolves and
4 18 wolves. You know, I know a guy that's up in
5 Shishmaref. I think he's gotten 10 wolves. So wolf
6 problems are just running rampant, I guess.

7
8 Last fall setting beluga nets, my nets
9 would go in and come out. Some guys did real good on
10 beluga hunting and some of us -- I only got two belugas
11 last fall because of the winds. Lots of different wind
12 conditions. Our fish runs last year were very
13 excellent. If the good Lord would give us fish like
14 last year, I think everybody would be smiling. That's
15 the first time in 40 years that I've seen king salmon
16 like they were in my river. The red runs just kept
17 coming and coming in the Sinuk and the Pilgrim River.
18 Chum runs were excellent, so again first time in 40
19 years that we've had really good fish runs.

20
21 That's about it.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.

24
25 Fred.

26
27 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. Even with the
28 decline of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd we got a lot
29 of caribou in our area, you know, practically in our
30 back yard all year round. So we're fortunate to have
31 caribou in our area. Our ice conditions also too, you
32 know, it was strange in November to be hearing the
33 waves. The ocean in November like summertime. It's
34 never like that. We've got a changing world. We've
35 got a changing climate and that is affecting our
36 subsistence way of life.

37
38 Usually when the ocean freeze up and
39 there's ice in there we're able to get the tom cods in
40 our lagoons. This year and last year we practically
41 had to wait until I believe later part of December,
42 January when we were finally able to get tom cods, you
43 know. That's a change of diet in our area.

44
45 I'm afraid to see what's going to be
46 happening this spring again with our ice. We have very
47 thin ice. We do have some shore ice, but further out
48 we've got a lot of young ice. It may be a repeat of
49 the last two years where we have to try and get our
50 boats and our gear ready a month earlier than usual to

1 be able to harvest our oogruks, our walrus and our
2 marine mammals.

3

4 Like any other year, myself, I get
5 ready early when it's warm enough to try and get ready.
6 Two years ago there was just a few of us that harvested
7 oogruks because there was few people that got ready
8 early. So after that two years ago, last year
9 everybody learned, so we're adapting. You know, they
10 talk about adaptation in climate change and planning
11 for adapting. We're adapting. We are people that
12 adapt to our environment.

13

14 I think that's pretty much like Tom
15 said. You know, we've got a lot of wolves. Our
16 hunters getting a lot of wolves this year, wolverines.
17 I do believe that's thanks to a lot of caribou in our
18 area. That's pretty much what I have to say.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.

21

22 Ronald.

23

24 MR. KIRK: Yeah, climate change is
25 affecting everybody in the state. We are experiencing
26 it in our village too. We do have shore ice, but not
27 too far from our village there's an island called
28 Stewart Island that's five miles out and right from
29 that point we've seen open water from that island
30 towards the coastline towards Romanoff Point, which was
31 very unusual and still open. It's pretty thin. Our
32 shore ice is probably only maybe not even four feet
33 thick, but that open water is strange out there.

34

35 With this climate change we've seen a
36 couple of moose that never left our village. We never
37 had moose that close to our village stay in our area
38 through the winter and it's very strange. And we've
39 also seen some wolves that are probably going after our
40 reindeer herd. Since the caribou are so far up north
41 the wolves are now concentrating on our reindeer.

42

43 That's about all I can say. Our
44 oogruks fall hunting last year we're still seeing some
45 that still have those sores on them. But our salmon
46 run was pretty good. Our tom cod fishing was pretty
47 good this year this fall. That's about all I have.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

50

1 Charles.

2

3 MR. SACCHEUS: Charles Saccheus from
4 Elim. 2015, the first week of January 2015, we spotted
5 a bowhead whale with maybe two, three hundred white
6 whale along with that bowhead right in front of Elim.
7 So that's the year that climate change and global
8 warming is affecting our village too. Our ice wasn't
9 too stable this year.

10

11 For some reason, in my 75 years in
12 Elim, that's the first time there was beluga all winter
13 in front of Elim, but we never hunt them because that
14 ice was too thin to go out. Caribou was pretty good.
15 They showed up from maybe Teshekpuk Herd up close to
16 Barrow. They showed up in October and caribou hunting
17 was good.

18

19 During the summer we always commercial
20 fish and 2015 was a good year. There was a lot of chum
21 salmon, king salmon and silver salmon. So commercial
22 fishing was good. Anyway, we don't have much snow in
23 our area. A lot of times when it falls down on the
24 ground in the middle of the winter it kind of melts,
25 turns to ice. But anyway the season was kind of mild
26 all winter. Every time I look at my thermometer
27 outside my house it was 30 degrees, 35 degrees,
28 sometimes 40 degrees in December, so global warming is
29 taking effect in our village.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Charles.
34 Myself, I spoke to a few hunters up there in the area
35 and wolves are becoming a targeted species again, so
36 that's a good thing in the sense that although there's
37 many people are getting out and actually taking them.
38 One guy told me he got six in one day. I mean that's
39 doing good.

40

41 What's interesting about how the Seward
42 Peninsula has been shaping up over the years is that at
43 one point there was 600,000 reindeer on there. It was
44 a commercial enterprise. I imagine that the wolves and
45 the bears didn't thrive because by the time I was a
46 little kid in the '60s we didn't see hardly any bears
47 and wolves were a sight not seen much. So predation
48 again is a big factor on the Seward Peninsula with our
49 ungulates.

50

1 I got a picture the other day from a
2 guy named Henry Mitchell and it shows a wolf with a
3 salmon in its mouth. So not only are bears consuming
4 salmon, but wolves are consuming salmon. That was a bit
5 of discussion on that here back a few meetings ago in
6 Nome. I brought it up.

7
8 The ice conditions are definitely
9 changing, causing a shift in the timing of our hunting
10 for marine mammals. Interesting what Tommy had to say
11 about the winds causing problems being able to set gear
12 out for beluga. That hasn't been a big factor in the
13 past that I remember because I've done the same thing
14 he does.

15
16 So anyway, with that, I think we'll
17 move forward to the next topic, public and tribal
18 comment. Oh, did somebody else want to say something?
19 I'm sorry, Ted. You're on.

20
21 MR. KATCHEAK: In my experience in the
22 last several years has been changing and changing. I'm
23 a reindeer herder and owner. I'm also a tribal member.
24 With reindeer we have people coming in from other
25 villages because we closed our area, Unit 8, southern
26 portion of Unit 22A and northern portion of Unit 18,
27 which is Yukon Region boundary for U.S. Fish and
28 Wildlife Service.

29
30 Because of the caribou declining, we
31 have hunters coming to our area to hunt so-called
32 caribou. Our reindeer are native to our area. I've
33 heard that it's becoming a very big herd, upwards from
34 four to eight thousand. So from hearing from other
35 villages like Unalakleet and Shaktoolik, I've thought
36 of -- well, Unalakleet and Shaktoolik area used to have
37 caribou coming down through them and then onto our
38 area.

39
40 So I'm very confused how we're going to
41 deal with that situation of reindeer herders versus
42 subsistence gathering of food or hunting of food. So
43 sometime in the near future I'd like to see some
44 conclusion how we're going to deal with subsistence
45 hunters trying to go hunt for caribou and the reindeer
46 herders and owners. I am one of the third. Stebbins,
47 St. Michael tribes have herds too.

48
49 As Ron mentioned earlier, we are
50 changing, our temperature rising. When you go out into

1 the ocean, it's very flat, there's no snow on the ice.
2 It's all melted on the surface, so it's very dangerous
3 to go out into the lee to go out seal hunting, oogruk
4 or walrus because of the temperature rising. The
5 walrus we used to hunt in the past when the ice was
6 thicker, 7-8 feet thick. We'd have plenty of walrus
7 hauling out just off Stewart Island and Stebbins.

8

9 Also our land is somewhat changing, I
10 think. There's no snow hardly, but glare ice all over
11 the tundra, so the traveling for four-wheelers and
12 snowmachine, especially snowmachine, is very hard when
13 we go out to check the reindeer or we're going out to
14 hunt caribou since most of our people are subsistence
15 hunters and fishers.

16

17 So I think what we're going to
18 experience we're going to have to change our method of
19 reindeer herding or subsisting because we have a
20 problem. Stebbins is located on a St. Michael Island
21 and divided by canal, a big and little canal, so at
22 times we are trapped to go hunt on the mainland because
23 there are open water and also thin ice. So my guess is
24 in two or three days, once the temperature goes up this
25 spring, it will be like summer already in April and
26 even May.

27

28 That's all I can say for now.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. Sorry
33 I missed you earlier. You spoke earlier and I kind of
34 bypassed you by accident. One of the things I can say
35 about warming is if our salmon runs are returning, then
36 that might be a good thing in the Bering Sea. It must
37 be a high production of food source and whatnot. We'll
38 move on if there's no additions to anybody's comments.
39 I guess Fred has a comment to make.

40

41 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, just one report
42 or comment that I forgot to mention is invasive
43 species. We have in our community right now three
44 birds I can't identify. We've never seen those kind of
45 birds before that wintered in our community. I got
46 some photos through my cell phone, but they're not very
47 good. I think we need to be thinking about our
48 invasive species also due to climate change. We have
49 evidence of that, you know, with different birds we
50 don't see before in our community and that wintered

1 over during the winter.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Fred. So in
4 the packet we've got here, the Chair's report is in
5 there. I thought it was well written. It covered a
6 lot of issues. Is there anybody that has anything
7 they might want to add that they thought of. I don't
8 think there is any additions, but I thought I'd give
9 the opportunity.

10

(No comments)

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, did you have
14 anything?

15

16 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, sir.

17

18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Having said that, I
19 guess we can move on to public and tribal comment on
20 non-agenda items what's listed on the agenda here.
21 Just a little different than what I'm used to on the
22 back of the card here, I think.

23

24 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Tribes and
25 the public are welcome to comment on any issue that
26 isn't on the agenda, but we don't really have a lot of
27 action items on the agenda anyway. So this is just a
28 time for them to speak if they would like to speak
29 before the Regional Council.

30

Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Right. Thanks, Karen.
34 So I see Roy from Kawerak. Do you have anything?

35

36 MR. ASHENFELTER: On the caribou
37 proposal.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thanks. I think
40 you're the only one in here that.....

41

42 MR. ASHENFELTER: There's Calvin.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, Calvin. That's
45 right. Calvin, do you have anything to bring up?

46

47 MR. MOTO: Pardon?

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you have anything
50 to comment about? You were hiding back there.

1 MR. MOTO: On the Northwest Seward
2 Peninsula we're pretty much related in the harvesting
3 of caribou and I know this year it was tough to try to
4 go out and get caribou for our subsistence hunters.
5 Also on the global warming our ice this year was very
6 sparse, a lot of black ice. You say what is black ice.
7 It's thin ice. Sometimes it's covered with snow, so a
8 lot of our hunters had to use the hills. They couldn't
9 go on the ice to get to the place.

10
11 Sometimes like from Deering to Blaine
12 (ph) River or Deering to a place called Lionel (ph)
13 Park where a lot of our caribou -- most of them are in
14 the Bering Land Bridge as you know. With you guys, I
15 know how hard it is for you to harvest this year
16 because caribou for most of our people is the staple of
17 our food.

18
19 Like was talked about, also the moose
20 population is kind of low. More cows than bulls, so
21 it's hard when they limit us to cow season for a short
22 season and then we don't have much bulls. We don't
23 harvest very many moose, maybe one or two. The thing I
24 noticed, all the forest fires there in Interior the
25 moose come this way. Come west, you know.

26
27 But the caribou population, I remember
28 when I was chairman of the Arctic Regional Fish and
29 Game Advisory how it was very few. I asked a biologist
30 one time, you know, a couple years ago you said we
31 didn't have very many caribou and now we have almost
32 400,000. Did the cows have triplets or something?
33 What happened, I said, because some of our caribou went
34 toward Happy Valley or maybe some of them didn't make
35 it down for some reason. They scatter sometimes
36 especially if there's a lot of traffic up in that area.
37 I think it's like they were talking about, caribou
38 won't pass or go over roads that are built between
39 North and Seward Peninsula. They get diverted to
40 different areas and this year we have kind of healthy
41 populations, but not as much as we used to. I just
42 wanted to bring that up.

43
44 I want to thank Louie for giving me a
45 chance to say something.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Calvin.
48 Appreciate your comments. So with that, having heard
49 from the public, I think that takes us into the section
50 of old business. There's a change, Karen, that you

1 wanted in there. You might want to speak to that.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We did add
4 a rural determination update when the agenda was
5 approved as amended, so we can have that on the agenda
6 as well.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. Thank you.
11 We didn't add it -- I didn't write it in there. I
12 guess that would be under item (c) in old business,
13 rural update. We have this item (a) National Park
14 proposed rule on subsistence collections, 218. There
15 was an additional -- there you are. I think I'll give
16 the floor over to you.

17

18 Thank you, ma'am.

19

20 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Good morning, Council members. My name is Mary
22 McBurney. I'm the Subsistence Program Lead for the
23 National Park Service. I'm going to be just giving you
24 a quick update on a proposed rule that the National
25 Park Service has published for public comment. You may
26 have received briefings on this over the past several
27 years. We are now at a point where there is some
28 proposed language that we would like the public to
29 review and to offer comments on.

30

31 Specifically, this proposed rule
32 addresses a request that came from subsistence users,
33 and particularly some subsistence users with
34 Subsistence Resource Commissions in National Parks and
35 Monuments in Alaska. Specifically people were asking
36 for the ability to collect things like horns, antlers,
37 other non-edible parts of animals that might have been
38 trapped or hunted, and then also using plant materials
39 to create handicrafts that they could then exchange or
40 sell under customary trade.

41

42 So this proposed rule now allows that
43 by creating three new definitions specifically for
44 animal parts, defining what a handicraft article is and
45 that definition is consistent with what currently
46 exists in the Federal subsistence regulations. And
47 then also clarifying that these sorts of exchanges
48 would be allowed under customary trade.

49

50 There are two other items that this

1 proposed rule also addresses. One is the collection of
2 live animals. Specifically this is to address some
3 requests that were made recently by falconers that were
4 looking to collect falcon chicks on National Preserves.
5 ANILCA allows the hunting and trapping on National
6 Preserves, but the collection of say raptor chicks
7 doesn't really fall into either of those categories.
8 Sorry, Mr. Chair. So this is to clarify so that there
9 is no confusion that people that might want to collect
10 these chicks under a falconry permit under the State of
11 Alaska permit system that unfortunately they won't be
12 able to do that on National Parklands.

13

14 And then finally this proposed rule
15 also limits the types of bait that can be used for
16 baiting bears. While this might not be an issue of
17 specific interest to your RAC, there are other RACs in
18 this state that do have regions where bear baiting is
19 practiced, especially for black bears. The intent here
20 is that they would be limited to natural baits, the
21 sorts of things that a bear might normally find in the
22 environment, as opposed to dog food, donuts, bacon
23 grease and those sorts of things.

24

25 The intent there is that the National
26 Park Service does have some prohibitions against the
27 use of -- well, I should say of feeding bears, so we
28 wanted to make it clear that baiting bears is not a
29 problem for subsistence users as long as those baits
30 that are used are things like the carcasses of trapped
31 animals or gut piles or fish heads or the sorts of
32 things that, like I said, a bear might normally find in
33 the natural environment.

34

35 So this proposed rule was originally
36 published in mid January, on January 13th, for a review
37 period of 90 days. So the review period is open until
38 April 12th. On the briefing paper that Karen handed
39 out earlier there is information on how you can offer
40 comments on this proposed rule either by sending those
41 to the Regional Director here in Anchorage or you can
42 also make comments online as well on the Federal e-
43 rulemaking portal and the web address is also on the
44 briefing paper.

45

46 Any questions?

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your
49 information. As to the falcons, you know, I had a hard
50 time buying .22 shells the last few years, so I've got

1 a whole bunch of birds, but now I've got to let them
2 go. I think Tommy Gray wants to say something. I was
3 going to say something else here, but go ahead, Tommy.

4

5 MR. GRAY: I struggle with baiting
6 bears. No matter what we do, you know, subsistence is
7 a stepping stone to other agencies and other areas
8 wanting to do the same thing. I guess I appreciate
9 using your insight and just using natural things that
10 come from the land, but baiting itself, you know,
11 that's not a natural process, I guess, and I struggle
12 with it.

13

14 I'm a hunting guide and, again, I
15 really believe it's -- the State of Alaska, in certain
16 parts of Alaska, now you can bait brown bears. There's
17 a long history of baiting black bears. You know, I
18 guess that's accepted in society so to speak. There's
19 a lot of people struggling with brown bears being
20 baited right now. You know, they're using donuts and
21 whatever to attract these animals. I'm not sure, but I
22 would almost venture to say that using any kind of
23 moose and fish and stuff like that in the State arena
24 is not usable to bait anything.

25

26 I'm a commercial crabber in the
27 wintertime and I've got to go buy commercially-made
28 products or caught products to bait my crab pots. I
29 can't use my subsistence stuff to go bait my crab pots
30 in the state of Alaska in the system. Anyway, I just
31 want to point out that I'm probably one of the few that
32 struggle with baiting animals. I understand it's for
33 subsistence and I'm probably one of the biggest
34 subsistence advocates in Alaska, but I just struggle
35 with baiting, especially bears.

36

37 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. We have Ted and
40 then Peter.

41

42 MR. KATCHEAK: Over the years baiting
43 was never practiced in Stebbins, both reindeer herding
44 and subsistence hunting. It was useful back then when
45 the herds were managed by the village for the Federal
46 government. Since then the baiting has never been used
47 again. There are so many bears in our area that you
48 don't need no bait because they come into your village
49 and even come into camps. So it's something that we
50 were living with and we have no choice. Some call them

1 teddy bear, but they're not my friend.

2

3 As a reindeer herder and subsister, I
4 used to eat bear meat, but now I can't take it anymore.
5 I'd rather eat reindeer, moose or beaver, something
6 else. Since the bear have been introduced to our area,
7 I found out that in 1957 Kodiak bear became so numerous
8 they moved some brown bears to Anvik area. So since
9 then the bear population had exploded, the brown bear.
10 Anytime you want to go to Stebbins in our area, you're
11 welcome. It's very hard to live with that animal has
12 big teeth and big claws. I don't want to be around
13 those animals. They're very dangerous. They're not
14 pets.

15

16 The other observation I have is over
17 the years we have a lot of reindeer and they drop their
18 antlers. People come from other different villages to
19 come and gather them with four-wheelers, snowmachine or
20 whatever they use and they're selling them to different
21 handicraft places. It's something that's very hard as
22 one of the leaders in the village to see what's going
23 on. People don't get permission and they just come
24 around and do what they want to do with our land and
25 our animals and fish. So at some point there's got to
26 be something that we have to do that become our
27 standards.

28

29 Although our weather is changing.
30 That's a big factor. We've now become only dependent
31 on what we got at the store in St. Michael, Stebbins.
32 So it's something that we have to learn to deal with
33 and how to prevent those things from happening. That's
34 all.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. Mary,
39 just to clarify, this speaks to the Park Service, the
40 Bering Land Preserve.

41

42 MS. MCBURNEY: Mr. Chair. Yes, that's
43 correct. I know that you had received copies of the
44 official proposed rule in the big binder that you
45 received, but since you also had so many other papers I
46 thought it would kind of contribute to your collection
47 again this morning and give you another copy. But,
48 yes, this would be for the Bering Land Bridge National
49 Preserve.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for the extra
2 papers. I was trying to figure out what you changed on
3 it and I didn't see anything. Anyway, Mr. Buck, it's
4 your turn. Thanks, Mary.

5
6 MR. BUCK: Yes, the baiting of animals.
7 The city council and the White Mountain IRA on our
8 landfill they encourage that we put our scrap fish and
9 scrap meat, whatever we throw away, bones, in the river
10 on the other side of the river. Because if we put them
11 in the landfill, the bears, especially in the fall,
12 will start coming around. And the kids can't even go
13 walk a little ways, a mile, or go fish or take a walk
14 because they're afraid of bear tracks right around the
15 village and that is a problem for us.

16
17 Historically, like I told Louis, when
18 we first got on this board, the people of White
19 Mountain, the elders, got rid of the bears. They shot
20 all the bears. If they found bear tracks, they'd track
21 the bear down and kill it and that's the way they
22 handled it. That's just the way. Over the years the
23 bear count in the area has increased.

24
25 The beaver population has increased.
26 They encouraged -- when the beaver start first coming
27 around, they encouraged us to shoot the beavers even if
28 you just shoot them and leave them. But still the
29 beaver population has disrupted the whole river system
30 for fish and just the beaver are just too numerous.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Peter. I'm
35 going to reflect on what he made a comment on about the
36 way things were handled. Joe Kokachuruk was one of the
37 old elders from there that spoke to me about what they
38 did in their time and exactly what Peter said. It was
39 to remove because of the competition with the human
40 beings. The necessary needs of the resources.

41
42 I think Fred has a comment.

43
44 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, this is Fred. I
45 see in here, you know, this makes it illegal for us to
46 be utilizing parts and plant material, but I see
47 something here that states that eligible users would be
48 required to have written authorization from the
49 Superintendent to collect these material. So this is
50 going to be kind of a hindrance for us, you know,

1 mainly Shishmaref, Wales and Deering because we're
2 right by the Bering Land Bridge.

3

4 Traditionally, you know, we don't go
5 get a permit or anything to do that. You know, it's
6 our C&T that we do that. We didn't know we were doing
7 illegal stuff. My parents used to make horn dolls and
8 they collect those horns from within the Park. We
9 didn't know -- they didn't know we were doing illegal
10 activities. Now we see we've got to have a piece of
11 paper to do that.

12

13 Would it be possible to have a written
14 authorization to the tribe or tribal members? Instead
15 of individuals getting a written authorization, have a
16 written authorization to the tribe, to the IRA council,
17 so that the whole tribal members can collect these
18 material for handicraft and whatnot instead of -- you
19 know, a lot of these users they're not going to be
20 reading this. They are not going to seek written
21 authorization from the Superintendent. I don't think
22 so. So if it would be possible to authorize the whole
23 tribes that is affected, authorization to do their C&T.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.

28

29 Mary.

30

31 MS. MCBURNEY: Through the Chair, Mr.
32 Eningowuk. Thank you for bringing that up. It's not
33 the National Park Service's intent to make this
34 difficult for people. For that reason, we're actually
35 looking at ways for making this as streamlined as
36 possible. One of the ways to do that would be that the
37 Superintendent can make sort of a blanket authorization
38 for say all eligible users in the entire region and
39 that they would be authorized so that there's not going
40 to be necessarily an individual permit that every
41 person has to have. That is not our intent at all, but
42 it would also be in the same spirit that they could do
43 it through say the tribes or the IRA councils. There's
44 a number of different ways that this could be done by
45 the Superintendent so that it has the least impact on
46 subsistence users so that they can collect plant and
47 animal parts.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mary. Roy
50 wanted to make a comment. Come up to the other mic,

1 that would be fine.

2

3 Ronald, do you have something to add?

4

5 MR. KIRK: Yes, Mr. Chair. After
6 looking at what Fred was talking about -- my name is
7 Ronald Kirk. I'm from Stebbins. I'd like to make a
8 comment in regards to this. We, as indigenous peoples
9 of the state of Alaska, this should not fall upon our
10 land or our people because we are required to harvest
11 out of our lands and, therefore, looking at this, I
12 don't think we should be put in a position to where we
13 have to get a written authorization to harvest anything
14 from our lands.

15

16 We are indigenous people. This is who
17 we are. Our ancestors did it in the past and passed it
18 on down generations to us and now we have to pass it on
19 down to our children so that they can be able to
20 harvest whatever their needs are, our needs are, to
21 survive on this planet, especially with this global
22 warming. It's going to affect a lot of ways of how we
23 survive and how we live off our land.

24

25 So I don't think the Alaska Natives
26 should have to have any kind of written authorization
27 to harvest anything from our lands. This should apply
28 to all non-Natives that don't live in Alaska that come
29 from the Lower 48 that want to harvest our ivory or our
30 antlers just so that they can put them on their walls
31 as trophies. We don't harvest our marine mammals or
32 our animals to hang on our walls for trophies. We
33 harvest them to sustain our livelihood and pass it down
34 to generations so our kids can survive and eat off and
35 live off this planet.

36

37 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. I
40 appreciate your comments there. I know that the Park
41 Service is seeking opinions. Yours comes through to me
42 really clear. I think the one thing that I was trying
43 to bring forward a while ago is when I asked Mary this
44 was about the Park Service, but then even in the Park I
45 got your point and I think everybody in the room did.

46

47 Mr. Ashenfelter has something to say to
48 us.

49

50 MR. ASHENFELTER: I have a procedural

1 question. There's three components, collecting horns
2 and some kind of permit process, falcon chicks and
3 baiting bears?

4

5 MS. MCBURNEY: Yes.

6

7 MR. ASHENFELTER: Do you have to pass
8 all three at once or are they separate processes for
9 decision-making on each one of those?

10

11 MS. MCBURNEY: Through the Chair, Mr.
12 Ashenfelter. This is all in one procedure, in one
13 proposed rule, but we're looking for public comment on
14 all three of those particular items. At this point, as
15 far as what the National Park Service may do eventually
16 on any or all of these points really does hinge an
17 awful lot on the public comment that we receive. So if
18 there are particular issues with any one of those three
19 items that people feel very strongly about and would
20 like to provide comments to the National Park Service,
21 this is exactly the time to do that.

22

23 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chairman. So the three comments that I -- I'll comment
25 on all three. The collecting horns and those permitted
26 within the Park Service lands, I think it's a very good
27 idea. It provides people there in Shishmaref and Wales
28 that live adjacent to the Park Service will have an
29 opportunity to collect horns and sell those. I see
30 quite a bit of business for those that have
31 connections. And those are laying on the ground and
32 available to be used, I believe.

33

34 On falcon chicks, I'm against that. I
35 believe that those people that choose to collect the
36 falcon chick are just using it for their own personal
37 use. There's no public gain from that. So I don't
38 believe that the opportunity to collect falcon chicks
39 even on Seward Peninsula as a whole, if I were given
40 that opportunity, should not be allowed, but in this
41 case it's about Park Service land. So I'm against
42 collecting falcon chicks because it's a personal use
43 thing. It's nothing -- we don't gain anything from it.
44 You get these birds, you tie them up, you hood them and
45 you do different things that aren't natural in their
46 state and then you use them to hunt whatever you want.
47 So that's the reason I'm against falcon chicks.

48

49 On baiting bears I believe too that --
50 I also speak out against baiting bears. I believe that

1 there are many different ways of hunting bears. We
2 have a very liberal bear hunting opportunity in our
3 region. One bear a year, I believe, for both
4 subsistence and sport. So the opportunity to hunt
5 bears is very opportunistic if you will. So baiting
6 bears in my opinion would not be a good addition to the
7 use of the Park Service lands.

8

9 Those are my comments.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.
12 Ashenfelter.

13

14 Mr. Gray.

15

16 MR. GRAY: I'm not going to dwell on
17 bears because I kind of spilled my guts a little bit
18 ago. The falcon thing or birding thing, again, I side
19 with Roy's mentality on that. But coming to picking
20 up horns, I think there's an asset to the villages
21 where we don't have an economy. I personally picked up
22 horns and sold horns years and years ago. Probably 15,
23 18 years ago and sold them so my kid could have braces
24 in his mouth and it paid for braces. And I sold, I
25 think, three sled loads of horns. So I personally know
26 the gain of what can happen when you pick horns up. So
27 I really side with the villages having this
28 opportunity.

29

30 I do struggle with you've got to have a
31 piece of paper that says you can do this. I can
32 understand that Park land and Federal land, everybody
33 in the United States has equal rights to that land and
34 in the mentality of the Superintendents and such, but
35 we're the people that lived here. We've been here all
36 our lives and this is our land.

37

38 People can say from Arizona that's my
39 Park and so on and so forth, but they're not out there
40 trying to make a living off that land and some
41 consideration needs to be taken for that. I don't know
42 what that consideration is, but, again, we're the
43 people that have lived here all these years.
44 Generations. I mean thousands of years people have
45 lived here and all of a sudden we've got to jump
46 through the hoops to make a living. It doesn't make
47 sense.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Gray.

50

1 Mary, did you have anything to add.
2
3 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Just to summarize, the public comment period is open
5 right now and people can comment either individually or
6 I heard a number of very important and good comments
7 just in our conversation today, that the RAC can also
8 submit a comment letter as well. If you would like to,
9 I would encourage you to again to capture the sentiment
10 and the ideas around table.
11
12 With that, that concludes my briefing,
13 Mr. Chair.
14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
16
17 Fred and then we have Ted.
18
19 MR. ENINGOWUK: I just have one more
20 comment on what Tom stated. Under this here too, this
21 new regulation or whatever, it also states that we
22 cannot sell any raw material picked up from the Park
23 Service. So that would be making it illegal for Tom to
24 try to make some money so that he can have some
25 activities for his family. That may happen to me too,
26 you know. Maybe I need some money to send my children
27 to school. So that's going to be an illegal activity
28 for our people just collecting those raw materials and
29 then selling it to somebody who can be carving those so
30 that he or she can be making money also. So there's
31 another clause or something that needs to be looked
32 into also.
33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Fred. I think
35 this Council, like Mary stated, has an opportunity to
36 enter our.....
37
38 MR. GRAY: I'll make a motion.
39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We've got one guy over
41 here, Tom. Ted.
42
43 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Mary, I have a question for you. We have in our
45 background, our area, we have Yukon Delta Wildlife
46 Refuge area. So your inquiry applies to the same --
47 from that agency, the same questions that you're
48 raising. Is that accurate?
49
50 MS. MCBURNEY: Through the Chair, Mr.

1 Katcheak. If I understand your question, you're asking
2 whether this proposed rule would also be affecting the
3 wildlife refuge lands?

4

5 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes.

6

7 MS. MCBURNEY: The answer is no. This
8 is just specifically for National Park Service lands,
9 which, in the Seward Peninsula area, would be the
10 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

13

14 Charles.

15

16 MR. SACCHEUS: Yeah, I just want to
17 make a point about we own 316,000 acres of our own land
18 in Elim and them hunters in Elim they don't know
19 anything about baiting bears. Nobody hunts bears in
20 Elim because I think they're just predators, just like
21 muskox.

22

23 I was opposed to introducing muskox to
24 Seward Peninsula because those things are just a
25 nuisance when they get close to a village especially
26 for your dogs. I heard a lot of bad stories from
27 Nunivak Island where the muskox keep them old ladies,
28 especially that could barely walk and go pick berries,
29 and they keep them from picking berries down there. So
30 I was really opposed when they introduced muskox to the
31 Seward Peninsula.

32

33 We have a lot of bears in our area,
34 Boone & Crockett size bears, and we never see them. We
35 don't see them close to our village because they live
36 around Kwik River and we had some big game hunters,
37 bear hunters, that want to pay our village, our
38 corporation, to go in and get them Boone & Crockett
39 size bears and the people of Elim always say no.

40

41 But, anyway, I'm glad that my
42 forefathers, our forefathers in Elim, they passed that
43 word around, all the way down. Most of them are gone
44 now. They always say that's not the way to hunt
45 animals, to bait them, put bait and kill them. That's
46 wrong.

47

48 That's my comment.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Clarence.
2 The Council will have an opportunity to make a comment
3 on this. I think Mr. Gray has a motion to make on that
4 for how we deal with it.

5
6 Mr. Gray.

7
8 MR. GRAY: I make a motion that we
9 authorize Louis and Karen to draft a letter to send to
10 express our views to the Park, what's been talked about
11 here in this meeting. So I make that motion.

12
13 MR. BUCK: Seconded.

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Gray made the
16 motion. Mr. Buck seconded it. All those in favor of
17 the motion say aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
22 sign.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, motion
27 passes. Karen, you and I have got something to do
28 together. Mary, thank you for your time and letting us
29 know what we were looking at.

30
31 MS. MCBURNEY: Thank you very much, Mr.
32 Chair, for your time and Council members.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right, Council.
35 We're still on old business. Item (b) on there is
36 about the changes in hunt area for caribou in Unit 22E,
37 an update. There's our biologist lady.

38
39 MS. WORKER: Here I am.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You've got the floor,
42 ma'am.

43
44 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
45 name is Suzanne Worker. I'm a wildlife biologist with
46 the Office of Subsistence Management. I just wanted to
47 take a couple minutes to revisit the caribou proposals
48 that we went over in the fall meeting. Just to give
49 you an update about where we ended up with those and
50 what recommendation we're going to be putting forward

1 to the Federal Subsistence Board.

2

3 The first one I wanted to talk about is
4 WP16-45. That was the proposal that requested moving
5 the hunt area in Unit 22E westward from Sanaguich Creek
6 to Tin Creek and this proposal was submitted by this
7 Council. When we met in October, you indicated a
8 desire to move the boundary even farther west over to
9 Trout Creek and in response to that we did consider
10 that option and I talked to several people who were
11 involved in reindeer herding. So the concern is that
12 that's getting closer and closer to the Wales Reindeer
13 Herd and their grazing ranges.

14

15 The feedback I received as a result of
16 those conversations was pretty mixed, so as a result of
17 that the OSM conclusion is to support the proposal as
18 it was written. So that's shifting the boundary to Tin
19 Creek, which is a little bit farther west than it
20 currently is. I would like to point out that there is
21 still currently in Federal regulation a may-be-
22 announced season west of Tin Creek, so that if caribou
23 were present in that area a season could be open that
24 would allow harvest in the whole 22E.

25

26 So that's just a quick update on that
27 hunt area change. If there's no questions about the
28 boundary change, we can spend a little bit of time
29 talking about this handout that I see you all are
30 looking at, the one with the colorful map on the front.
31 This is related to Proposal WP16-37 and that is that
32 proposal that affected regulations throughout the range
33 of the Western Arctic Herd, the Central Arctic Herd and
34 the Teshekpuk Herd.

35

36 This proposal requested that the
37 Federal subsistence regulations mirror the State
38 regulations that were implemented in July of 2015.
39 When we met in October, I presented OSM's preliminary
40 conclusion, which was very similar to the original
41 proposal, which means that we were proposing Federal
42 regulations that were very similar to the existing
43 State regulations.

44

45 What we heard from you at that meeting
46 was that the proposed seasons didn't really work so
47 well for the Seward Peninsula and the primary reason
48 was because caribou were not reliably present during
49 those shorter seasons that had those fairly severe
50 bull/cow restrictions. So, as a result of that

1 feedback, we've revised our conclusion on this
2 proposal, so for the most part the OSM conclusion that
3 we're forwarding to the Board is almost identical to
4 what you recommended. And since it came up earlier,
5 I'll just mention that it's also very similar to that
6 ACR that was submitted by Charlie Lean.

7

8 I have notes about that proposal so we
9 can compare them if you want and we can go through it
10 hunt area by hunt area. I don't think it should take
11 too long.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

14

15 Tom.

16

17 MR. GRAY: Okay. We have Tony Gorn
18 online also that can explain what the ACR is about and
19 stuff when we get to that point. I think Tony is still
20 on teleconference. Are you there, Tony?

21

22 MR. GORN: Yeah, I'm here, Tom.

23

24 MR. GRAY: Okay. We'll get to a point
25 -- and Tony, one difference I'd really like you to
26 explain is the permits, the 20 permits, but let's let
27 Suzanne do her thing and then we'll get to the ACR.

28

29 MS. WORKER: Okay, thank you. So let's
30 -- you'll see on the front page I have a map that's
31 color-coded and in the pages that follow there's a
32 table and the colors on the table headers correspond to
33 the colors on the map. In the table I have the current
34 Federal regulations, I have what this Council
35 recommended to us in our meeting in October and then we
36 have what the final OSM conclusion is.

37

38 So if we start with the red area,
39 that's the hunt area that's described as Unit 22A north
40 of the Golsovia River drainage, Unit 22B remainder,
41 Unit 22D in the Kuzitrin River drainage and Unit 22
42 east of the Tin Creek drainage. You recommended a
43 year-round season with no bull/cow restrictions,
44 keeping the same harvest limit five animals per day and
45 our revised conclusion reflects your recommendation in
46 that hunt area.

47

48 The ACR that's being put forward to the
49 State Board of Game has the same season as well. The
50 only difference is the way the harvest limits are

1 handled.

2

3 MR. GRAY: Do you want to finish up on
4 your presentation or do you want Tony to jump in here
5 now?

6

7 MS. WORKER: This might be a good time
8 if Tony wants to explain what was envisioned for the
9 permits.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tony, you have the
12 floor.

13

14 MR. GORN: Okay. Good morning,
15 everybody. My name is Tony Gorn. I'm a biologist up
16 here in Nome for Unit 22. So I guess I'll just spend a
17 quick minute talking about what's right now known as
18 Proposal 140 and that's going to be discussed at the
19 Statewide Board of Game meeting this month.

20

21 Proposal 140 was an ACR, it was an
22 agenda change request that got brought to the
23 Department basically through the Northern Norton Sound
24 Advisory Committee. It was the produce of dozens of
25 conversations and then several meetings with Northern
26 Norton Sound Advisory Committee members, Southern
27 Norton Sound Advisory Committee members and then some
28 members of the public. You can find the Department's
29 analysis and recommendation for this proposal on our
30 website. If you don't have that in front of you,
31 perhaps somebody can get that for you. It's easy to
32 find on the website under the Board support link and
33 it's Proposal 140.

34

35 The Department's comments related to
36 the proposal are a little bit different from what was
37 submitted, but to me the spirit of the proponent's
38 proposal is there. The Department just tweaked some
39 dates related to cow hunting, but in conversations with
40 the proponent of the proposal they agreed with what the
41 Department's comments are. The cow season -- the big
42 change is the cow season will close March 31st and
43 that's just related to biological concerns related to
44 cow hunting.

45

46 Buried in the proposal to me is a very
47 significant change with caribou regulation and this was
48 brought forth by the proponent and the Northern Norton
49 Sound Advisory Committee. The proposal asks that we
50 continue to have a bag limit of five caribou a day and

1 there be an annual limit of 20 caribou a year. That
2 was a step forward brought from the proponent because
3 the Western Arctic Herd is declining and there's an
4 acknowledgment that within the next few years we may
5 really have to start thinking about conservation
6 related to this herd.

7
8 So if this proposal is passed, right
9 out of the gate, immediately it probably doesn't do a
10 lot for conservation; however, it lays the regulatory
11 framework for future change. One of the big things
12 that you guys are well aware of is when we think about
13 moose hunting, particularly related to moose and muskox
14 hunting on the Seward Peninsula, caribou hunting really
15 hasn't had the historic reporting requirements for the
16 caribou hunt. So, of course, that presents a challenge
17 for everybody during certain times for caribou
18 management. Although we complete subsistence household
19 surveys, we don't have that annual reporting
20 information that's very important for caribou hunting
21 like we have for moose and muskox management.

22
23 Again, the proponents laid forth in
24 this proposal -- in their proposal they asked for
25 either a harvest ticket or a registration permit for
26 this new hunt and the Department's recommendation is to
27 have a registration permit and that would really
28 improve -- it's a giant step forward for the Department
29 to understand how many caribou are being harvested a
30 year in Unit 22.

31
32 Now many of you guys know me as the
33 Unit 22 area biologist and I'm not so naive to think
34 that right when we do this the first year we're going
35 to capture all this caribou harvest. It's going to
36 take time, but it's the right step forward and it's
37 really good to see that there's public support for it.
38 I guess that's it unless you guys have specific
39 questions.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tony.

42
43 Tom, do you have anything to add?

44
45 MR. GRAY: Well, I was part of pulling
46 all this together and trying to address -- you know,
47 this started as a let's fix the bull issue that was
48 adopted by the Board of Game in the fall and it evolved
49 into this permit system and stuff. So I've been
50 involved in this whole process since day one, I guess.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

2

3 I think Roy Ashenfelter has a comment.

4

5 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yeah, Tony, you
6 mentioned cow hunting closed on March 31st. When does
7 it open?

8

9 MR. GORN: Thanks, Roy. Cow hunting
10 would open in the Nome road-accessible areas, so along
11 the Nome road system cow hunting would open August 1st.
12 In all other -- oh, I'm sorry. Jeez, I just misspoke a
13 date. The Nome road-accessible areas cow season would
14 open October 1st and go to March 31st and then in all
15 other areas in Unit 22 cow hunting would open July 1st
16 and go to March 31. So that's the cows. The bull
17 season along the Nome road-accessible areas, the bull
18 season would open October 1st and go to April 30th and
19 then in all other areas the bull season would open July
20 1st and go to June 30th.

21

22 Then, of course, based on our long
23 history of reindeer management and reindeer protected
24 areas, those areas would not change. So the western
25 part of 22E, Unit 22C, the southern portion of Unit
26 22A, those areas would remain closed to caribou hunting
27 to protect reindeer interest unless the Department
28 issued an emergency order to open up a caribou season
29 because there were a lot of caribou in the area.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tony.

32

33 Tommy.

34

35 MR. GRAY: I think we should point out
36 that what the Federal side of this program is proposing
37 is a lot more lenient, there's no permits, the dates
38 are different. So there is still some differences
39 between the State and the Feds and I think this is
40 good. I really think that each of our own agencies or
41 land managers have their own missions in life. You
42 know, they're kind of coming alongside each other and
43 yet they're not alongside each other.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.

46

47 Any other Council.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sue.

2

3 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If
4 I might just respond briefly to Mr. Gray's comment.
5 Yes, the Federal regulations that we're putting forward
6 to the Board are, for the most part, in terms of
7 season, going to be aligned with what is proposed in
8 that ACR. I did want to make one comment. The Federal
9 regulations will be more liberal than State regulations
10 both in terms of harvest limit and there also -- what
11 we're putting forward to the Board, they're actually
12 more liberal than they are right now because right now
13 the cow season only extends from July 1st to May 15th,
14 so there's actually six weeks in there where cow
15 harvest is not allowed currently under Federal
16 subsistence regulation.

17

18 So just something to note that the
19 regulations that we're putting forth are fairly
20 liberal. So if there's no questions on the red area of
21 the map.....

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Roy.

24

25 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you. On the
26 cow hunt, the proposed ACR is closed March 31st. On
27 the Fed side it closes July 1st, is that correct?

28

29 MS. WORKER: On the Federal side it
30 closes May 15th currently.

31

32 MR. ASHENFELTER: So the recommendation
33 for the RAC here is to align itself with ACR or ACR and
34 ideas?

35

36 MS. WORKER: The current recommendation
37 by this Council was to have the cow season and the bull
38 season open year round.

39

40 MR. ASHENFELTER: On Federal lands.

41

42 MS. WORKER: On Federal land. Well,
43 yes, that's the Federal subsistence regulation. Okay.
44 So if we can now move on to the blue area of the map.
45 This is Unit 22 remainder. You'll also see in the
46 southern part of Unit 22A there is an area that I have
47 shaded orange. That currently is part of Unit 22
48 remainder. When we met in March, you recommended a
49 year-round may-be-announced season in this area, but
50 you recommended that the portion of Unit 22 remainder

1 that's in 22A be considered a separate hunt area so
2 that in-season management could happen independently in
3 those two geographical areas. Our revised conclusion
4 reflects that recommendation both in terms of
5 separating those two hunt areas and in opening up a
6 may-be-announced season year round.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Sue.

9

10 Tom.

11

12 MR. GRAY: Okay. Opening up a may-be-
13 announced season year round in both areas or is one
14 area opened year round and the other one may-be-
15 announced?

16

17 MS. WORKER: I mangled that sentence I
18 admit. There's an opportunity for a may-be-announced
19 season year round in both areas, but because they're
20 defined as separate hunt areas opening one area
21 wouldn't mean that you opened both of them. So
22 currently they're both part of Unit 22A remainder. So
23 if a season were opened because there were caribou, you
24 know, say in Teller, it would open all of the blue area
25 and the orange area all the way down by Stebbins, which
26 doesn't necessarily make sense given what we know about
27 caribou movements.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead.

30

31 MR. GRAY: I don't understand why are
32 we -- you know, I guess my thoughts are if we're
33 worried about animals on the Seward Peninsula -- and
34 let's take 22C. If animals come into 22C and we need
35 to open it up for hunters, that's great, but we all
36 know that Stebbins/St. Michael is hundreds miles away
37 from 22C. Why isn't that area being opened up on a
38 separate -- why aren't these -- let's say the blue area
39 be opened on one. They can open it separately, 22A
40 north of the Golsovia be opened separately and the
41 orange area down by Stebbins/St. Michael be opened
42 separately. That way it protects the -- the intent of
43 all of this is to protect reindeer herds for these two
44 areas, 22C and the blue area and the orange area. I
45 mean the big reason those are closed is because of the
46 reindeer industry. You know, animals on the Seward
47 Peninsula are a lot different -- that's a different
48 management tool than Golsovia and that should be
49 recognized.

50

1 MS. WORKER: Through the Chair. That
2 is what we've achieved here. By making those two
3 separate hunt areas, they can be managed independently.
4 So one area can be opened without opening the entire
5 area. The orange area can be opened separately from
6 the blue area.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any other questions
9 from Council.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sue.

14
15 MS. WORKER: Okay. So the final thing
16 are the final two hunt areas. We have the Pilgrim
17 River drainage, which on your map is in sort of a
18 gold/yellow color and we have the hunt area that's in
19 Unit 22B west of the Niukluk River and that's in
20 orange. These are the two areas where there is some
21 misalignment between what the Council recommended and
22 what OSM's conclusion was and I can describe those.

23
24 In both of those hunt areas, the
25 Council's recommendation was to have a year-round
26 may-be-announced season. The revised OSM conclusion is
27 to have an open season October 1st through April 30th
28 and a may-be-announced season May 1st through September
29 30th in both of those areas. It provides an open season
30 that you did not recommend, so that should be a little
31 bit more opportunity.

32
33 The other thing it does is it aligns
34 the may-be-announced seasons with the State's current
35 may-be-announced seasons in those hunt areas. The idea
36 was that if there were caribou in that area and we
37 needed to open a season, it would facilitate that in-
38 season management by having parallel Federal and State
39 seasons. So that's the motivation behind making those
40 seasons. But we did hear you when you said, you know,
41 no bull/cow seasons, the harvest limit stays the same.

42
43 I'll stop there unless there's some
44 specific questions.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Sue. Tom.

47
48 MR. GRAY: Okay, so let me get this
49 straight then. The Pilgrim and west of the Niukluk
50 drainage, the green, what I'm looking at, you're saying

1 you're going to open it in October and close it in May,
2 is that right?

3

4 MS. WORKER: That's right.

5

6 MR. GRAY: And then it stays closed
7 from May to September 31st or something.

8

9 MS. WORKER: That's right.

10

11 MR. GRAY: I guess I've lived in this
12 area for all my life and you're closing it at a time of
13 year that there's no animals in there. There's nothing
14 in there all summer long. The reason -- this is
15 another area that was addressed by the reindeer
16 industry. I'm going to switch my hats around. I'm not
17 the head anymore, but I will speak on it.

18

19 This area was a to-be-announced area
20 some years ago and the reindeer industry pushed to
21 close it. The reason it was pushed to be closed was
22 people were taking reindeer and calling them caribou.
23 Now through the process the State, I think, has opened
24 this area and has got something similar to what you're
25 proposing. My personal opinion is we need to be
26 sympathetic to the reindeer industry and keep it as a
27 to-be-announced area.

28

29 You know, there's nobody more willing
30 to open an area up than reindeer herders, but when I go
31 into Council and I see heads of caribou so to speak
32 with white blotches on their noses, we all know they're
33 reindeer and it's kind of hard to swallow. So I guess,
34 you know, my feeling is we need to keep it as an area.
35 If they're in there, let's open it.

36

37 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Gray. I
38 would like to point out how the season that we're
39 proposing compares to what is currently there and what
40 is proposed in the ACR request that's going to the
41 Board of Game next week. So currently in the Pilgrim
42 drainage there's no open season. We're proposing about
43 seven months of an open season and five months with a
44 may-be-announced season. The request that's going to
45 the Board of Game next week requests an open season
46 October 1st to April 30th, so that is aligned with our
47 recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tom.

50

1 MR. GRAY: I've sat before the State
2 system and I've sat before the Federal system and I'm
3 glad we have a State system and I'm glad we have a
4 Federal system. We all have our missions in life.
5 Looking at this map, I'm a little bit curious how much
6 Federal land is in there that we're squirming about
7 anyway. Again, just because the State says one thing
8 doesn't mean that the Feds have to jump and get in line
9 and salute the process.

10
11 Again, we live different lives. To the
12 to-be-announced issue, again the reindeer industry is
13 very amenable to let's open it up and let's make it
14 work. If there's caribou in there, they're going to
15 jump up and be a player and work together.

16
17 I guess I do have a question. How much
18 Federal lands is in this area?

19
20 MS. WORKER: I think that's a really
21 good point, Mr. Gray. If you look on the map, it's a
22 little bit difficult to make out, but above the label
23 that says Pilgrim River drainage there's a shaded area
24 that's slightly darker. It's a strip of Federal land
25 that goes through the middle of the drainage. It's not
26 very much. I mean if I'm eyeballing it, it's, I don't
27 know, 15 percent or something. It's not a lot. In the
28 hunt area that's west of the Niukluk, it's even less.

29
30 MR. GRAY: Okay. The reindeer
31 industry's problem is with the State, not the Feds.
32 So, anyway.

33
34 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair, can I be
35 recognized.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, Ted.

38
39 MR. KATCHEAK: In Stebbins we live in
40 that Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge among other owners,
41 Stebbins Native Corporation, St. Michael Native
42 Corporation and some BLM lands. The reason why I'm
43 very opposed to caribou hunt is because we do not have
44 -- or probably we haven't seen caribou coming in our
45 area for the last almost 20 years now.

46
47 I'm trying to figure out how we're
48 going to deal with the land managers, especially Yukon
49 Delta Wildlife Refuge, which is similar to the wildlife
50 refuge up here or up in Nome area. How do we deal with

1 these subsistence hunters that don't have caribou, like
2 Unit 18? What do I need to do to convince them that we
3 can allow caribou hunt only if there are caribou. We
4 can't afford to have the villages on the Yukon come up
5 regularly every year to hunt reindeer unless we have
6 some kind of agreement between the Yukon villages and
7 the Norton Sound or Stebbins, St. Michael that would
8 allow them to go out to hunt subsistence reindeer hunt.

9
10

11 I'm not sure how well Stebbins/St.
12 Michael tribes will respond to this, but I think we
13 need to find some kind of a standard or something
14 common that we can live with cohesively. It's getting
15 to the point where we're taking sides. Who are we up
16 against? Our own people, my cousins, aunties, uncles.
17 They live up and down the coast. So it's a very
18 sensitive life we're living in. Something that needs
19 some kind of change in direction.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.
24 Seeing as how we have other things to cover, I've been
25 reminded that we don't have all day, we have a couple
26 more hours left and we've got some stuff to deal with
27 here. The Council can send additional comments. So
28 things Ted and Tom are talking about we need to figure
29 out how to put them in writing and add that to what we
30 need to get to the Board. They do have the comment
31 period. What is it, April? Wait a minute. Did I get
32 the wrong date on there?

33

34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. The
35 Federal Subsistence Board will actually be meeting in
36 April to deliberate on these proposals and at that time
37 the Council can send with the Chair additional comments
38 during deliberation for the proposals.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So
43 I think I'd like to move this forward here. If there
44 is any other -- there's nothing to add, is there
45 Suzanne, on your part?

46

47 MS. WORKER: No, I'm all done. Thank
48 you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your

1 time. Appreciate your information and comments on
2 there. So I'll move to rural update under (c) that we
3 added on.

4

5 MR. LIND: Good morning. My name is
6 Orville Lind. I'm the Native Liaison for the Office of
7 Subsistence Management. Mr. Chair and Council members,
8 I'm going to give you a brief update on the nonrural
9 determinations policy timeline. I don't know if any of
10 you folks picked this sheet of paper up on the table
11 out in front. You can follow along if you want.

12

13 Of course the winter of 2016 the
14 notification of RACs of intent to create a draft policy
15 and indicate that they will be asked to review it
16 during the fall 2016 meeting cycle. Also in the spring
17 of 2016 the staff will develop a draft policy. The
18 Interagency Staff Committee will review and provide
19 feedback on the draft policy. During the summer they
20 will present the draft policy to the Board at the
21 summer work session 2016 for review, edits and
22 feedback.

23

24 In the fall, I will work with OSM staff
25 and the Board to include the topic in the tribal
26 consultation sessions to get feedback from the tribes
27 and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations.
28 Later on that fall the draft will be presented again,
29 the policy to the Regional Advisory Councils for your
30 review, edits and feedback. Later in the fall
31 incorporate the Board and Regional Advisory Council
32 edits into the draft policy. In the winter of 2017,
33 then the Board decision to adopt the draft policy as
34 final.

35

36 That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Lind.
39 Any questions or comments from the Council.

40

41 Ted.

42

43 MR. KATCHEAK: Orville, through Mr.
44 Chair. Just for your information I am the president of
45 Stebbins Native Corporation. If you need to contact
46 me, you know who to contact now. I just wanted to make
47 that point.

48

49 MR. LIND: Thank you very much. I will
50 give you my card too so we can be in contact when the

1 time comes. Quyana, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Are there any further
4 comments or questions from Council.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Having heard none.
9 Mr. Lind, thank you for your information.

10

11 MR. LIND: Quyana.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: With that, there's a
14 note here that says we need a five-minute break.
15 Before new business it's a five-minute break.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. We're back
22 from a five-minute break Karen gave us. So we're
23 drifting into I want to say new business on the agenda.
24 Under that we're bringing back caribou. Did I have a
25 blue sheet here from Calvin to speak on this? Since
26 Calvin is in the audience -- it's under new business,
27 WSA16-01, close caribou hunting in Unit 23 to non-
28 Federally qualified users. Calvin wants to speak to
29 that and I'd entertain him to come to the mic.

30

31 MR. MOTO: Those of you that don't know
32 me, my name is Calvin Moto, Sr. I've been in
33 subsistence for most of my life. I know that some of
34 the Federally qualified users want to hunt on our Park
35 Service and it's kind of ironic the way they -- if I
36 offend anybody, it's okay with me. I asked them, I
37 said, you know, you're the ones that got the State to
38 disqualify State subsistence hunting to our people.
39 Now you want to try to get in and hunt on our
40 Federally-regulated lands.

41

42 We have enough problems with predators.
43 The bears have been hibernating later. I know one of
44 our hunters went out right after the rain in January.
45 He confronted a bear. So seeing the bears are -- he
46 probably got confused. He thought it was spring or
47 something because of rain.

48

49 Since the caribou herd is so small now,
50 getting smaller, it's hard for me to see hunting guides

1 or non-Federally qualified hunters to come in. Not
2 only do they come out and take them, they leave a lot
3 of garbage and trash. They don't even take it out some
4 places. They're arrogant. You know, one time they
5 went out and they killed 10 of them and they just took
6 their heads and the hindquarters. Trophy hunters. Do
7 we want them on our Federal land or not. They have no
8 respect for our land. They have no respect for our
9 animals. All they want is the antlers. The bigger the
10 antlers, the better they feel, the more macho they
11 feel.

12

13 I've been involved in subsistence since
14 the 1980s I was on the Northern Seward Peninsula Fish
15 and Game Advisory and I was chairman of the North
16 Arctic Regional, which covered Barrow, Kotzebue and
17 Nome area. I learned a lot from some of the hunters
18 from these areas. I listened. And we had a big fight
19 with trying to be able to subsistence hunt statewide.
20 We got one passed and they abolished it for us to hunt.

21

22

23 The land right now is kind of funny
24 because when it rains and then it freezes a couple days
25 later, we were worried about whether the caribou would
26 be able to forage for food, you know. You've got to
27 think about this climate change has changed everything.
28 The way our caribou migrate, the way they come. And
29 it's not helping when they build the roads because they
30 divert them to different areas. Last fall the caribou
31 out of North Seward Peninsula didn't come until almost
32 October. Usually they come in September, you know.

33

34 So this is something that we have to
35 really look at, really unite and just -- not only Unit
36 23 but all Federally owned lands. We have to think
37 about keeping unqualified hunters out of our hunting
38 area. I notice that they're having problems with the
39 way the road to the North Slope has been -- migration
40 has been kind of -- so many predators are taking away
41 -- like the bears, you know, they kill, come and take a
42 couple bison, they go after another one. They don't
43 eat the whole thing. They just go one after the
44 other.

45

46 So I just thought I'd comment about
47 this Federally qualified users. I wanted you to be
48 aware that our elders, there's not too many of us in my
49 town, but in the region. I've been on the Elders
50 Council and they're concerned about the way our caribou

1 are getting scarce. Some of them are wondering what's
2 going to happen in the future. Are we going to have to
3 start corralling. I just wanted to make that comment.

4
5 I'm sorry, but I didn't want to take
6 too much of your time. I thank you for this
7 opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Calvin.
10 You're bringing in public comment and that's really
11 important to the function of this Council. And you're
12 an older member of the old ranks, so when we hear our
13 elders speak, we like to hear what they have to say in
14 entirety. Take your time.

15
16 Thank you. Suzanne, you took the
17 stand.

18
19 MS. WORKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 This is Suzanne Worker for the record. I'm a biologist
21 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I would
22 just like to present to you the special action that
23 we've been talking about. This is WSA16-01. This
24 special action request was submitted by the Northwest
25 Arctic Regional Advisory Council. They request that
26 Federal public lands in Unit 23 be closed to caribou
27 hunting by non-Federally qualified subsistence users
28 for the 2016-2017 regulatory year. So this would begin
29 on July 1st, 2016.

30
31 The proponent believes that hunting by
32 non-locals combined with the recent decline of the
33 Western Arctic Caribou Herd is negatively affecting the
34 ability of subsistence users to harvest caribou.
35 They're also concerned about the lack of recent
36 population data and about the conservation status of
37 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd in general.

38
39 As I know everyone here is aware, the
40 Western Arctic Caribou Herd has been declining since
41 about 2003. At that time the population was estimated
42 to be close to 500,000 animals. At the last estimate,
43 which was in 2013, we were down to 235 animals. The
44 State was unable to complete their aerial census in
45 2015, so they're going to try again in 2016, but all
46 indicators are that the herd is still declining. The
47 best educated guess is that it's around 200,000 animals
48 right now.

49
50 One thing worth noting is that as the

1 population declines, hunter harvest represents a larger
2 proportion of total mortality from this herd. The
3 annual estimated harvest of the Western Arctic Herd is
4 estimated to be between 13,000 and 14,000 animals and
5 most of that occurs within Unit 23. Of the Unit 23
6 harvest, 95 percent is by residents within the herd's
7 range. So essentially this is saying that 95 percent
8 of the harvest is attributable to Federally qualified
9 users. So this means that non-locals have a relatively
10 small influence on the actual number of caribou that
11 are harvested.

12

13 If you're familiar with the Western
14 Arctic Caribou Management Plan, you know that the
15 management recommendations are based on the combination
16 of herd size and whether the herd is increasing or
17 decreasing. If you have the analysis and you care to
18 look, that's on page 8. It's a little table that sort
19 of shows what the appropriate harvest levels might be
20 depending on how the herd is doing. Under the current
21 conditions, we're right at the margin of conservative
22 and preservative management.

23

24 What this means is that we may already
25 be exceeding the recommended harvest levels for this
26 population and it means that we might start considering
27 restricting harvest to residents only and considering
28 whether some Federal land closures are warranted to
29 non-subsistence users to try to conserve the herd.

30

31 In Unit 23, most caribou hunting occurs
32 between September and November when the caribou are
33 migrating through. As we know, caribou are a huge
34 subsistence resource in Unit 23. In pounds of edible
35 weight, caribou are the most used species in that
36 region. Locals report in recent years that they've been
37 struggling a little bit with the caribou harvest.
38 Particularly the residents of Noatak are concerned
39 about aircraft, they're concerned about non-local
40 hunters disrupting caribou migration and reducing
41 harvest success by scaring caribou away from the river
42 crossings, which is where a lot of their hunting takes
43 place, shooting the lead caribou, camping along the
44 migration routes, things like that.

45

46 The locals also report that non-locals
47 disrespect local hunting traditions by wasting meat, by
48 hunting for trophies instead of meat, like we just
49 heard from Mr. Moto, leaving litter and trash around.
50 The National Park Service can help us sort of verify

1 these claims through some surveys that they've done of
2 sport hunters in the region.

3

4 So if this special action request is
5 approved, non-subsistence users would still be able to
6 hunt caribou on State lands. There is some concern
7 that this could lead to increased congestion of non-
8 local hunters on State land. It may bring up some
9 challenges related to compliance due to the patchy
10 nature of State and Federal lands in that region. As I
11 mentioned before, non-subsistence users account for a
12 small proportion of the total harvest, so the closure
13 isn't expected to have a real meaningful biological
14 effect just in terms of the number of caribou that are
15 harvested.

16

17 The herd appears to be right on the
18 borderline of the conservative and the preservative
19 management strategies, but in any case eliminating non-
20 resident harvest is probably warranted before closing
21 Federal lands to non-subsistence users. Finally, the
22 new State regulations recently reduced the harvest and
23 seasons for non-residents as well as reducing the
24 season for residents. So we have right now a good
25 opportunity to sort of gauge the effectiveness of these
26 new regulations and these changes are somewhat more
27 moderate than the proposed Federal lands closure.

28

29 So, for these reasons, the OSM
30 preliminary conclusion is to oppose WSA16-01, but I
31 will note that this is an early draft of the analysis
32 and it will be undergoing many more levels of review,
33 so there's nothing set in stone at this point, but
34 that's where we're at right now. If there are any
35 questions, I can try to answer them for you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Council, any
38 questions. Ted.

39

40 MR. KATCHEAK: Suzanne, Mr. Chair. One
41 thing I want to make understood is that we don't oppose
42 any caribou hunt unless there are caribou in our area.
43 We've experienced hunters coming into that area because
44 it's in the regulation. That area is designated area
45 for caribou, but it's unfortunate that the people of
46 the Yukon villages have used that regulation to do
47 their hunt. What I think needs to be done is if the
48 regulation or proposed regulation is saying that, yes,
49 there are caribou in Stebbins, St. Michael area, so
50 that's why we hunt. They even go as close to 10 miles

1 from St. Michael to go hunt their caribou. It's all
2 reindeer. They need to understand that we've closed it
3 for that reason.

4

5 So I think what we need to do is
6 convince the others and the villages of the Yukon River
7 affected in Unit 18 to understand, yes, we would
8 appreciate it if you'd just -- you need to do some
9 study if there's caribou, find out how many caribous
10 there are and where they are. That's something they
11 don't know about. A lot of villages feel that, yes,
12 they're a caribou hunting area, so we're going to do
13 that. At some point it's got to stop. We need to
14 negotiate with those villages. If we're going to allow
15 caribou in our area, you need to help us maybe increase
16 the reindeer herd so the village could do subsistence
17 hunting if they are present in their unit.

18

19 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. What
22 we're talking about is Unit 23. I just had something
23 else pointed out to me here from staff is that there's
24 a draft Board of Game proposal that we didn't add to
25 agenda.

26

27 Go ahead, Karen.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I would
30 just ask that the Council approve adding under new
31 business at this point a review and approval or
32 disapproval of the draft proposal to eliminate
33 non-resident moose hunting. This proposal will go to
34 the Board of Game and it is going to be due shortly
35 here. I think by the end of the month, Drew, for the
36 Arctic cycle.

37

38 MR. CRAWFORD: Tony should be online.

39

40 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, we need to get
41 this in. It was requested at the October meeting, so I
42 did draw up a draft proposal for the Council.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So
47 if we're going to include it, do we need to make a
48 motion to enter it into the new business section?

49

50 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yes, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
2
3 Is there a motion.
4
5 MR. GRAY: So move.
6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.
8
9 MR. BUCK: Second it.
10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Seconded by Peter.
12 All those in favor say aye to adding this Board of Game
13 proposal to the new business.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
18 sign.
19
20 (No objecting comments)
21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
23 passes. Entered into the agenda. Thank you.
24
25 Roy.
26
27 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Speaking on the proposal for Unit 23 to -- what's the
29 correct language?
30
31 MS. WORKER: It is WSA16-01.
32
33 MR. ASHENFELTER: No, what's the -- the
34 non-subsistence.....
35
36 MS. WORKER: Yeah, a Federal lands
37 closure to non-subsistence users in Unit 23.
38
39 MR. ASHENFELTER: Okay. So if you read
40 the report from Fish and Wildlife or from Suzanne here,
41 the intended proposal probably is, you know, targeting
42 something, but it really isn't solving any of the
43 problems about the opportunity. By closing Federal
44 lands, you're just going to put more hunters in State
45 lands. It doesn't really gain anything. You'll just
46 centralize them more. In my opinion, if you spread the
47 hunting out, the numbers aren't going to change.
48
49 If you want to do something right, you
50 would maybe work with the State in submitting a

1 proposal to reduce opportunity, but this just moves
2 opportunity from one area to another. It doesn't solve
3 anything and it creates a greater exacerbation of
4 Federal -- moving guys off of Federal lands onto State
5 lands. It's still the same volume of hunters are still
6 going to be there.

7

8 So, anyway, that's my opinion. Thanks.

9

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy. That
12 would be like a reallocation issue is what you're
13 stating.

14

15 Tommy.

16

17 MR. GRAY: To kind of touch on a little
18 bit of what Roy's point is, you know, the State has
19 gone from I think five animals that non-residents can
20 take to one animal, so in a sense that process has
21 started. It really hasn't had a chance to evolve and
22 see how it's going to work out. I've been to a lot of
23 meetings and a lot of discussions, I guess, about Unit
24 23 and their problems with caribou hunting. I really
25 hate -- I guess I'm a little reserved in making
26 decisions about another area.

27

28 The Seward Peninsula Unit 22 is the
29 product of Unit 23 making decisions about our
30 regulations in Unit 22. You know, now we're trying to
31 rectify and fix things. I guess my personal feeling is
32 the hunt is so small that what these guys are taking
33 that it really isn't -- you know, the hunt is so small
34 that I don't see how it's impacting the harvest of
35 15,000 animals or 14,000 animals.

36

37 I think the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
38 management plan itself in the next couple years is
39 going to address and take out non-resident hunters. I
40 don't think that we need to take them out. As this
41 herd declines, there's language incorporated into the
42 management plan that things happen in a certain
43 fashion. The non-resident folks are, again, going to
44 be taken out of the system as that herd declines.

45

46 So I'm a little reserved in supporting
47 this, but on the other side of the coin I guess, you
48 know, it's a tool in the box I personally feel it's
49 being abused by folks and the real problem isn't being
50 addressed by this thing here. Anyway, I'm not going to

1 support it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.
4 There's a hand being raised in the back.

5

6 Public.

7

8 MR. DEWITT: My name is Neil DeWitt.
9 I'm here on my own behalf, but I do sit on the
10 Anchorage AC. I also sit on the Western Arctic Caribou
11 Herd Working Group. During that timeframe we were told
12 that in January, February and March basically is the
13 only three months that you take only cows. It's too
14 hard to get into the middle of the herd to take a bull.
15 The cows pretty much surround the bulls at that point,
16 I guess.

17

18 The thing is, when you take one of
19 those cows, you have to assume they're pregnant and
20 you're not only taking one cow, you're taking two
21 animals. With the decline in the herd, my suggestion
22 would be in those three or four months, maybe even into
23 April, you shouldn't take any cows and that would give
24 you more calves on the field so that they can grow the
25 herd back up again.

26

27 I understand it's you guys's Safeway or
28 Carrs, it's where you have to go to get your food to
29 survive out there and I'm behind you 100 percent, but I
30 don't think this here is the way to go about it. I
31 kind of agree with what the gentleman before me said.
32 It's just kind of my take on the whole thing. One
33 reason I'm against it is the fact that you didn't give
34 the public, people down here or in your urban areas,
35 time to get into it.

36

37 If you want to use this, maybe go
38 another year, but let the Board of Game tell them at
39 the statewide meeting up in Fairbanks next week that
40 it's coming down the pike and it's going to happen.
41 You'd have at least a timeframe that the transporters
42 and your guides and everything can kind of look at it
43 and say, okay, they won't take money from a client
44 because they don't know for sure if it's going to
45 happen or not. But my suggestion is the people that
46 are taking the 95 percent, which are you folks, you
47 need to maybe amongst yourselves come up with some kind
48 of a way to limit your take to try to help raise the
49 herd back up.

50

1 Thank you for your time.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for your
4 comment. What was your name again? I'm sorry.
5
6 MR. DEWITT: Neil DeWitt. I'm here on
7 my own behalf.
8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.
10
11 Suzanne.
12
13 MS. WORKER: I don't have anything more
14 to add, Mr. Chair.
15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody on the
17 Council. Ronald.
18
19 MR. KIRK: I'd like to make a comment
20 on what Neil is saying. I agree with Neil that we
21 should not harvest or anybody should not harvest cows
22 during those months. If we're worried about the
23 caribou declining, we should remove those months from
24 taking cows.
25
26 As far as sport hunting goes, I also
27 agree with what Roy had stated earlier, that the
28 Federal government and the State should work together
29 to establish some wording on how we can utilize
30 district 23's lands and preventing any kind of wrong
31 wording that will make both sides not agree, but they
32 should work together to establish that.
33
34 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Kirk.
39 Suzanne, what is it we need to do on this?
40
41 MS. WORKER: If the Council wishes to
42 take a position on this, they can do that or they can
43 choose not to take a position.
44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Council members. I've
46 been hearing that we shouldn't. Is that the consensus
47 at the table here?
48
49 (Council nods)
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, then -- Mr.
2 Katcheak.
3
4 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. After
5 hearing other regional Councils, I think it would be
6 good to form our opinion on where to make a stand.
7
8 Thank you.
9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Seeing as
11 how the Council here has consensus not to take any
12 action on here -- Tom, do you got something to say.
13
14 MR. GRAY: I guess I caution everybody
15 if we don't take a stand. You've heard time and time
16 again that the big Board is going to refer to the
17 Councils and do the bidding of the Council. Again, I
18 think this particular issue is -- I feel that the
19 management plan itself of the Western Arctic Caribou
20 Herd is going to address these issues. As time
21 unfolds, it's going to address them. There's players
22 involved in this that's trying to push this unfolding
23 and make it happen before its time. You know, they're
24 using this loophole, let's say, to their benefit.
25
26 So, anyway, I will make a motion that
27 we oppose this.
28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Vice
30 Chair Gray for the motion. Is there a second?
31
32 MR. KIRK: Second, Mr. Chair.
33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Second by Mr. Kirk.
35 All those in favor of the motion say aye.
36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.
38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
40 sign.
41
42 (No opposing votes)
43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Having heard none,
45 motion passes. So we move on to the next, which is
46 item (b) under new business. Call for Federal fish and
47 shellfish regulatory proposals. That's the page number
48 225, correct. Is there someone to speak to that?
49
50 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair, I don't

1 believe there's anybody to speak to that at this point
2 unless this gentleman -- are you going to speak to the
3 call for the proposals?

4

5 MR. SCANLON: Just in relation to the
6 comments from the previous meeting notes.

7

8 MS. DEATHERAGE: You'd just like to
9 make a comment.

10

11 MR. SCANLON: Yes.

12

13 MS. DEATHERAGE: Okay. We'll go ahead
14 and do that.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Mr. Scanlon.

17

18 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 Brendan Scanlon, Department of Fish and Game. Looking
20 at the meeting notes from the last meeting I saw that
21 there was frustration that there was no funded projects
22 through this FRMP program for the Seward Peninsula
23 area. The latest call for proposals, priority
24 information needs, did not include any projects from
25 the Seward Peninsula.

26

27 The Department has done projects funded
28 through this program in the past in the Seward
29 Peninsula region. I believe all in Unalakleet. It's
30 the only true Federal nexus that we can see where
31 there's Federal land close by and there's legitimate
32 reason for the FRMP to fund the project in this area.
33 We've done several telemetry projects on king and coho
34 salmon in Unalakleet River as well as the weir on the
35 main stem Unalakleet. It's been funded for several
36 years through OSM.

37

38 So that's all I have right now.

39 Thanks.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen.

42

43 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chairman. I'm
44 sorry, there was a bit of confusion there. The call
45 for proposals for fish and shellfish is the call for
46 proposals under the Federal regulations that will be
47 forthcoming in the next cycle. After we complete
48 deliberation by the Council on that, then we will have
49 a presentation by Robbin LaVine on the FRMP program.
50 So we appreciate your comments and we can consider them

1 at that time.

2

3 At this point, we do not have a
4 fisheries biologist available. There is a call out for
5 proposals for any fish or shellfish proposals that this
6 Council would like to put forth for consideration by
7 the Federal Subsistence Board.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 MR. GRAY: Don't run away.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Before you speak I
14 would just make this comment. What's really
15 interesting is salmon swim through Federal waters to
16 get to State waters and it still seems to be in my mind
17 a reason that the Feds should be doing something.
18 Anyway, my comment. Tommy.

19

20 MR. GRAY: Okay. This is an age-old
21 issue that I have squawked about at this table for
22 years and years. You take my river system -- and I'm
23 going to call the Niukluk and Fish River my river
24 system. The fish come into the Fish River and it's
25 State-owned or operated lands as the fish come out of
26 Federal waters and come into our area. I guess the
27 hurdle that I have is there are Federal waters these
28 fish are going into and we have, through your programs
29 or State programs, it's been shown that these fish
30 spawn in Federal waters. I keep screaming let's work
31 together and get some projects going and spend some
32 Federal monies on our resources.

33

34 You know, if we had fish runs like we
35 had last year, I'd quit crying, but we've had 30 years,
36 40 years of terrible fishing. For the Federal program
37 -- we're all Federal subsistence users. For the
38 Federal program to say, no, we don't have enough lands
39 to justify spending money there just irks me. I have
40 problems with it. The reason I didn't want you to run
41 away is I think the State also needs to be saying, hey,
42 there's Federal lands up here and let's work together.
43 Let's do some projects and let's tell Tom Gray to shut
44 up, we're finally going to do something.

45

46 So, anyway, I just wanted to point that
47 out.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.

50

1 Brendan.

2

3 MR. SCANLON: If I could make a
4 comment, please. Tom, you're right, there is some BLM
5 in the headwaters of a lot of these streams there.
6 It's my understanding it's up to the RAC to come up
7 with a set of priority information needs. Based on
8 that, if you can come up with a project you'd like to
9 see and there's a Federal lands nexus, I'd be happy to
10 work with you on putting together a proposal and try
11 and get it funded through the FRMP. Thanks.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Tom gets
14 those rivers. I get the Pilgrim and the Kuzitrin and
15 the Noxapaga and the Agiapuk. I'm kidding. Karen.

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 I just want to make sure before we move into the FRMP
19 that this Council at this time does not have any
20 recommendations for proposals to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board for fish or shellfish in the region.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Tom.

26

27 MR. GRAY: Well, I don't know where we
28 need to go on this, but I'm going to say that silver
29 salmon -- I mean if we're going to have a commercial
30 fishery at the bottom side of my river system and we're
31 going to have subsistence users from Nome and wherever
32 beating up on it, I've got a sport fish operation that
33 I run, we need to work on the silver salmon in the
34 Niukluk River. We need to work on king salmon in the
35 Niukluk. Both rivers silvers and kings should be
36 worked on.

37

38 You know, I'm sure guys in Golovin
39 would just love to be fishing kings commercially, but
40 it's going to be a long road to get to that point. But
41 we need to start somewhere. You know, I don't care if
42 we have a U of A student out there studying what's
43 there today to get this ball rolling, but I don't know
44 how to put a proposal together, how that process works,
45 but I do know that -- let's take silver salmon fishing
46 on the Niukluk. There's a lot of users that are using
47 that product, that resource, and there's room for
48 improvement.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.

1 Roy in the audience there has
2 something.

3
4 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you. This
5 speaks to the FRMP. There's hardly any Federal waters
6 in Seward Peninsula, so hence the reason that -- even
7 though some of these areas would be of consideration to
8 fund, they might disqualify themselves because they're
9 non-Federal waters. One consideration, I believe, is
10 Unalakleet. I think it's Wild and Scenic that may
11 qualify. Also the Shishmaref area, Wales area, because
12 they are within the Park Service, would qualify for
13 freshwater fish studies that I think might be of
14 consideration.

15
16 Back to the Wild and Scenic
17 opportunity, first of all, find out whether or not, if
18 you offer the Fish River study area, if that would
19 qualify or not qualify because it's non-Federal waters.
20 That may put an effort toward something that would
21 qualify. That would be one question I would have. If
22 Unalakleet qualifies as a Wild and Scenic area and it
23 qualifies for Federal studies, in my opinion, if you
24 want to do a salmon study, that would be an excellent
25 area to do.

26
27 What that would help then is take
28 Federal monies, put them in the Unalakleet area, and
29 use the State funding programs for other rivers that we
30 would need additional information on. So that's just a
31 thought in my mind about, one, what qualifies and what
32 doesn't qualify as Federal waters and then, two, what
33 minimum Federal waters we have I think we should target
34 those and then that would allow those State funds if
35 necessary to be in other parts of the river that would
36 qualify for necessary studies.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy.

39
40 Tommy, are you satisfied?

41
42 MR. GRAY: Well, I think when I'm
43 pushing roses out of the ground I'll be satisfied. How
44 do we get the Federal and the State people together.
45 You know, we've got a dab of Federal lands in the
46 Bendeleben Mountains. In my mind would justify
47 projects. How do we get the State people and the
48 Federal people together to say, yeah, this is going to
49 work, nope, it's not going to work.

50

1 Again, years and years and years I've
2 asked for Federal dollars to come into this area. I
3 want to see projects. Commercial fishermen in Golovin
4 want to see fish. Subsistence users want to see more
5 fish. How do we get across some of these bridges?
6 We've heard this same song and dance for 30 years, so
7 it's time to stand up and be counted, I guess.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom.
10 Knowing we've got more to go through I will indulge --
11 you've got a short -- thanks, Peter.

12
13 MR. BUCK: Okay. I'd just like to say
14 the Native Village of White Mountain has worked with a
15 BIA project. They had a BIA project and they also have
16 a State project. This year is going to be the fifth
17 year that they have monitored the river, mainly the
18 Fish River, from the head down to the bay. They
19 collect data all year long, winter time, summer time,
20 fall time. They work with all these and collect this
21 information. And the funding for the State part of it
22 is kind of dwindling too. We had several to make sure
23 we complete the five-year study that we did, but we are
24 doing it for the fishery.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Peter.

29
30 Ted.

31
32 MR. KATCHEAK: Just briefly. I'd like
33 to see fish studies made in our rivers because we don't
34 have a commercial fishery in Stebbins/St. Michael. I
35 would like to see a study made of fish counts and a
36 study made in our rivers of king salmon, chinook, and
37 other fish, chum, silvers. They go up our river, two
38 of our major rivers. So if that could be done. We're
39 living on a subsistence fishery on those certain fish
40 and I think it would help manage to continue counts in
41 our rivers, like Nunaktuk and Pikmiktalik and possibly
42 Pastolik River because those areas in the last several
43 -- well, since I can remember, have been used as
44 subsistence areas for salmon. I don't know if that
45 would convince that they could do more studies in our
46 area.

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

49
50 MR. KIRK: I'd like to find out why we

1 don't have any more monitoring system in our rivers.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is that a State
4 activity?

5

6 MR. KIRK: It was done in the past and
7 they quit monitoring the fish in our -- they had a
8 monitor station in our Píkmíktalik River through the
9 Corps program and they knocked it off and I'm wondering
10 why.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. There's some
15 things that come out, but it seems to center on the
16 fact that -- the fact of the matter really is is that
17 there's not enough Federal lands in our jurisdiction to
18 get studies.

19

20 I'm going to let you go, Fred. Go
21 ahead. We need to move on.

22

23 MR. ENINGOWUK: Maybe we are
24 practically the one surrounded by Federal lands,
25 Shishmaref and Wales and possibly Deering. We don't
26 have any commercial fishing, we don't have inventories
27 of our fish. Maybe it's best we leave it that way.
28 You know, find out we've got a lot of fish, maybe
29 there's commercial value. So just one little comment I
30 wanted to make.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred, does any of that
33 lead into the Park?

34

35 MR. ENINGOWUK: All our waters goes to
36 the headwaters of the Park, Bering Land Bridge.

37

38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Having said that, it
39 would probably benefit to know what your biomass so to
40 speak -- that might be the wrong word. Because in Nome
41 when they opened commercial fisheries in the '70s, they
42 didn't take anything into consideration according to
43 Len Schwartz, who was the biologist at the time. So
44 that might be something that we could work on.

45

46 Okay. Having heard Council comments,
47 I'd like to ask you to turn your mic on, ma'am.

48

49 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
50 Members of the Council. You pretty much conducted my

1 presentation for me. We started it backwards with
2 actually the very most important part of why I'm here
3 today, which is to get your comments and to actually
4 encourage you to find folks to work with in developing
5 proposals to submit to the FRMP program. Not just
6 working with folks to develop proposals, but to work
7 with people in the region, folks that eventually you
8 can form partnerships with to develop priority
9 information needs.

10

11 So I've taken down a lot of notes.
12 When I came to your meeting the very first time in the
13 fall of 2015, and Chairman you were not present, I was
14 introduced to your region. I got a great earful on
15 these particular concerns of yours regarding the FRMP
16 program and I took some notes. So that's one of the
17 things that I handed out to you. I've given you two
18 handouts today.

19

20 I just want to take one step back. For
21 the record, my name is Robbin LaVine, anthropologist
22 with the Office of Subsistence Management. I've given
23 you two handouts today. One is just kind of a history
24 of the most recent priority information needs from the
25 Northern Region and this other, which I think is really
26 most pertinent because it's a foundation for the
27 discussion today or in going forward, are your comments
28 that you gave regarding the FRMP program in the fall of
29 2015. Some of these comments were areas that you felt
30 were of interest and potentially had good questions
31 that the FRMP program could potentially dig into.

32

33 So that's something you might want to
34 look over. I have collected the comments that you just
35 made right prior to my coming on mic. You may have
36 some more. What's going to happen is in the fall I can
37 put all of these things together if you direct me to,
38 your comments from September 2015 or maybe it was
39 October and your comments from today. Then we can
40 review them and come up with a list that you think
41 represents your concerns for the next cycle of FRMP
42 proposals. I will take your comments. Again, I would
43 encourage you to work with anybody in your area that
44 might be interested.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm sorry, I didn't
47 get your name.

48

49 MS. LAVINE: Robbin.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Robbin, thank you. I
2 guess thinking about what Mr. Eningowuk pointed out
3 here is the fact that all his rivers are in the Park.
4 There's salmon runs up there, there's whitefish runs up
5 there, there's grayling. These are species that are
6 necessary for people to have. In the Nome area, I know
7 that we have lost a lot of those species because when
8 our salmon species dropped off the map, those other
9 fish species followed. The Kuzitrin, the Noxapaga, I
10 think they do go up into the Park. That's another
11 important river system.

12
13 Go ahead. You've got a question.

14
15 MR. LAVINE: Could you repeat those
16 rivers, please.

17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, the Kuzitrin and
19 that goes down and the mouth of the Pilgrim runs into
20 it. The Noxapaga. So these are species that --
21 there's a sucker fish on the Kuzitrin run and there's a
22 different species of whitefish running there and then
23 also, like I said, the grayling. So those are things
24 to consider for what you're asking about.

25
26 I guess Tommy might want to make a
27 comment or ask a question.

28
29 MR. GRAY: Well, I guess, again, I've
30 sat on this Council for quite a while and I've sat on
31 other boards for a long time and we've talked fish,
32 fish, fish and I have yet to come into a meeting where
33 we've got Federal people and State people saying, yep,
34 we've got money, let's sit down and talk and look at
35 the region, look at our area and see what we can do. I
36 guess I'm kind of fishing here. Is there a way that we
37 can get the Feds and the State in the same room to
38 analyze and look at what's going on today?

39
40 I know there's the Scenic stuff going
41 on up in the Unalakleet River and so on and so forth.
42 Again, I'm worried about my river and my people. I
43 would like to see something. If it's all State
44 dollars, so be it. If it's all Federal dollars, great.
45 If it's a combination, great. But I think more
46 importantly I would like to see somebody come together
47 or the State and the Feds come together and say, okay,
48 we're going to look at the Norton Sound and see what's
49 going on in this region and look at the funding that's
50 available and folks say, yep, put in this proposal, do

1 that and work together in trying to address some of the
2 issues up there.

3
4 Again, if we had a year like we did
5 last year, I won't scream anymore, but I don't think
6 that's going to happen. We had an awesome fish year
7 last year that helped, but we've got commercial
8 fishermen that want to go commercial fishing. If there
9 was, you know, five times the silver salmon, that would
10 be a real asset to them and yet that's not happening.
11 Anyway, getting the Feds and the State together to look
12 at Norton Sound and this is our vision of what we can
13 and can't do.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tommy.
18 Like you say, it was wonderful last year, but as in the
19 past 30 years or so we haven't been able to count on
20 fish runs from year to year. Boom and bust. Anyway,
21 those points that I made about different fish, I can't
22 remember the term for those, but the residential fish,
23 I suppose, those are avenues to follow up on. They're
24 dependent on the salmon run, so that's something we
25 might be able to reach out and get some.

26
27 MR. GRAY: Shishmaref.

28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And I brought
30 Shishmaref in there when he made his comment. Go
31 ahead, Robbin.

32
33 MS. LAVINE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Through
34 the Chair. Tom, there is -- I am a member of the
35 Anthropology Division at OSM. We do work on overseeing
36 the TEK and harvest monitoring projects of the FRMP. I
37 do know that there is a strategic plan development for
38 all of the regions in our future. I don't know when
39 that will happen, but that has been something that's
40 been discussed in the office, which would include
41 exactly what you're talking about. A lot of the
42 resource managers of the area coming together and
43 determining what information has yet to be answered and
44 what information is there, the information gaps, those
45 kinds of things. So that process -- I can't even come
46 up with a timeline for you. I just know the office has
47 the intention of doing that statewide.

48
49 MR. GRAY: What I'm proposing is that
50 both State and Federal agencies come together and look

1 at the Norton Sound, Wales, our region, Seward
2 Peninsula region and look at what's reality, what's
3 doable funding-wise. You know, I have sat at this
4 table and I have heard people like you get up and say,
5 nope, you don't have enough land, we can't do anything.
6 The State has a different agenda. I feel sorry for you
7 because the state is a lot bigger than just you. You
8 know, Brendan, I appreciate the offer to build
9 proposals, but I think more importantly it's getting
10 people together to say, okay, Norton Sound, this is
11 reality, this is what -- and we have never had that
12 happen.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Tom. Fred.

15

16 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. I better
17 reconsider and maybe I'll possibly have a fish
18 inventory in our waters. You know, we're completely
19 surrounded by Federal lands and next door is Wales also
20 and possibly Deering because they do have C&T in
21 Goodhope River, Lane River. With the climate change,
22 our water levels are going down in the streams. We
23 have invasive species coming into our land. We have
24 beaver we never seen before.

25

26 Before it's too late I think we need to
27 have an inventory of our fish stocks. We have
28 grayling, we have trout, we have whitefish, seasonal
29 tom cod, smelts. I know we have a lot of salmon that
30 go up our rivers. So, if possible, if we can have an
31 inventory in our waters. There's the Serpentine River,
32 there's the Nuluk River, Kougarok, several other rivers
33 that we have that have a lot of fish that we know that
34 have fish. So if there can be funding to do inventory
35 in our waters.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. It
40 sounds like Robbin's got a list made up. We've
41 identified priority tasks, I guess. Are you going to
42 be here for the next few days?

43

44 MS. LAVINE: (Nods affirmatively)

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's the lady you
47 want to talk to. When you want to bring something to
48 her, she'll be more than happy to take care of it then.
49 Karen.

50

1 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I'd like
2 to make another point is that tomorrow at 1:30 there
3 will be an FRMP and Partners Program workshop and
4 that's another time to talk about some of the
5 opportunities and some of the recommendations that you
6 might have for any changes or considerations.

7
8 I have one more point. I appreciate
9 it. I do, for the record, have to make this
10 announcement. For the call for proposals for
11 fisheries, we apologize that we don't have a fisheries
12 biologist here right now. We have a lot of things
13 going on, so we weren't able to get somebody in here.
14 So I'd like to at least read this for the record.

15
16 The Federal Subsistence Board is
17 accepting proposals through April 1st, 2016 to change
18 Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of fish
19 and shellfish on Federal public lands for the 2017-2019
20 regulatory years. The Board will consider proposals to
21 change Federal fishing seasons, harvest limits, methods
22 of harvest and customary and traditional use
23 determinations. The Board will also accept proposals
24 for individual customary and traditional use
25 determinations from residents of National Park and
26 National Monument resident zone communities or those
27 who already hold a Section 13.440 subsistence use
28 permit.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
33 information, Karen.

34
35 Tommy.

36
37 MR. GRAY: I would suggest that you
38 look at the Federal maps and send that proposal to,
39 let's say, Shishmaref. They've got lots of Federal
40 lands. Send it to Unalakleet. Send it to Shaktoolik,
41 it's got lots of Federal lands. Anyway, I would
42 suggest you send that because we haven't got any
43 proposals in as far as I know. So they're the people
44 that are going to jump up and down.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Tom. Robbin,
47 you have no more to offer or gain from us.

48
49 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. Robbin, can
50 you include Stebbins/St. Michael because we have fish.

1 We're concerned about them.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MS. LAVINE: I have Stebbins down on my
6 list. Thank you all for your comments. I will be here
7 for the next couple of days. I'm going to combine the
8 comments that you forwarded me today with those in the
9 fall and I will bring the list back to you at the next
10 meeting and we can discuss a final list to forward for
11 the priority information needs.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Robbin.

14

15 Brendan.

16

17 MR. SCANLON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18 First I want to apologize to Ms. LaVine and Ms.
19 Deatherage for getting off schedule here. I think I
20 stepped on some toes and sorry about that. I don't
21 want to spend too much time on it, but for the FRMP
22 program I've been involved in about seven or eight
23 projects now that have been funded through the FRMP.
24 In Northwest and North Slope there's tons of Federal
25 land around Kotzebue and North Slope regions.

26

27 In every case, the project ideas came
28 from the RACs first and this is the time to do it
29 because the call for proposals will go out in November.
30 I attended that FRMP class yesterday that Karen just
31 spoke about. It's a really good one. It tells you how
32 the process works, how much money is available, how to
33 work in partnerships, how to work in ANSEP students.
34 So if you have a chance to attend that, it's only like
35 an hour. It was really good.

36

37 So it's part of my job to help you put
38 together presentations. We can look at maps, we can
39 look at fisheries in areas where there's Federal
40 waters, we can look at what we want to learn, what we
41 can measure and what the program can afford. There's
42 not a ton of money in these programs and partnerships
43 with someone like NSEDC or Kawerak and the Department
44 of Fish and Game can go a long way toward getting some
45 of these projects funded.

46

47 Thanks.

48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Brendan. I
50 think we're at a point to move on from (c) to item (d),

1 which is to approve the fiscal year 2015 annual report.
2 It's SB13, but when you go to 13 it's the next page
3 over that the report starts. I think I'm correct. I
4 don't know how many of you read it. Like I said
5 earlier, I thought it was -- let's see where we're at
6 here. Anyway, if anybody has anything to say about
7 that, whether they agree or disagree with how it's put
8 together. I thought it was well written. So I guess I
9 need to ask a motion to approve.

10

MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair, I move.

11

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

12

Now I'm looking for a second.

13

MR. KIRK: I'll second that motion, Mr.

14 Chair.

15

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Kirk.

16 All those in favor of approving the 2015 report say

17 aye.

18

IN UNISON: Aye.

19

CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same

20 sign.

21

(No opposing votes)

22

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none, motion
23 passes. Report is on the move. We are a little bit
24 too. Had to change that flat tire. Now we've got this
25 extra item. It's an E designation, Board of Game late
26 entry here. Karen.

27

MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. At the
28 October Seward Peninsula Regional Council meeting the
29 Council requested that I draft up a proposal to the
30 Alaska Board of Game to close non-resident hunting in
31 GMU 22D remainder and 22E until the moose density
32 increases and the relationship between herd migration
33 and population growth between GMU subunits is better
34 understood. So I have prepared the draft regulatory
35 language. With the Council's approval, we can submit
36 this on your behalf to the Alaska Board of Game for
37 consideration.

38

Thank you.

39

40

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. Are
2 there any comments from Council.

3
4 Kirk?

5
6 MR. KIRK: No.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Tommy.

9
10 MR. GRAY: I guess before we get into
11 comments is Tony Gorn still on the teleconference? I'd
12 like to hear Fish and Game's -- I know they had
13 concerns over animals and we dealt with cows and such.
14 Is Tony here? I'd like to hear Fish and Game's side of
15 the story.

16
17 MR. GORN: Yeah, Tom, Tony is here, but
18 I'll admit I just stepped out for like three minutes
19 and walked back in. So you're going to have to maybe
20 ask me a more direct question.

21
22 MR. GRAY: Okay. We'll have Louis or
23 Karen explain what we're talking about.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Through the Chair, Mr.
26 Gorn. If you recall at the October meeting the Council
27 requested that OSM draft a draft proposal to the Board
28 of Game to close non-resident moose hunting in GMU 22D
29 remainder and 22E until the moose density increases and
30 the relationship between herd migration, which is what
31 you discussed at that meeting, and population growth
32 between the subunits was better understood. We have
33 prepared this draft proposal to go before the Board of
34 Game and at this point the Council is going to
35 deliberate and approve or disapprove this proposal to
36 go forward.

37
38 MR. GORN: Okay. Thank you for that
39 more direct question. Again, I apologize for stepping
40 out for a minute. I guess I can't speak to any
41 allocative issue related to closures or resident versus
42 non-resident opportunity. I can tell you on the State
43 side I was concerned when we last counted moose in 22D.
44 I believe that was 2014. I was concerned with the
45 population decline in 22D in both the Kuzitrin and the
46 American and the Agiapuk areas.

47
48 22E continues to be relatively good
49 news. Our moose densities in 22E are higher than we've
50 ever documented. The significant thing about that last

1 count though is that we completed that count with lower
2 snow conditions than we would like to see using the
3 GSPE abundance count method. One of the things that
4 were noteworthy to me when we did that count is that
5 moose distribution was very different than you would
6 expect to find during a spring survey. Although we
7 were counting moose in March, where we were finding
8 moose you would think that we were out there in
9 October.

10

11 So perhaps the decline that we found in
12 D was partly related to those moose being located just
13 over the hill into 22E. That's exactly why we count
14 22E and D together, is to try to capture that.
15 Irregardless, there was significant decline in 22D.
16 The management action the State took is that we lowered
17 the non-resident hunt in 22D. Historically, you know,
18 recent years going back approximately 10 years, the
19 non-resident season in 22D included 10 bulls a year
20 and that's through a registration permit, and we
21 lowered that to three a year as a first step to try to
22 protect that herd and restrict harvest a little bit.
23 Then we also closed the antlerless season in 22D. So
24 those were the management actions that we took on the
25 State side.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tony. And
28 comment from Council or questions for Tony.

29

30 Ted first and then Tom.

31

32 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. A
33 question to Tony. What do you have a count of moose in
34 our moose population in Stebbins/St. Michael area or
35 south of Unit 22A? Do you think there are enough moose
36 in that area to open for either antlered moose or cow
37 moose?

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted, let's stay with
40 the agenda. We're working on this other. I'm sorry, I
41 didn't mean to be so abrupt. We started drifting off
42 over there. I'm sure you can get that information
43 later.

44

45 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry. But let's stay
48 the course here.

49

50 Tom, your turn.

1 MR. GRAY: Tony, in 22E today, what is
2 the non-resident numbers that the State is using?

3
4 MR. GORN: In 22E, we have a
5 registration hunt for non-residents for 10 moose a
6 year.

7
8 MR. GRAY: I guess I have one more
9 question. Do you know if -- so we have a non-resident
10 hunt of 13 moose. Do you know how many of those moose
11 are taken on Federal lands? Do you have any idea?

12
13 MR. GORN: I do not. I can't speak
14 directly to that, Tom, but if you're going to back me
15 into a corner, I would suggest that most of that
16 harvest just based on guiding activity where guide
17 camps are, a lot of those moose are guided hunts,
18 although moose are not required to have a guide in that
19 part of the unit, most of the harvest is from guided
20 hunts just because of access issues. Most of those
21 hunts are taken on the north side of the Continental
22 Divide, which I believe is State land. If need precise
23 numbers, I would need more time to sort that out.

24
25 MR. GRAY: Very good. Thank you.
26 That's real helpful.

27
28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tony.

29
30 Any other Council questions or comments
31 for Tony.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, at this point
36 this is an action item for a motion.

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. This is an
39 action item to approve or disapprove submission of this
40 proposal to the Alaska Board of Game for consideration.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I was about to ask for
43 a motion. We would be asking for a positive motion.

44
45 MR. GRAY: Yeah.

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I'm asking for that
48 motion.

49
50 MR. GRAY: I'll make a motion to

1 support this proposal.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Is there a second.

4

5 MR. ENINGOWUK: Second the motion.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The motion has been
8 seconded. All those in favor of the motion say aye.

9

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All against same sign.

13

14 (No opposing votes)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Having heard none, the
17 motion passes. Thank you, Council. So that brings us
18 into agency reports.

19

20 We don't have any.

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. We also
23 need to review the all-Councils letter to see if the
24 Council would like to sign on to that letter of issues
25 that they would like to submit to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board. Each person should have a copy of
27 that letter in their packet.

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I forgot. Thank you.

30

31 MR. GRAY: Ken is over there.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's right,
34 Ken is over there. Ken, do you have anything to bring
35 to the table as agency comments? Roy, give him his
36 paperwork back, doggone it. You're holding the whole
37 thing up.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, Council
42 members. Ken Adkisson, National Park Service. We've
43 already handed out a brief summary of wildlife projects
44 related to Western Arctic National Parklands. Some of
45 that you're already familiar with. Two notes though
46 maybe that are additions to it. One is for a project
47 in Bering Land Bridge for Red-throated and Yellow-
48 billed Loons research project that's ongoing. Then an
49 updated figure from the bear estimate survey that was
50 done recently.

1 That's pretty much it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Ken. Thanks.
4 Anything else from Council. We've got this letter to
5 look over and make a decision. I did bring it to
6 Karen's attention, Ron, that there had been comments
7 about stipends or honorariums. It didn't get included
8 in the letter. Maybe we can plug that in from this
9 Council.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. You are
12 more than welcome to make that recommendation and any
13 others that you would like to add to this letter.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.
18 Anybody have anything else in addition to that to add.
19 This is for all Councils. This isn't just for us.

20

21 Ron, go ahead.

22

23 MR. KIRK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
24 reason I brought this up is because everybody from all
25 the villages went out of their way, volunteered their
26 time to be here to attend this joint session. I'm
27 pretty sure all the staff members are getting paid by
28 the hour to be here whereas the volunteers, the people
29 from our villages, we're not getting paid for this.
30 We're volunteering our time. We're getting away from
31 our jobs to come here and try to set up regulations and
32 proposals on how we manage our land and our harvesting
33 of food from our land to put on our tables. So I'd
34 like to see that all the Council members, even the
35 Federal Subsistence Board members, receive an
36 honorarium per day for attending these meetings.
37 That's my concern.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

40

41 It looks like Mr. Buck has a comment.

42

43 MR. BUCK: (Shakes head negatively)

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No. Anybody else. If
46 there is anything to add to this we can still add it
47 tomorrow or do we want to do this all today. I want to
48 make sure we've got this down.

49

50 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I'm not

1 sure of the plans of the Southeast Council, which is
2 the group that actually put this letter together. I
3 suspect because it's going to the Federal Subsistence
4 Board that there will be additional time in the next
5 few days. If you come up with new information or new
6 ideas please feel free to see me and I'll pass those
7 along for you.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Karen, thanks.
12 So we've got that one plugged in because I mentioned it
13 to her, showed her what your concerns were, Ron. Okay.
14 We have dispensed with the letter issue. The agency
15 reports, Ken made a few comments. So we're looking at
16 the 13th item on our agenda, which is future meeting
17 dates. Is there anything else we didn't.....

18

19 MR. GRAY: Are there any other agencies
20 that want to report?

21

22 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Mr.
23 Crawford would like to make a couple comments on behalf
24 of the Department of Fish and Game.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I forgot. I'm sorry.

29

30 MR. CRAWFORD: Earlier in the meeting
31 Mr. Ted Katcheak mentioned that he had a concern about
32 migratory birds and I just wanted to let him know that
33 on Friday at 8:30 there's a breakout session called
34 Public Advisory Groups for Fish and Wildlife
35 Management. There will be a number of people there
36 that are with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management
37 Council and I know that the State waterfowl biologist
38 Dan Rosenberg is going to be there and he will be
39 available to answer questions. Then there's a Federal
40 waterfowl biologist who is actually going to give a
41 presentation, but you could listen to it and ask
42 questions of both of those folks at that session.
43 Again, Friday at 8:30.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Drew.

46

47 MR. KATCHEAK: Drew, is this in the
48 morning?

49

50 MR. CRAWFORD: Yes, 8:30 Friday

1 morning.

2

3 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Nothing else to
6 add. Everybody else in the room has spoken. Tommy and
7 I -- he talked more than I did today. I got that one
8 over you. I held to my side of the deal. Future
9 meetings. If we have nothing else concerning.....

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: (Shakes head
12 negatively)

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I know we have so much
15 paper over here I kind of lost track of things.

16

17 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, we have an online.

20

21

22 MS. DAGGETT: Hi, this is Carmen
23 Daggett with Fish and Game. I didn't submit anything
24 under agency reports, but I do just have one item that
25 I want you guys to be aware of if you're not already
26 aware of and that's the Arctic Western Region meeting
27 that's coming up for the Board of Game next year and
28 the deadline for proposals for that meeting is April
29 29th at 5:00 p.m. So just so that everybody's kind of
30 aware of that meeting coming up.

31

32 That's all I've got.

33

34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Carmen.
35 Tony, I don't think you have anything else to add if
36 you're still there.

37

38 MR. GORN: No, I'm here and I don't
39 have anything. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for your
42 patience, Tony. You've been sitting by that phone all
43 day. I know how tough it is to sit and listen to
44 Tommy. I'm kidding.

45

46 (Laughter)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. We had our
49 fun. So we're looking into future meeting dates.
50 Confirming the date and location of fall -- well, we're

1 here. So we're looking for a selection for 2017
2 winter. Didn't we already.....

3

4 MR. GRAY: Do we have a calendar?

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, there's a
7 calendar in here. Karen, speak, please.

8

9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. There's a
10 calendar in the all-Councils meeting book.

11

12 MR. KIRK: Page 235, Mr. Chair.

13

14 MR. GRAY: I don't have a 235.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 2017.

17

18 MR. GRAY: November 1st and 2nd.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: November 1st and 2nd
21 for the fall. So we need to choose the February/March
22 2017 next year. Anybody got any suggestions? Roy,
23 appreciate your attendance. I just wanted to let you
24 know. I thought you left and I was going to have to
25 yell at you down the hall, but here you are.
26 Appreciate your input.

27

28 MR. GRAY: I favor March. I'm usually
29 traveling. For example this year I was gone all of
30 February. Sometime in March works in my world.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Knowing that the
33 Iditarod congests hotel space in Nome in March, it kind
34 of rules out the week of the 13th, so the only chances
35 of March are more like the week of the 6th.

36

37 MS. DEATHERAGE: The week before.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, it's just a week
40 before every starts showing up on the 12th for
41 basketball and then as the dogs come in everything
42 follows with that. I'm sure that's the week where the
43 activity takes place for the dogsled race and the
44 basketball tournament. So we're looking at the last
45 week of February or the first week of March. I can see
46 that working.

47

48 MR. KIRK: That would work with Tom's
49 schedule.

50

1 MR. GRAY: To be honest, I already have
2 a conflict I think for this fall and I need to check on
3 it.

4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll get you a SAT
6 phone. I did that with Bering Straits once. It
7 worked.

8
9 MR. GRAY: What about other people, do
10 they have conflicts on timing?

11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It doesn't look like
13 there's any conflicts. So we can pick the week of
14 February 27th, which is a Monday that week, or March
15 6th, a Monday that week.

16
17 MR. BUCK: I'll go with March 5th.

18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: March the 6th is
20 Monday in that week. So what day of the week are we
21 going to start. It's two days, correct?

22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Yes, it's
24 two days and you're welcome to start at any time even
25 though considering that if you did choose March 6th
26 Monday, you would fly in Sunday night, so that would be
27 the weekend time. Given that this is the only one of
28 two Council meetings that have started during this
29 cycle you guys have a lot of choices. I would go ahead
30 and nail those down. If you meet on Thursday and
31 Friday, then you'll have a Saturday departure. So it's
32 just what time of the week that you'd want to be back
33 home. Thanks.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: When do you want to be
36 back home, Karen?

37
38 MS. DEATHERAGE: When I leave
39 Anchorage, I don't ever want to be back home.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: In that case, we'll
44 start the meeting on the 6th of March and we'll end it
45 on the 17th. That way you can see the Iditarod.

46
47 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you.

48
49 MR. BUCK: I'll second that.

50

1 (Laughter)
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Let's pick some dates,
4 guys. Let's say that we want people to probably travel
5 on Friday to go home.
6
7 MS. DEATHERAGE: So start on Wednesday.
8
9 MR. KIRK: The 17th, right?
10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No, no, no. We're
12 looking at Friday the 13th. No, I'm kidding. Friday
13 is March 10.
14
15 MR. GRAY: I just wonder how congested
16 it's going to be on the 10th.
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. My
19 suggestion would be to perhaps start your meeting on
20 Monday or Tuesday so you can get out of there before
21 traffic comes in for Iditarod.
22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Really quick,
24 what day do people want to travel to get in there.
25 MR. BUCK: Sunday.
26
27 MR. KIRK: Sunday.
28
29 MR. ENINGOWUK: Sunday.
30
31 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair, I have a
32 question. What days we're meeting?
33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're talking February
35 27th through March 10th. There's two weeks there.
36 These fellows that wanted to travel Sunday, I think
37 that's March 5th.
38
39 MR. KATCHEAK: Do you think we'll have
40 enough accommodations for us?
41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's why we're
43 working on those dates because it will be before the
44 Iditarod starts on the weekend of March 11, 12th.
45
46 MR. KIRK: We'll miss the rush.
47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So I hear Sunday
49 travel, Monday meeting, Tuesday meeting. So 5, 6, 7,
50 travel 8th.

1
2 MR. KIRK: All ready for our
3 accommodations?
4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like it. And
6 then what are we doing for the meeting. Are we going
7 to do the old St. Joe's again? How did that work?
8
9 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. It's a
10 really beautiful facility, but we did have difficulty
11 with the phone system. I think because we've had good
12 luck in the past we might use that again. If the
13 Council is okay, I will try to get everybody set up in
14 the Aurora again as well.
15
16 MR. KIRK: Yeah.
17
18 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All right. We'll
19 settle for the Aurora because of technical
20 difficulties.
21
22 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. The other
23 alternative I see, is the new Foster building
24 accessible to us or they don't allow those?
25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Roy, speak. Help.
27
28 MR. ASHENFELTER: Just on the St.
29 Joe's, they have their arts presentation and stuff. I
30 don't know what particular days. I know it's during
31 Iditarod and they try to capture as many days as
32 possible, so that might be a non-possibility, St.
33 Joe's.
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, I think that
36 we're just talking about the Aurora.
37
38 MR. KIRK: I was just going to mention
39 that about the arts on St. Joe's, but I was just
40 wondering is there any way we can get Kawerak's board
41 room?
42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Bering Straits,
44 Kawerak, Sitnasuak.
45
46 MR. BUCK: Like now I'm supposed to be
47 on Kawerak board meeting but I decided to come down
48 here. I think it's going to be about this time the
49 Kawerak board will be meeting too, the full board.
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Roy, anything to add,
2 don't be bashful.
3
4 MR. ASHENFELTER: Thank you. Pete is
5 exactly right. The Kawerak board generally meets the
6 first or second week of March every year, so that's
7 another consideration to not meet there. There is the
8 new boardroom that is pretty amazing and that's at the
9 NSEDC office.
10
11 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Telephone, good stuff?
12
13 MR. ASHENFELTER: I don't know.
14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Oh, you haven't been
16 there. Well, Karen.
17
18 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. I
19 certainly would be willing to check on a few venues and
20 see what first is available and I'll let you know from
21 there. The Aurora Hotel has been difficult in the past
22 as far as the actual meeting space, so if we can look
23 at maybe that boardroom or old St. Joe's and see if
24 that works. We'll let you know. It's a ways off.
25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. NSEDC boardroom
27 or St. Joe's. Thank you. So we picked our dates,
28 travel, meeting dates and departure. So that means the
29 5th through the 8th of March. Location to be
30 determined by the lady who wants five-minute breaks all
31 the time.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So where are we at
36 here. How about some closing comments, item 14 on our
37 agenda. Let's go around the room. How about you,
38 you're public. You've got something to say?
39
40 MR. ASHENFELTER: (Shakes head
41 negatively)
42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I have to pick on you.
44 You're the only one left. How about you, Drew,
45 anything to say?
46
47 MR. CRAWFORD: Have a good trip home.
48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ken. Our man in the
50 corner has got a thumb up. Mic?

1 REPORTER: No, thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I know it's Penny. I
4 called her Mic. Karen.

5

6 MS. DEATHERAGE: This is Karen
7 Deatherage. First of all I want to thank you all for
8 being here and for tolerating this very short period of
9 time that we've actually had for the Council meeting
10 today. I know, as Ron said, everybody is a volunteer
11 here and you volunteered your time and it's a long
12 week, but I can tell you from the Office of Subsistence
13 Management we are so excited that everybody was here.
14 The energy that was in the room when all the Councils
15 were together the other day was remarkable. I hope you
16 guys get a lot out of this week.

17

18 If there's anything that you didn't
19 think of during this meeting that you think is
20 important to bring to my attention, feel free to do so.
21 I'll be around here until Friday.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.
26 Closing comments of Council. Let's start with that
27 young guy over there.

28

29 MR. SACCHEUS: We had a pretty good
30 long board meeting, but I'm glad I was down here. I
31 had leave a couple jobs to come down and my wife is
32 going to Texas. Is going to be on her way to Texas
33 tomorrow and I think I've got to go back home. Thank
34 you all for your information and thank you all, board
35 members.

36

37 See you next time.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Clarence.
40 You can smooch her on the way by.

41

42 Ted.

43

44 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
45 My main concern has been the herders versus subsistence
46 users and listening to what has transpired and
47 information disseminated to us, we have a long way to
48 settle this issue about reindeer herding and
49 subsistence hunting. Unfortunately we're the only one
50 in the Norton Sound area that's been around for a

1 while. Because of the decline of caribou, my concern
2 is focusing on people that live outside of Stebbins/St.
3 Michael.

4
5 That's all I have for now. Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.

8
9 Mr. Buck.

10
11 MR. BUCK: The last meeting I wasn't
12 there because I was at the AFN. I didn't expect that
13 the Seward Peninsula meeting was going to be held with
14 the all-Council meeting. That kind of threw me off,
15 but I'm glad to be here. Thank you. I think we got a
16 bit done here and to get with the rest of the Councils
17 and get the input and get some of the procedures that
18 we need to follow.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Peter.

23
24 Start over here with Ron.

25
26 MR. KIRK: I enjoyed being on the board
27 for the first time. I learned a lot. My main concern
28 is we're always pushing for time and a lot of the
29 issues we tend to act on we don't have the time to
30 really study them and make the proper decisions. In
31 the future, I'd like to see that we don't be pushed for
32 time but to act on these properly and make the right
33 decisions for our people in our regions and throughout
34 the state. Other than that I enjoyed this meeting. I
35 leave the meeting place up to you two Nome boys. You
36 should find a place for us.

37
38 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron.

39
40 Fred, it's your turn.

41
42 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is kind of
43 an interesting meeting starting from day one starting
44 on Monday. Travel and lodging was kind of different
45 too with the Iditarod and everything. Everything is
46 kind of booked. But this is different from our
47 previous meetings and educational and interesting with
48 all the breakouts and the joint Council meetings also
49 too, you know. We need to have more of this.
50 Otherwise, you know, our meeting was a little bit

1 short, our RAC meeting was a little bit short, but we
2 did accomplish some items.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.

7

8 Vice Chair, Mr. Gray.

9

10 MR. GRAY: Fish, fish, fish. I want to
11 see fish projects. I've said that from day one. This
12 has been a good meeting. Thank goodness we didn't have
13 to deal with procedure. It got done real quick. I
14 think having this particular meeting in Nome or if we
15 had it in villages gives a little different twist to
16 it, but it's been good. I like the idea of bringing
17 the Councils together. I hope that powers to be can
18 get some goals out of this bringing us together and
19 hopefully they bring us back together again down the
20 road sometime.

21

22 Anyway, good meeting.

23

24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Gray.
25 Recognizing Peter is our elected secretary again. I
26 didn't mention that. I guess it's my turn. I'd like
27 to thank you all again for your vote of confidence in
28 putting me back in this seat here. We've got another
29 three years maybe out of me.

30

31 Anyway, I'm excited we'll be back in
32 Nome here in November. That will be nice. You know,
33 watching across that room yesterday, it was a short
34 time in and out of there, but it's good to see that
35 there's a lot of common interest and things across the
36 state. I know we've got a big state, but there's a
37 time when we need to be pulling together. I'd hope
38 that the State would do something similar to that
39 because when somebody from Sitka can talk and we can
40 hear on the other end and we can identify it as
41 something that they have or they hear something from
42 us, we have a bigger voice at the table.

43

44 Tommy got the fish thing already done,
45 so I don't have to talk about that. Anyway, again,
46 appreciate the opportunity to be here. I missed the
47 last couple of meetings and I wished Joe would have
48 been here today. Hopefully I'll see him at the next
49 meeting. My good friend Tim, saying a thankful thing
50 for him. He carried the ball here while I was gone.

1 He had a lot of insight and over the years I've learned
2 a lot of stuff from him, so he will be missed at least
3 by me.

4
5 With that, I'd like to say thank you.
6 This meeting is coming to close. Is there a motion to
7 adjourn.

8
9 MR. BUCK: I'd just like to say the
10 White Mountain Council has a policy and they will
11 reimburse me for the amount of money I didn't get when
12 I get back.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

15
16 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. I forgot to
17 mention I will be leaving tomorrow according to my
18 schedule. My daughter is going to be first dancing, my
19 two granddaughters and my grandson, so I have to be
20 there. I have to do some shopping tomorrow to get some
21 gifts to pass out to neighboring villages. I have a
22 lot to do tomorrow. So that's what I forgot to bring
23 out and I thank you guys for your time.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. You
26 know, the old saying goes you only live once. Man, you
27 better get what you can. Kids are important, so it's
28 understandable. Reflecting on mine, I've traveled with
29 some of mine playing basketball and going to music
30 festivals. Well, Bryce no longer can do that, so I'm
31 glad I took the time for him.

32
33 Anyway, did I ask for a second.

34
35 MR. BUCK: Second.

36
37 MR. KIRK: There wasn't a motion, but
38 I'll raise the motion to adjourn.

39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I thought I got a
41 motion.

42
43 MR. KIRK: Oh, you did.

44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Didn't you make it?

46
47 MR. KIRK: I'm making it now.

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You're making it now,
50 you're seconding it.

1 MR. BUCK: I second it now.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I wanted to make it,
4 but I couldn't. All those in favor of adjournment say
5 aye.
6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.
8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Same sign no.
10
11 (No opposing votes)
12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We're done.
14
15 (Off record)
16
17 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

