

EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Pike's Landing
Fairbanks, Alaska
March 3, 2020
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sue Entsminger, Chair
Andy Bassich
Andrew Firmin
William Glanz
Timothy McManus
Donald Woodruff
Robert Wright
Charles Jagow

Regional Council Coordinator, Zach Stevenson

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Fairbanks, Alaska - 3/3/2020)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We'd like to get the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council's winter meeting, are we winter, started. So I am -- Andy is in the room, but Bill is not quite here yet. And I'd like to ask everyone to stand and let -- I'm going to let Council members know we're going to take turns on the invocation in the future. He thinks it'll be four years if we work our way around this way.

(Laughter)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I've asked Donald to start. So if we all could bow our heads to pray.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Donald. Very good. Deeply appreciate it.

All right. Council members, there's a book, I know we didn't get them until here, but there's a revised agenda that should be in front of you somewhere. It looks like this. Okay. So is it -- invocation. I have you called us to order already. So let's roll call and establish a quorum.

I'm going to get it right, Robert.

MR. WRIGHT: Okay. I'm going to do a roll call.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Turn your mic on.

MR. WRIGHT: I got to get used to this mic again.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.

MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Roll call. I'll

1 start with Susan.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Here.
4
5 MR. WRIGHT: Andrew Firmin.
6
7 MR. FIRMIN: Here.
8
9 MR. WRIGHT: We have two vacant seats
10 still.
11
12 William Glanz.
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Here.
15
16 MR. WRIGHT: Andrew Bassich.
17
18 MR. BASSICH: Here.
19
20 MR. WRIGHT: I'm here.
21
22 Charles Jagow.
23
24 MR. JAGOW: Here.
25
26 MR. WRIGHT: Donald Woodruff.
27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: Here.
29
30 MR. WRIGHT: Timothy McManus.
31
32 MR. McMANUS: Here.
33
34 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, all.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have a
37 quorum. All is present of our eight members.
38
39 I want to welcome everyone and we will
40 -- we want to have introduction of guests. So let's
41 start with Tom Kron.
42
43 MR. KRON: Tom Kron with OSM. I'm glad
44 to be here. Good morning.
45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Good morning
47 to you.
48
49 MS. KENNER: Pippa Kenner with OSM.
50

1 MR. MASCHMANN: Gerald Maschmann, U.S.
2 Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks.

3
4 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews with
5 Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats. And I apologize ahead,
6 I'll be going back and forth to the Western Interior
7 meeting which concludes today.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is cool
10 we're using the mic.

11
12 MR. HAWKALUK: Yeah, good morning.
13 Nathan Hawkaluk, deputy records manager with Arctic
14 National Wildlife Refuge.

15
16 MR. BERENDZEN: Steve Berendzen, Refuge
17 manager, Arctic Refuge.

18
19 MR. HEDMAN: Good morning. I'm Bill
20 Hedman, I'm acting deputy Refuge manager for Yukon
21 Flats.

22
23 MR. CHEN: Aloha, Madame Chair and
24 Council members. My name is Glenn Chen, I'm with the
25 Bureau of Indian Affairs.

26
27 MS. TRAINOR: Good morning. My name's
28 Alida Trainor. I'm the subsistence resource specialist
29 for the Interior. I work in the Subsistence Division
30 at Fish and Game here in Fairbanks.

31
32 MS. MONCRIEFF: Good morning. I'm
33 Catherine Moncrieff with the Yukon River Drainage
34 Fisheries Association. Happy to be here this morning.
35 And I want to apologize in advance too, we'll be going
36 back and forth between your meeting and the Western
37 Interior RAC.

38
39 MS. FITKA: Good morning. My name's
40 Serena Fitka. I am the newly hired executive director
41 for YRDFA.

42
43 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Congratulations.

44
45 MR. TOWNSEND: Good morning. Craig
46 Townsend, wildlife biologist, Eastern Interior Field
47 Office for the BLM.

48
49 MS. OKADA: Good morning. Marcy Okada,

50

1 National Park Service, Yukon-Charley Rivers National
2 Park or National Rivers Preserve. Yukon-Charley Rivers
3 National Preserve.

4

5 (Laughter)

6

7 MS. OKADA: Thank you.

8

9 MS. CELLARIUS: Good morning. I'm
10 Barbara Cellarius, I'm the cultural anthropologist and
11 subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias National
12 Park and Preserve.

13

14 MS. KETRON: Good morning. I'm
15 Caroline Ketron, I'm a biology technician at Wrangell-
16 St. Elias.

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: Good morning, Madame
19 Chair, members of the Council. I'm Zach Stevenson, the
20 Subsistence Council coordinator for the Eastern
21 Interior and Northwest Arctic regions with the Office
22 of Subsistence Management.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom, I'm
25 going to interrupt. Someone online is rustling paper
26 and their mic is not on mute and if you could do that
27 we'd appreciate it.

28

29 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair and
30 Council. My name is Tom Doolittle, I'm the acting
31 assistant regional director for the Federal Office of
32 Subsistence Management.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Whoops. Now
35 it's my turn. Thank you, everyone and good morning.

36

37 And anyone online, you can introduce
38 yourself, please.

39

40 MS. MAAS: This is Lisa Maas, wildlife
41 biologist with Office of Subsistence Management.

42

43 MR. SCHAEFFER: Good morning. This is
44 Damon Schaeffer with NANA Regional Corporation.

45

46 MS. LaVINE: Good morning. Robbin
47 LaVine, anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
48 Management.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could you
2 repeat, there was a breakup.

3
4 MS. LaVINE: This is Robbin LaVine with
5 the Office of Subsistence Management.

6
7 MR. WILLIAMS: (In Native). Paul
8 Williams, Jr., calling in from Beaver. I'm a certified
9 (in Native) with my class. We're sitting for a little
10 while to listen. (In Native).

11
12 Thank you very much.

13
14 DR. REAM: Good morning. This is
15 Joshua Ream. And I am the regional subsistence program
16 manager for the National Park Service.

17
18 MS. GLEASON: Christy Gleason with
19 Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the fall season
20 assistant manager.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else
23 online?

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I saw
28 one person walk in. You want to introduce yourself,
29 Jim.

30
31 MR. HERRIGES: Hi. Jim Herriges,
32 wildlife biologist for the Eastern Interior Field
33 Office of BLM.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jim Herriges
36 from BLM.

37
38 All right. Thank you, everyone, and
39 good morning.

40
41 The next thing is review and adopt
42 agenda.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm going
47 to -- just a sec. I'm going to remind you guys, have
48 you looked at the Board of Game proposals, any of you,
49 because I would like to have if -- think about what --

50

1 it'll come under Board of Game, but I want you to come
2 up with some proposals.

3

4

Zach.

5

6

7 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
8 Chair. For the Council and those on the
9 teleconference, we have a few items added to the agenda
10 and I just wanted to bring those to everyone's
11 attention. The updated draft agenda which is on the
12 table over there and the Council has before them now,
13 has at the bottom of page 1 beneath Chair's report
14 under item 8, reports, a report on the Eastern Interior
15 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council request to
16 establish an Arctic Village Sheep Management Area
17 Subcommittee. And that topic would be addressed by Mr.
18 Tom Doolittle.

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Turning the draft -- updated draft
agenda to page 2 under item 10 at the top of the page,
new business, is an item that has been added, item A.
And that is unit 13 caribou special action request by
Lisa Maas. And Lisa has requested that we provide a
time certain time period where she would be delivering
that presentation. She's not here, but is
participating by teleconference today.

Under item 10B, new business, is Yukon
River Drainage Fisheries Association update to be
updated by Catherine Moncrieff, if I'm -- if I'm
pronouncing that last name correctly.

And under item 11 on page 2 of the
updated draft agenda beneath tribal governments is
Tanana Chiefs Conference update to be shared by Ben
Stevens. Mr. Stevens is upstairs right now at the
Western Interior RAC meeting. So I will make sure that
we invite him down here when it comes time for that
topic.

Under Ahtna Intertribal Resource
Commission that report will be delivered by Karen
Linnell. I haven't seen her yet, but I know she's
expected to be here today.

And beneath Native organizations we
have the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.
That may be repetitive, we can delete that if that
topic will be covered earlier by -- by Catherine.

1 But there is also, pardon me, a topic
2 to be addressed which was the report on the Fisheries
3 Resource Monitoring Program funded in-season survey,
4 program and teleconferences.
5

6 And we also have Carrie Stevens who
7 will be giving an update from the University of Alaska
8 Fairbanks.
9

10 And under the Fish and Wildlife Service
11 we have three additional topics that will be addressed.
12 The first under item A, the 2020 Yukon River preseason
13 salmon outlook to be shared both by Fish and Wildlife
14 Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
15

16 Item B, the Yukon Flats National
17 Wildlife Refuge update by Nathan Hawkaluk.
18

19 And thirdly, the Yukon Flats, Kanuti
20 and Arctic National Wildlife Refuges update by Vince
21 Mathews.
22

23 I also wanted to apologize. There was
24 a item, item D, which I had overlooked to include on
25 the agenda which was Randy Brown under agency reports.
26 And he will present a report on the 23 year review of
27 the Andreadfsky and Gisasa weirs. And both of those
28 proj -- both of those initiatives were funded
29 previously through the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
30 Program.
31

32 Under National Park Service we have an
33 update from Denali National Park and Preserve
34 Subsistence Resource Commission. That would be shared
35 by Marcy Okada.
36

37 And a Yukon-Charley Rivers National
38 Preserve update also by Marcy.
39

40 And I believe that there was a third
41 item to be added under Park Service as well.
42

43 MS. CELLARIUS: For the record this is
44 Barbara Cellarius with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
45 and Preserve and we will also have an agency report.
46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. And at the
48 bottom of page 2, through the Chair, under Bureau of
49 Land Management we have the report on the Fortymile
50

1 Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan by Jim Herriges.
2 Am I pronouncing that correctly, Jim?

3
4 MR. HERRIGES: Herriges.

5
6 MR. STEVENSON: Herriges. Thank you.

7
8 MR. STEVENSON: And wrapping up, that's
9 it.

10
11 Thank you, Madame Chair.

12
13 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: I make a motion we adopt
18 the agenda as presented to us and give the Chair the
19 latitude to move agenda items around at her discretion.

20
21 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

24
25 Any discussion.

26
27 MR. WRIGHT: Call the question.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
30 question's been called for. All in favor say aye.

31
32 IN UNISON: Aye.

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Zach.

37
38 MR. STEVENSON: I just had a quick
39 question and that is is there a time certain period
40 where -- where Lisa Maas could give her update?

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Well, after we do the
43 motion she can move the agenda around anyway she wants.

44
45 MR. STEVENSON: Perfect.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

48
49 Andy.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Just for the record.
2 After we make the motion and adopt the agenda Sue has
3 the -- our Chair, Sue, has the ability to set time
4 slots for those people that have time sensitive
5 presentations to the panel.
6

7 MR. STEVENSON: Perfect.
8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
10 was right in the middle of all in favor.....
11

12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:of the
15 motion to adopt -- all right. We might have to start
16 raising our hands.
17

18 Anyone opposed.
19

20 (No opposing votes)
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: None opposed.
23 Motion passes.
24

25 All right. Next is the election of
26 officers. And I move that to you, Zach.
27

28 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Through the
29 Chair. This is the opportunity where the Council
30 elects their officers and that includes the Chair and
31 Vice Chair. Each of you have in front of you a notepad
32 that looks like this. If you'd please record the name
33 of the individual that you would like to have as your
34 Chair. I'd also like to request that we have someone
35 who will tally the votes.
36

37 Is there someone that would be willing
38 to tally the votes?
39

40 MR. McMANUS: I have a question.
41 Didn't we already do this at the last meeting or is
42 this the new one, I thought we already picked.....
43

44 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, it seemed like we
45 picked last year and you were reappointed and Andrew
46 was reappointed.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I had it
49 here.
50

1 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, that was at the last
2 meeting so how long is a term, is it just one year?

3
4 MR. BASSICH: That was before that
5 because she had somebody else do the.....
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He -- yeah.
8 I'm going to tell you that I didn't know I was on this
9 until last week or a couple weeks ago because my term
10 was up on the -- December 2nd and I was informed, Sue,
11 you're no longer on it. So I -- honestly I disengaged.
12 But I -- I had last book -- last meeting book and we
13 did, didn't we? Nope, we didn't.
14

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: It's not in the
16 minutes.
17

18 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It must have
21 been the meeting before.....
22

23 MR. WRIGHT: It was the meeting before
24 because.....
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so it's
27 once a year and I think it's in the spring.
28

29 MR. WRIGHT:because I didn't do
30 roll call remember, so it had to be the meeting before.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
33

34 MR. WRIGHT: So are we still doing
35 the.....
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
38

39 MR. BASSICH: Just to streamline the
40 process, in the -- in the past we just made a motion,
41 if it was seconded discussion, if there was anybody
42 else interested and then we just voted on who we wanted
43 for our two -- our seats. It may be a lot quicker than
44 trying to do tallies and all that, if that's acceptable
45 within the parameters of our operating.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's
48 acceptable to me. That's how we've always done it.
49
50

1 MR. BASSICH: Is that okay?

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that's the
4 way I would do it. It's in Robert's Rules, you take --
5 and you don't need a second for nom -- when you
6 nominated someone.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But you have
11 the floor, you're just getting our opinion.

12

13 MR. STEVENSON: Sure. So through the
14 Chair. I hear that the Council would prefer to make a
15 motion for the position of Chair.

16

17 Do we have any motion for nomination of
18 the Chair?

19

20 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Madame Chair, I'd
21 like to nominate Sue Entsminger as our Chair for the
22 Eastern Interior RAC.

23

24 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

25

26 MR. FIRMIN: Move to close nominations
27 for Chair.

28

29 MR. BASSICH: Second.

30

31 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Third.

32

33 (Laughter)

34

35 MR. STEVENSON: Noted.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, Zach,
38 you're the Chair right now.

39

40 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair, the
41 motion carr -- the motion carries with Sue Entsminger
42 nominated as Chair of the Eastern Interior Alaska
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

44

45 Madame Chair, the floor is yours for
46 nomination of the Vice Chair.

47

48 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair, I'd.....

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I just
2 say procedurally there was a -- he made a motion and
3 someone seconded it and then you need to vote and there
4 was no vote. So.....
5

6 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
7

8 MR. FIRMIN: I think procedurally
9 we.....
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And you're
12 chairing so you need to vote -- call for the vote.
13

14 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. Thank you
15 for that clarification, Madame.....
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
18

19 MR. STEVENSON: Go ahead, Andrew.
20

21 MR. BASSICH: If we close the
22 nominations and there's only one nominated we don't
23 have to vote, there's no reason to.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh,
26 procedurally.
27

28 MR. FIRMIN: You're right.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
31 Or should I say thank you. And I can take over for the
32 Vice Chair now.
33

34 The floor is open for Vice Chair for
35 the Eastern Interior RAC. Do I hear any.....
36

37 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to nominate Andrew
38 Firmin for Vice Chair.

39 MR. BASSICH: Second.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And just
42 that's one thing I do know, you don't need a second on
43 that. But -- okay.
44

45 Are there any other nominations?
46

47 (No comments)
48

49 MR. GLANZ: Do we have a vote? It's
50

1 not -- we don't need it.

2

3 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I move to
4 close nominations for Vice Chair.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
7 second?

8

9 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So we
12 don't need to vote, right, procedurally?

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And nobody's
17 raising their hands back there so we must have did it
18 right.

19

20 Okay.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: I'd like to nominate.....

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Next is the
25 Secretary.

26

27 MR. GLANZ:for Secretary I'd like
28 to nominate Robert Wright for Secretary.

29

30 MR. McMANUS: Second.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We insist on
33 seconding these.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. BASSICH: Move to close
38 nominations.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Second
41 anyone?

42

43 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So I
46 know we've done that in one motion before. Yeah. All
47 right. We're all it. So we've got Chair, Vice Chair
48 and Secretary. Congratulations to all I think.

49

50

1 Now we're going to review and approve
2 the previous minutes. That's the next thing on the
3 agenda.
4

5 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
8

9 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair, I'd like to
10 table the minutes as I haven't had a chance to get to
11 them and read them yet. I haven't received our meeting
12 materials. Whatever the reason may be, I just haven't
13 got a chance to look through them yet. So if we could
14 just table them to -- for another time, tomorrow,
15 whenever.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there a
18 second?
19

20 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
23 discussion?
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I would
28 like you to be responsible to bring it back up if I
29 forget. So sometime tomorrow?
30

31 MR. FIRMIN: Tomorrow would be a better
32 time to bring it back up, yes. Hopefully I'll get a
33 chance to read them tonight.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
36 that will be added in tomorrow.
37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
41

42 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. The
43 -- to be clear the question was raised about why
44 meeting books were circulated late, late being sent out
45 a day before the meeting. Ordinarily protocol at OSM
46 is to provide Council members with meeting books a
47 minimum of a month in advance. And these minutes were
48 produced four months ago. And we had a delay at OSM
49 which will be addressed later in this meeting in the
50

1 Regional Advisory Council nomination process resulting
2 in the rescheduling of Regional Advisory Council
3 meetings statewide. And in the delay in appointments
4 we postponed producing meeting books and circulating
5 meeting minutes.

6
7 And we apologize for any inconvenience
8 that that may have caused the Council. We remain
9 committed to getting these materials out well in
10 advance of meetings to provide everyone an adequate
11 time opportunity to review those materials. And we
12 appreciate everyone's flexibility under those
13 circumstances.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
22 Just a reminder or suggestion. I remember there was a
23 few reports that wanted a specific time for being able
24 to give their reports. It might be good right now just
25 to identify that so that those parties know when
26 they're going to be able to give their reports and just
27 get that on the record.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Zach,
32 it was the Fisheries person?

33
34 MR. STEVENSON: Lisa Maas.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, Lisa.
37 Yeah. Lisa -- there's a rumor she's getting married so
38 she's not here because -- and she's going to be on
39 leave. So we could take Lisa up first under new
40 business. Does that sound good?

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, fine.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I would
45 say after the report I need to know more about Lisa's
46 schedule. Is she going to be here all day today?

47
48 Lisa.

49
50

1 MS. MAAS: Yeah, sorry, Sue. This is
2 Lisa. And, yeah, anytime today works. But, yeah, as
3 you alluded to I'm leaving tomorrow on my honeymoon so
4 I'm only available today.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And
7 congratulations.

8
9 MS. MAAS: Thank you.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm having --
12 I'm getting suggestions of by 1:00 o'clock. So
13 actually if it's done today we're good, right, if we
14 haven't taken you up we'll have you in at 1:00.

15
16 MS. MAAS: Okay. 1:00 o'clock.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
19 And I understand that YR DFA is only here tomorrow or
20 today also?

21
22 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
25 I'm wondering, is the agenda -- help me out, guys. If
26 you look at the agenda they're -- YR DFA is B, right?

27
28 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It just looks
31 like it's going to be done today so let's let it go.
32 And Lisa's right there, her -- she might be coming
33 up.....

34
35 Lisa, you might be coming up before
36 1:00.

37
38 So I think -- I think we got it
39 covered. Was there any other people that we needed to
40 be concerned about?

41
42 MR. STEVENSON: No, Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Well,
45 then we're good. Moving on.

46
47 Okay. Council, this is time for our
48 reports. Do you -- I'm going to start with Donald.

49
50

1 Donald, do you have a report and we'll
2 go around.

3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame
5 Chairman. Around Eagle we are having more sightings of
6 deer and this year a cougar took a caribou at the end
7 of the airstrip so a lot of people know about it and
8 saw it. And I saw a photograph of the track next to a
9 human hand and it's huge. So that's a problem.

10
11 The few lynx I got this year were fat
12 and the hare cycle's just starting to peak and go down.
13 We had plenty of caribou around all winter.

14
15 I went to a Fish and Game AC meeting
16 and we talked about intensive management, 20E south of
17 Chicken cow harvest and the Fortymile caribou. And
18 Fish and Game will be here to talk about the Fortymile
19 caribou.

20
21 I participated in a working group with
22 the Park Service. It's a subsistence working group
23 that was formed some years ago. And we talked about
24 cabin permits down river. They did a recent moose
25 survey and the moose population in the preserve is down
26 23 percent which makes it .28 moose per square mile
27 which is just a hair above what it's been for the last
28 40 years. I don't know, for some reason it came up for
29 a few years and now it's back down.

30
31 And again I talked to the Park Service
32 a little bit about oral history and place names and the
33 mail trail, working on the mail trail because, hey, we
34 can have a great preserve or we can have just a ho-hum
35 kind of a preserve. And if we get some of these things
36 going it'll be more interactive for the public.

37
38 And that's the end of my report.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

43
44 MR. McMANUS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
45 In Nenana there's lots of -- lots of rabbits this year.
46 We do have two lynx roaming around in our village. One
47 was apprehended the other day. There's still a big,
48 huge -- they -- the sightings say it's a big mother
49 lynx. We see the tracks right around the school, in

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1 the area.

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Fishing was really good this year. Since we're not on the Yukon or a tributary off of it we had a lot of fish in our river this year, met our escapement goal up on the Chena, the fishermen reported good fish. There was one fisherman that reported dots on his fish, little white dots. I don't know the extent of that, but he was the only one that reported it.

The ice is 34 inches thick right now for those who are keeping track of the ice classic. I punched some holes in there last week.

Lots of moose in our area on the highway system, they're going out there for the salt on the highway. There's been about five road kills between Fairbanks and Nenana this year. Most of them were calves that just don't know to get off the road when cars are coming I guess.

They opened up a -- they're working on a bridge across the Nenana River that concerns to our AC of what kind of restrictions we could put on across that river. It's a subunit that previously had no access to it unless you were on a boat. And right now I'd be able to vehicle across that river, it goes back 18 miles. And so our AC, we're looking on what kind of restrictions, make a subunit out of that because right now it's any bull. And that was kind of a place where nobody had access to so we kind of -- it's one of our honey holes we call it back home. Is -- it was hard to get access to, but now that road's coming in it's going to be influx like the Tanana Road there so we're starting to see issues on that. Some of the restrictions they want to put on it is no track vehicles and make some kind of regulation on what size bulls to get.

I was at the Denali's meeting last spring, I got a report for that later on with Marcy.

Other than that, thank you.

MR. WRIGHT: Through the Chair. Good to see you all again, we've all made it through another winter.

1 Anyway I've been hanging around in
2 Rampart, working there and I see a lot of snow this
3 year. I know it's causing havoc for the moose, they're
4 having a tough time. And I see a lot of small moose
5 tracks, calf tracks or either deer tracks. I had a
6 word with Glenn Stout from Galena yesterday and he
7 figures that they're just -- some of them are just
8 small because the cows don't mate in the first round
9 and they wait another three weeks, but the size of
10 these tracks don't -- three weeks ain't going to make
11 them that small in my mind. So either they're deer or
12 the moose are breeding later because the tracks are
13 tiny, too small for moose or either that they're
14 breeding later on in the year. I just -- I wanted to
15 know if anybody else has seen that in their areas or
16 that might be deer that people are talking about coming
17 in the area and I hear that they've been seen in Middle
18 Lake area the last year. And I'm worried about the
19 moose habitat and the -- not the habitat, but the loss
20 of calves and cows in the deep snow so I'll be watching
21 that in the future.

22
23 And the marten are really down in the
24 area. The lynx are taking over the cycle. Lynx are in
25 town, eating rabbits from under the trucks and under
26 the porches and you can see them out the window walking
27 through. So there's quite a few of them around.

28
29 Other than that we had a pretty good
30 winter, nice and cold. It's good to see the cold
31 weather, a normal winter to hold back the bugs and
32 eliminate the weak and sick so we can ensure a good
33 sustainable, healthy population of animals into the
34 future. So that's a good thing for me to see that.

35
36 And I'm really looking forward to fish
37 reports with the loss of a lot of fish on the rivers in
38 the Interior this past summer, I'm really looking
39 forward to what management's going to do. It's going
40 to be -- it's real nerve-racking for me, the future of
41 the salmon in the Interior of Alaska with the way the
42 weather's been going and water levels has been.

43
44 So with that I guess that's about all I
45 have to report. Good to see you all.

46
47 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair, can I get a
48 -- I just got a report from Denali Subsistence Resource
49 Commission update.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

2

3 MR. McMANUS: Okay. On August 28th,
4 2019 the Denali Subsistence Resource Commission, SRC,
5 met at the Campbell Community Center. During the
6 meeting the SRC took the following actions.

7

8 The Denali SRC submitted a temporary
9 wildlife special action request that the Federal
10 Subsistence Board change the harvest limit for
11 ptarmigan from 20 a day, 40 in possession to 10 a day,
12 20 in possession and the season from August 10th
13 through March 10th, in 15 -- subunit 15 in 2019/2020
14 regulatory year. The motion was made and seconded to
15 change the residency requirement to state that the only
16 residents qualified to hunt in the Park must have lived
17 in the -- at least five years in the three mile
18 corridor of Cantwell post office.

19

20 The next SRC meeting is March 25, 2020
21 in Fairbanks at Pike's Landing. The Resource
22 Commission appointed in their spring, 2019 RAC meeting
23 of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council
24 Charles Wright and myself to the Denali SRC.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just quick a
29 question. When is that SRC meeting again?

30

31 MR. McMANUS: March.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: March what?

34

35 MR. McMANUS: 25th.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: 25th. Okay.
38 Here at Pike's, huh?

39

40 MR. McMANUS: Here, yes.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All
43 right. Go ahead, Andrew.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: Morning, everybody. I was
46 -- for our report for Fort Yukon area, I don't have a
47 whole lot, but I know there's been quite a bit of moose
48 activity around close to town lately. Kind of nice
49 seeing them around Fort Yukon. There's also -- I don't

50

1 know if the wolves are driving them into town, but I
2 know there's been a lot of wolf activity nearby. My
3 neighbor snared one I think with -- half a mile from my
4 house. And then we had another resident, I think he
5 over a course of two or three days he ran into a pack
6 down river and I think he got eight out of the nine of
7 them in there. And that was down at Twelvemile, but, I
8 mean, as the crow flies that's still only like four
9 miles away. And it's been interesting to see them and
10 the moose coming close to town like that.

11

12 It's -- I'm glad we had a nice cold
13 winter though, finally got some chill back in there so
14 we got nice thick ice to run on.

15

16 There's -- talking to some other folks
17 I know I -- we brought it up in the past, but we
18 haven't put any proposals forward, but I've been
19 getting concerns from people that are -- they like --
20 they like seeing the moose nearby town and having a
21 good fall season and successful fall hunt. So they
22 were talking -- people have been suggesting to me to
23 reduce some of our State season like in December or
24 February hunts because they're not necessary especially
25 for a place that has a low moose population, one of the
26 lowest in the State and we've got more moose season.
27 It's kind of -- seems like folks just don't want some
28 of those winter hunts because a lot of time you get
29 people shooting cows by accident or something like
30 that. So the room for error is pretty good and some
31 people just don't care what they shoot. So they just
32 wanted to either reduce those times or get rid of them.
33 So maybe in the future we can put in a proposal and see
34 what happens for those.

35

36 But other than that we've had a pretty
37 good winter. Good to see everybody here again.

38

39 MR. GLANZ: I'd reflect on Don's report
40 about the cougar. My wife has seen two of them so far.
41 And there's -- one of the people that moved up here to
42 Alaska years ago from South Dakota, he chased one down
43 the road for over two miles and I knew he knows what a
44 cougar is. And he'd seen it at a good spot and he used
45 to hunt them with dogs. So and that's the only three
46 reports we've -- I've never seen one yet, but I've seen
47 the tracks like Don has and followed the tracks. And
48 they're just like any other cat, they're just making a
49 living.

50

1 We had caribou season there and it was
2 so good that they didn't have a winter season up in our
3 area because they overkilled them over inadequate
4 supervision of them. We didn't even have a trooper up
5 there this year during the fall hunt. We had one
6 trooper and we used to have six or eight of them
7 patrolling. But then again I'm happy to see them,
8 they're still doing well.

9
10 And the wolves are predatoring around
11 our neighborhood pretty thick and some of the guys were
12 getting them in snares.

13
14 And a few years we was in -- talking
15 about small moose we seen. We were -- it was in
16 February, we was on our snowmachines cruising along the
17 Yukon and we seen -- I thought it was a wolf, but he
18 just happened to see something moving through the
19 woods. And I -- I was ahead so I pushed and the guys
20 all took off, we went after it and it went up a tree.
21 So we get close and it was a black bear cub, it didn't
22 weigh but 40 pound maybe, maybe less. And he was in a
23 tree and he was full of ice so he must have got pushed
24 out of the den. So we saw the tree down, captured it,
25 took it to the cabin with us that night.....

26
27 (Laughter)

28
29 MR. GLANZ:put it in the closet.
30 We locked it in real good with cushions, but he was so
31 groggy, he stayed all night in there and didn't bother
32 us. And then we took it to Circle and showed it to
33 some school kids and then one of the guys took it up to
34 his cabin and he give it a bunch of moose ribs and it
35 lived for a whole winter and we never did see it again
36 this spring. So we don't know what happened to it, if
37 it survived or not.

38
39 (Laughter)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Feeding
42 wildlife, that's against the law. I'm just.....

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. GLANZ: Well, we thought we were
47 helping the poor guy. And so we tried to find his den
48 and we circled and circled and but he has so many
49 trails through overflow we couldn't -- we couldn't

50

1 follow it so we never did get it.

2

3 But anyway they're going to have to do
4 something. We -- I still had a nut on -- during the
5 damn moose -- caribou season, it was horrible. And
6 they -- what, they killed 1,700, 16, some ridiculous
7 figure in a week and a half. But when they're there
8 they're there. And they're still there. And somebody
9 called me and said there's a bunch on Eagle Summit the
10 other day and I said where they at and he said right
11 along the Beamerburg Trail. I said shoot them, it's
12 legal, he's on Federal ground until March 31st. So I
13 don't know what they done. And then when I -- me and
14 my wife came over there was still a couple hundred of
15 them going up the hillside, they're all heading west.
16 So I think maybe the caribou are starting to repopulate
17 the areas we'd like to see them in.

18

19 But other than that I got nothing else
20 to say.

21

22 Well, I do have one other thing. I
23 told Susan this. Years ago when I was working in
24 Indiana and we got sued by the NAACP, we couldn't hire
25 anybody because they said we didn't have enough
26 interracial stuff in -- on the -- in the apartments.
27 Three years it went on, we couldn't hire anybody. But,
28 you know, we never missed a call. We may not have had
29 two cars or a fire engine with everybody on it that
30 belonged and even the state police were affected and we
31 still got along, the whole state still hung out where
32 I'm hearing all this oh, god, there's no personal --
33 we're still -- we don't have -- no, you guys were
34 getting paid by the year, that's the way I looked at it
35 when I was - did my 20 year stint. So you just knuckle
36 down and don't worry about it, and maybe you have to
37 hang around the office a little bit at night. I'd be
38 home and they'd call me, man, we got a hell of a riot,
39 you got to come in, I'd go in. It was no big deal,
40 they didn't get overtime either. So, I mean, everybody
41 has to knuckle down, man, when they screw you around.

42

43 Anyway that's all I got, folks.

44

45 (Laughter)

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're just
48 country bumpkins, huh.

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 MR. BASSICH: I guess I wanted to start
4 my report just by saying it's a little disappointing
5 that we've lost some Council members here and
6 especially I'd just like to get on the record that I
7 think it's really important to engage the younger
8 members to get involved and hopefully take our places.
9 It takes a long time to learn this process and to be
10 effective in it. And when we have younger Council
11 members that's building our future for protecting the
12 resources in our regions. So for whatever it's worth I
13 wanted to get that on the record. I think it's really
14 important for those powers to be to understand that
15 this is very important to our livelihood and our
16 existence out in the rural areas.

17
18 Regarding the report in the Eagle area
19 I think Don did a great job reporting. I'm going to
20 just add caribou have been consistent in our area all
21 winter long. It seems like they're wintering right
22 around the Eagle, Seventymile Ogilvie Mountain Range.
23 Quite a few caribou around all the time, I see them
24 everyday I'm out mushing. And there are a fair amount
25 of wolves around in the area. I'm also seeing more cow
26 moose with calves this year. I'm not sure what the
27 survival rate's going to be because there are an awful
28 lot of wolves around, but that was kind of encouraging.
29 And I'm not sure, that might be because of the heavy
30 snow this year, they may have been pushed down more,
31 maybe that's why we're seeing more.

32
33 The caribou being around has been
34 really good for our community. Our community lives on
35 caribou and fish, king salmon and some fall chum
36 salmon. So it's been a good year for the people around
37 Eagle for getting what they need to subsist on.

38
39 Reporting back on the fisheries from
40 the previous season. I have a lot of concerns about
41 the fall chum. They're coming through very slow and
42 very -- kind of steady, but very slow and it's making
43 it very difficult for people in our area to get their
44 full amounts necessary for their subsistence harvest
45 because of the prolonged fishing season, it's going
46 into almost mid October which basically people's fish
47 wheels ice up before they finish fishing. And their --
48 their catches are minimal, sometimes under a hundred
49 fish a day where we used to catch two, 300, 400 salmon

50

1 a day. My fishing season this year, and I'm in one of
2 the better spots, it took me more than twice as long to
3 catch the fish that I needed for the winter. I don't
4 think it's a lack of number of fish, it's the
5 management of the fisheries. And so I'm trying to work
6 with fall managers to try and get a bump of fish
7 through Eagle. We have -- we have weather conditions
8 that stop us from fishing so I think some adjustments
9 need to be made in the -- in the management of the fall
10 chums so that people in our region which depend on fall
11 chum very heavily, I think our community, Fork Yukon
12 and Tanana/Rampart area are the only really remaining
13 dog mushing areas and so this is absolutely vital to
14 our way of life to get these fish.

15
16 So I'm really concerned about that and
17 I'm looking forward to working with managers to try and
18 come up with some solutions. I think they're there,
19 it's just a matter of having the will to do them.

20
21 Regarding king salmon, fishing was
22 really good for people this year, a lot of abundance.
23 I guess I shouldn't say a lot of abundance. The
24 historical runs are much lower, but the openings were
25 there. Fishermen because of a previous eight or 10
26 years of poor fishing have become very efficient and
27 very good at catching fish in short periods of time.
28 And unfortunately even with a fairly good run we didn't
29 meet full escapement to Canada, we've met enough for
30 our escapement, but we didn't meet enough for the
31 harvest share that the Canadians are allotted. That's
32 creating a lot of bad feelings, a lot of hardship and I
33 think we're doing an injustice to the fish, not getting
34 the right quality of fish and the right number of fish
35 up to the spawning grounds for building -- rebuilding
36 the fish runs. So there's a lot of outreach that's
37 needed primarily on the Alaska side to try and get
38 messaging out to people that we've got a few tough
39 years ahead. I think we'll get some reports later on
40 in this meeting that's going to backup what I'm saying,
41 but there's a lot of work to do in outreach on the
42 Alaska side if we want to try and rebuild this run or
43 stabilize the run into the future. So I think we need
44 to start getting people to think about long term and
45 that's hard to do when you -- every year you need meat
46 on the table or whatever. But I think we were doing
47 really good for a few years and then we had a couple
48 good runs and we kind of lost our momentum on
49 conservation and we really need to work on rebuilding
50

1 that message.

2

3 And the final thing, I guess a lot of
4 wind, lot of snow in our country this winter. I'm not
5 seeing nearly as many marten in our area this year as I
6 have in the past, but I don't know if I'm going to
7 agree with Charlie that I like to see the cold weather,
8 but we're definitely back to.....

9

10 (Laughter)

11

12 MR. BASSICH:kind of what our
13 winters were like in the past. And we can't do
14 anything about it, we just live with it. But I think
15 for the most part it's been a pretty good winter for
16 most people in our region, a lot of firewood cutting.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 MR. JAGOW: Good morning. Good to see
21 everybody. I don't have much to report other than it
22 was a very cold, windy winter, probably more wind and
23 cold than I've seen mixed in the past.

24

25 Our lynx population is definitely on
26 the decline, hopefully at the bottom of their cycle.
27 As the third -- I believe the third winter in a row
28 we've had no caribou or very few caribou wintering in
29 the Rampart, Upper Porcupine area which is kind of
30 unusual. On the same note very few wolves probably for
31 that same reason.

32

33 That's all I've got.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
36 Robert.

37

38 MR. WRIGHT: I wanted to add on the big
39 cat issue, the Rampart/Tanana/Manley area has been
40 seeing big cats since the '70s. I see tracks almost
41 every time I leave the valley. I seen them two days
42 ago, they're really huge. They don't go to traps. So
43 I know what they are and they've been seen in people's
44 yards, they've been seen swimming the river. So
45 they're there and they've been there for quite a while.
46 So they're very -- they hide themselves well, hard
47 time seeing them, most of the time you hear them
48 instead of see them. They do quite the call that makes
49 your hair stand up on the back of your head when they

50

1 -- especially in the dark. But they are there and I
2 think that mountain lions and deer are going to become
3 the normal.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you. I
6 think that's really interesting because 30, 35 years
7 there's been off and on cougar sightings on the Tok
8 Cut-Off, even clear down to almost Thompson Pass before
9 Valdez. And you'd say to the person did it have a long
10 tail or a short tail and they describe a cougar every
11 time. So it's people that you wouldn't think really
12 knows what it was you'd say, but then you have people
13 -- I think it was about five -- three to five years ago
14 somebody that like you he lived in Colorado, he knows
15 what a cougar is and.....
16

17 MR. WRIGHT: It's very big.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and he
20 saw it physically on the -- and we have -- and didn't
21 you say that somebody caught it -- a trail camera, they
22 actually got a picture of it?
23

24 MR. JAGOW: No.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I thought
27 you did.
28

29 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, I reported
30 that a photograph was taken of the track.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, just the
33 track.
34

35 MR. WOODRUFF: And the human hand next
36 to it.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
39 Yeah.
40

41 MR. WRIGHT: They're big, big like
42 this.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know.
45 Yeah. Yeah, I saw something on my trapline, I don't
46 know about five years ago, and I thought hmmm, I wonder
47 if that's a cougar track, that's awfully big. Isn't
48 really what a caribou would do where it -- coming off a
49 steep edge, you know, but I can't verify it. But
50

1 anyway that is interesting that they're that far north
2 now, we're seeing them that far north.

3
4 And, you know, in our area -- our
5 weather pattern this beginning of winter was heavy wet
6 snow and then another heavy wet snow and then rain in
7 between.

8
9 And my son traps with an airplane and
10 he's been highly successful for many years, 20 to 40
11 wolves a year in a 50 mile radius around our place
12 which includes some of the villages and Mentasta and
13 that really has an affect of -- for the moose. People
14 are more successful getting moose now and even myself,
15 I've been taking hunters, guiding on -- you can take
16 grizzly and black bears in our area over bait and we
17 got five -- I might have reported this last time, but
18 five grizzly bears and 12 blacks. And you do that for
19 six years running and, you know, people in Mentasta are
20 happy, man, they're getting their moose all the time.

21
22 And we just had a death in Mentasta, a
23 20 year old girl died, we don't know why. And we had
24 -- they -- at the big potlatch funeral they ended up
25 with three moose, one was road kill. But, you know,
26 the -- it's easier for them to find things now in that
27 light.

28
29 And I want to go -- talk about my
30 frustration a little bit about this Arctic Village
31 working group. The Federal Board met November 5th and
32 I was asked to be on teleconference and they were on
33 teleconference to take up our request for a working
34 group. And it was probably a good hour discussion or
35 longer. And I feel like they got wrapped around the
36 axle, that's the way I call it. They talked about
37 okay, if it's for Board of Game then you don't need to
38 go through this and it can't be called a working group,
39 it has to be called a subcommittee. And then well, we
40 need to have goals, we need to know how long you're
41 meeting and all this stuff. It just got so frustrating
42 and I felt like we could have done a -- I just don't
43 understand why it has to be so bloody difficult all the
44 time.

45 So we were challenged to write up
46 expectations, goals, time frame, frequency of meetings,
47 cost. I've never had to deal with as a Chair to give a
48 report on the cost of what something's going to -- you
49 know, we were asking the OSM to do this and it just got
50

1 weird to me. And then I was -- I got a call from staff
2 in January, there was -- the Federal Board was supposed
3 to have another teleconference and I'm going to let Tom
4 talk to that when he comes up here. And it -- I don't
5 think it was even presented this information that he
6 has here. And so, you know, I do a few phone -- I know
7 a lot of people around this state so I made a few phone
8 calls and I've been working with staff at the Refuge,
9 Arctic Refuge, Nathan Hawkaluk, and he has been to
10 Arctic Village. And he said, Sue, I'm willing to work
11 with you, I'm willing to even take you up there and
12 talk to the people. And for me it means more to have
13 that one on one talking to people and to -- for them to
14 understand that, you know, hey, let's try to get some
15 -- work together here.

16
17 And I -- I'm like to the point where
18 I'm so frustrated with this working group or
19 subcommittee or whatever the heck you want to call it
20 that I'm not sure that's where we should be going
21 forward. If we can work with staff in the Refuge and
22 we can work with Fish and Game because there's a lot of
23 things and then you can tell us more about your AC.
24 We're going to get into this I think when he comes up,
25 but I just want you guys to know that I don't
26 understand why something simple has to become so bloody
27 complicated. And to me if we -- if the -- I've talked
28 to Fish and Game people also and I've asked them, you
29 know, we need to do something that we're reaching out
30 to the people and we need to show that something -- you
31 care about this so that -- you remember the, I have it
32 here somewhere, the hunter ed thing that was voted on
33 in 2011 to take a course if you went hunting in that
34 area, it was never developed. And so I'm telling Fish
35 and Game develop it, it's about time you start
36 developing that and that shows that you're going to the
37 people, you're reaching out and you're starting to
38 figure out that we can work together. And so to
39 respect the people in the area. And that's what that
40 -- we'll be discussing that under proposal 82, but I'm
41 just telling you it was very -- it's very frustrating
42 to sit here, all your time in the RAC, and then you
43 just feel like did we really accomplish anything.

44
45 So anyway as your Chair that's where I
46 am right now, a bit frustrated.

47
48 And then I also -- I think it would be
49 nice if we could be streamlining things because Board
50

1 of Game proposals, we all have issues, I think everyone
2 of us. I -- is there someone on this that isn't on a
3 AC?
4

5 Are you on an AC, Charlie?
6

7 MR. JAGOW: (Inaudible response)
8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He might --
10 you're -- everybody else is on an AC, right, a State
11 AC, yeah. So out of our membership I had people
12 complain to me well, Delta's not represented, they're
13 -- they need to be represented. And I said well, we
14 have all the members are on -- most of the members are
15 on ACs and maybe the State needs to provide us minutes
16 from the ACs if they have -- they want to talk about
17 Federal proposals.
18

19 So anyway that's kind of something that
20 would be important for us to work on.
21

22 So as your Chair a lot of times I'm
23 working on that kind of stuff and I haven't even got a
24 chance to go out trapping this winter. So something
25 wrong with that picture.
26

27 But we'll move on unless somebody needs
28 a break. We'll bring up Tom Doolittle for the next
29 thing on the agenda which is -- he's going to probably
30 follow through for my frustration.
31

32 MR. DOOLITTLE: My name is Tom
33 Doolittle for the record, I'm the acting assistant
34 regional director for the Federal Office of Subsistence
35 Management.
36

37 And through the Chair I know and I
38 understand, you know, parts of your frustrations. And
39 number 1 is that, yes, the Board did look at a draft,
40 you know, proposal, you know, coming from the request
41 of this Council to create a subcommittee to the RAC.
42 And the Board is the one that is the decision body on
43 whether to allow those particular, you know,
44 subcommittees to carry forth. And it might seem like
45 semantics, but many times there's confusion between
46 what a subcommittee to a RAC is and a working group.
47 Look at the Western High Arctic Caribou Working Group
48 that the State -- is a State sanctioned group. Lots of
49 people come into that -- you know, into that process as
50

1 they have over the years, you know, and looking at
2 bigger pictures and recommendations to whether it's a
3 Regional Advisory Council, a Federal Board to a State
4 AC to various agencies and their management. And
5 usually working groups, you know, when it comes down to
6 the process of government are -- seem to be very
7 expensive. And so I think when you see, you know, why
8 there's concern when we start to create a subcommittee
9 to a working -- you know, a subcommittee even to a RAC,
10 one of the things that I see that probably rings well
11 with any Board member is is this like a working group
12 and how much will this, you know, cost.
13

14 And we put together what I call a short
15 and succinct, you know, piece of paper that Zach has
16 that was presented to the -- you know, that was
17 presented to the Board and the Board came back and said
18 for the subcommittee we're not approving it at this
19 time and that was totally at their discretion. And
20 they wanted to see, you know, goals and objectives more
21 formed or more fleshed out part of the budget. And you
22 can go to the transcripts of that meeting to kind of
23 get the.....
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I
26 interrupt?
27

28 MR. DOOLITTLE:gory details.
29 Yes, Sue, please.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Was that the
32 -- November?
33

34 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes. That was the
35 November 5th teleconference.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the thing
38 that he held up was not in front of the Board November
39 5th.
40

41 MR. DOOLITTLE: He -- they should have
42 had a small synopsis in front of them.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, it
45 wouldn't have because that's -- they asked for it to
46 come forward on November 5th. I was online listening
47 and talking to them.
48

49 MR. DOOLITTLE: Why don't you listen
50

1 back, please, and can you have -- Zach, can you clarify
2 that, please?

3

4 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair?

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair,
9 responding to Mr. Doolittle's request. The Federal
10 Subsistence Board who met on November 5th, 2019 in
11 their teleconference and heard the request from this
12 Council to establish the Arctic Village Sheep
13 Management Area Subcommittee asked for several items to
14 be clarified. One, what were the expectations of this
15 Council in forming that subcommittee; two, what were
16 the goals; three, what were the time frame for that
17 subcommittee and how often would they meet, the
18 frequency of those meetings, what would the cost be and
19 who would participate, who are the stakeholders who
20 would be involved. Following that four hour
21 teleconference which I participated in.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I did
24 also.

25

26 MR. STEVENSON:and the Chair
27 participated in, I received a request through -- from
28 Mr. Doolittle to compose a response to those questions.
29 And the document which each of you were provided is the
30 draft response to those Board's questions.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I have
33 a question.

34

35 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
36 Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought I
39 understood that that went to the Board, that was dated
40 November 7th and.....

41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, it should -- and
43 that should have been the materials, I mean, you know,
44 the Board needed to have materials to act on. And so I
45 would have been surprised that there wasn't some piece
46 of paper that they would have in front of them, you
47 know, if you.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What they had

50

1 was Katya's report.

2

3

MR. DOOLITTLE: Okay.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

6

7

8

MR. DOOLITTLE: And so Katya's report, Zach, what did that have in it?

9

10

11

12

MR. STEVENSON: I can't speak to that. Through the Chair. I can't speak to that, Mr. Chair, I'd have to consult with Katya Wessels.

13

14

15

16

17

MR. DOOLITTLE: There should have been a form to ask, you know, with some paper trail, you know -- you know, relative to that. And so.....

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Katya called me a day before the meeting and said she was told I thought by you, Tom, to write something up for the Federal Board. It was not that piece of paper, it was something she wrote, her request. Okay. And then I was -- also talked on it.

25

26

27

28

29

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31

32

33

34

35

36

MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, that would be correct, yeah. So it would have -- it would have had basic costs, it would have had the goals, it would have had, you know, some very similar format to what Zach just read that Katya would have produced. So, you know, it wouldn't have been, you know, an arbitrary like, you know, we want to just create a subcommittee, there would have been something for the Board to look at and digest. But when the Board did do that and they looked at it they asked, you know, some more formal questions.

37

38

39

40

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: For more information.

41

42

43

44

45

MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, they wanted more information. And so we put something together for more information and that has not been, you know, presented back to the -- you know, to the -- you know, to the Board.

46

47

48

49

50

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If you give me the time, I appreciate not interrupting. The -- I was told at that meeting that the Board was going to meet again by teleconference in January. And that this

1 would be finished and taken to the Board in January.
2 And I got a call from somebody in OSM that it wasn't --
3 nothing's going to happen, that's what I was told.
4 Nothing's going to happen at this -- was there another
5 teleconference of the Board?
6

7 MR. DOOLITTLE: No, there was not
8 another teleconference of the Board in January. So
9 there was no convening of the Board at that time.
10

11 And in review of, you know, this
12 particular ask is that we, you know, internally and I
13 can take full -- full credit for this and full blame
14 for it, was that I wanted to see it fleshed out in a
15 more defined form and have it reviewed by this entire
16 Council and then presented to the Board so it had the
17 optimum chance of success.
18

19 Thank you, Madame Chair.
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just for me
22 personally, gang, it seems like a roadblock, a
23 government roadblock. You try to get something done
24 and then that government roadblock gets set for you.
25 That's how it feels to me.
26

27 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
30

31 MR. FIRMIN: I've been sitting here for
32 10 years and I've never been asked to come up with a
33 draft budget for a working group so that's new to me
34 too.
35

36 I think the summary of our minutes and
37 discussion could have been -- a lot of this could have
38 been hacked out like the way Zach presented here. And
39 I think it's who -- could be open to whoever wants to
40 participate. I think that more than two conference --
41 two teleconference meetings with -- two teleconferences
42 ain't going to cover it though. The issue is hard to
43 get your head wrapped around and there's a lot of
44 different aspects to it, from the history of it from --
45 goes back to what, 20 years, 20 years of history behind
46 this.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew, I
49 brought this book and it goes to.....
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: There's a lot to it.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:1996 or
4 '95.

5
6 MR. FIRMIN: I think -- I think it's
7 even previous to that.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

10
11 MR. FIRMIN: But, yeah, I don't know if
12 it's a roadblock or if it's just lack of staff time to
13 actually put this forward to bring us a solution that
14 we can say, yes, that looks good and have input on.
15 Like you said it would be good to see more than --
16 maybe we need to see another draft of this before the
17 end of the meeting so we can make some progress on it.

18
19 Thank you.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I would
22 like to just report to the Council here, me personally
23 and having dealing with government meetings forever it
24 seems, well, like a life, and after talking to the
25 Refuge staff I feel like we could accomplish more
26 without going through that process and just working
27 with the staff that's out there. And if they're
28 willing to send somebody from the RAC up there, it's no
29 cost to OSM, and we can actually create dialogue with
30 Fish and Game who are willing to do that, that's where
31 it needs to start. That's -- that proposal we put in,
32 it needs to start on that hunter ethics thing that they
33 required them to take before they'd ever hunt there if
34 it ever got opened. So step one in my opinion is that
35 one. So let's do step one and then we can take that up
36 at proposal 82.

37
38 But I -- I'm sorry, but I'm pretty
39 discouraged on the slow process.

40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE: And that's
42 understandable, Madame Chair, and the -- and the entire
43 Council. I know that, you know, Zach has, you know,
44 tried to, you know, vet this draft through the -- you
45 know, through the Council, but also I strongly
46 encourage working with the actual Federal conservation
47 unit. I'm not going to speak, you know, for the Refuge
48 and the Refuge management, the staff on this, but again
49 if anything can be done between Regional Advisory

50

1 Councils, stakeholders on the local conservation unit
2 in the area, you know, with those -- with those land
3 managers in assistance of facilitation, I always see
4 better outcomes than, you know, using a broader
5 bureaucracy. And then it really becomes, you know, the
6 seed from, you know, the bottom up process that really
7 is, you know, what I see as being the instrumental part
8 of the subsistence program.

9
10 And not to speak for Steve and your
11 shop, but if that's okay to, you know, kind of go on
12 that direction then I think that, you know, having some
13 networking between the Refuge and some of these issues
14 and the stakeholders, you know, makes more formative
15 sense as a starting point.

16
17 So I think that I'd like to see that
18 kind of a -- you know, that kind of starting point.
19 And Sue and I really applaud that idea and that
20 process. But I don't want the Council also to, you
21 know, negate the idea of bringing something more formed
22 to have a subcommittee, you know, to -- you know, to
23 this group. But you might get actually better ideas
24 for this kind of plan for the Board to formalize
25 something more, you know, by the efforts, you know,
26 working with the Refuge and working with Arctic Village
27 and the State, you know, on the issues and, you know --
28 you know, for dall sheep hunting in and around the
29 Arctic Valley -- you know, the Arctic Sheep Management
30 Area. So kind of, you know, you'll, you know, take
31 that into context and that advice for what it's worth
32 as well.

33
34 And again I take, you know, personal
35 responsibility for, you know, not shepherding, you
36 know, the -- you know, the second, you know, parts of
37 this through the -- you know, through the process with
38 staff. And we can use all the excuses such as staff
39 time and everything, but again the reconvening of the
40 Board, you know, for, you know, teleconference on this
41 was not going to, you know, really occur just for
42 timing for a lot of reasons, you know, in January. And
43 I do regret that, you know, you don't -- you didn't
44 have that information that you wanted, you know, before
45 the upcoming Board of Game meeting to provide
46 information for a proposal -- well, for a proposal that
47 this Council put forth, you know, to -- you know,
48 that's going to be acted on here soon by the Board of
49 Game. So and that's this week. So I think that's the
50

1 biggest regret, but on the other hand that process
2 doesn't have to stop and I would hope, Zach, that we
3 would continue with, you know, crafting a better plan
4 and that you work through the Chair as members of this
5 Council works with the Refuges and others to form, you
6 know, the ideas that the Board wanted. And I think
7 they're fairly straightforward ideas beyond the cost
8 effectiveness, it's really about, you know -- you know,
9 the issues and what outcomes do you want, you know, how
10 is that dialogue working, you know, that sort of thing.
11 The key is with all of it is consistency of
12 communication and the consistency of maintaining, you
13 know, the issue so you do see change and that everybody
14 is engaged in the process in a fair and equitable
15 manner and they have an equal voice to the situation as
16 well.

17

18 Thank you, Madame Chair.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
21 questions, Don and Andrew.

22

23 MS. PITKA: Hey, this is Rhonda Pitka.
24 I was just calling in to listen.

25

26 Thanks.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hey, thank
31 you, Rhonda. Nice to hear your voice.

32

33 MR. WOODRUFF: My question is if we
34 don't sort of go the subcommittee route then there
35 would be a barrier I should say or a step to get over
36 for the tribal government to government consultations.
37 I would like to see that going forward and Arctic
38 Village participating in that government to government
39 consultation that happens before the Federal
40 Subsistence Board meeting. And not just go this one
41 route through the Refuge as you say, the -- you know,
42 the bottom up. But my experience is bottom up works
43 because you're there talking to the people, you're
44 interacting with them and you're what, the wildlife
45 biologist of the region, you're not trying to, you
46 know, get BIA or Forestry to kind of get onboard.

47

48 And so that's my perspective.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, absolutely, Don.
4 I think, you know, again that's part and parcel of the
5 process that we do is to involve, you know, our
6 government to government responsibilities with our
7 member -- with our member tribes. And so the -- so the
8 -- so all in all that this really does have to be, you
9 know -- you know, part and parcel of the process. And
10 right at the Board meeting and probably to even hold,
11 you know, separate consultation meetings to these
12 issues on a frequent -- you know, on a more frequent
13 basis is always assistive to the process. And it
14 provides perspective to this Council, to the Board and
15 to the State and others, you know, in the proper way.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: I just want to say thank
22 you, Tom, for your explanation. That was -- clarified
23 it quite a -- pretty good there.

24
25 I just wanted to add that like with
26 Don's, if they do have the government to government
27 consultations with the different tribes, that they had
28 all the tribes that are stakeholders within the
29 regulation, the existing one. I don't know if you'll
30 get much response out of the other ones just because
31 they're smaller, they got a lot of other issues on
32 hand, but I know Arctic Village would definitely be
33 participating and most of the tribes would probably
34 defer to their wisdom.

35
36 The other thing I thought of was we
37 shouldn't refrain from going with the hunter ethics
38 course, but it should be more of a visitor, what Virgil
39 used to refer to the flower strippers as.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Posie
42 snippers.

43
44 MR. FIRMIN: The posie snippers. But,
45 you know, the -- just all visitors, photographers,
46 hikers, I mean, we can't just say it's just hunter
47 ethics and the hunters are the only ones that are
48 littering or doing whatever, you know, that are -- you
49 know, it should be all visitors to the area and not

50

1 just the sheep hunters that should take the brunt of
2 the blame, but, you know, all the folks that are
3 visiting in that -- in that area should be able --
4 should have to take the same, you know, course like
5 that. And I thought there was something already
6 developed or it was my understanding that all the
7 information is available, it's just the time for the
8 staff to.....
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
11

12 MR. FIRMIN:put it down and set
13 it up and, you know, write it. I thought there was
14 more forward progress with it in the past, but I think
15 we're in a good spot to keep moving forward with it.
16 Slow as it may be, but that's the way the wheels turn,
17 at least they're turning.
18

19 Thank you.
20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: And one.....
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
24

25 MR. DOOLITTLE:and one thing for
26 the record as a further response to Don's, you know,
27 discussion relative to tribal consultation is that the
28 Arctic Village council was requested to consult with
29 the Board concerning this -- the proposal WP 20-49.
30 Five members of the Board or their representatives met
31 with six Arctic Village tribal representatives on
32 teleconference on November 26 of 2019 from 1:00 to 2:00
33 p.m. The teleconference was held at the U.S. Fish and
34 Wildlife Service Alaska Regional Office in Anchorage.
35 So we did on that proposal, you know, hold a formal
36 consultation.
37

38 Thank you, Madame Chair and Council.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
41 discussion.
42

43 (No comments)
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we'll be
46 taking this up and we'll at -- when we do Board of Game
47 proposals on 82.
48

49 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Go
2 ahead.

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, I just wanted to add
5 that, you know, the other stakeholders is what,
6 Kaktovik, Fort Yukon, Venetie and Arctic are probably
7 considered the same tribe, Tuluksak, I believe there's
8 five tribes total listed in there. It would be good to
9 extend the line or courtesy to all of them. Whether or
10 not you'll get a response back from all of them or not
11 is another story, but I know like Tuluksak is a small
12 tribe and they don't have a lot of employees and I know
13 Fort Yukon is active, but they've got a lot on their
14 plate at the moment.

15
16 So that's all.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And most of
19 them probably have C&T, right?

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: (Inaudible response)

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
24 Are we -- want to take up the next thing on the agenda
25 or do you need a break?

26
27 (No comments)

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I --
30 I'm seeing keep going.

31
32 All right. Under new business, Lisa
33 Maas.

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ten minute break.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I'm
38 sorry. I didn't hear very well. I have a request for
39 a 10 minute break. Be back at 10:30.

40
41 (Off record)

42
43 (On record)

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
46 Lisa, you're next.

47
48 MS. MAAS: All right. Thank you,
49 Madame Chair, members of the Council. My name is Lisa

50

1 Maas and I'm a wildlife biologist in the Office of
2 Subsistence Management. I'll be presenting information
3 concerning wildlife special action request WSA 20-01.
4 And the Council will be asked to make a recommendation
5 on this request. And it might be useful to turn to
6 page 67 in the regulation book which has the unit 13
7 caribou regulations on it to help follow along with
8 what the changes are in this request. And again that's
9 page 67.

10

11 And WSA 20-01 was submitted by William
12 Amberg of Copper Center and requests a continuous
13 caribou season in unit 13 from August 1st to March 31st
14 and that the caribou harvest limit in unit 13 remainder
15 be changed from two bulls to two caribou for the
16 2020/21 and 2021/22 regulatory years. So that would be
17 the 2020 to 2022 regulatory cycle.

18

19 The proponent notes that the State has
20 extended its fall season in recent years to September
21 30th which matches the Federal season and precludes a
22 Federal subsistence priority. Additionally caribou
23 have been migrating through Federal lands in October
24 when the season is closed, precluding opportunity. He
25 also notes safety concerns due to the high numbers of
26 hunters along the Richardson Highway and that
27 increasing harvest of the Nelchina caribou herd could
28 help reduce the size of this herd which is currently
29 beyond objective and at risk of overgrazing its
30 habitat.

31

32 In 2019 the Alaska Department of Fish
33 and Game extended the closing date of its fall caribou
34 season by 10 days from September 20th to September 30th
35 in order to help reduce the size of the Nelchina
36 caribou herd. The Nelchina caribou herd has exceeded
37 State management objectives in all years since 2010
38 except 2018. Currently the State goal is 35,000 to
39 40,000 caribou and the 2019 population estimate was
40 53,500 caribou. If herd numbers are not reduced the
41 range quality and long term herd stability may be
42 compromised.

43

44 The Mentasta herd is a small caribou
45 herd that primarily ranges in units 11, 12 and 20E,
46 however given the proximity of unit 13 to the Mentasta
47 herd's range, some Mentasta caribou could be present in
48 unit 13 during the hunting season. Substantial
49 conservation concerns exist for the Mentasta herd due

50

1 to its low population and chronic low recruitment.
2 However about 20 Mentasta caribou have active radio
3 collars which should assist agency staff in determining
4 whether or not Mentasta caribou are present in unit 13.
5

6 The Nelchina caribou herd's population
7 is primarily controlled by harvest and harvest quotas
8 are adjusted annually to achieve management objectives.
9 95 percent of the harvest from the Nelchina herd occurs
10 in unit 13. Currently the State is managing the
11 Nelchina caribou herd to reduce herd size through high
12 harvest quotas, any caribou harvest limits and season
13 extensions. While there is no targeted hunt for
14 Mentasta caribou because of conservation concerns, some
15 incidental harvest may occur when hunting for Nelchina
16 caribou.
17

18 One alternative considered is to
19 delegate authority to a Federal in-season manager to
20 open and close a may be announced season between
21 October 1st and 20th and to set sex restrictions in
22 unit 13 remainder for the 2020/2022 regulatory cycle.
23 This would allow flexibility in responding to changing
24 herd and/or environmental conditions.
25

26 The BLM Glennallen field office manager
27 already has delegated authority to set sex restrictions
28 in units 13A and B. The Council may want to further
29 consider this option.
30

31 Adopting this proposal would increase
32 harvest opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence
33 users. The season has historically been closed in
34 October due to rut and hunting this time could disrupt
35 breeding, however users could still harvest cows and
36 young bulls during an October season and since the
37 current management goal is herd reduction, disruption
38 of breeding is not a concern.
39

40 Minimal conservation concerns exist for
41 the Nelchina herd as its population currently exceeds
42 objectives and overgrazing of its habitat is a concern.
43 (Indiscernible - distortion) event, reducing the size
44 and recruitment of the Nelchina herd are possible as
45 evidenced by the population decline in 2018. In this
46 case increased total harvest and cow harvest could
47 become a conservation concern. While some incidental
48 take of Mentasta caribou may occur the likelihood of
49 this is small and they can be monitored by radio
50

1 collars by agency staff.

2

3 So thank you, Madame Chair, members of
4 the Council, that concludes my presentation and I'm
5 happy to answer any questions. And again we are
6 looking for the Council to make a formal recommendation
7 on this request.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So, Lisa, I'm
10 getting asked where -- we have no handout, we have
11 nothing to look at other than hearing your voice.

12

13 MS. MAAS: Yeah, this is a very recent
14 question, honestly it just came to our attention
15 yesterday that the Council should make a recommendation
16 on this. So that's why I suggested, I mean, looking at
17 page 67 to see what the current regulations are and
18 that might help you understand what the changes they're
19 asking for are. I mean, we have the request that was
20 submitted by the proponent, but again it was such short
21 notice I'm not sure, you know, if we could get that
22 sent and printed out, if that would help.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There's been
25 a request by a Council member to repeat the changes and
26 it might help -- you can just text it, right?

27

28 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just a
31 second. Zach.

32

33 MR. STEVENSON: Though the Chair. This
34 question's for Lisa Maas. Lisa, is it possible for you
35 to send us the proponent's special action request?

36

37 MS. MAAS: Yeah, I mean, if I send it
38 to you are you -- I mean, I guess you can maybe hook it
39 up to the projector?

40

41 MR. STEVENSON: Correct.

42

43 MS. MAAS: Yeah, just a moment.

44

45 MR. STEVENSON: Thank's Lisa. I'll get
46 it on the screen for everybody.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you able
49 to multitask, Lisa?

50

1 MS. MAAS: I'll do my best. So again
2 the changes requested are if you're looking at the page
3 67 you'll see how currently there's a split season or
4 there's a break in October. And so the proponent's
5 asking for just a continuous season so to continue
6 hunting through early and mid October and then to
7 change the unit 13 remainder harvest limit from two
8 bulls to two caribou. And again he's requesting this
9 for two years, a full regulatory cycle.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So this is
12 just a two year special action request then?
13

14 MS. MAAS: Correct. Yeah.
15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it would
17 be the 2020 season and the 2021 season?
18

19 Just for Council members like you,
20 Charlie, who might be looking, what are we taking this
21 up for. It's -- we have C&T in unit 13, that's why we
22 end up taking it up.
23

24 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
27

28 MR. BASSICH: Lisa, this is Andy
29 Bassich. Can you repeat what the changes -- the date
30 changes for those open seasons would be? I wasn't able
31 to follow you.
32

33 MS. MAAS: Yeah, the date change is --
34 currently there's a closed portion of the season
35 between October 1st and October 20th. So this is
36 requesting to maintain that season to be open from
37 August 1st all the way through March 31st.
38

39 MR. BASSICH: Gotcha.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
42

43 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I guess
44 my only concern with that is there are times when
45 caribou are in the rut and they're completely inedible.
46 And I would be concerned about people that aren't aware
47 of this going out and harvesting animals, shooting them
48 and then realizing that they're inedible. That would
49 be my only real concern. I understand the desire to
50

1 try and help control the herd, but I think there's a
2 real possibility that there would be a lot of animals
3 left laying or wasted during that period. I think
4 that's why the period is left the way it is right now
5 is to reduce or eliminate harvest of rutting bull
6 caribou. However I guess if it's any caribou it's
7 going to go toward calves or cows so I guess it's just
8 a matter of how well people are able to identify
9 caribou.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wanted
12 to call to your attention and Barbara's here and then
13 -- then you, okay. There's a Wrangell-St. Elias, they
14 took this up at their -- at the SRC meeting just last
15 week on the 25th. And they wanted to keep the -- that
16 closure during the rut. Okay. So we have that
17 information.

18
19 Barbara, do you want to -- but if you
20 pull this out, it's -- should be in your stack of paper
21 there somewhere. They took it up at the -- that and
22 Barbara's going to address it.

23
24 Go ahead, Barbara.

25
26 MS. CELLARIUS: Thank you, Madame
27 Chair. For the record my name is Barbara Cellarius,
28 I'm the subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias
29 National Park and Preserve. And this is a comment from
30 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence
31 Resource Commission which is a citizen advisory
32 committee similar to the RAC and they met last week as
33 Sue said.

34
35 The Commission voted to support a
36 modified version of the request. Specifically the SRC
37 supports the portion of the request that would change
38 the harvest limit in unit 13 remainder to two caribou.
39 Changing the limit from bulls only to any caribou will
40 provide additional subsistence opportunity. The SRC
41 opposes the elimination of the closed season from
42 October 1 to October 20 which overlaps with the rut.
43 The meat of bull caribou harvested during the rut is
44 potentially inedible and could result in meat being
45 wasted. Additionally it's problematic to disturb
46 caribou during the rut.

47
48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I have a lot
2 of things flying at me right now. Procedurally I've
3 got to ask staff, are we supposed to go through this
4 whole process for this because we're just kind of
5 bouncing around here?
6

7 MS. MAAS: Yeah, through the Chair.
8 This is Lisa. And, I mean, we don't have, you know,
9 most of those. This is so new in the process, I mean,
10 you're welcome at your discretion to invite public
11 comments from people in the audience, but beyond that,
12 you know, we don't have any tribal or State or agency
13 comments other than, you know, Barbara presenting the
14 SRC comment already.
15

16 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Zach.
19

20 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
21 Lisa, I am attempting to log in to my email right now
22 and I'm having difficulty getting access through the
23 hotel's wifi connection. Am I correct that you are --
24 you are -- wildlife is looking for any comments from
25 this Council on the special action; is that correct?
26

27 And my follow-up question.....
28

29 MS. MAAS: We're looking for a
30 recommendation. So a motion.....
31

32 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. But.....
33

34 MS. MAAS:you know, on the
35 special action.
36

37 MR. STEVENSON: Understood. And given
38 the -- given the Council has not had an opportunity to
39 review anything in writing from the proponent I'm -- I
40 would suggest perhaps that we take say maybe a five or
41 10 minute recess to print out that document so the
42 Council has something in front of them in writing to
43 consider. Is that amenable?
44

45 Thank you, Madame Chair.
46

47 MS. MAAS: I'd say that's up to the
48 Council and the Chair.
49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. And
2 that's what I was thinking, I'd rather all of us see
3 it.
4

5 And you might have to have somebody go
6 out and get the password there.
7

8 MR. STEVENSON: I've got it here. It's
9 in my.....
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
12 Okay. You've introduced it so now we would like to see
13 it. And we might have to not make a motion until we
14 see it and then discuss it. So we in that light I
15 believe we could -- Lisa, you're here all day, right,
16 we -- you're on the agenda first because of a time
17 constraint, but you're here all day. So we'll get a
18 copy of it and we'll just move on to the next topic.
19 And we'll hear -- yeah, right after as long as we get
20 the information.
21

22 Do you need a time certain?
23

24 MS. MAAS: It would be appreciated,
25 but.....
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. You
28 know, there was a suggestion at 1:00 o'clock, right
29 after lunch.
30

31 MS. MAAS: Okay.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Does that
34 work?
35

36 MS. MAAS: Yeah, that works.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
39 So now staff is trying to get us a copy of that and
40 we'll go from there.
41

42 Next on the agenda is the public and
43 tribal comments on nonagenda items and I'm to do this
44 each morning. Were there any?
45

46 MS. JAMES: Yes.
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. And,
49 Sarah, right?
50

1 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Sarah. I
4 have two blue cards here and it's all about Red Sheep
5 Creek. Do you -- we're going to take up a Board of
6 Game proposal, but you're welcome to come up and speak
7 to it now.

8

9 And then there's a Pam Miller and that
10 would be -- okay.

11

12 MS. JAMES: Thank you. I had only
13 today so I'm trying to fit everything into today
14 because I have to leave tonight.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 On that Red Sheep Creek Management
19 Area, I feel like -- I was here last meeting and
20 testify along with my tribal leaders. And I am
21 appointed spokesperson for my tribe on the Red Sheep
22 Creek and the Refuge. And I honor that position.

23

24 And so it was clear to me was at that
25 meeting last time that we -- there was agree that we
26 were -- it was going to in the -- in the process of
27 protecting. And now it's back on the agenda and look
28 like Fish and -- Fish and Game have it on the agenda
29 again for the next meeting. So I just feel like when
30 is this going to stop.

31

32 And we've been on this issue of
33 protecting the Red Sheep Creek for many, many years
34 now. And I saw a report about all that testimony why
35 we don't want no sportfishing. It's com -- really
36 complete, I mean, there's so many from my people. And
37 what I learn as I grew up and even though my language,
38 Gwich'in is my first language, but I know a lot about
39 my traditional protection what I learn because my
40 family like I said again we went into those mountains
41 for months as I was growing up just to get sheep, our
42 traditional, very special subsistence to do, to get
43 into the mountains and bring home some sheep for our
44 elders, prepare and dried and killed and everything.
45 And that's a lot of work, a lot -- low waste. And we
46 did that, my family did that. So it's very -- it's --
47 I mean, I'm just talking from my heart because that's
48 how I grew up.

49

50

1 Well, anyway and then I know that we
2 need somebody here on this Board from my area. But you
3 got to understand that where I'm coming from, it's kind
4 of complicated for me to follow the procedures, not
5 only me, but a lot of us back home. We do have a few
6 people that can, you know, do fine, but they're pretty
7 covered, I'm pretty covered with many Boards. It's
8 just me now that I -- I was talking to one of the
9 members here that we feel like -- you know, I feel like
10 we need some kind of training or invite you to the
11 Arctic Village and have a meeting up there. And I
12 understand from the last time that there were -- we
13 present themself as a tribe, as a government and that
14 was pretty clear and I thought it was going to be in
15 that process, government to government and consultation
16 and all that. But seemed like the question's still
17 there, to me anyway. And then I know that people would
18 bring up that we need somebody from our area on this
19 Board.

20
21 And then another thing is that on the
22 Refuge. We already have a consultation with the
23 government that we are government to government with
24 that, Arctic Refuge. And I feel like we are in that
25 process with Red Sheep Creek. And that was -- that's
26 what I heard from my tribe, from my council. And I
27 just thought I just bring up how I feel and how I
28 understand the whole process.

29
30 We have a lot -- great deal of respect
31 for a Board like this and many, many other Boards that
32 we can work with and understand our position,
33 understand our ways. And that's why I thought maybe
34 invite one of you up there or one -- you know, all the
35 whole to have meeting with the tribe or just kind of
36 training type of how the system works.

37
38 So thank you. I guess I just covered
39 just about what I want to cover.

40
41 I hope I -- I was clear and if there's
42 any question I'll try to answer.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As you spoke,
45 Sarah, I understand where living in Arctic Village and
46 understanding that there's a State process and there's
47 a Federal process, it's even hard for people on these
48 Councils to understand exactly what it means. And when
49 the Federal Board which we voted on at the last meeting

50

1 that you were at, we voted not to pass -- open that Red
2 Sheep and Cane Creek area as it was proposed. That was
3 a proposal, it'll go to the Federal Board in April.
4 And we voted to keep it closed.
5

6 So now there's a Board of Game proposal
7 with is a different proposal and it's addressing that
8 -- several things actually. A three sheep limit during
9 the winter for this -- everybody that qualifies in the
10 State and all of that area beyond there. Plus it
11 addresses -- there was a hunter ethics recommendation
12 that anybody that -- if it was ever opened in those two
13 drainages to hunt there, they have to have a hunter
14 ethics class and take it from Fish and Game. That
15 class was never developed.
16

17 And that's kind of what is before us at
18 this meeting, not what we voted on last meeting. And I
19 know it's very confusing.
20

21 So I would love and I'm -- think I'm
22 hearing that, yes, we're invited and there's several
23 things we can do as a Council. One is we can even have
24 a couple people come up there from the RAC or we could
25 even maybe ask to have a meeting up there with this
26 RAC. And then we'd lobby our staff to do so. So those
27 are the kind of things that I wanted to let you know is
28 confusing to have two government systems for
29 regulations and how one makes the other one work.
30

31 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
34

35 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I want to thank you
36 for coming and talking to us and making the
37 recommendation that you put in for a representative
38 from your tribal entity to be on our Council here. And
39 just for the record I think we have been dealing with
40 this issue in this region for many, many years and.....
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: As long as
43 we've been on it, Andy.
44

45 MR. BASSICH: As long as I've been
46 on.....
47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
49
50

1 MR. BASSICH:15 years or so. So
2 I think it would be incumbent upon OSM to help further
3 getting representation from that tribal entity to be a
4 part of our RAC.
5

6 But thank you for coming. I hear what
7 you're saying. It's really -- it's a sad fact that
8 nowadays we as subsistence livers almost spend more
9 time going to meetings trying to protect our lifestyle
10 and the resources than to actually go out and harvest
11 and live the lifestyle. And I know you're in that
12 position like many of us are. So we understand what
13 you're saying.
14

15 Thank you.
16

17 MS. JAMES: They was a presenter that
18 was supposed to be here for the Council, David Smith,
19 but he -- I don't know what happen in Arctic Village,
20 but he missed the plane. He's probably going to be
21 here tomorrow.
22

23 Okay.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I've got two
26 hands up, Bill and then Robert.
27

28 MR. GLANZ: We had a representative
29 from Arctic Village on our Board and he made one or two
30 meetings and resigned.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
33

34 MR. GLANZ: I believe the reason was he
35 was under the assumption that we come to this meeting
36 and we make a proposal and it becomes law. He doesn't
37 -- he failed to realize it was a couple years down the
38 road before it even become a law or a game regulation
39 or not a game regulation. So I can't remember the
40 young man's name, but he was very intelligent and he
41 writes letters to the newspaper and he writes articles
42 to the newspaper. We need people like that on this
43 Board, especially young people. Most of us are in our
44 60s and 70s.
45

46 MS. JAMES: Exactly.
47

48 MR. STEVENSON: That was Evon Peter.
49
50

1 MR. GLANZ: Negative. It was a man.

2

3 MR. STEVENSON: The gentleman's name
4 you're referring to.....

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

7

8 MR. STEVENSON:Evon Peter.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
11 that was him. Vince knows who it was.

12

13 MR. GLANZ: Well.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's
16 immaterial, somebody was on.....

17

18 MR. GLANZ: He was on our Board, but he
19 resigned after two meetings anyhow, you know. So.....

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we're
22 only advisory.

23

24 MR. GLANZ: Yes.

25

26 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We got to
29 keep that in mind. The Federal Board is the one that
30 makes the -- votes on it. So.....

31

32 MR. GLANZ: We just suggest and pass it
33 and hope it gets through and generally it will or it
34 will not depending on the -- how the wind blows.

35

36 But I -- I know I've been on this Board
37 and -- since '05 and Arctic Village has come up three
38 or four times. I don't know, maybe some of these
39 people can back me up on it.

40

41 But anyhow we appreciate you being
42 here.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert.

45

46 MR. WRIGHT: There -- there's two seats
47 open here. And when's the limit -- I mean, when's the
48 deadline for that, is that today or.....

49

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Yesterday.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It was
4 yesterday.

5
6 MR. WRIGHT: Oh, okay. Well.....

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So it's a
9 year.

10
11 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, there is two seats
12 open though for the future just so you know. You can
13 tell your people that they can sign up for this Board.

14
15 MS. JAMES: Okay.

16
17 MR. WRIGHT: Yeah, okay. Well, that's
18 the way that you get people on here is you have them
19 sign up and -- before the deadline and then you'll have
20 your people represented.

21
22 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

25
26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I have a question
27 for OSM staff. Is it possible instead of appointing an
28 individual to this to have a seat appointed to their
29 tribal entity or does it have to be a individual?

30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
32 Pippa, can you address that?

33
34 MS. KENNER: Hi, this is Pippa Kenner
35 and I'm with OSM. And I'm not an official in this area
36 of what we do, but I've been doing it for a long time.
37 So ANILCA and our Councils are basically focused on
38 rural residents of Alaska. And we don't have
39 mechanisms for prioritizing tribes or tribal members
40 above members of the public. So it is individuals and
41 they're appointed by the Secretaries. So we go through
42 the application process and then the Secretaries review
43 that process and make their appointments.

44
45 Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: So, Pippa.....

48
49 MS. JAMES: That would be really good.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. I was just
2 wondering given the situation in that region and, you
3 know, we hear many, many times, almost at every meeting
4 that we want tribal consultation. And is there a
5 process that can -- within OSM's charter or whatever to
6 allow for AC -- because in sometime -- some
7 organizations you can allow for say a youth seat at a
8 table, at a Council table or whatever. So is there a
9 process that we could petition OSM and the system to
10 allow for a tribal seat as a recommendation or what
11 would that look like if that's possible. I just don't
12 know what the chart -- how the charter reads and how
13 limiting that is. Just because it isn't done now, is
14 there an opening in the door to allow that to become
15 something, a part of this RAC?

16
17 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
18 Andy, to your question. In one of the other Councils
19 which I coordinate a similar question came up about a
20 year ago, is there a way to encourage broad
21 participation geographically from all communities or
22 all tribes that are represented in that region. And
23 the response that was shared by Pat Petrivelli who at
24 that time was at the meeting on behalf of the Bureau of
25 Indian Affairs was that there can be an inspirational
26 statement added to the charter seeking to represent a
27 broad array or number of villages in that region, but
28 ultimately those who get appointed to the Council are
29 those that apply and those that get vetted. So.....

30
31 MR. BASSICH: Okay.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON:it's not policy,
34 it's aspiration. There's a distinction there.

35
36 Thank you, Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom -- or,
39 Tom, do you want to go first or Don, your call.

40
41 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll defer to Tom.

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair and
44 Council. At -- when we look at the -- you know, the
45 process of, you know, how the charter process was done,
46 we just had charters that were signed, those charters
47 will expire in I believe December 13th of 2021. And
48 those are the things that set, you know, 10 member
49 Councils, 13 member Councils. They also set some

50

1 changes. One is that we could vet more people than we
2 had selected, if somebody passed away, moved out of
3 region or whatever, when you had a permanent vacancy
4 that we could have additional people that could then
5 fill in as alternates. That was approved by the Board.

6
7 But also Western Interior Council asked
8 specifically to be able to cover geographic regions.
9 And so by covering those geographic regions they -- you
10 know, that they said we want a person from this region,
11 this region, this region, this region, so that they
12 would encompass all the geographic areas that were
13 incorporated into the charter. And the Board approved
14 that. And then also that was incorporated into Western
15 Interior's charter.

16
17 So you can say I want, you know, in X
18 -- you know, you can request this and the Board has to
19 approve it and then it has to, you know, go through the
20 process of getting the charter signed by the
21 Secretaries, is that you can request regions. Again
22 the program is for Federally-qualified users, it's not
23 based on tribal affiliation. But many regions of
24 course have more tribal members, you know, associated
25 with the region than not. And so it -- and so the
26 answer is no, we can't -- eligibility is not based on
27 solely being, you know, a tribal member, but also you
28 can select geographic regions so those regions are
29 represented, those communities are represented. So if
30 you don't have for instance what you feel is a broad
31 enough geographic scope within the membership of your
32 Council you can request for that geographic scope to
33 include, you know, a person from Arctic Village or a
34 person from this village, this village or that village
35 to be able to accommodate that goal.

36
37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So the short
40 answer is through the charter you possibly can do it by
41 region?

42
43 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, by region.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

46
47 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yes, ma'am.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you for that
2 clarification. So to further that line of thought is
3 it possible then to in -- when you're including a
4 region instead of including or asking for a single
5 representative to identify a position, say a chief of a
6 village or something like that because those people
7 change over time, but obviously say the chief of the
8 village would be a position of authority and a position
9 of furthering what's important to the values and the
10 importance of the resource to that particular tribe.
11 So is it possible to identify not only a region, but a
12 position within that region or does it still have to be
13 an individual? Because the problem that we have is
14 individuals get engaged in this process and then life
15 moves on for them or they move away and especially out
16 in some of these villages people are very transient
17 nowadays, it's difficult for one person to stay on for
18 long periods of time often from the Bush.

19
20 So that's the question I would ask if
21 that's a possibility to further refine that designation
22 from a region to a position within that region?
23

24 MR. DOOLITTLE: Again Tom Doolittle,
25 acting assistant regional director for OSM. I'd be
26 reluctant to do that, you know, because then that would
27 be, you know -- you know, be presumptive of, you know,
28 of the eligibility issues that I discussed before. But
29 I think again in making sure that you choose regions
30 and that when, you know, looking and soliciting for
31 applications to serve on RACs is really a highly
32 important process, that they are usually people that
33 represent their regions, have been recommended by other
34 people as all of you have gone through the nomination
35 process which is, you know, a fairly rigorous review
36 with references and all those sorts of things. So I
37 think it's built into that process already, it's just
38 making sure that you -- you know, you get to the right
39 people and say could you please apply to the RAC. And
40 especially then if you have defined a region, you know,
41 that has been under-represented -- you know, that has
42 been under-represented let's say as an example like
43 Arctic Village, then you can say, boy, we'd like to get
44 applications from Arctic Village that, you know, that,
45 you know, that have good references and people want to
46 support to represent their area. So I think we already
47 have that process built in, but I'd be reluctant to say
48 that we fine-tune it to that manner.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're going
4 through something pretty boring I'm sure, Sarah.

5

6 MS. JAMES: Pardon me.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I said I
9 think you're probably going through something that
10 sounds pretty boring to you, all of this talk.

11

12 MS. JAMES: Yeah. Yeah.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But it's the
15 Council -- the thing that.....

16

17 MS. JAMES: But then you've got.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

20

21 MS. JAMES:I think we need --
22 excuse me. We need a representative from Arctic
23 Village and Venetie. We're on the same reserve and
24 we're -- govern ourselves. And we do our own fish and
25 game management. And so it -- it's pretty well
26 representing ourself as a government, tribal
27 government. So that's all I want to say.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
32 see something I heard that I think could really
33 accomplish a lot was the invite to Arctic Village for
34 one or two of us or even having a meeting up there.

35

36 MS. JAMES: Yeah. Uh-huh.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that we
39 can do. So.....

40

41 MS. JAMES: Okay.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I would
44 -- I accept the invitation. I was -- tried to self
45 invite myself earlier, but, yeah, I -- I believe it's
46 going to happen because I've been talking to the Refuge
47 and people and they're all over working together and
48 doing stuff like this. So maybe even both of us could
49 go, the Chair and Vice Chair for -- even before a

50

1 meeting was scheduled up there. And I think it would
2 be wonderful to go up there and see Ed Sam again.
3
4 MS. JAMES: Yeah.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So tell him
7 hello.
8
9 MS. JAMES: Yeah. Beautiful tribal
10 land.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
13
14 MS. JAMES: Thank you.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
17
18 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
21 Any other discussion?
22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.
26
27 MR. WOODRUFF: Is your last name
28 Peters?
29
30 MS. JAMES: No, James.
31
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Thank you.
33
34 MS. JAMES: Evon Peter you're thinking
35 about?
36
37 MR. WOODRUFF: No, I just -- I didn't
38 get your last name when you.....
39
40 MS. JAMES: Oh, okay.
41
42 MR. WOODRUFF:when you came up
43 and I write notes down, you know.
44
45 MS. JAMES: Okay. Thank you.
46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: I was at the village for
48 a meeting, a Council meeting, I think it was in 2006.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: And so I was only on the
4 Council for a couple years before that so I was just
5 getting up to speed. But I tell you that was a
6 remarkable experience, being in your community for a
7 couple years.....

8

9 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF:or a couple days.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Days.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. WOODRUFF: If we do have a Council
20 meeting in your community it would help the community
21 in two different ways. One, you would get the local
22 people that can't come here to talk to us, you know,
23 which is -- I know it's very expensive to travel.

24

25 MS. JAMES: Yes.

26

27 MR. WOODRUFF: And the other thing is
28 we can help to -- you with the nomination process.....

29

30 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.

31

32 MR. WOODRUFF:to get somebody
33 from your village or your community on the Council.
34 And from everything I'm hearing about vetting which
35 means you submit -- say you -- say you submit your
36 name, okay.....

37

38 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.

39

40 MR. WOODRUFF:and what they do is
41 they do a background search and they then take your
42 references or people you -- that rec -- you suggested
43 recommendations for you, and they tell the story about
44 Sarah and how good she is and blah, blah, blah. Okay.
45 So then the Federal Subsistence Board has an idea who
46 this person is, why they're qualified to take the seat
47 and if we can put in our annual letter that we want a
48 geographical, regional representation, that's another
49 step that we can alert the Federal Subsistence Board

50

1 that we're unrepresented in this area. So that's where
2 I'm coming from.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MS. JAMES: Thank you.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We could
9 probably even put it in our annual report.

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah, and the -- and to
12 ask the -- for the.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Mic.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF:the tribal seat.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to
19 hear what you said.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd also like to see the
22 -- ask for the tribal seat on record too on the annual
23 -- in the annual report.

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And then
26 they'll -- they can answer.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Uh-huh.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. All
31 right. Any other questions of Sarah.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you,
36 Sarah.

37

38 MS. JAMES: Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think we're
41 coming to Arctic Village, I almost can guarantee it.

42

43 MS. JAMES: Okay. Good.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Somebody will
46 be.

47

48 MS. JAMES: Yeah.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
2 And next is Pam Miller.

3
4 MS. MILLER: Hello. My name's Pam
5 Miller. I'm speaking for myself. And I want to speak
6 first to the importance of the public comment section.
7 And it is a little complicated, the bureaucratic
8 process. So just I'm glad to have this opportunity to
9 speak and that it opened up with how the agenda
10 unfolded this morning.

11
12 In reviewing the agenda for this
13 meeting when it came out and was advertised in the
14 paper I looked for the Arctic Sheep Creek issue because
15 it does tend to come up at the meeting and I knew all
16 the work that got put into it in the last meeting and a
17 great commitment by Arctic Village to send people down
18 to speak and address the issue at great length in the
19 transcript. And I just wanted to say that the issue of
20 the Board of Game's proposal, I don't follow the State
21 Board of Game's proposal. I tried to figure out -- I
22 couldn't compare their proposal this time to the last
23 time, but the bottom line is it's the same, it proposed
24 to open the Federal Sheep Creek area to other hunting.
25 And like the discussion this morning unfolded, there
26 isn't the hunter ethics program in place yet and
27 there's been a lot of discussion on the details. So
28 your past meeting when all the representatives from
29 Arctic Village were here voted unanimously to oppose
30 the Board of Game's proposal. And I can appreciate the
31 frustration with the whole -- how this Committee
32 reports to the Federal Subsistence Committee and all
33 that ensued in between. And there was great effort
34 made to try to move forward the proposal for the
35 working group. But to me the bottom line was the
36 Committee already voted on opposing opening Sheep Creek
37 at this time and changing the situation from its
38 current to have a Board of Game open area there. So I
39 just wanted to make that clear because it is
40 bureaucratic how there was a proposal and then Board of
41 Game changed their proposal and what.....

42
43 I won't be able to come later in the --
44 and hear all the discussion about that proposal
45 probably. So I just wanted to speak now as a member of
46 the broader public who cares about the conservation of
47 sheep in the Arctic Refuge and the importance of
48 subsistence as a purpose of the Refuge and that there
49 is a very good relations in the government to

50

1 government processes with the Federal government from
2 what I have observed myself.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pam, if I
5 could add the process, that's what's so confusing is
6 the process. Last meeting all we -- this RAC voted on
7 was the Federal proposal to open it, we voted against
8 opening it. That's all we voted on. The Board of Game
9 proposal we didn't take up at that meeting. I
10 understand that the -- some of the people were against
11 either proposal, but we did not take that up at that --
12 we decided to take Board of Game proposals up at this
13 meeting. If that helps.

14
15 MS. MILLER: So.....

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the Board
18 of Game process is different than the Federal process.
19 We don't have to go through that long process that they
20 hand us for the Federal side.

21
22 MS. MILLER: Okay. So in the new
23 business at the last meeting there was a proposal, WP
24 20-48, requests alignment -- oh, no, that's not the
25 right one. It was.....

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think it
28 was.....

29
30 MS. MILLER:motion 50.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, 50 or
33 52.

34
35 MS. MILLER: And -- okay. Okay. So
36 motion five was WP 20-49, request to open the Arctic
37 Village Sheep Management Area in unit 25A.....

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And we voted
40 against it.

41
42 MS. MILLER: And that was a Federal
43 proposal.....

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

46
47 MS. MILLER:not a State proposal?

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's

50

1 correct.

2

3

MS. MILLER: So.....

4

5

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: There were
6 two proposals on this Arctic or the Refuge, Arctic
7 Village Sheep Management Area. One was a Federal
8 proposal and the State proposal did not get taken up at
9 our meeting because it's under the Board of Game. And
10 we decided we had taken up a lot that -- and we would
11 take Board of Game proposals up at this meeting which
12 is on the agenda.

13

14

15

16

17

18

MS. MILLER: Okay. So this one --
yeah. So I guess it still made it clear that the Board
was in support of the Federal subsistence area by
opposing the motion.

19

20

21

22

23

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31

I guess I'm a pretty knowledgeable
person about public lands
management in our State and it was very unclear to me
reading the minutes and the agenda and how at this
meeting whether or not a position on the Board of Game
proposal would be taken up in order to understand what
part of the meeting to find time to attend. So I'll
just mention that if you're not used to going to a sea
of meetings how hard it is to be on a Board like this
and what kind of preparation for a meeting of decision
making to the -- send back to the people who are
representing a very big area, how important that is.

32

33

34

35

36

I appreciate the time I've taken and I
apologize for my confusion about what you did last
meeting, but it seemed like a pretty clear position
after hearing what Arctic Village people had said about
their area.

37

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
you.

Oh, Tom or.....

MR. WOODRUFF: So, Pam, you understand
the two different processes now?

1 MS. MILLER: (Inaudible response)

2

3 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. I would like to
4 emphasize and get on the record and repeat kind of what
5 I heard you say is that if our Council appointments are
6 so retarded that we don't get the books and we don't
7 get the information until just before the Council
8 meets, you are totally correct that the area is under-
9 represented because we're totally disengaged when we're
10 not on the Council. This is a Council, it's not the
11 Board. And we make recommendations to the Federal
12 Subsistence Board, they decide. They are the deciding
13 factor. And we're going to be -- you know, this
14 process if they push it to like for me last year at
15 this time I found out I was back on the Council two
16 days before the meeting. Well, I hadn't read any of
17 the material because they don't -- won't send it to you
18 because you're not a Council member, but it is public
19 information, I mean, we put them on the table out there
20 and I'm surprised that we don't ask potential Council
21 members get a copy of it to review.

22

23 MS. KENNER: I believe it's on the web.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: Oh, it's on the web.

26 Great.

27

28 MR. WRIGHT: Not everybody gets that.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: So I want to emphasize
31 that you are very correct, if we don't have the
32 information we can't represent our area very well.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I
37 heard something else, that it wasn't even clear in the
38 minutes that it could come up again and I think that's
39 what I heard you say and I take that to heart. I
40 understand that it would be good if the -- it's real
41 clear what we're taking up and it was on the -- because
42 at our last meeting I said we will take up the Board of
43 Game proposals at our next meeting because somebody is
44 close to -- the Board of Game meets Friday to.....

45

46 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, they
49 start on Friday. So somebody could go from here and

50

1 take whatever we vote on here on Board of Game
2 proposals. So, you know, I'm going to -- I hope that
3 is understood that we could be more clear.
4

5 MS. MILLER: And I will just reiterate
6 the agenda was updated for the meeting and did
7 specifically address Arctic Village Sheep Creek, but it
8 wasn't addressed and not having the list of what Fish
9 and -- ADF or the fish -- Game Board proposals are and
10 where to find them for the layperson having that link,
11 where do you find them.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
14

15 MS. MILLER: It would be helpful.....
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I hope staff
18 can hear this.
19

20 MS. MILLER: Yeah. So thank you very
21 much and.....
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
24

25 MS. MILLER:good luck with your
26 meeting.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
29

30 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Zach.
33

34 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you, Madame
35 Chair. As I had mentioned earlier we saw a delay in
36 the appointment of our Regional Advisory Council
37 members by approximately two months. The process is
38 usually underway sometime between mid December and
39 early January. And because of the delay in
40 appointments as I mentioned earlier we had to postpone
41 and/or reschedule our Regional Advisory Council
42 meetings statewide. And the agenda and meeting
43 materials for this meeting were prepared approximately
44 four and a half months in advance. And in that -- as
45 part of that process we invite and encourage review of
46 that draft agenda. But because we did not have
47 confirmed Council members that process was delayed.
48 And the items that you're referring to, the review of
49 the request to establish the subcommittee was added and
50

1 the update on that item was added late in the review of
2 the agenda. So we apologize for that delay, but it was
3 not due to negligence, it was due to scheduling
4 conflicts that were beyond our control.
5

6 Thank you, Madame Chair.
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
9

10 MS. MILLER: Okay. Thank you very much
11 for hearing me out.
12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: I have a book for you.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I have it
16 now.
17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right. I
21 feel like we've been shotgunned from bouncing all over
22 the place. Because and we can take up Lisa after
23 lunch, isn't that what we decided now that we've been
24 -- my brain has been shotgunned?
25

26 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, if we got the
27 paperwork let's just knock it out.
28

29 MR. STEVENSON: Yeah.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. But I
32 have one question. In my communication with staff, Tom
33 Doolittle, I thought we were going to get a report
34 under this -- that last subject on the Executive Order
35 on evaluating and improving the utility of Federal
36 Advisory Committees.
37

38 Where's Tom?
39

40 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: At the Western
41 Interior meeting upstairs.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
44

45 MS. KENNER: That.....
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was my
48 understanding, Zach, is that that -- he was going to do
49 that and then all of a sudden he gets up from the chair
50

1 and I went wait, wait, didn't he -- wasn't he going to
2 tell us about this?

3

4 Raise your hand. Go ahead, Tom.

5

6 MR. KRON: Well, I'm going to raise my
7 hand. I'm sorry, Madame Chair.

8

9 Madame Chair, members of the Council.
10 Again we've got two meetings going on. Again I -- I'm
11 guessing Tom is upstairs in the Western Interior
12 meeting right now.

13

14 This issue we can talk about in the OSM
15 report at the end of the meeting if you'd like. If you
16 want I can do it right now, I'll need to do a little
17 scrambling to get paperwork to get prepared. But again
18 it's your call when to address this.

19

20 Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22 MS. KENNER: And, Madame Chair. And so
23 here on the agenda where we're under our report to you
24 about the subcommittee, it's not really affected by
25 what you're talking about. What you're talking about
26 is an OSM report.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what I
29 thought. I'm sorry.

30

31 MS. KENNER: All right. This.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I
34 thought we were going to do that right then and then it
35 got labeled like this.

36

37 MS. KENNER: Tom might have intended to
38 because of his schedule, but we must have taken too
39 long and he had to go upstairs for a while. We'll
40 bring it up when he comes back.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, my
43 apologies. I'm thinking why didn't Tom bring this up
44 because I thought that's where it was going to come up
45 in the agenda. So, you know what, that's fine. We can
46 wait for Tom. And we'll go on to Lisa if she's
47 available. If she's not we'll go on to the next one.

48

49 Lisa, are you still online?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

5

6

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8

9

10 MS. MONCRIEFF: Good morning. Thank
11 you for the opportunity to present to your Council
12 today. I'm very pleased to represent the Yukon River
13 Drainage Fisheries Association. My name is Catherine
14 Moncrieff and I am YRDFA' staff anthropologist.

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First off I'd like to introduce to you our new executive director, Serena Fitka, who's sitting here next to me. I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to meet her at a break if you don't already know her or after the meeting or on the river this summer or at one of our upcoming meetings. We are very excited to be working with her. And I have some handouts going around and one of them includes an announcement about her and her new position.

So I'd like to begin our report with an update on our Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects and then update you on some of our other related activities. There's also some copies of these handouts on the back table if there's any left.

So the first Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program project that I'd like to speak about is our In-Season Community Surveyor Project. And with this project we're just wrapping up a four year cycle that began in 2016. Our final report is in its last stages and we expect to distribute it after the end of March.

We were able to train and hire 19 surveyors over this four year period. And we are very proud of this number because it reflects our retention rate and capacity building efforts. We were able to keep most or many of our 10 surveyors that we hire each year from year to year and we have some surveyors who've worked on this project for over 10 years. These are -- they are our leaders and mentors to the newer surveyors.

In the 2019 fishing season our

1 surveyors conducted 377 interviews in 142 households
2 over a 13 week period. They participated in 10
3 teleconferences. In Ruby, Tanana and Eagle all the
4 participating fishers reported meeting their needs and
5 most reported meeting their needs in Alakanuk, Marshall
6 and Fort Yukon. So there's -- one of the flyers that's
7 going around the room is a two page stapled handout
8 specifically on the 2019 season. And there's some
9 specific information about our -- what we learned.

10

11 So we hope to receive notice of funding
12 for this program for the 2020 cycle or period. And
13 this funding would begin April 1st and we would begin
14 by rehiring our surveyors and holding a surveyor
15 training event which will take place in April, late
16 April in Anchorage. And this will be associated with
17 the preseason planning meeting.

18

19 The next project I'd like to tell you
20 about, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program funded
21 project is the In-Season Salmon Management
22 Teleconferences. We are also just wrapping up a four
23 year cycle of funding from the Fisheries Resource
24 Monitoring Program. And in the 2019 season we were
25 able to hold 13 in-season salmon management
26 teleconferences. Important topics that were discussed
27 this summer between fishers and managers included the
28 record breaking hot weather, the high water
29 temperature, poor chum quality fat flesh -- sorry, poor
30 chum flesh quality and sores on the fish.

31

32 Fishery issues included the dead salmon
33 on the Koyukuk River and there were discussions over
34 providing for the subsistence harvest.

35

36 There were more Canadians on the calls
37 this year and there were good discussions surrounding
38 that. There was surprise at the high number of chinook
39 counted at Pilot Station, yet barely making the
40 escapement goals for the Canadian origin chinook.

41

42 So with this program also we're
43 awaiting hopefully for notice of 2020 funding to
44 continue the teleconferences.

45

46 And the last Fisheries Resource
47 Monitoring Program I'd like to tell you about is our
48 local and traditional knowledge of anadromous fish in
49 the Yukon flats with a focus on the Draanjik Basin. So

50

1 this project is just beginning its final year, it will
2 end March 31 of 2021. Our remaining tasks on this
3 project include the biological field work which was
4 postponed last summer due to fires in the area and some
5 other things that caused us delays. So we have it
6 planned for this spring, summer and fall and they'll be
7 looking for evidence of chinook, chum and coho salmon.

8
9 And then following the biological field
10 work we'll conduct the community meetings. I'll go out
11 to each of the villages and I'll take one of the
12 biologists with me and we'll present the preliminary
13 results and gather feedback from the communities. And
14 then we'll put a final report out that -- which will be
15 out about one year from now.

16
17 So those are our Fisheries Resource
18 Monitoring projects.

19
20 I also want to tell you about our
21 annual board meeting which will take place in Anchorage
22 on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 28 and 29. This is our
23 30th annual board meeting so we'll also be having a
24 celebration which we think we're going to be holding
25 the evening of the preseason planning meeting which
26 will take place on Thursday, April 30th. So it'll be a
27 big week for YRDFA in Anchorage and we hope that all of
28 you are there.

29
30 And then finally I don't know if
31 Wayne's on the phone right now.

32
33 Wayne, are you on the phone?

34
35 MR. JENKINS: Yes, Catherine, I'm here.
36 Can you hear me?

37
38 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes. Do you guys mind
39 in Wayne gives the report on our BLM work with the Pew
40 Charitable Trust because he knows it intimately.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Great.

43
44 MR. JENKINS: Thank you, Chairwoman and
45 the Council. This is Wayne Jenkins, director of YRDFA.
46 I guess co-director now that we've hired Serena. And
47 just so you know, we'll be going through a transition
48 period of about a month and a half, but I'll continue
49 to be available to Serena as she comes up to speed with
50

1 all our different programs and grants and everything.

2

3

4 So what I want to share with you, I
5 want to give you an update on the work that we've been
6 doing supporting -- assisting Yukon River tribal
7 governments and communities who are engaging with
8 Bureau of Land Management in two of their BLM regions,
9 the Bering Sea Western Interior and the Central Yukon.
10 The agency is formulating a 20 year -- in both regions
11 a 20 year resource management plan for those areas. As
12 you know your region, Eastern Interior, has already
13 been through this and your resource plan is in place.
14 But things have fundamentally changed politically since
15 that time. These plans cover millions of acres and
16 they can affect many of the communities in those areas.
17 Though tribal councils and communities have clearly
18 explained to BLM their concerns for protecting
19 traditional subsistence use for the harvest of vitally
20 important traditional foods, BLM appears to prefer
21 mining and development of the land by opening up over
22 90 percent of their managed areas in their prefer --
23 their draft preferred alternative. This is with the
24 Bering Sea Western Interior. The Central Yukon has not
25 come out with their draft yet.

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In response over 20 tribes in the Bering Sea Western Interior region have formed the Bering Sea Western Interior Intertribal Commission for standing together and pressing their concerns. In a recent meeting in Anchorage with Alaska BLM director Chad Padget, the Tribal Commission heard that a new alternative may be being formulated by BLM. And it remains to be seen if it will support the Commission's request for protection of critical traditional use area necessary for the culture and nutritional needs of the local people that live in that region.

The Western and Eastern Interior RACs might consider sending letters of support to the Federal Subsistence Board sharing their concerns on these issues and supporting the Bering Sea Western Interior Tribal Commission.

As advisors working with the Commission, myself, Suzanne Little, Bob Satler, we offer our assistance in this matter and we'd love to work with whomever you appoint for pulling those letters together.

1 You also hopefully have a handout, we
2 refer to it as the 20 Alaska Tribe Comment Letter,
3 which was sent to BLM Alaska district manager and field
4 manager, Bonnie Million and Tom Heimlin, provided as a
5 handout to the Council for more information on these
6 issues. It's a pretty lengthy document, I don't expect
7 you to run through it real quick here, but at your
8 leisure it may be interesting to you to see in more
9 detail how BLM has promulgated this very important
10 process.

11
12 There's a long list of how the trust
13 relationship between the Federal agency and Federally
14 recognized tribes has not been upheld by BLM and how
15 the NEPA process has been mismanaged. We have just
16 learned BLM is reviewing the present draft alternatives
17 and may be creating a new one. And we hope that it
18 reflects the request made by tribes individually and
19 collectively and over the last several months Native
20 American Rights Fund, a legal indigenous group has come
21 on to assist the Commission in pressing their concerns
22 with BLM.

23
24 And I'll be glad to take any questions
25 about this or anything else that you might have.

26
27 Thank you very much.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are there any
30 questions.

31
32 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

35
36 MR. BASSICH: Yeah. Thank you, Wayne,
37 for that. Can you repeat the entities in western
38 Alaska that were working on this, the Commission, the
39 title of that Commission again?

40
41 MR. JENKINS: Bering Sea Western
42 Interior Intertribal Commission. And the -- I think
43 it's over 20 now tribal governments and communities
44 that have joined in that are within BLM's regional
45 Bering Sea Western Interior area.

46
47 MR. BASSICH: Thank you.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other

50

1 questions.
2
3 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.
6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.
8 Serena, one thing that's come up in the past with YRDFA
9 is the alternates for the Board members, they get
10 disengaged when they're not kept up to date with
11 information. And my wife's an alternate member and she
12 -- she is just solely frustrated with that process and
13 I think it could be an easy fix, just put them on the
14 mailing list.
15
16 Thank you.
17
18 MR. JENKINS: Thank you for that.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
21 questions.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Thank
26 you.
27
28 MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you for your
29 time.
30
31 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, a question
32 for.....
33
34 MS. MONCRIEFF: Oh. Sure.
35
36 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Just a point
37 of clarification for me on the -- this handout entitled
38 2019 In-Season Community Survey. Does this include the
39 entire year's worth of fishing. So I guess what I'm
40 getting at does this also include chum salmon. I know
41 needs were met in my community for king salmon, but
42 what I've heard from a number of people they weren't
43 met as far as chum salmon. So I wanted to clarify that
44 for this document.
45
46 And then the other thing I wanted to --
47 well, if you could answer that, that would help.
48
49 MS. MONCRIEFF: Yes. Through the
50

1 Chair. Andy, no, this program focuses on chum -- I'm
2 sorry, on chinook salmon only.

3

4 MR. BASSICH: Right.

5

6 MS. MONCRIEFF: It's a six week period
7 in each community focused around the king salmon
8 season. So we pick up a little bit of information
9 about chum salmon fishing sometimes, but mostly summer
10 chum in the -- you know, the lower river communities.
11 So no, this is talking about chinook salmon primarily.

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Thank you. Follow-up.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

16

17 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I
18 wanted to just make that clear on the record that needs
19 weren't met in Eagle for chum salmon and I thought
20 that's what it was. It might help to clarify that in
21 the future, just put king salmon survey or chinook
22 salmon or something like that. That would help that
23 confusion.

24

25 And then the only other recommendation
26 I have, I really applaud that program, I think it's
27 been a great program, YRDFA's done a great job. In
28 your reporting here it says by week seven, by week
29 eight, whatever, it would be really nice to -- on every
30 one of those weeks to incorporate the actual date and
31 that really helps to plot that on a calendar, if
32 someone wants to try and plot the fisheries actions and
33 all that. I know some of them are there, not all of
34 them, but that would just be helpful to just have that
35 reported under each week what the start of that report
36 -- reporting week is.

37

38 So thank you though. Really appreciate
39 the work that YRDFA's doing and I think it's really
40 important to have these teleconferences every week. It
41 really helps all the fishermen up and down the river to
42 understand what's going on with the fisheries and gives
43 managers a great opportunity to really explain what's
44 going on with the fish as they move up the river.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
49 questions.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

4

5

Thank you.

6

7

MS. MONCRIEFF: Thank you.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

10 Okay. We have Lisa on at 1:00 so I'd like you to be,
11 please, promptly back so that we can start at 1:00.
12 And please, Council members, look at that Board of Game
13 book and kind of give us an idea if you want to take up
14 some proposals.

15

16

(Off record)

17

18

(On record)

19

20

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:will

21

show up.

22

23

MS. MAAS: Okay. So it sounds like you
24 guys have the actual request in front of you now?

25

26

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. We have
27 a printed copy and it's on the screen.

28

29

MS. MAAS: Okay.

30

31

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But the
32 screen needs to be.....

33

34

MS. MAAS: Should I do the whole
35 presentation again or just maybe some more questions
36 and clarifications?

37

38

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I'm
39 thinking. I'm probably the only one in this room on
40 the Council that's familiar with unit 13.

41

42

MR. FIRMIN: Where's that?

43

44

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew asks
45 where's that. So, you know, this is -- this is
46 something we could do, guys, and we've done it before,
47 if we are -- if we don't want to -- that's -- the home
48 region is Southcentral for unit 13 and this is a
49 special action and we have limited information. The

50

1 only -- the Subsistence Resource Commission took it up
2 and you saw their -- what they took -- their opinion.
3 So I guess -- I know we've deferred to home regions
4 before, but I think I would definitely -- me personally
5 would be opposed to the -- in the rut. I don't think
6 it should be opened up in the rut.

7

8 MR. FIRMIN: Charlie made a similar
9 comment earlier too.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And I
12 know that -- I know Andy would agree. Pike's late
13 serving. I got another one that showed up and I got
14 two more to show up. Andy's here. We're -- Lisa's
15 just wondering if we have any other questions. We got
16 the printed material in front of us for unit 13 special
17 action request. It's also up there.

18

19 MR. BASSICH: Are you ready for a
20 motion?

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sure.

23

24 MR. STEVENSON: I'd be happy to read
25 that too if you'd like.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's up
28 there is what she read in the record already. Yeah.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: What's the WP number for
31 this propose -- this special.....

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Special
34 action.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: But is there a number
37 given to it?

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is there a
40 number, Lisa?

41

42 MS. MAAS: Yeah, the number is 20-01,
43 WSA 20-01.

44

45 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
46 make a motion that the Eastern RAC support special
47 action request titled WP 20-01.

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Second.

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Speaking to the motion,
2 referring back to some of the comments about this
3 proposal potentially opening up hunts during the
4 rutting season and during the time when caribou are
5 inedible and then hearing the recommendations from the
6 Wrangell-St. Elias to accept the two caribou, the
7 change from bulls to just two caribou, but keep the
8 seasons aligned the way they are now, I think that's
9 something that I would like to support. I think that's
10 a good compromise. It's not going to be wasteful
11 harvest. I think it gives people plenty of time to
12 hunt in the wintertime and gives the opportunity to
13 help control the herd by possibly taking cows as well
14 which is another way to reduce the productivity of a
15 herd if that's the issue. So I think that is a very
16 viable solution, it's very conservation oriented, but
17 also effective.

18
19 So I will be in support of supporting
20 the Wrangell-St. Elias recommendation as an amendment
21 to this special action request.

22
23 Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So is that a
26 motion to amend or do you want to withdraw and just
27 make the motion what you just said?

28
29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, let's just make the
30 motion.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Would the
33 second concur?

34
35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Inaudible
36 response)

37
38 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Now
39 you can make the motion as you wish.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Thank you, Madame
42 Chair. So I would like to make an amendment to the
43 special action request titled WP 20-01 to take the
44 recommendations and support the recommendations of the
45 Wrangell-St. Elias SRC to allow for the change in the
46 regulations to be two caribou, but to keep the dates of
47 the hunt current -- as currently posted in the
48 regulation book.

49
50

1 Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Does
4 everyone understand the motion?

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Is
9 there any other discussion?

10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Do we need a second for
12 that motion -- that amendment?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Sorry.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: I second the amendment.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought I
19 heard that.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Donald.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm going to have to
26 concur with St. Elias SRC that -- I think that period
27 of time when the caribou are in rut it's not a great
28 time to be harvesting caribou.

29

30 So let's go.

31

32 MR. JAGOW: Madame Chair.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie. I'm
35 -- yeah.

36

37 MR. JAGOW: I agree with what Andy said
38 100 percent and there's no use to have any waste of any
39 kind and by keeping it the way it is and adding the
40 extra, the two caribou is the way it should be. We
41 don't want any waste. So I agree.

42

43 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And -- Andy.

46

47 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Madame Chair. I
48 don't know because this is a Federal special request if
49 we need to go down this discussion or justification,

50

1 but I'll very quickly do it just to get it on the
2 record.

3
4 First point is there a conservation
5 concern and how would the recommendation address this.
6 It sounds like the conservation concern is that they're
7 afraid of the herd growing too quickly. So, yes, this
8 will help that by allowing two caribou instead of
9 restricting it to bull caribou.

10
11 Is the recommendation supported by
12 substantial evidence such a biological or traditional
13 ecological knowledge. Yes, we know that caribou are in
14 rut during the proposed change times of this hunt which
15 would make them inedible for human consumption. So I
16 think that supports that.

17
18 And then will the recommendation be
19 beneficial or detrimental to subsistence needs. I
20 think the fact that we would be changing this to two
21 caribou instead of two bull caribou would be greatly --
22 be a great advantage to subsistence harvesters during
23 the winter hunt.

24
25 And will the recommendation
26 unnecessarily restrict other users. Absolutely not.
27 It's actually going to allow for greater opportunity
28 for all hunters on this herd.

29
30 Thank you, Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
33 else.

34
35 MR. WOODRUFF: Call the question.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
38 question's been called for. All in favor of the motion
39 to support the Wrangell-St. Elias position on this
40 special action request say aye.

41
42 IN UNISON: Aye.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
45 opposed.

46
47 (No opposing votes)

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes with

50

1 no opposition.

2

3

Thank you, Lisa.

4

5 And somebody needs to put -- somebody's
6 breathing heavy online. You have to push star six to
7 mute.

8

9 All right. Moving rapidly along. The
10 next thing on the agenda is the Fisheries Resource
11 Monitoring Program update.

12

13 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Pippa's not
16 here?

17

18 MR. STEVENSON: I don't see Pippa or
19 Frank here right now.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They must be
22 dancing back upstairs. So we're going to have to be
23 flexible because we're sharing staff with upstairs,
24 with the Western Interior.

25

26 So is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
27 Service and ADF&G here for the 2020 Yukon River
28 Preseason Outlook? That'll be next and then remind
29 me.....

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: I haven't seen ADF&G
32 here.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You haven't
35 seen.....

36

37 MS. CARROLL: Madame Chair, this is
38 Holly Carroll, Fish and Game manager for summer season
39 and I'm just standing by online, but Gerald will give
40 the main report on our behalf.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you for
43 that. Meeting materials are being passed out.

44

45 So go ahead, Gerald.

46

47 MR. MASCHMANN: Thank you, Madame Chair
48 and Council. My name is Gerald Maschmann, I'm with the
49 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service here in the Fairbanks

50

1 office. I am the assistant Federal in-season manager
2 for the Yukon River. Many of you know me, I work for
3 Fred who has retired on December 31st.
4

5 You're being handed out two documents.
6 One is the fall season -- 2019 fall season summary.
7 You did not get that at your fall meeting because we
8 were still doing fall season management stuff. You did
9 get your summer season summary then. And so this
10 document is just kind of completing that packet for you
11 for your information. It gives a pretty good overview
12 of the 2019 fall season management.
13

14 The second document is my document that
15 I'm going to discuss here today. If you turn to page
16 2, very briefly a 2019 season review. I'm not going to
17 talk about 2019 season unless you have specific
18 questions. We, you know, went over that pretty
19 thoroughly last fall. But if you look at the bottom of
20 page 2 the preliminary subsistence harvest from the
21 Alaska Department of Fish and Game is outlined in that
22 paragraph. So if you have any questions or comments
23 about that we can answer those, but I would like to
24 just move on to the 2020 salmon season outlook.
25

26 We're still working on it, it's not
27 completely finalized, but the -- what we're thinking
28 for 2020 chinook salmon run will probably be similar to
29 last year or maybe a little smaller. We're expecting a
30 drainage wide estimate of between 144,000 to 222,000
31 chinook salmon. Again this is -- this will probably
32 necessitate some subsistence fishing restrictions to
33 meet our escapement and harvest sharing goals.
34

35 We're anticipating that the summer chum
36 salmon run should be near 1.9 million fish which should
37 provide for escapement and normal subsistence harvest
38 as well as additional commercial, personal use and
39 sportfishing opportunities.
40

41 Management strategies and options for
42 2020 again are similar to the options we've seen in
43 previous years. You know, subsistence fishing will
44 likely be restricted early in the season with, you
45 know, selective fishing gear to target chum salmon. I
46 would expect fishermen to be -- to expect reduced or
47 cancelled periods with some gear restrictions to limit
48 harvest of chinook salmon. And we're going to do our
49 best to allow for the harvest of summer chum that are
50

1 mixed in with those chinook salmon. We're going to try
2 and spread out subsistence fishing opportunities over
3 the entire run to prevent overharvest on any particular
4 stock. And again as in past years should the run
5 indicate maybe better than expected or near the top end
6 of our expectations we might allow for some subsistence
7 fishing opportunities with seven and a half inch
8 gillnet gear.

9
10 And, you know, the warm temperatures we
11 saw last season was a surprise and so we're going to
12 be, you know, watching water temperatures pretty
13 closely this year. We don't have any particular
14 management strategy at this point as to what we would
15 do if we saw those high temperatures, but we definitely
16 would like to hear from fishermen what they saw last
17 year and what kind of management strategies and options
18 they think we should be looking at this year.

19
20 As far as the all season outlook, we're
21 expecting a run forecast of 827,000 to a little over 1
22 million fall chum salmon. And that should be
23 sufficient to achieve escapement objectives and provide
24 for normal subsistence harvest with a possible surplus
25 available again for the commercial, sport and personal
26 use fisheries.

27
28 The outlook will be revised right at
29 the beginning of the season when we have a -- an idea
30 of what the summer chum run looked like. There's a
31 pretty strong relationship between the summer chum and
32 the fall chum run so once we get a good handle on the
33 summer chum run that allows us to kind of zero in on
34 what the fall chum might be looking like.

35
36 And coho salmon, we're thinking
37 probably near average for 2020. There should be
38 enough, you know, coho for subsistence uses and other
39 uses and maybe a little bit of a commercial harvest on
40 the coho.

41
42 Again the strategies for the fall
43 season will be similar to what we've been doing this
44 year or in past years anticipate a full subsistence
45 opportunity during the fall season. You know, we'll do
46 -- the commercial fall chum fishery will begin at that
47 transition period between the summer and fall season
48 depending on the in-season projection. Commercial
49 opportunity will be dependent on the run strength

50

1 projected from the summer chum/fall chum relationship
2 as well as other in-season indicators.

3
4 And we'll be working with fishermen in
5 Fort Yukon and Old Crow. The Porcupine River stock of
6 fall chum has been weaker than other stocks and we
7 haven't always met our Canadian obligations for the
8 fishing branch fall chum run. And so we'll be working
9 with folks in Fort Yukon and Old Crow to advise us on
10 how to handle subsistence fishing restrictions on the
11 Porcupine River.

12
13 On page 4, just some upcoming events
14 that you should be aware of. The Joint Technical
15 Committee, the JTC of the Yukon River Panel will be
16 meeting March 11th through the 13th. Shortly after
17 that meeting they'll be publishing the Yukon River
18 Salmon 2019 Season Summary and 2020 Season Outlook.
19 That's a great report, it reviews the 2019 season as
20 well as the upcoming 2020 season. You know, it's put
21 together jointly by the U.S. and Canadian folks. And
22 it's a great document I think for folks to look at who
23 are really interested in the fishery. And that should
24 be coming out shortly.

25
26 The U.S./Canada Yukon River Panel will
27 be meeting April 3rd through the 8th in Fairbanks. And
28 that Panel will be finalizing the outlook. So time
29 will be allowed for public participation and testimony
30 at that meeting so I think if there's anyone interested
31 that's a pretty good opportunity to go and participate
32 in that U.S./Canada negotiation area and have your
33 input heard. And it's going to be in Fairbanks so
34 that's a good opportunity if you can make it.

35
36 And as was announced by the YR DFA,
37 Catherine announced that managers and fishermen will be
38 gathering for the -- at the Yukon River preseason
39 fishermen's meeting April 30th in Anchorage to discuss
40 the preseason outlooks and possible management
41 strategies for the 2020 season. And we'd like to hear
42 from fishermen at that meeting, but we'd also like to
43 hear from you at this meeting what you think we should
44 be doing or not doing or anything you saw that -- last
45 season that worked for you or didn't work or things we
46 should consider. So we're open to that.

47
48 And as I said Fred Bue has retired and
49 we're in the process of posting his vacancy, it hasn't
50

1 been posted yet. We thought it would be in February,
2 but, you know, everyone is frustrated with the pace of
3 Federal movement on this. So I think if the
4 announcement gets posted pretty soon I think we could
5 probably have a new Federal in-season manager by the
6 start of the season. But I can't guarantee that.

7
8 If there's any questions Holly's on the
9 line, she can answer any question and I think one of
10 the fall season managers is probably also on the line.

11
12 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

15
16 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Is DFO or Canada reporting
19 any of their chinook harvest in the Porcupine River to
20 you guys?

21
22 MR. MASCHMANN: I don't know if Christy
23 or Jeff Estensen's online, if we get those harvest
24 numbers, but it is -- it will be -- I believe it's in
25 the JTC report that I said should be published anytime.
26 So they do report their First Nation's harvest.

27
28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Chinook or chum?

29
30 MR. MASCHMANN: Chinook.

31
32 MS. CARROLL: Madame Chair, Holly
33 Carroll, Fish and Game.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

36
37 MS. CARROLL: Yeah, Gerald is correct.
38 Canada reports their harvest from the main stem for
39 both species and they also do report their harvest from
40 the Porcupine. And typically for chinook in the
41 Porcupine they typically take less than 200 fish.

42
43 MR. FIRMIN: So I guess the short
44 answer is no.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Yes, they do. Yeah, so
47 my understanding is there is a small chinook harvest in
48 the Old Crow region of chinook salmon on the Porcupine
49 River.

50

1 That's what you were asking for chinook
2 harvest; is that correct?

3
4 MR. FIRMIN: Yes, chinook harvest, but
5 do they report it on a regular basis, I mean, are they
6 reporting it.....

7
8 MR. BASSICH: Yes.

9
10 MR. FIRMIN:six months later in
11 the JTC report, do they do in-season stuff because it
12 is kind of -- we're closed for chum fishing and they're
13 harvesting chinook salmon up there while the chum run
14 through. It just seems kind of backwards because -- I
15 don't know. I understand their wants and not a lot of
16 people fish for chums on that side of the river because
17 of it and then to have a closure and at the same time
18 while -- during these closures they're fishing for
19 kings on the other side of the border. It's give and
20 take, it's just int -- I just wanted to see how you --
21 you never see numbers in the reports of what they're
22 actually catching or what they're actually reporting.

23
24 That's all I -- that's all I was
25 getting at.

26
27 MS. HOLLY: I can answer some of that
28 if you want, Andrew.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
31 ahead.

32
33 MS. HOLLY: Yeah. So, Andrew, you
34 raise a really good point. No, we don't receive in-
35 season data, even postseason we receive a single
36 number. We don't see methods for how that data is
37 collected, we don't know what percentage of First
38 Nation fishers are reporting, we don't know their
39 methods for reporting. So you're right, it's --
40 basically we get one number after the season and it
41 gets put in the JTC report. I haven't been able to
42 track down any other information about how their
43 harvest is studied or collected. There's very little
44 information about mesh sizes people are choosing to
45 use, things like that. I guess it's worth pointing out
46 that their harvest is a fraction of our harvest
47 overall, but you do raise some good points about the
48 ambiguity and lack of information about the data
49 collection there so I'm glad you asked that.

50

1 But as far as the timing, yeah, we
2 don't have data about that timing either, but I would
3 assume that if they are fishing for kings in the
4 Porcupine River or, you know, just over the border in
5 the Porcupine, they've quite a lag between the kings
6 and the fall chums. So I would imagine that their
7 harvests are done before the bulk of the harvesting on
8 the fall chum run in the same area. But again because
9 I don't get any data on the timing on their collections
10 or any of that it would be hard to say that
11 definitively.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
14 questions.

15
16 MR. JAGOW: Madame Chair.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Charlie.

19
20 MR. JAGOW: It's -- the fishing was
21 open for chum on the Canadian side on the Porcupine,
22 correct?

23
24 MR. MASCHMANN: Madame Chair. Through
25 the Chair. That's correct. You know, the folks on the
26 Canadian side, they have their own management, First
27 Nations, they manage their own fishery. So they have
28 their own management decisions and, you know, they
29 don't tell us how to manage our subsistence fishery or
30 at least we hope they don't and then we don't tell them
31 how to manage theirs. You know, we have obligations
32 that we've got to get fish across the border for our
33 sharing obligations as well as our escapement. So, you
34 know, once we put the fish across the border it's up to
35 the Canadians to manage their fishery. So.....

36
37 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

40
41 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, you know, for years
42 we -- we've talked about -- sorry, Holly, I'm going to
43 be a broken record here. We've talked about the
44 conservation of large chinook females late in the
45 season. And given the efforts to try and rebuild the
46 run and the importance of those age -- older age
47 classes being able to be established into spawning
48 areas so that we get those longer age class -- older
49 age class of fish consistently in the run. And what

50

1 I'd like to point out is that I think in the early
2 2000s, late '90s, I'm just saying this off the top of
3 my head right now, but I believe our seven and eight
4 year old components were up around at one point 12
5 percent of the run. Certainly above the 8 percent of
6 the run and we're now down to approximately 1 and a
7 half to 2 percent of the run of those older age class
8 fish.

9
10 So I'd like to make a motion that this
11 RAC make a formal recommendation to the co-manager on
12 the Federal side of the chinook subsistence run or the
13 chinook manager for the summer season to not open up
14 the late season, seven and a half inch gear, for
15 fishing due to conservation concerns for this older age
16 class of fish.

17
18 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

19
20 MR. BASSICH: So referencing -- you
21 know, to speak to this there is a conservation concern
22 as pointed out. The older age class of fish have
23 dropped dramatically and we do know that big fish
24 produce big fish, small fish produce small fish. Big
25 fish have a tendency of not coming back early, smaller
26 fish are tending to come back at an even earlier age.
27 So this makes it very difficult to rebuild a run if
28 that's our goal which I believe it is. It is supported
29 by subsistence -- by ecological knowledge. We know
30 that a lot of these large females come in late in the
31 run. Anybody that's fished late in the run especially
32 with fish wheels will testify to that.

33
34 So I think it's really important that
35 we make sure that we protect those. I think it'll be
36 beneficial to the fish to do this and our rebuilding
37 efforts. It's going to be a little bit of a sacrifice
38 potentially for catching fish late in the season, but
39 quite frankly given the way the fishing seasons have
40 been managed, most people are getting out there as
41 early as they can to catch their chinook salmon. And
42 the argument of allowing a few fish to be taken late in
43 the year for me quite frankly that's just being lazy.
44 Get out there and catch the fish early when you're
45 catching a component of the run that's not going to do
46 as much damage and pull your nets for chinook salmon
47 late in the season to allow some of these bigger fish
48 to get across the border. It's just common sense. And
49 I have a really hard time frankly with people that

50

1 don't take the effort to do the conservation measures
2 that we need to rebuild the run. So I don't think that
3 it's a burden to anybody, I think it's just common
4 sense.
5

6 And then lastly will the recommendation
7 unnecessarily restrict others. As I just stated I
8 don't think it restricts anybody, you still have an
9 opportunity to fish along the Yukon River, we're just
10 trying to educate people that it's much better to fish
11 a little bit earlier in the run and not do the damage
12 to this older age class that's present in the run late
13 in the season.
14

15 So those are my recommendations to the
16 Council.
17

18 Madame Chair.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Further
21 discussion on the motion?
22

23 MR. GLANZ: I believe Don seconded it.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He did.
26

27 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I said
30 further discussion.
31

32 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought
33 you said who seconded it.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No.
36

37 MR. FIRMIN: I agree with everything
38 Andy says except for there is a -- there's so many
39 fishermen that are actually fishing in Fort Yukon and
40 the later part of the run is where people that are
41 maybe more timid and don't want to go get in fish wars
42 with other people and fight over net spots and wheels.
43 So when the sharing part takes over that later part of
44 the run is for those people that want to go out and
45 fish and have a good time with their ownself and their
46 family. I don't -- I don't mind the mesh size
47 restriction, but that later part of the run where
48 people fish is where I want to go take my kids out and
49 go fishing, not have to argue with people over whose
50

1 net spot is whose. And I don't really care if I catch
2 a fish or not, it's just a -- it's the act of going out
3 there and doing it and having a good time and sharing
4 with folks.

5

6 But I do agree with what Andy says
7 though and I think the mesh size restriction in that
8 late run of fish is something that could be left alone
9 in the future.

10

11 MS. CARROLL: Madam Chair, I'd love to
12 ask a clarifying question, but I don't want to talk out
13 of turn in your voting process.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And this is?

16

17 MS. CARROLL: Holly Carroll.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, go.....

20

21 MS. CARROLL: Fish and Game summer
22 manager.

23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, go
25 ahead. Is it clarification then?

26

27 MS. CARROLL: Yeah. I mean, I guess
28 what I wanted to say is that in 2018 we imposed a full
29 summer season restriction to six inch. And I feel like
30 that would be a solution to what Andy's talking about.
31 And maybe to what Andrew is talking about. So if we
32 put a six inch restriction in district five, there was
33 support for that, I feel like we could -- I'd love to
34 hear from you guys, but we could do that all season
35 again. And then maybe what Andy -- Andrew is talking
36 about is once we -- you know, it's later in the season,
37 we could relax reductions to the time, so go back to
38 the full seven days a week up there, but leave it at
39 six inch for the remainder of the season.

40

41 Would that kind of address both
42 concerns if I'm understanding it correctly?

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Timothy, you
45 had something and then Andy.

46

47 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, I just want to
48 comment on what Andy and Andrew said. I agree with
49 both of them. Some cases we do have people that are

50

1 out firefighting and stuff so they don't have the
2 chance to get that early run. And when they do get
3 back they -- some of their families kind of depend on
4 that second run. But with the restrictions on there,
5 you know, I could just see us going forward with -- for
6 us to conserve.

7

8

That's all. Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

11

12

13 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you, Holly.
14 I think my concern -- I agree, I think most of the
15 upper river fishermen are comfortable with using six
16 inch mesh throughout the entire season given that we're
17 mainly fish -- well, we are fishing Canadian stocks.
18 Once you get above the Porcupine River it's completely
19 Canadian stocks. And so that's the impetus behind what
20 I'm doing since about 50 -- 48 to 50 percent of the
21 king run spawns in Canada or it might be a little bit
22 lower than that now. So I think that that's a viable,
23 good conservation tool.

23

24

25 My concern also though is opening up to
26 seven and a half inch in the lower river districts.
27 And I understand the problem with allowing them to or
28 restricting them to strictly six inch with their nets
29 filling up with chum salmon, but maybe what we could
30 start working on is taking some of that incidentally
31 caught fish in the summer harvest and distributing that
32 amongst people in the lower river in lieu of them going
33 out and trying to catch king salmon.

33

34

35 The issue I have is that we are taking
36 seven year olds out of the run so that people can catch
37 king salmon. We're trying to rebuild king salmon and
38 anything that targets larger fish is kind of
39 counterproductive to what you're trying to do. So I
40 think maybe what we need to begin to do is try and keep
41 it to seven -- or I'm sorry, keep it to six inch mesh
42 and try and get those incidentally caught fish that are
43 caught in the summer chum fisheries distributed or if
44 there is any kind of a commercial -- you know, that
45 would be from the commercial entity. We have to start
46 thinking outside the box and we have to stop harvesting
47 these larger fish if we're going to make an impact. So
48 this is I guess really targeted more towards downriver
49 than upriver. I think everybody upriver is pretty
50 comfortable using six inch mesh and that's not going to

50

1 restrict anybody, they're still going to be able to
2 fish late. And we're just going to be restricting them
3 from potentially targeting larger fish.
4

5 So I know you and I have had some
6 discussions about this and I know your reluctance as a
7 manager, but I really feel strongly that this is one of
8 the tools we need to use to get larger, older age class
9 of fish back up to the spawning grounds in Canada. And
10 also the Tanana because the combination of the Tanana
11 River and the Canadian stocks is the majority of all of
12 the spawning of chinook salmon on the Yukon River.
13 That constitutes 75 percent of the spawning population
14 of chinook salmon. So by putting this into effect
15 throughout the entire river, we are not only increasing
16 the Canadian fish, but we're also increasing the
17 quality of escapement for the Tanana River which is a
18 very large contributor as well to the run.
19

20 So those are my comments, Madame Chair.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
23 discussion on the motion?
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Does
28 everyone understand the motion because I don't think I
29 can restate it very well.
30

31 MR. BASSICH: I can restate it real
32 quick.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
35

36 MR. BASSICH: So the motion would be to
37 make a recommendation to the Federal co-manager that
38 seven and a half inch gear late in the season not be
39 opened up for chinook salmon to provide for larger
40 female chinook conservation measures.
41

42 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. I'll call the
43 question.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
46 question's been called for. Everyone in favor say aye.
47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone
2 opposed.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion
7 passes.

8
9 Okay. Is there anything else that we
10 need to cover on that before it's done?

11
12 MR. MASCHMANN: Yes, Madame Chair.
13 And, you know, I'll be here bopping up and down the
14 stairs, but if there's anything you want to talk about
15 while I'm here you can grab me during a break or
16 something too.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I know
21 we called this 10(c) the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
22 Program, but I remember -- I thought we were going to
23 cover this.....

24
25 MR. STEVENSON: The Executive Order.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:the
28 Executive Order. And because Tom won't be here
29 tomorrow so, Pippa, and -- can we take Tom next and you
30 next?

31
32 MS. KENNER: (Inaudible response)

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Tom
35 Doolittle on the Executive Order. You might just run
36 that by some of us. I feel like I know it by now, that
37 I asked enough questions and read it.....

38
39 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:but I
42 don't think everybody else does.

43
44 Did you have something?

45
46 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
47 These items are in your supplemental materials packet.
48 The first reads Executive Order, et cetera, it's a two
49 pager, and the other is this flow chart, it's this

50

1 colored page right in front of you. These are the two
2 items that Mr. Doolittle will address now.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. DOOLITTLE: Madame Chair, members
7 of the Council. My name's Tom Doolittle for the
8 record, I'm the acting assistant regional director for
9 OSM.

10

11 And one of the things that we wanted to
12 make, you know, that I -- A, was a concern of this
13 Council and secondly is an item that I think we need to
14 talk about relative to Council nominations and vetting
15 is sometimes when -- you know, when we sit here we go
16 well, what's this entire process. So this is a -- you
17 know, this handout, the color one, that really kind of
18 goes over the 16 month process for the Council
19 nomination process, kind of goes through all the steps
20 before you're sent a -- an appointment letter to be on
21 a Council or an appointment letter or a letter that
22 says that you're not on a Council. So it is a pretty
23 long process to say -- you know, to say the least.

24

25 And I'll say upfront one of the most
26 important things about the nomination process is that
27 we continue to have applications from rural Alaska.
28 And I'm just so happy to have this quorum of the
29 Council. And as you all know it hasn't been an easy
30 year for a couple of reasons and I'll go over that.

31

32 One of the good things is that when we
33 do go through the nomination package one of our first
34 steps once we, you know, have gone through the panel
35 process and gone through the Board process of saying
36 these are the 48 or so people that we recommend, you
37 know, going from Alaska for consideration by the
38 Administration and the Department for appointment to
39 RACs. And please remember that's what the Board does,
40 these are the list of people for consideration.

41

42 And so normally this whole process
43 would be done, you know, and the vetting by December.
44 And there was a list that came down and I did look at
45 that list and I asked the Department if they could re-
46 view the total number of people that they vetted
47 because many of the RACs would be down 50 percent, one
48 RAC was down 60 percent. And so I really had -- a
49 basic wish was can you take a second look so we can add

50

1 some additional folks to the -- you know, to our
2 Regional Advisory Councils in Alaska. And so they
3 said, yep, we'll take a second look.
4

5 And the criteria I wanted was to put
6 some degree of balance, that we were -- essentially on
7 our 10 member RACs would be only 20 percent down and
8 not 30 and 40 percent down, that we would look at, you
9 know, our 13 member RACs and be, you know, 30, 35
10 percent down and not 50 percent down or more. And so
11 there was a second look and additional people were
12 added to that -- you know, that original list. And so
13 it wasn't an ideal situation, but at least more, you
14 know, people were considered and appointed to the
15 Regional Advisory Councils throughout the State.
16

17 And when you look at the criteria not
18 only is it the balance that we would see to make it
19 equitable between, you know, the RACs that -- you know,
20 the 10 member RACs are seven or eight people and the 13
21 member RACs are nine or 10 people rather than six or
22 seven people. We wanted to have that as one
23 consideration to make sure that we maintained as many
24 individuals that had long term experience as well on
25 the RACs. Many people have 10 or more years, some over
26 20 years of experience and say we can't not have this
27 experience on our RACs.
28

29 Another thing we looked at was making
30 sure we had a balance of commercial/sport interests.
31 That is something we strive for on our Councils so
32 there's a balance of opinions that come in and
33 perspectives for the decision making process.
34

35 So those were the simple asks that, you
36 know, was to say hey, take a look at these things
37 because this would be a severe approach.
38

39 And it's kind of like -- then it comes
40 to the second part when you go through which is like
41 well, why is there the scrutiny and why is there the
42 cut -- you know, the cutbacks on Alaska RACs. Well,
43 FACA Advisory Committees have gone -- throughout
44 the country have gone through a lot of scrutiny and a lot
45 of review because of total cost to the government
46 nationwide, from the National Institutes of Health to
47 whatever, there are FACA committees that are common
48 throughout -- you know, through many agencies and
49 throughout the Federal government. And so many of the
50

1 things that we see cut are reflective of utility and
2 cost has been part of this -- has been part of this
3 review.
4

5 Also if you look really carefully at
6 the words in the Executive Order that came down on June
7 14th of 2019, and it was an Executive Order so it came
8 down from the White House. And that Executive Order
9 really had the biggest impact on discretionary and new
10 FACA committees and less impact to those that would be
11 considered statutory FACA committees. 805 of ANILCA
12 was -- you know, obviously was, you know, and ANILCA as
13 an Act was passed by Congress and is a statutory
14 requirement that we have Regional Advisory Councils.
15 And we have, you know, then the regulation or quote,
16 unquote laws are set up around, you know, the primary
17 statutory requirement for doing that.
18

19 One of the reasons that we are
20 nondiscretionary, we are something that is -- you know,
21 that we're required, that Congress said that we're to
22 have. So Alaska, you know, has been and our FACA
23 committee basically is the Regional Advisory Councils
24 have been relatively -- even though we have taken a hit
25 we are stable and we are here and we are functioning.
26 The Secretary signed a charter on December 13th of this
27 -- of last year. And again that charter is good
28 through 2021, December of 2021. The asks of the Board
29 were put into that charter which is quite important.
30

31 As you know we've had this -- also that
32 we've had a rescheduling event, but this rescheduling
33 event allowed us to get the time to get additional RAC
34 members appointed throughout the State of Alaska,
35 that's important. So that was one consideration I had
36 to look at.
37

38 Also because of the scrutiny on FACA
39 and direct adherence and there have been, you know,
40 problems where, you know, many programs and ours
41 weren't -- you know, we're different than others
42 nationally is that we had to really look at when we
43 hold our meetings that they were published in the
44 Federal record -- you know, Federal Register, 14 days
45 in advance of our meeting.
46

47 And so, yep, in 2020 our feet were held
48 to the fire to be 100 percent compliant in our process
49 and I don't degree with that at all. And I think I'm
50

1 -- and so we can say we have compliant meetings. I am
2 distressed as many of you are that our RACs are not at
3 full -- 100 percent function, but again at least we had
4 the Administration, you know, take a second look and
5 add additional people, you know, to our RACs statewide.
6

7 I also want you to realize that the
8 Alaska part of the Department of Interior from Steve
9 Wackowski's office and Sarah Taylor have been
10 exceptionally helpful in getting requests, you know,
11 that -- you know, to working with other individuals in
12 and outside of the Department including the White House
13 liaison to see this. And when we've given them a piece
14 of information like to move our packages through at the
15 beginning and the early days of the Administration
16 sometimes it would take a few months. They've
17 literally cleared these things out of Alaska to move
18 them to Washington, DC within a few days after
19 receiving them. So they have definitely from the
20 Alaska contingent been in our court. But it still
21 wasn't going to get, you know, anybody in the
22 Department not looking at the adherence to FACA and
23 trying to cut costs. And so this is happening, you
24 know, not just to Alaska Regional Advisory Councils,
25 but to others.
26

27 But also we were in the process of
28 educating, you know, a whole new group of people that
29 are thousands of miles away in what we do. And, you
30 know, people that represent various tribes in Alaska
31 came to help move our process along. The people that
32 used to serve on our -- you know, on Boards for the
33 last -- you know, Federal Subsistence Board, you know,
34 spoke up. Other, you know, regional directors,
35 including my boss, Greg Siekaniec, spoke up to try to
36 move this along and really be assistive in our process.
37 So I used the entire depth of our Board to -- you know,
38 to make sure that we had compliance, that we could have
39 these meetings, that we again continue to educate
40 everybody about Alaska Regional Advisory Councils and
41 that hopefully we won't see as much of a problem when
42 it comes to this next -- you know, this next panel
43 nomination process that we'll go through for the
44 selections that will come up this coming -- by this --
45 actually by this coming December again for another
46 round.
47

48 And I don't want folks to give up if
49 they've tried once. I want them to try again. I want
50

1 applications to come from rural Alaska because that's
2 the strength of the program and Regional Advisory
3 Councils are the heart of our program. And so it -- it
4 is, you know, tough for all of us to go through
5 scrutiny, but some of it is the business that it is.
6 But we are compliant, we are having our meetings. And,
7 yeah, we're not at full force, but again please
8 encourage people to apply. And we're making sure our
9 office is -- you know, is contacting those people that
10 weren't selected to reapply and also that -- that we
11 really, you know, appreciate that effort. And the
12 discretion of the selection at the Administrative
13 level, you know, that's the private business and at the
14 discretion of the Administration to recommend people
15 that will serve at the -- you know, at the pleasure of
16 this Administration. And so we are not privy to, you
17 know, all of the processes of the vetting process. So
18 it's not -- you know, it's not our Alaska regional
19 representative from DOI, it's not OSM, it's nothing
20 that's reflected on you. There's a bigger machine at
21 work relative to the scrutiny on these Councils.
22

23 With that I know, Andy, that you've
24 got, you know, some questions about that and I'll be
25 more than willing to answer the questions to the best
26 of my ability.
27

28 Thank you.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, I just
31 wanted to make -- before you say -- Council members, I
32 was reading section 1 of this Executive Order and it
33 differentiated committees created by law and by
34 statute. And I asked Tom at a break that we are by
35 law, but still are under this order, correct?
36

37 MR. DOOLITTLE: You are actually under
38 statute. So and with.....
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which is law?
41

42 MR. DOOLITTLE: And under law as well.
43
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
46

47 MR. DOOLITTLE: So you're under both.
48 But you're not a nondiscretionary or new one so many of
49 the things that you see in the Executive Order are more
50

1 kind of -- you know, what the Executive Order would do
2 was saying hey, we're going to look at all FACA
3 committees, but the ones we're really going to look at
4 in a really hard way are going to be the ones that are
5 new and the ones that are discretionary. You're a
6 nondiscretionary one, you're required to be here by
7 statute. And so they couldn't just go we're going to
8 -- you know, this Executive Order is going to make us
9 -- you know, make the Alaska Regional Advisory Councils
10 go away. Section 805 of ANILCA's quite clear about
11 setting up advisory committees, you know, by region.
12 The environmental impact statement that set up how many
13 councils would be in -- you know, be statewide, you
14 know, again it's quite clear that it states that you'll
15 -- that, you know, we'd have 10. And there hasn't been
16 a new, you know, National Environmental Policy Act type
17 document or record of decision that has said anything
18 otherwise. And we have new charters, you know, signed
19 by the Secretaries, you know, and signed by the
20 Secretary of Interior as well.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But my
23 question was we fall under this Executive Order, be
24 less numbers, that's all I was referring to.

25
26 MR. DOOLITTLE: In a general sense,
27 yes.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30
31 MR. DOOLITTLE: Uh-huh.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

34
35 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
36 I hope I can convey this thought to you or whatever. I
37 guess what I'm -- what I'm curious about, I understand
38 that OSM and this is in regards to the appointments
39 made to this Council, is there a way that we can
40 address those that make those appointments as to what
41 our priorities are for this Council. And what I'm
42 referring to is when they see multiple applicants for
43 this Council is there a way that we can address them to
44 say that we would like to see our Council consist of X
45 amount of people, young people. What I'm getting at is
46 I'd like to see young people appointed because I think
47 it's really important in this process for those that
48 engage at a younger age to be a part of it and learn
49 from those that have the experience in doing it. If
50

1 you lose the long term institutional knowledge and
2 experience of your panel and you bring all new people
3 on, they're not nearly as effective in representing
4 their region. And so I guess my short question to you
5 would be is there any mechanism in which we as a
6 Council can try to inform those decision makers on the
7 appointments for this Council as to the importance of
8 them appointing some young people to this Council as
9 well? Because I -- I -- my guess is if they're
10 reducing the numbers they're going to look at people
11 who have been on for long term and they're going to
12 give them a higher priority in maybe selecting them
13 because of the experience. But what I'm getting at is
14 we're all getting older and we really need young people
15 like Charlie and like what we had with Michael to learn
16 from us so that they can step in and pick up after
17 we're gone.

18
19 MR. DOOLITTLE: I think that, you know,
20 if there was an example set by any Council with trying
21 to involve, you know, the younger set within this,
22 Eastern Interior Council is it. And, you know, by
23 promoting those applications and quite frankly by
24 looking at my observations of some of the criticisms of
25 FACA committees, this is -- they're like saying when
26 are you going to change the guard. And so, you know,
27 it's like really -- you know, and so there's a large
28 number of people in Alaska Regional Advisory Councils
29 that have more than 10 years of experience. And so if
30 you're, you know, really trying to say are you getting
31 new blood in, I think part of the Administration's
32 message in all of this, if there was any silver lining
33 to it, was you need to start incorporating young
34 people. So I think that that's happening and there's
35 pressure on the Regional Advisory Councils to do this.
36 On the other hand you can't just be -- you know, clean
37 everybody out and expect to clean everybody in, you
38 can't do it in one stroke of the pen. So it's really
39 about maintaining balance, you know, in that process.

40
41 So through the nomination process, you
42 know, and the statements when you have somebody is
43 clarifying that in the application that that is your
44 intent, you know, for that applicant and making sure
45 that that -- those statements are made for those
46 applicants. And their references really are there, you
47 know, as supportive people to those younger -- you
48 know, to those younger people on that purpose then
49 serving on the Regional Advisory Councils and being the
50

1 future of subsistence in Alaska.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

MR. BASSICH: That's fine.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I just
8 wanted to add I think that they have demonstrated
9 however the process went that they listen to us because
10 we got two on this Council and that -- and he had the
11 opportunity to reapply. So, yeah.

12

13

14

MR. BASSICH: I guess it's a wait and
see.

15

16

17

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

MR. McMANUS: Yeah, I'd just like to
encourage people that do get denied to keep on trying
and put another application in because it took me three
times to get on here. I put in three different
applications and was accepted the third time. So don't
just get discouraged, just keep on pushing for what you
believe in.

25

26

27

Thank you.

28

29

30

31

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I put in
nine. So I didn't get discouraged, but I might be
feeling that way recently.

32

33

MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

34

35

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

36

37

38

39

40

41

MR. GLANZ: The biggest problem it
seems to me with getting young people on, they got
families. And we had that five day meeting in
Anchorage. It takes a lot for somebody that's a
working man, raising a family, having a family.....

42

43

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MR. GLANZ:taking off work for
five days. I mean, it's a hardship on the -- that's
some of the problem of young people that I've tried to
get on the Board. And they -- oh, yeah. They say I'll
try and then they find out what the downside is for
that. And for instance like here we came to a meeting

1 and there's no advance check which is no big deal for
2 me or most of us here, but one year I waited six months
3 to get reimbursed from a meeting. And I came to the --
4 for the spring meeting, I came to the fall meeting, I
5 said my question is when do we get paid and everybody
6 laughed. And, you know, but it was -- I'm only talking
7 a couple hundred dollars, but, I mean, still it's a
8 hardship on somebody with a family.
9

10 Anyway that's just my thoughts on it.
11 But I'd like to see -- I want young people, I'm trying
12 to encourage them. So, you know.....
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we'll
15 keep working on that.
16

17 Any other questions.
18

19 (No comments)
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I
22 think it's like you said, Andy, wait and see.
23

24 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
27 Andrew.
28

29 MR. FIRMIN: So you were serious, we
30 got to dig in our own pocket all week then?
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No, I wasn't
33 referring to how the money comes in, no. I meant this
34 Executive Order. But as -- no, I'm sorry, I didn't
35 mean money. Yeah. I was -- we were talking about the
36 Executive Order.
37

38 Did that -- I mean, anyway that's
39 another issue. So it was just a point to saying that
40 hey, you know, it's hard to get people in there if they
41 can't get reimbursed and they got to do it out of their
42 own pocket.
43

44 MR. GLANZ: I just mean the hardship on
45 a work -- working fellow to take time off to come to
46 these and then you're on ACs or whatever committees
47 like us on the Fortymile caribou or the salmon stuff.
48 I mean, it's -- it's a hardship for some people.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
2 still working so it's -- I feel like it's a hardship
3 for me because the older I get the harder or longer it
4 takes to do something.

5
6 MR. GLANZ: Oh, I thought you worked
7 for us here.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, as a
10 volunteer.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He hears that
15 a lot. We're volunteers.

16
17 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

20
21 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, so it just kind of
22 occurred to me, you know, I guess this is the point I
23 was trying to get to and I'm not sure my question was
24 really answered. But if this Council can say that it
25 would like its makeup to be a number of sport people, a
26 number of subsistence people, commercial, whatever, can
27 they also put in there that they would like to see a
28 certain amount of young people on the Council, is it
29 possible for them to just say we would like to make
30 sure that two seats are held by people under the age of
31 30 or 35?

32
33 MR. DOOLITTLE: I think really it's --
34 you know, again it's getting the pool of applicants to
35 make sure that, you know, you fill -- you know, fill
36 seats and that we move the process along. I -- when it
37 always comes to, you know, selectivity by age.....

38
39 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

40
41 MR. DOOLITTLE:I always get -- I
42 get shaky on that one. And but I think -- I think that
43 you can, you know, talk about that you want a broad
44 base of ages, you know, representing your Council, and
45 experiences and, you know, of different interests and
46 backgrounds. And then you -- and then you're not
47 saying kind of eligibility by age or by race or by, you
48 know, the things that would show, you know, forms of --
49 you know, taking one segment of a group and making them

50

1 different than another. But I think if you're
2 broadening your language to say we want to have a cross
3 section of our Councils that represent, you know, a
4 broad section of age groups anybody would read that and
5 go, yeah, we need young people and people that are kind
6 of mid part of the process and some seasoned folks to,
7 you know, bring people along and to mentor people
8 through the process as well.
9

10 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I guess what I'm
11 trying to get at though is what is our process to make
12 sure that that message reaches those that make those
13 appointments. That's the question I'm trying to get
14 at, I guess I haven't been real clear. Can we make a
15 formal letter saying this is what we would like our
16 Council to be made up at or is it something that they
17 just hear through the transcripts of our meeting which
18 is.....
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Actually I
21 thought about this, Andy.....
22

23 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:and it's
26 the annual report.
27

28 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was --
31 that's what I was.....
32

33 MR. BASSICH: Fair enough. That -- and
34 that answers my question.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that's
37 what I was thinking.
38

39 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, good.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
42 I mean, I've been thinking about it, yeah.
43

44 MR. BASSICH: Okay.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
47

48 MR. DOOLITTLE: I think not only the
49 annual report, Madame Chair and the Council, but I also
50

1 think in the development of your charter as well that
2 you describe the language and the character of your --
3 of your particular Council and it describes that in
4 your actual charter signed by the Secretary.
5

6 Thank you.
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: How often
9 does the charter come up?
10

11 MR. DOOLITTLE: Every two years.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So
14 every two years we talk about the charter, yeah.
15

16 MR. BASSICH: When's that up again?
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I bet it's
19 next -- it's next meeting.
20

21 MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah, it would be --
22 actually the development will be starting.....
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Your mic.
25

26 MR. DOOLITTLE:would be -- start
27 in the spring of 2021. And a decision on the -- and
28 then a new charter would be December -- on December
29 13th of 2021. So that's when your old one would sunset
30 and your new one -- any changes to the charter would go
31 through the -- next January of 2021's Board meeting.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I
34 just wanted to say one more thing. Before I got on
35 here this Eastern Interior RAC had a hard time getting
36 a quorum. It was going through a lot of pain. So if
37 you get too restrictive then you might push it to where
38 you have a hard time getting a quorum.
39

40 Did you have something to add, Zach?
41

42 MR. STEVENSON: I did. Through the
43 Chair and I'd mentioned this before. Modifying the
44 charter to encourage or promote the nomination of a
45 certain group of people is by no means a guarantee that
46 they will necessarily be nominated. And I just want to
47 manage expectations accurately to state that in order
48 for someone to be nominated number 1, they have to
49 apply and number 2, they have to submit an application
50

1 that passes the approval of the Nominating Panel and
2 then gets the approval of the Secretaries of Interior
3 and Agriculture and the White House.

4
5 So in my view changing the charter to
6 encourage the recruitment of a certain group of people
7 is an aspiration, but it's not a guarantee that they'll
8 necessarily be brought on. And one of the most
9 effective ways to encourage new membership is to talk
10 to those people that you know because it's been my
11 observation that one of the most powerful ways to get
12 people to apply is to tell people that you know that
13 hey, this is a good thing, you should get involved.
14 And that referral can go a long way in getting people
15 to apply.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
20 discussion on this?

21
22 MR. GLANZ: I just have one.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

25
26 MR. GLANZ: I have to agree with him
27 that you can't ask for one age group, it's called age
28 discrimination.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

31
32 MR. GLANZ:you know. I don't
33 think I want to sign my name to anything like that, you
34 know what I mean. And so.....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vote against
37 it when it comes up.

38
39 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, it would -- I would
40 because I don't want to be involved with age
41 discrimination or colors or, you know, the Civil Rights
42 Act, man, we don't want to touch that. I played with
43 that when I used to work years ago when I was -- my
44 last life.

45
46 (Laughter)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
49 Any other discussion?

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
4 For taking such a long time on some short ones.

5

6 And now I got her up here and then she
7 left and now -- this is three times.

8

9 All right. Pippa's not here and I
10 don't see Greg Risdahl in the room either. And I
11 thought she figured out that she was next.

12

13 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, just to
14 follow-up.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tom.

17

18 MR. KRON: Again we had Frank Harris
19 down here, he and Pippa were going to present the FRMP
20 program and.....

21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And now
23 they're.....

24

25 MR. KRON:the Partner's Program.
26 But again with the other meeting going on upstairs they
27 had to run back up.....

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

30

31 MR. KRON:again. I think you'll
32 see them walk in.

33

34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: They're here.

35

36 MR. KRON: All right.

37

38 MR. HARRIS: Thank you, Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you can do
41 it without Pippa?

42

43 MR. HARRIS: Yes.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
46 Great. I feel so bad that you guys are having to do
47 this and we're trying to dance around all these
48 schedules. So.....

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. Sorry. It's a
4 little tight right here, having both meetings going at
5 the same time is a little tough, but.....

6

7 Good afternoon. My name's -- for the
8 record my name's Frank Harris and I'll be providing an
9 update on programmatic areas including Fisheries
10 regulatory cycle, Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
11 and the Partner's Program. This will be brief, but
12 please ask questions, I'll do my best to answer them.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Can I ask
15 just for the Council's sake, is there a handout?

16

17 MR. HARRIS: There's not.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Go
20 ahead.

21

22 MR. HARRIS: Just a few points that I'm
23 going to touch on, it should be quick.

24

25 Start with the Fisheries regulatory
26 cycle update. The Federal Subsistence Board is
27 currently accepting proposals to change Federal
28 regulations for the subsistence take of fish and
29 shellfish on Federal public lands and waters for the
30 2021 to 2023 regulatory cycle. You can find a flyer
31 starting on page 12 of your books. I think it's 12, it
32 was 12 on the Western Interior and I believe it was
33 page 12 on the Eastern Interior RAC books. I didn't
34 have time to double check that when I ran down here, it
35 describes how to submit a regulatory proposal.

36

37 The Board will consider proposals to
38 change Federal fish and shellfish seasons, harvest
39 limits, methods of harvest and customary and
40 traditional use determination. There are a number of
41 ways you can submit proposals. If you have a fisheries
42 proposal that you would like to submit as a Council or
43 as an individual, we can discuss that right now, you
44 can also submit proposals to OSM through your Council
45 coordinator, by hand or by mail and we can assist in
46 drafting proposals if you'd like. There's also an
47 online process outlined more clearly on the flyer in
48 your books.

49

50

1 These proposals will be analyzed and
2 presented to the Councils during the fall meeting cycle
3 this year for Council recommendations. Proposal
4 analyses and Council recommendations will be presented
5 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their action at
6 the January, 2021 fisheries regulatory meeting.
7

8 The call for proposals is currently
9 open and will be open through April 20th. So if you
10 don't have any proposals today that we discuss and you
11 decide that you -- there's something you want to submit
12 later on, there's still time, until April 20th.
13

14 This concludes the fisheries regulatory
15 cycle update.
16

17 Are there any questions.
18

19 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. Am
20 I correct, Frank, the deadline for submitting those
21 proposals is April 20th?
22

23 MR. HARRIS: Correct.
24

25 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Most of the
28 Council members are aware that this is the call for
29 fisheries proposals. And we're -- you know, I thought
30 you were going to do Fisheries Resource Monitoring
31 Program, but we're on the call. So.....
32

33 MR. HARRIS: Oh. Sorry.
34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
36

37 MR. HARRIS: That's next.
38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
40

41 MR. HARRIS: I didn't look at the
42 schedule, I was just going by what I had on the paper
43 here.
44

45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. But
46 since you're there we're -- we got it covered.
47

48 Now has -- has anyone considered if
49 they wanted to put a proposal in on the fisheries?
50

1
2 (No comments)
3
4 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
7
8 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
9 Frank, I know last year when the FRMP, Fisheries
10 Resource Monitoring Program.....
11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We're on the
13 call right now. We're on the call.
14
15 MR. STEVENSON:when the FRMP
16 program was being promoted statewide that there were
17 hours that were made available where staff could answer
18 the phones and respond to any questions about FRMP. Is
19 that still available, if folks had questions is there
20 someone that can help to address those questions on
21 FRMP should questions arise?
22
23 MR. HARRIS: We're currently on the
24 call for proposal for fisheries regulatory proposals.
25
26 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
27
28 MR. HARRIS: But, yes, you can call in
29 and certainly call -- ask questions.....
30
31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.
32
33 MR. HARRIS:for sure.
34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. We're
36 on right now -- I didn't realize that we were on the
37 call. So we're on the call, that's (e), new business.
38 And I'm not hearing that anyone wants to put up a
39 proposal for the next cycle. If you do before the end
40 of the meeting let me know and we'll take it up.
41
42 Now can we go back to Fisheries
43 Resource Monitoring Program that was actually -- yeah,
44 and you can do that?
45
46 MR. HARRIS: (Inaudible response)
47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Hit
49 it.
50

1 MR. HARRIS: Sorry about that. Again
2 like I said I didn't look at the agenda quick and I
3 just went by our talking points that started out with
4 that.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And
7 that was the one I was wondering if there was a
8 handout.

9
10 MR. HARRIS: Yeah. No, there is not.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13
14 MR. HARRIS: But again this is pretty
15 quick. Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update.
16 Update for the 2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring
17 Program -- Plan. I'm sorry.

18
19 We're currently in the final phase of
20 the 2020 Monitoring Plan funding cycle. The Federal
21 Subsistence Board met on January 28th through the 30th
22 and made a recommendation about the funding -- final
23 funding plan. Once the Office of Subsistence
24 Management has a final budget which should be any day
25 now, hopefully this week, the assistant regional
26 director will approve the funding plan and all
27 applicants will be notified of the status of their
28 submissions.

29
30 With the 2020 plan nearing finalization
31 it is time for the Councils to begin to form the
32 priority information needs for the 2020 Fisheries
33 Resource Monitoring Program call for proposals that is
34 due out in November, 2020. Priority information needs,
35 also known as PINS, are an important component of the
36 program as they identify issues of local concern and
37 knowledge gaps. These knowledge gaps are related to
38 subsistence fisheries. Using input from the Regional
39 Advisory Councils these priority information needs
40 determine the types of projects that are sought for
41 each region. And they provide a framework for
42 evaluating and selecting project proposals. So the
43 priority information needs are a very important part of
44 this process.

45
46 Similar to the 2020 Monitoring Program
47 cycle we are asking for several Council members to
48 volunteer to meet telephonically over the summer to
49 identify knowledge gaps and information needed for
50

1 management of subsistence fisheries in your region.
2 These volunteers will review a list of the PINs from
3 the last few FRMP cycles and a list of what projects
4 have been funded from those PINs. They will then
5 discuss whether the FRMP funded projects have addressed
6 the previous PINs, the potential to reuse previous PINs
7 and the development of new PINs to address the issues
8 they are currently seeing. The results of these
9 telephonic meetings will be presented to the Councils
10 during your next meeting to help jump-start discussion
11 on the topic. Councils will formally make a motion to
12 adopt priority information needs at that meeting and
13 start a whole new monitoring program funding cycle.
14

15 If anyone from your Council is
16 interested in participating in the information needs
17 for this region, this would be an appropriate time to
18 announce their interest. Ideally we'd get at least two
19 people from each Council on -- as volunteers, but
20 there's no upper limit. So, I mean, there's really no
21 lower limit either, but we'd prefer a minimum of two.
22 So if anybody's interested right now would be the time
23 to voice your interest.
24

25 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I served on that
30 last year and in the past. I'm more than happy to be a
31 part of that again this year. So that's one. And.....
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anyone else?
34

35 MR. BASSICH:just for other
36 Council members it's a couple hour teleconference call,
37 it doesn't take up a lot of your time, but it's really
38 interesting to hear the different perspectives of
39 people on the river, what their information needs are
40 and kind of come to some consensus on some of the
41 riverwide ones as well as what's important to different
42 regions. So I found it actually pretty efficient and
43 it really helped me get a broader view on some of the
44 other regions and what their interests are. Not a big
45 time suck.
46

47 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
50

1 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
2 Adding to the point that Andy just made, this exercise
3 takes about an afternoon and is a very important part
4 of setting the targets which help to guide what type of
5 fisheries research is done. So this is a very
6 important way that Council members can help to inform
7 the type of research that's done.

8
9 Thank you, Madame Chair.

10
11 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

14
15 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, the only question I
16 got would be when the teleconference was and -- because
17 I'm so far out that it'd take me gas and time away from
18 camp to do that. And.....

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any answer?

21
22 MR. HARRIS: So typically we'd shoot
23 for July or August with these, there's no date set
24 right now and that would have to be worked out at a
25 later time. It's all in the planning process right
26 now.

27
28 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, I don't know if
29 they'd be able to get ahold of me in the month of July
30 unless they came and seen me. So I don't think I'd be
31 able to. Sorry.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So I guess if
34 you want input they need to not be fishing.

35
36 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, I realize it's a
37 tough time of year to do that so understandable.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, they --
40 they both said the same thing. Uh-huh.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

45
46 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, I'd just like to
47 add, you know, a number of the monitoring programs that
48 we initiated here at the Eastern RAC were adopted
49 because of the participation I think and keeping a

50

1 strong voice for what you need in your region. So, you
2 know, I understand you're asking for two people and
3 it's great if we can get two people, but.....
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But we got
6 one.
7

8 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And that's
11 really good.
12

13 MR. BASSICH: That -- that's what I'm
14 saying. I guess what I'm saying is don't feel too
15 guilty if you can't do it, I know everybody does, but
16 this is a high interest priority thing for me anyway.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
19

20 MR. BASSICH: So I'll -- I can
21 certainly try my best to represent this RAC in this
22 region with that.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I think
25 you do.
26

27 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.
28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert.
30

31 MR. WRIGHT: If you could -- if I could
32 find the time and I'd put my name in there, but I can't
33 promise that I'll always be on the teleconference, but
34 I could give it a shot.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. You
37 don't happen to have cell service where you fish, do
38 you?
39

40 MR. WRIGHT: (Inaudible response)
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
43 Well.....
44

45 MR. WRIGHT: I -- I do have email and
46 messenger in one place in the village that I can check
47 often, but -- it's what I do, but I'm not there every
48 day.
49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But then
2 we'll put Robert -- I'm going to call you Robert
3 because we got two Charlies, put Robert down, he's
4 volunteering.

5
6 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Tim.

9
10 MR. McMANUS: Yeah, if we get a number
11 and then -- if I get a number and then maybe an update
12 on the radio like they do -- Fish and Game does on the
13 updates on fishing, maybe you could give a update when
14 the next teleconference is and throw a number out
15 there. That way the fishermen that are out there
16 listening to updates might be able to go in somewhere
17 and get on the phone or something. But I'd throw my
18 name in there also if something like that could happen.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Okay.
21 Then I.....

22
23 MR. HARRIS: That's great.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I can
26 figure that -- (indiscernible - away from microphone)
27 sorry about that. That would be great. So then we
28 have more input.

29
30 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

33
34 MR. HARRIS: Thank you very much.
35 Appreciate it. And if you can make it that's great and
36 if you can't that's understandable. Also as long as we
37 have one person that's all -- that's the most important
38 part, but having multiples we -- even better. But
39 again don't feel guilty. Appreciate it.

40
41 And then one last quick thing, the
42 Partners for Fisheries monitoring update, just a couple
43 little lines here. The latest Partner's Programming
44 funding cycle began in January of this year. And the
45 four year terms ends -- lasts until the end of 2023.
46 The one in your region that was selected for funding
47 was Tanana Chiefs Conference and I believe they'll be
48 speaking to this RAC later on at this meeting. And
49 they'll be speaking about their program under agency

50

1 reports under the spec -- under the agenda.

2

3 And that concludes the Fisheries
4 Resource Monitoring Program update as well as the
5 overall Fisheries Division update. If there's any
6 other questions I'd try to answer them now otherwise
7 I'll get out of your hair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I saw your
10 hand. Did you want to -- no.

11

12 MR. WRIGHT: All I wanted to state was
13 that my problem is that I'm on 10 other Boards. So I
14 have a hard time.....

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Only 10.

17

18 MR. WRIGHT: Just 10, yeah. That's why
19 I just have a hard time piling more on top.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's the
22 way it goes everywhere in small places. If you -- oh,
23 he'll do it and the next thing you know you're all used
24 up. I get it. Yeah.

25

26 Okay. Anything else, any other
27 questions.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Moving
32 on. Thank you.

33

34 MR. HARRIS: Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The next
37 thing on the agenda is the review and approve the
38 annual report. Now do you guys want to go through that
39 now or do you think we should go through the meeting in
40 case something else comes up that you want to add
41 because one of the things that came up that we would
42 add was that Arctic Village.....

43

44 MR. STEVENSON: (Indiscernible -
45 simultaneous speech).....

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:the
48 subcommittee or the.....

49

50

1 MR. STEVENSON: (Indiscernible -
2 simultaneous speech).....
3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:working
5 group. What's that?
6

7 MR. STEVENSON: Has everyone had a
8 chance to review the report?
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a good
11 question. I mean, we just got it. So.....
12

13 MR. STEVENSON: Right. Right.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I just
16 wanted to bring this out. I think we should have it at
17 the end of the meeting.
18

19 MR. STEVENSON: Table it until
20 tomorrow.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right at the
23 end of the meeting so when something comes up get your
24 little sticky thing and write down something you want
25 to put on that, anything added.....
26

27 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, how about
28 if we do it right at the -- Madame Chair, I would
29 recommend we do it right after or prior to the Office
30 of Subsistence Management report to us.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's right
33 where I'd put it.
34

35 MR. BASSICH: Okay. Great.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: After is
38 where I'd put it, but.....
39

40 MR. BASSICH: Great.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
43 Okay. Now the next thing on the agenda is the
44 Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan. And I think Jeff Gross
45 wanted to be here for that and I just got a text from
46 him he -- he's in the parking lot.
47

48 And we can take a short break. Okay.
49 When Jeff's here, we got to come back.
50

1 (Off record)

2

3

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(On record)

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay, guys.

My dad said I only could say it once, I don't need to say it twice, I got my butt whooped.

Next on the agenda is the Fortymile management. What'd they do, leave too. Oh, get up here, please. Too many things following through the cracks. We're actually looking for paperwork that was -- should have been sent from George Pappas to us and it wasn't. So this just came from Fish and Game, Jeff got it sent. This letter is important. So I guess all we have is this and not a paper copy to look at.

Okay. Go ahead, Jeff. Do you want some of that moved, maybe we can help you out. Go ahead.

MR. GROSS: Okay. Thank you, Madame Chair. My name is -- for the record my name is Jeff Gross. I'm the Fish and Game biologist for -- the area biologist for Fish and Game in Tok. And I'm the State manager of the Fortymile caribou herd. And to my left here is Jim Herriges with BLM. There I introduced you. Anyway he is my conspirator on the Federal side for working with the Harvest Management Coalition to develop the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan. We're here.....

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want to just tell everybody it's page 20 in your book, this one, we have a handout.

MR. GROSS: And I do have a couple extra copies I brought.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We have it in our book.

MR. GROSS: Okay. This is a revision of the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan. The first version of this came out in 2001. And it's a publicly developed plan and as you can see on the first page it was developed by a coalition of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committees including Eagle, Central, Fairbanks, Delta, Tok and more recently

1 Anchorage. The first five there have been involved
2 since the first plan. In addition the -- a member of
3 the Eastern Interior RAC, several of you, have been
4 involved in it, both Sue and Don. And this plan we
5 finalized the writing of it this past winter after a
6 series of about three meetings. It's an international
7 plan too so it also involves the folks from Yukon.
8

9 And we're presenting it to the Eastern
10 Interior RAC today for your consideration to forward on
11 to the Federal Subsistence Board for their endorsement.
12 And in another week and a half or so here at the Board
13 of Game meeting I'll be presenting it to the Alaska
14 Department of -- or the Board of Game, Alaska Board of
15 Game and asking for their endorsement. And if
16 everybody's kind of hand in hand on this, what -- it's
17 helped us guide harvest management of the Fortymile
18 herd for decades now. So now it's a well thought out
19 plan.
20

21 And anyway I'm happy to answer any
22 questions. Again a number of you have been involved
23 with this. And I didn't have anything in particular
24 other than just to present it to you. But I'm happy to
25 answer any questions and Jim's here to address anything
26 from the Federal side.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
29 questions.
30

31 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.
32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.
34

35 MR. GLANZ: Jeff, did you do the spring
36 weight on the calves this last spring or.....
37

38 MR. GROSS: Yeah, I can speak a little
39 bit to the status of the herd as well. The -- back in
40 about 2008, 2010, right in there, we started seeing
41 some signs that the herd was possibly exhibiting some
42 affects of the population size. Over the last decade
43 we've continued to do research on the herd. And a
44 couple of things that we've documented is declining
45 calf -- fall calf size. This last fall kind of falls
46 in line with the previous falls. Again we had fairly
47 light calves this fall, I don't know if it was a record
48 low, but I think it was fairly close. In addition our
49 young cows of 36 months of age which is the age of
50

1 first reproduction in the herd, they've continued to
2 decline. And these are a couple of indices
3 in the -- in the literature that have been associated
4 with herds that are either near or experiencing a
5 decline due to nutrition. So we definitely have some
6 concerns. As of now we're -- we've switched tactics
7 from growing the herd to increasing the harvest to
8 stabilize and start reducing the herd to try to allow
9 some of the nutritional indices to improve.

10
11 There's not a whole lot different in
12 this plan as far as hunting seasons other than both Jim
13 and I have developed proposals to our specific Boards
14 to increase the potential season lengths and bag limits
15 that the State liberalized in Dillingham in 2018,
16 winter, 2018, to allow managers to extend the season as
17 early as August 1st in the fall and they changed the
18 winter season from December 1st to October 27th for an
19 opener and will allow us to take up to three caribou
20 per hunter. None of that has been put into place yet.
21 We still have a one caribou bag limit for the Fortymile
22 herd and a August 10th opener for the State.

23
24 And then Jim's proposal basically
25 aligns what's on the books with the State season so
26 that the Federal managers can at least respond as well
27 if we need longer seasons or bag limits to reach higher
28 harvest levels to reach our harvest objectives.

29
30 Does that help?

31
32 MR. GLANZ: Well, I noticed that a
33 State and a Federal season opens at the same time where
34 before we all started August 1st and then August 10 the
35 State season kicked in. I'd rather -- I want to stay
36 with that if possible because we have -- none of us
37 locals even hunted last year when there was hundreds of
38 people running around shooting at each other. And so
39 we -- not one local went out last year until sometime
40 when we opened the winter season. And then they -- but
41 anyhow. So I'd like to see a split season so we can
42 maintain it, but according to what I'm seeing here it's
43 not going to happen. So and our group don't want it to
44 happen then.

45
46 And I talked to some people up in
47 Circle and they feel all the same way. And our -- and
48 our neighborhood, they're all against that opening at
49 the same time. So we'll just -- whatever happens

50

1 happens. But the good news is usually when the State
2 opens it within a week they all went home and so we can
3 subsist and hunt all the rest of the season or
4 something. But that's one of the pluses of being
5 subsistence. But I'd rather keep -- go back to our
6 August 1st opening if there's anything to do with us.

7

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So that's all I really wanted to say.

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And, Jeff,
didn't the Upper Tanana Fortymile, not Tok, it's the
Upper Tanana Fortymile AC -- I'm giving you a hard
time, didn't they take this up and talk about it?

MR. GROSS: Madame Chair, we had an
Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee meeting and
an Eagle Advisory Committee meeting last week and they
both took it up. The -- because they don't have
somebody here they chose to write a letter for the RAC
and the Federal Subsistence Board which I think is on
the screen behind me.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I asked them
to get it printed so everybody could see it.

MR. GROSS: Yeah. And then Andy's
here, I -- Andy and Don are here, I think they can
speak to what Eagle discussed. But, yeah, there is a
letter that they wrote up.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And is that
coming? You can put that back up again and then -- is
it coming, that letter?

MR. BASSICH: I can speak to the Eagle
AC right now.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
He's -- just look -- just go ahead with that and Eagle,
you want to speak to it?

MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Don can maybe add
or correct me, but basically in the Eagle AC, we talked
about this quite a bit with Jeff, and our -- one of the
concerns that we have there is with the early seasons,
those early caribou coming across American Summit, if
there's a large group of hunters in the area it has a
tendency and it's local ecological -- it's traditional
ecological knowledge that it's very easy to turn the

1 lead caribou in a migration. And once that happens
2 oftentimes the caribou don't return to that area.

3 Caribou are incredibly important to
4 Eagle subsistence needs, caribou and king salmon. And
5 so one of our concerns is having both State and Federal
6 openings happening early in August when those caribou
7 are first starting to transect that American Summit
8 area. And they're also oftentimes in the -- towards
9 the Y area on the Taylor Highway at that point in time.
10 And it's our feeling that it's really important to let
11 some of those early caribou move through, put scent
12 down so that the rest of the herd will continue to
13 follow. And it's been my own personal observations if
14 the caribou don't come through in fairly large numbers
15 in the fall, early fall migration, oftentimes we don't
16 see nearly the numbers in the winter -- wintering areas
17 in our region. And actually most of the people in
18 Eagle prefer to get their caribou in the winter season
19 if possible due to the heavy pressures and competition
20 and danger involved in going out during a regular State
21 and Federal fall hunt.

22
23 So I guess kind of in concurrence with
24 what Bill's saying, we're a little bit concerned about
25 that. And I understand the desire to try and align
26 State and Federal regulations wherever possible, but
27 it's also possible over the past -- well, as long as
28 I've been in the RAC, there's always been a little bit
29 of deference given to Federally-qualified people to
30 have a slightly longer season, whether it be at the
31 beginning or at the end of the season to give the
32 advantage to those people that rely on that resource
33 locally.

34
35 So with that said, you know, those were
36 the concerns that we voiced to Jeff and to the
37 management. A number of us are on the coalition. I
38 didn't make the last meeting on that so I'm not -- you
39 know, not as well versed in it, but those are some of
40 the biggest issues. And then we also worry a little
41 bit early in August with the heat, with the possibility
42 of wanton waste or lack of care of meat that can take
43 place that early in the season.

44
45 So those were some of our concerns with
46 that. I'll leave it at that and if Don had anything
47 more to add.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don.

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Maybe I can relay a
2 story that I heard at the Federal Subsistence Board
3 meeting when I was there a few years ago. Jack Reakoff
4 was talking about the older cows and when they approach
5 the highway up by their area and how poorly they were
6 treated in the past that often those older cows will
7 not touch the road, they won't even cross the road.
8 And that tells me that you can turn the caribou around
9 pretty easily if you disturb those older cows that have
10 the memory of the migration.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. BASSICH: One other thing that I'd
15 like to add is, you know, I think -- I think we can
16 achieve the same objectives of trying to control the
17 herd growth through opening up slightly longer seasons
18 maybe in the fall or certainly by opening up the
19 harvest quotas I think we can achieve the same thing.
20 So I think given the needs for my community anyway,
21 those tools would be better used by managers to try and
22 help regulate the continuing growth of the herd to
23 stabilize the herd in their terms rather than longer
24 seasons. I think opening it up to any caribou or more
25 caribou for the harvest is probably more suited to
26 meeting the needs of what my community needs.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I just
29 wanted to say I just read that and the Upper Tanana
30 said the 1st.

31
32 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

35
36 MR. GLANZ: No, I was going to say is
37 they shot what, 1,500 in my neighborhood, 1,200, and
38 the caribou are still there. There was a herd on Eagle
39 Summit when I came over. I don't believe in that
40 turning the herd. But then again there's a whole lot
41 about caribou that nobody knows about. But.....

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Like my
44 husband said, the caribou don't know what the caribou
45 are doing.

46
47 MR. GLANZ: That's exactly.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. But

50

1 go ahead, Jeff, and then I wanted to add something.

2
3 MR. GROSS: Just a little bit of -- I
4 won't get into, you know, a lot of the traditional and
5 ecological knowledge discussion, but I can speak a
6 little bit to the radio or the satellite collar data
7 and some of my observations. And I've observed -- I
8 haven't observed this on the Steese Highway side, but
9 -- and I really haven't observed it anywhere else on
10 the Taylor Highway side, but on American Summit itself,
11 that one particular spot, it's such a pinch point that
12 I've been in my plane up above the lead cow, four or
13 500 yards from the highway, looking down at a bunch of
14 trucks and the next day I came back and they all turned
15 around and went southwest. So it's not that there's
16 necessarily Federal -- a lot of Federal land up on the
17 summit, and those experiences have been during the
18 State hunt.

19
20 But as far as what Andy's talking about
21 and I know what you guys -- what the Eagle folks have
22 experienced in the past, I've seen it firsthand. So
23 and again it seems like it's -- for the Fortymile herd
24 that's the only place where I can really identify where
25 I've seen that occur. And you look at the satellite
26 collar data which is really better than any kind of
27 flying I've ever done of course because we get it every
28 few days, but it's the only place that I can really
29 look back on and see that I've observed that. But I do
30 think that it does occur in specific situations and
31 maybe much more than I realize. I can't speak to it
32 other than that, but anyway just to let you know that.
33 I think that's what Andy was talking about.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, I have
36 sympathy for what Bill's saying too because I was on
37 the Taylor hunting when it was -- when it was open to
38 the whole State and somewhere up above Onehundred mile
39 and the caribou, they went through and they come back
40 for more. So, I mean, seriously, they totally went
41 through, crossed the highway and turned around and came
42 back for more shooting. So.....

43
44 MR. GLANZ: The only thing that I can
45 say is what's the difference if it was State hunters or
46 Federal hunters that's up there August 1st, they're
47 still going to turn. I'd guarantee you they're still
48 going to turn them. You're going to have more State
49 hunters up there than you'll ever get Federal hunters

50

1 up there on the opening day, I mean. But whatever, you
2 know, I just know.....

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Didn't I hear
5 you say you wanted to see the Federal hunt open the
6 1st, but not the State?
7

8 MR. GLANZ: Either that or open us the
9 10th and the State the 20th. But the -- it doesn't
10 matter to me and technically I don't -- they'll be in
11 Central anyway. But I just feel that -- that we can't
12 hunt where we're at when the -- if the State season's
13 open and the Federal, we cannot hunt. We have --
14 there's -- I don't have to tell you, there's a thousand
15 of them taken in a day and a half.
16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
18

19 MR. GLANZ: And locals won't go out
20 there, only a fool's out there. Unless you got a good
21 flak jacket and a nice helmet, but that don't help, I
22 remember seeing people get shot with a helmet on and
23 they're dead too. So anyhow, but.....
24

25 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Andy.
28

29 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, thank you. I think
30 -- you know, I think one of the differences from my
31 experience looking at this for many years is that these
32 pinch points and where caribou can be turned around is
33 more it seems to me affected by their migration routes,
34 not their wintering areas. And so a lot of these
35 caribou coming past Eagle and American Summit
36 traditionally headed -- in the past headed over into
37 the Ogilvie Mountains and to the areas below Dawson
38 City, south of Dawson City. This year we're seeing
39 them crossing and milling around Eagle and crossing the
40 Yukon River and going up into the Ogilvie Mountains
41 there. So I think it -- the whole function or the
42 whole phenomenon of caribou being turned is more when
43 they're in their movement stages rather than if they're
44 in areas where they traditionally kind of winter. I
45 think that's some of the differentiation. I'm not
46 saying that explains it all, but I think that's what
47 the -- can impact them in some areas more than other
48 areas.
49

50

1 That being said, getting back to my
2 first comment about the August 10 versus August 1. I
3 -- in reading the Fortymile -- Upper Tanana Fortymile
4 Advisory Committee's recommendations I would be
5 agreeable to that. I think under this program, the
6 Federal program, it's designed to set up to get a
7 slight upper hand to Federally-qualified people for a
8 resource, whether it be at the beginning of the year or
9 at the end of the year. I think that's a reasonable
10 solution to the problem, opening it up. If we're going
11 to have to open it up early, open it up early to the
12 Federally-qualified and then August 10th which is
13 really the date that we've had for many, many years, to
14 the full State hunt. And then with the increased bag
15 limits and Jeff's toolbox I think we can achieve what
16 we're trying to do and lessen the impact to Federally-
17 qualified hunters locally.

18
19 So that's my recommendation would be to
20 adopt what their recommendation is and have a unified
21 voice to our Federal Subsistence Board for this plan.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I'm
26 trying to Chair the meeting and read that. So it would
27 have been nice to have it here in front of us.

28
29 So what you're looking for is
30 direction, you'd like to hear from the Council?

31
32 Go ahead.

33
34 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah, I'd like -- this
35 is Jim Herriges, Madame Chair. Yeah, I was a little
36 bit confused with some of that discussion and I
37 appreciate it because I'm looking for that kind of
38 input for our -- you know, when it's time to make these
39 decisions. The -- but I think Andy maybe just
40 clarified it and I hope everybody's clear that we're --
41 that currently at least the State isn't proposing
42 anything earlier than August 10th. And BLM as a manger
43 hasn't proposed that either. If that -- if this -- if
44 our regulatory proposal is approved by the Federal
45 Subsistence Board then we would have the ability to
46 move it up to August 1st.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Discretionary
49 authority.

50

1 MR. HERRIGES: Right.

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6 MR. HERRIGES: And we weren't planning
7 to do that, but this has just been proposed and there
8 is some -- there is some justification in it. Just
9 looking back at the history of the management where
10 approximately what, 2014 through -- no, 2015 through
11 '17 I think or somewhere in there, the State season was
12 pushed back to August 29th or the end of August
13 and.....

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1 basically and you can make it formal or informal I
2 guess as to whether or not an August 1st Federal
3 opening would be a good idea.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm assuming
6 that the Federal proposal giving you discretionary
7 authority up to the 1st is going to pass. And at that
8 point you're just looking to us for direction. Do you
9 need a motion or do you feel like you have enough
10 information listening to what we've said already?
11 Because I agree with Andy on that -- the Upper Tanana
12 from what I'm reading there. And I know -- there's
13 just four of us that are really closely tied to that
14 area. So if you're waiting to hear how we move on it.
15

16 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair, if you
17 guys are willing to make a motion to that regards, then
18 that's fine. That would be helpful I guess, but
19 otherwise we can continue discussions, you know, after
20 the meeting. And, I mean, we can get -- receive input
21 at anytime basically. This is your chance I guess as a
22 group to make a motion and have input.
23

24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
25

26 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.
27

28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.
29

30 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
31 I'd like to make a motion that we support the Upper or
32 the Fortymile Coalition Harvest Plan as presented to
33 us. And maybe made an amendment or a recommendation,
34 but let's just start with that motion right now.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
37

38 MR. FIRMIN: Second.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I got
41 a second.
42

43 MR. BASSICH: Okay. I -- many of us on
44 this RAC are on this coalition and I think we've had a
45 lot of input and I think the only thing that I see as
46 outstanding is whether we have an earlier hunt for the
47 Federally-qualified people prior to the joint opening
48 starting on August 10th. So that seems to me like
49 really the only question that we're -- we're -- is
50

1 being asked of us for a recommendation.

2

3 And I guess what I would maybe like to
4 recommend is that along with our motion, maybe amend it
5 to if a Federally-qualified -- I'm sorry, if the
6 Federal managers feel that it is -- there are enough
7 caribou in the area that a Federal hunt could be opened
8 prior to August 10th to give that preference to
9 Federally-qualified users. Maybe not set a hard date,
10 but leave it -- you know, what we've tried to do and
11 what makes this plan so successful is that the managers
12 have a lot of tools in their toolbox because we know
13 caribou are not consistent, we never know what they're
14 doing. So I don't want to take any of those tools,
15 those management actions, those options, away from
16 managers, but recognizing what the Fortymile AC has
17 recommended for Federal people to have a slight
18 advantage if the caribou are around, I think just
19 putting that into the motion so that the managers
20 understand the intent of the Eastern RAC that we would
21 like to see some advantages given to Federally-
22 qualified people in the area if the caribou movement
23 and migration warrants it.

24

25 Is that clear to everyone?

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, it's a
28 lot of stipulations.

29

30 MR. BASSICH: Pardon?

31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Sounds like a
33 lot of stipulations, but.....

34

35 MR. BASSICH: Well, it's not a lot of
36 stipulations, it's basically saying we're supporting
37 the plan, but that if the caribou are there we would
38 like to see a Federal hunt only open. That's all I'm
39 saying.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. That's
42 what we need to stick to, yeah. Uh-huh.

43

44 MR. HERRIGES: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

47

48 MR. HERRIGES: Jim Herriges here,
49 Madame Chair. I -- yeah, I had I guess a question.

50

1 That it can be a little bit more difficult to announce
2 those last minute openings and get the word out. But
3 it's also -- I'm also wondering if the caribou aren't
4 around then having an opening is -- there likely
5 wouldn't be much hunter activity. So I guess I'm not
6 totally clear on the -- what that would serve.

7

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MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

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MR. BASSICH: So given the discussion that I made earlier, the point that I was making about turning the herd, that's the point. If the herd is there and they're in in numbers at August 1st and they're not going to get turned around, then go ahead an open it up for Federally-qualified people. If the herd has not made it there by August 1st and it looks like they're moving that direction, by no means would people in our area like to see an early hunt happen which may then turn the caribou.

Does that -- does that kind of clarify it for you? So it's a function of are the caribou in the area, have they established some of their movement into that area or not. And if they have then let's have a Federally-qualified hunt. If they have not, then let's just stick back to the August 10th joint State/Federal hunt happening all at one time.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That was very clear I think.

MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald. Your mic.

MR. WOODRUFF: Sorry. I agree with what -- some of the stuff that Andy said, but I think Pippa can back me up here, we have to show reasonable opportunity for success if we're going to open a hunt early or late or whatever and I think that Pippa can maybe speak to that a little bit for us.

Thank you.

MS. KENNER: Thank you, Madam Chair, Mr. Woodruff. So I'm having a little bit of problem processing because we're talking about a State process and we're bringing up Federal conditions which of

1 course we do because we live in reality where both
2 exist. I did notice -- I think what you're saying is
3 that on page 31 of the proposal that's in your book it
4 says several times that the seasons would be
5 coordinated, would be the same. And I think what we
6 just heard is that that's not necessarily true in terms
7 of the plan. So you might want to ask them to or make
8 a comment that the coordinated seasons would not be a
9 condition of their approval of the plan. And then when
10 we go into the Federal process let's wait until we get
11 there.

12
13 MR. WOODRUFF: I'm sorry, I'm not sure
14 I understand you.

15
16 MS. KENNER: When we get to the point
17 where we might want to change the Federal regulations,
18 we don't have to do it right now. I think when we're
19 talking about what the Federal season will be and what
20 those conditions are, maybe we should wait until we get
21 into the Federal process in those adjustments.....

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think I'm
24 with you.....

25
26 MS. KENNER:and not try to do it
27 through a State.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I thought
30 it's under discretionary authority.

31
32 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. We're.....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So that --
35 it's all -- that's already -- once that pass -- if it
36 passes at the Federal Board he has discretionary
37 authority to open it.....

38
39 MR. WOODRUFF: Right.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so
42 you're confusing me and Andy.

43
44 MR. HERRIGES: Well, that's -- if I
45 may. I think you're looking at the Harvest Management
46 Plan and we are discussing like the next step basically
47 and that's how -- whether or not to adjust Federal
48 seasons to provide a subsistence priority. And so that
49 is happening within this umbrella of this Harvest
50

1 Management Plan. But coordinating seasons does not
2 mean having identical seasons, it means we coordinate
3 so we're not doing things that are at cross purposes I
4 guess is the way I would interpret it. If that.....
5

6 MS. KENNER: Okay.
7

8 MR. HERRIGES:if that explains
9 anything. Does that.....
10

11 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.
12

13 MR. HERRIGES: Okay.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It does to
16 me.
17

18 MS. KENNER: Yeah, I'm still -- this is
19 Pippa Kenner again with OSM. Okay. That -- that's
20 enough. Yeah. Okay.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, because
23 he's just looking for us to how we feel about if there
24 was -- his -- he has -- he would get discretionary
25 authority to open a season earlier. He could open it
26 on the 5th if he wanted to.
27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Right.
29

30 MS. KENNER: I know what it is, Madame
31 Chair. This is Pippa. When we're talking about
32 reasonable opportunity or preference, I think -- I
33 think we should just state on the record what we want.
34 And the definitions of those words kind of have a lot
35 to do with the Council's point of view.
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Just did you
38 get that?
39

40 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah. I.....
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
43

44 MR. BASSICH: Sure. I guess what I'd
45 just like to say is that what we're doing here is we're
46 giving our approval for the plan. The plan encompasses
47 many different options and tools in the toolbox for
48 both Federal and State managers and all I'm trying to
49 add to that is that if the -- and I think all that the
50

1 Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Commission or Committee
2 is saying is if the opportunity is available, it's --
3 if it's reasonable to have a hunt for Federally-
4 qualified people earlier we would be in support of
5 that. That's all we're really adding. We're not
6 saying make a season, we're just letting this manager
7 at this table who has the authority to do that know
8 that if these conditions are met we would like to see a
9 Federally-qualified season opened. If they are not met
10 then we're fine with continuing on with the plan as
11 it's written because it encompasses a lot of things
12 with a lot of latitude by a biologist. Jeff has the
13 opportunity to open up for one day if it wants to and
14 close it down. There's a -- that's the beauty of this
15 plan, it can adapt to what the caribou do that year in
16 the region that they're in. That's what's made it
17 successful, so we don't want to mess with that. We're
18 just giving our intent to the Federal manager.

19
20 MS. KENNER: And so then I'm just going
21 to add some different language. One of our
22 justifications for doing that would be this user
23 conflict that occurs during the State season. And the
24 need to protect the continuation of subsistence uses.
25 That might be a justification for providing that extra
26 hunting time.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But I
29 think we've got that on the record strongly.

30
31 Okay. Andrew, Bill.

32
33 MR. FIRMIN: I just wanted to throw my
34 two cents in on what came from our AC meeting was --
35 and I didn't -- I only got the plan today so I didn't
36 get to read through the whole thing, but I didn't
37 notice anything on enforcement and wanton waste. And I
38 think that was a big issue that came up at our AC
39 meeting, there was no enforcement officers on Eagle
40 Summit and I had people saying that they pulled over on
41 the highway and stopped to take a leak and look and
42 there's half a dozen dead caribou laying off the side
43 of the road. There was no enforcement anywhere on
44 Eagle Summit throughout the fall season and I don't
45 know what time zones, I encourage people to take video
46 or pictures and report them, but I think that was in
47 both summer and fall or there was two different
48 incidents that I've heard of and they -- one was when
49 there was snow on the ground and one when there wasn't.

50

1 And that's just something that always bothers the local
2 people when you go up there and hunt undisclosed, but
3 yet there's more dead caribou laying on the side of the
4 highway than there is, you know, and there's just --
5 and there's no enforcement in sight. So I don't know
6 if they're just -- they don't call it in or they don't
7 -- nobody responds, but I -- that's just what I'm
8 hearing and that's just what I'm reiterating from our
9 AC meeting. So I'm sure you guys are probably either
10 swamped with calls and can't get to them all or there's
11 one person managing all the enforcement, I have no
12 idea.

13
14 But I just wanted to put that in there,
15 that came out of our AC meeting.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jeff.

18
19 MR. GROSS: Thank you, Madame Chair.
20 This is Jeff Gross, Fish and Game again. I guess I've
21 been the manager of the Fortymile herd since fall,
22 2003. And especially these more recent hunts on the
23 Steese that Andrew's speaking to. Both Jim and I have
24 been up there and the wildlife troopers have been
25 fantastic at cutting every single person they can loose
26 to come up there. And I can tell you Eagle Summit is
27 crawling with troopers, the whole -- the whole time.
28 And on top of that the last few years we've had what,
29 at least three teams of two -- two to three teams of
30 two and we've run some check stations. So and there's
31 enforcement involved with all that.

32
33 I will confirm though with Andrew there
34 are definitely caribou that are shot and not recovered.
35 I think the enforcement is there, but when you're
36 talking about -- you know, we -- I think we gave out
37 close to 5,000 permits this last year for the fall hunt
38 and there -- there's literally thousands of hunts and
39 so you can only do so much. But unfortunately when you
40 get that many hunters in that confined of an area with
41 that many animals, I -- I think everybody can envision
42 what that's probably like.

43
44 So anyway I'd just point that out. And
45 if -- as far as enforcement, if -- you know, I'll
46 certainly pass that along, but that -- continue to
47 encourage them to have as much enforcement as possible.
48 I think in addition we had the one BLM ranger up there
49 as well most of the year. So anyway.

50

1 Yeah, thanks.

2

3 MR. FIRMIN: I did drive through there
4 in early September and I think that was the first time
5 I've ever passed five trooper SUVs coming back, but I
6 don't know how far they went. I know they didn't go as
7 far as Central. But people in Central like didn't know
8 what I was talking about. And maybe that -- what
9 they're seeing is waste when -- after the season is
10 closed and.....

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

13

14 MR. FIRMIN:you know that's just
15 -- that's -- that's what they're seeing or people are
16 poaching after the fact and after the troopers leave,
17 everybody runs back. I don't know. That's just
18 reiterating what people were telling us at our AC
19 meeting. So, I mean, like I said I did see five
20 troopers this fall coming back from there, I passed
21 them on the highway. So and they were in SUVs so I
22 don't know if they were enforcement officers or what
23 they.....

24

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible -
26 away from microphone).....

27

28 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, who knows what they
29 were up to, but they didn't pull me over.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Some of
32 those incidents are whenever there's like the curb
33 slams against the highway and every -- I mean, I saw
34 it, they -- people shoot from the highway and then they
35 don't go see if they got it. So then next thing you
36 know someone said oh, there's a dead caribou at mile
37 192 or whatever. And how many did you say was reported
38 after that -- they slammed the highway twice, it was 17
39 or 18 that they found right along the highway?

40

41 MR. GROSS: Madame Chair. Yeah, that
42 was -- you're referring to a few years back when they
43 crossed the Taylor Highway up at the Y in -- during
44 moose season. And, yeah, I think there was close to
45 20, at least 18 I think.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

48

49 MR. GROSS: And that -- that's in part

50

1 the.....

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's what
4 we think happened, right?

5

6 MR. GROSS: Yeah, in part that's why we
7 developed the hundred foot set back for that stretch of
8 the Taylor Highway during hunting season now. So that
9 was -- the hope was that would curb people from
10 stepping off in the ditch and shooting at a caribou
11 running through the brush and at least make them walk
12 off the highway. So.....

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MR. GLANZ: Madame Chair.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill.

19

20 MR. GLANZ: What I was just talking to
21 Andy here, maybe the best thing could happen to us in
22 our area would be opening both at the same time, get
23 about maybe a thousand from the Fairbanks area to go to
24 Taylor Highway and alleviate the problem we have in the
25 Central area. I mean, look at the bright side, man.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 MR. GLANZ: Yeah. Once they see that
30 those -- hey, what about the August 1st, we still have
31 it.

32

33 Go ahead, Andy, I know you can do the
34 question.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: I guess my question to
37 both of you is are you clear with what our
38 recommendation would be in regards to a possible
39 earlier opening, are you clear with what -- you know,
40 if we're supporting the plan as a RAC, if we're
41 supporting the plan and we're supporting what the
42 Fortymile is saying here, are you comfortable or --
43 with those recommendations to move forward with your
44 management this year?

45

46 MR. HERRIGES: Well, what I heard was a
47 sentiment that -- or recommendation that we be
48 sensitive to potential impacts of having a season open
49 on caribou movements. And so, yeah, we would -- we

50

1 would do that and try and figure out a way to allow
2 harvest as well as that. And I know there's been some
3 discussion about like opening the season only to the
4 Fortymile bridge before August 1st and leave the
5 American -- O'Brien Creek out of it basically which is
6 all the Federal lands north of there so there's no
7 potential for increased traffic in that area may be one
8 option. I think caribou are probably somewhat less
9 sensitive to that area south of there than they would
10 be in American Summit just based on the terrain, you
11 know, the open -- I think caribou are happier crossing
12 roads in forested areas in general than they are in
13 open ridge tops. So, yeah, and if you want to be more
14 specific than that like -- then, yeah, feel free.

15

16 Does that -- did that capture it?

17

18 MR. BASSICH: Yeah.

19

20 MR. HERRIGES: Yeah.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: Well, also Eagle people and
23 Fortymile people, let's say the State opens up a three
24 caribou limit, they ain't never going to go across the
25 summit where you're talking about. No, they're not
26 going to. Why in the hell would they drive all the way
27 to Central when they can go right over there and get
28 their three caribou before they had to fight the crowds
29 in Central when they -- when they do get there. So it --
30 and I'm not talking about the Federal, I'm talking
31 about the State hunt open to three, they're trying to
32 stabilize the herd which they're talking about. So I --
33 I've got -- I'll get my caribou, it don't matter.

34

35 (Laughter)

36

37 MR. GLANZ: We always do, I mean, you
38 know.

39

40 MR. BASSICH: You just pick them up in
41 the ditch.

42

43 MR. GLANZ: But I have to say one other
44 thing with what Andy -- what Andy was talking about is,
45 you know, after we had that early fall hunt that I and
46 David Smith and two other people, we was flying around
47 there and it looked like science projects on top of
48 Eagle Summit. There'd be the whole skeleton
49 distributed by the birds, but no head. No head. So

50

1 them were bulls they didn't take home, they just took
2 the heads out. And how they were going to pass the
3 troopers up there is beyond me because they were --
4 they were up there, but they got them out of there
5 somehow because that -- we never seen no heads come
6 through Central so I know they didn't hide them there,
7 they took them back to Fairbanks or Delta, wherever
8 they were heading with them.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
11 talking about the past, right?

12

13 MR. GLANZ: I'm talking about the past.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

16

17 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

20 Yeah.

21

22 MR. GLANZ: We had that early opening
23 September 1st or whatever time it was, I don't remember
24 now and.....

25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and a
27 three caribou limit. Yeah.

28

29 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, we discussed that
30 already. But, I mean, they're conniving, they know how
31 to get around the problems.

32

33 And we've also like -- they're starting
34 to go in different areas now which we've been trying to
35 do. And he was saying that they see them in Fort Yukon
36 area and that. So and that's great, but I know their
37 weights are important too. But to me they're still
38 going in that 6.4 million acres that burned in '94,
39 that's where they're -- we're seeing most of them, you
40 know. And they go right through the burns, that
41 they're still grazing in the burns. So I don't know
42 what the answer's going to be. If you kill more of
43 them, they ain't going to distribute, if you kill more
44 of them they'll be more of them, but they ain't going
45 to distribute. So anyway, guys, I'm trying to not be
46 confusing, but I -- I'll go with whatever the majority
47 wants to do.

48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we have

50

1 a motion on the floor.

2

3

MR. GLANZ: Okay.

4

5

6

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And the motion is to adopt the.....

7

8

9

MR. BASSICH: Support.

10

11

12

13

14

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:support the harvest plan and the opening that the Upper Tanana has. And you -- you saw -- I guess you all saw it. And is -- does everybody understand what the motion is?

15

16

MR. GLANZ: Yeah.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

MR. BASSICH: And I think -- Madame Chair, I -- by your answer, Jim, I think you understand what we're asking for, you hit it on the head there. You -- I think it's very clear the managers understand what we're asking for so I think we're all on the same page here.

24

25

26

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, so we have a motion.....

27

28

29

30

31

MR. BASSICH: And I didn't hear any objections from the managers as to what we were doing, that it would be a difficult thing to do or whatever. So that's the whole point of this in my opinion.

32

33

34

35

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I think they got the directions that they're looking for and this motion makes it pretty succinct.

36

37

MR. GLANZ: Question.

38

39

40

41

42

43

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question's been called for. All in favor of the motion to support the management coalition, harvest data and the opening through or the recommendation from the Upper Tanana Fortymile say aye.

44

45

IN UNISON: Aye.

46

47

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

48

49

MR. GLANZ: Aye.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: One opposed.
2 Okay. We like it.

3
4 All right.

5
6 Do we have anything else on the
7 Fortymile caribou?

8
9 MR. BASSICH: I'd like to just say I
10 think Jeff cleans up pretty darn good.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 MR. BASSICH: That's the first time
15 I've ever seen him this well dressed, shaved and, you
16 know, usually he's flying into Eagle in an airplane and
17 it's 40 below zero out and, you know.

18
19 So you cleanup pretty good, Jeff.

20
21 MR. GLANZ: I asked him if he was going
22 on a date.

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
27 Thanks, guys.

28
29 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

32
33 MR. STEVENSON: To your question I just
34 wanted to point out that there were two documents
35 provided on the supplemental materials table that are
36 also in your supplemental materials packet. The first
37 is the proposal -- wildlife proposal 20-48 requesting
38 alignment of the Federal and State regulations for the
39 Fortymile caribou herd and.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Which we
42 acted on already.

43
44 MR. STEVENSON: Correct. And this was
45 the other item here which was the letter, the
46 delegation letter.

47
48 Thank you, Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
2 Next on the agenda is Board of Game proposals. So I
3 want to see.....
4
5 MR. FIRMIN: Sue.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
8
9 MR. FIRMIN: Is there any other reports
10 from people that might want to go today that might
11 influence some of our decisions on this?
12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I don't think
14 -- ask that.
15
16 MR. FIRMIN: That's why -- we don't
17 see too many people in the crowd that wanted to give a
18 report, but I just thought an agency report or.....
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.
21
22 MR. FIRMIN:you know, from Ahtna,
23 TCC or any of these UAF.....
24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
26
27 MR. FIRMIN:does any other of
28 these groups want to give a.....
29
30 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I can go through
31 it (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).....
32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You might
34 want to.
35
36 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, just to get through
37 so we're -- before we take them up and people are like
38 oh, this.....
39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.....
41
42 MR. FIRMIN:information after the
43 fact.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:Andy is
46 -- refresh my memory, I forgot. I tell you what,
47 sometimes this is a fun job. If any of you think --
48 Karen told me she has to leave tomorrow and was there
49 anyone else that had to leave?
50

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I don't have to be
2 back. I can do that tomorrow, but I (indiscernible -
3 background noise) Tanana Chiefs Conference just giving
4 recap on the (indiscernible - background noise) brief
5 2019 season and a 20 year review.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, if it
8 -- is it okay -- you're going to be here tomorrow,
9 right?
10

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I will.
12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I
14 would like to take like Andy suggested anyone that
15 isn't going to be here tomorrow and I know Karen said
16 she has to go down to Southcentral. So I would like to
17 bring Karen up for her report before -- so she's here
18 present.
19

20 MS. LINNELL: Thank you for your
21 consideration. I -- my name -- for the record my name
22 is Karen Linnell. I'm the executive director for the
23 Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission. Just -- I
24 didn't bring a Power Point or anything this time so I'm
25 going to wing it here.
26

27 We have -- we had a meeting yesterday
28 with the BLM Alaska regional director and just kind of
29 touching bases before the Federal Subsistence Board
30 comes to Gakona to meet. It's the first time they're
31 going to be in a rural setting since they were formed.
32 So we're excited to host them, they'll be there April
33 20th to 24th.
34

35 And just to give you a little update on
36 the implementation of the MOA and where we're at with
37 that and how progress is going. It's going rather
38 slow. You folks were gracious and kind enough to look
39 at our local subsistence advisory committee charter and
40 that was passed I think in 2017. And it's still
41 sitting somewhere in this State and has not made it to
42 the Secretary's desk for signature.
43

44 It -- the -- that charter allows for
45 AITRC and -- to have some tribal members and some local
46 members to make regulation for advice -- advise on
47 permits for our community harvest permit. And that is
48 still sitting and no action has been taken on the
49 community harvest permit for AITRC since 2018.
50

1 We were supposed to meet with affected
2 agency staff, getting together with them. I did meet
3 with Bert Frost, regional director for the Park Service
4 and got to talk to him about the framework that we
5 wanted to put through. We did that last August. We
6 sent the framework and hadn't heard anything back yet.
7 So I think that might be why I had the meeting
8 yesterday just to see where we're going with that. And
9 then I'm trying to set up a meeting with the new acting
10 Alaska regional director for the Park Service.

11
12 I did meet with Forest Service over the
13 summer. We took them out to see some of the projects
14 that we're working on and the moose browse projects and
15 those types of activities there. We got to give them
16 an overview of an entire -- why we formed and that kind
17 of thing.

18
19 And just to remind you folks, Ahtna
20 Intertribal Resource Commission is comprised of eight
21 tribes and the only two ANCSA corporations in the Ahtna
22 region. We're pretty unique in that and where the
23 tribes and the corporations are working together on
24 subsistence activities.

25
26 And we've got over 1,500 acres of moose
27 browse done and we're looking at now working with
28 Ahtna, Incorporated, they want to know whether the
29 mechanical manipulation that we're doing is actually
30 providing a benefit to the moose and so they're looking
31 at starting a nutritional study.

32
33 We have increased our staff. I have a
34 new anthropologist, Oden Miller. Mr. Bartley left in
35 June and Mr. Miller came onboard in July. We have a
36 fisheries biologist now, she started working on our
37 Partners in Fisheries Management Grant. And we
38 submitted some proposals to U.S. Fish and Wildlife
39 Service to do some studies on escapement on one of our
40 streams, the Klutina, through radio telemetry. A radio
41 telemetry project that was done some years back, they
42 found that 30 to 50 percent of our sockeye return goes
43 on the Klutina. And so we need to monitor what's
44 happening with that.

45
46 We had Ahtna, Incorporated and the
47 State of Alaska settled a lawsuit on access through the
48 Klutina. It's a 17B easement and it was I think 60
49 feet wide and the State of Alaska claimed an RS 2477

50

1 and made it a hundred feet wide. And they wanted
2 access to the river on private lands -- through private
3 lands there and then also to create I think 20 -- it's
4 a 23 mile road and I think they had 40 pull outs. And
5 I think they had 15 to 20 arterials that they wanted to
6 make off of that through private land. And so through
7 the settlement it's just the access and we have a
8 couple campgrounds for pull outs that Ahtna has had for
9 quite some time now.

10

11 And then so because of that settlement
12 our -- the advisory committee there for Kudika (ph)
13 there at the Klutina Copper Center, they wanted to know
14 what's happening with the river now. And so Ahtna's
15 going to do some habitat assessment and we're looking
16 at escapement. We did a joint proposal with Native
17 Village of Eyak and ComFish Division with ADF&G to see.
18 And so we're hoping that gets funded whenever the
19 funding goes through. A project for Southcentral area
20 hadn't been funded for a couple years and so we're
21 hoping this one goes through, that's not a weir
22 project.

23

24 We tried to partner with the Park
25 Service last year and because they didn't have the
26 funding to be able to do it for them to manage the
27 Tanada weir that's at Katie John's camp near there and
28 we couldn't work out the details on it because of using
29 their equipment and the liabilities and things like
30 that. So we've -- we're hoping that one gets filled.
31 That one's got over 20 years of data or 19 years of
32 data and so they missed a year, but we want to make
33 sure we keep that project going.

34

35 We do have a cooperative agreement with
36 the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park to write the Ahtna
37 ethnography for the use within the Park of the -- by
38 the Ahtna people. So we're working with Dr. Bill
39 Simeone on that, he's written a couple books on Ahtna
40 people and then he used to work with Subsistence
41 Division with State of Alaska and done some work on our
42 fisheries and he's done some other work with Wrangell-
43 St. Elias as well.

44

45 And then we also have another one
46 because of the caribou working group that we sit on
47 with -- that was hosted by Wrangell-St. Elias to talk
48 about the Nelchina, Mentasta and the Chisana herds. We
49 had -- it was comprised of National Park Service, BLM,
50

1 ADF&G, Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. Sue participated
2 through the Wrangell-St. Elias SRC and then we -- AITRC
3 got invited as well. And we were talking about how we
4 need to start managing across the landscape. And when
5 there's not -- because the caribou cross all those
6 landownerships and you can't do intensive management in
7 one area and not do anything on the other side and
8 expect the herd to be balanced and looking at that
9 biodiversity. And so we talked about that and one of
10 the comments was that we don't stop qualified users
11 from doing subsistence trapping. But and the -- our
12 comment was that the river does, it doesn't stay frozen
13 and we can't access it. And so one of the things that
14 we're doing because of that comment is they're doing
15 some research and we've got Dr. Jim Simon and one of
16 our tribal members working on gathering TEK on access
17 into the Park in the -- during snow and ice conditions
18 and whether that's changed over the last 20 something
19 years so -- 30 years. So we're interviewing both
20 tribal and nontribal members and going to get that
21 information in that.

22
23 And then also traditional use of
24 caribou within unit 11 because we haven't been able to
25 hunt caribou in unit 11 since the late '80s. And
26 because of a Mentasta caribou herd crash that went from
27 3,000 animals to I think five or 600 and it's been at
28 five or 600 for probably 20 years now. So we haven't
29 been able to hunt in unit 11 because of that and we
30 want to know more about what's happening with that. We
31 did offer to buy some collars for the Mentasta herd
32 because they had radio collars and they were flying
33 over the herd and in some seasons they missed the
34 flights and didn't get the data. But they found some
35 funding and purchased I think another 15 or 20 collars
36 and got it out there on the herd so they can monitor
37 the Mentasta herd.

38
39 The proposal that you took up a little
40 earlier or the special action request, I appreciate
41 that. You know, it's a good change. There was a
42 section in unit 13C that we haven't been able to hunt
43 bulls in for -- or cows in for a while. And I think
44 probably just as long because they thought of the
45 commingling of the Mentasta herd with the Nelchina
46 herd. So I appreciate that because it's -- the herd to
47 me has been at this level for so long that we should be
48 able to access the Nelchina herd in that little sliver
49 of Federal land in unit 13 there. So we appreciate
50

1 that.

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And then I think I spoke to you folks this spring about the carnivore study that we did in Tazlina area. We found on the State permit in -- when we got this -- ADF&G thought we might be lucky to see one bear, we ended up seeing 30. And so quite a difference in a 26 square mile area. And a majority of those were browns and female.

So I have now a biologist on staff with DNA/genetics in his background so what he's doing his master's in. He should be getting ready to defend that soon. So we're happy to have him onboard and we're looking for another biologist and a fisheries technician.

I'm trying to think if we're missing anything. So I just wanted to kind of keep AITRC on your radar, let you know what kind of progress we're making. We're definitely working. We have monthly meetings, luncheons with our local BLM staff and the Park Service staff, building relationships and trying to figure out where can we work well together and how can we stretch our funding.

Recently with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Copper River Watershed Project and Wrangell Institute for Science and Engineering, AITRC hosted a Copper River science symposium and the theme was tradition, science and stewardship. We had anthropologists, geologists, glaciologists, fisheries biologists and all kinds of ists out to visit and give reports on all the work from a global point down to what's happening in the Copper River. So from global warming down to the glaciers receding, down to Lake Ahtna and being able to tie our language back. Dr. James Carry who's a linguist here, retired from the University, came and he talked about the place names of Ahtna people and how they were there when Lake Ahtna was there. So it was really an awesome work session. And then from that we had a Cooper River Fisheries Synthesis on how we can -- so where we kind of debriefed and looking at habitat projects that we can work on or that the Copper River Watershed Project could work on to monitor and work -- improve the fisheries habitat. So it was an awesome, very mind blowing week here just two weeks ago.

1 So then that's about it, just real
2 busy. But we're glad to be here and we do appreciate
3 all of your work here.
4

5 Thank you.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
8 questions.
9

10 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.
13

14 MR. WRIGHT: I always like to say thank
15 you, that was quite a mouthful. You're very busy, I
16 commend you also.
17

18 Thank you for your time.
19

20 MS. LINNELL: Oh, thank you.
21

22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, Karen,
23 thank you. Any other questions.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
28 Have fun driving or are you flying?
29

30 MS. LINNELL: I'm going to fly.
31

32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
33 Safe travels.
34

35 All right. Are we ready at Board of
36 Game? And I wanted to know what proposals you guys
37 want to take up.
38

39 MR. STEVENSON: Is Nissa here?
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She told me
42 that she was going to be online.
43

44 MR. STEVENSON: Okay.
45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy, you
47 guys took up -- and Donald you took up 12. And I asked
48 Donald do you want to take them all up and he narrowed
49 it down to seven. So how do you want to go about this?
50

1 MR. BASSICH: I don't think we need to
2 address all the ones that the AC did. I think there
3 were a few that were statewide that were just kind of
4 ridiculous in nature, but it might be important for us
5 to at least -- they impacted subsistence practices. So
6 why don't we just go -- start with the seven that Don
7 had and if there's anything that I thought was also
8 left out I'll bring it up.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

11
12 MR. BASSICH: But I think we can go
13 through these pretty quickly.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Just
16 for the Council you have the blue Board of Game book
17 and this is 45. Do you just -- I don't need to say
18 them or do you want to see -- know the numbers, do you
19 want to write down these numbers or just me call them
20 out?

21
22 MR. FIRMIN: Let's just go through them
23 and I think we'll knock them out pretty quick.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

26
27 MR. FIRMIN: A lot of them are kind
28 of.....

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So.....

31
32 MR. FIRMIN:not.....

33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:45 is
35 the first one. And -- yeah, Nissa, are you online?

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Proposal 45.
40 Sorry.

41
42 MR. BASSICH: Do you have a page?

43
44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'll give you
45 one.

46
47 MR. WOODRUFF: Page 58.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is.....

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead,
4 Donald.

5
6 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair, if I could
7 read this?

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

10
11 MR. WOODRUFF: Okay. Proposal 45. I'm
12 not going to read the code. Unlawful methods of take
13 and game exemption. Prohibit the use of moose, caribou
14 and reindeer urine as scent lures in the Interior and
15 Eastern Arctic region as follows. GASH AC would like
16 to propose adding moose urine, caribou urine, reindeer
17 urine, to the list of banned scents used for hunting in
18 the Interior and the Eastern Region III. This should
19 be a statewide proposal, but it is a region III
20 meeting. This may help prevent the introduction of
21 chronic wasting disease to Alaska.

22
23 What is the issue you would like the
24 Board to address and why. Chronic wasting disease or
25 CWD is destroying cervid populations in the Lower 48
26 and Canada. This is a disease we do not want in
27 Alaska. The disease can be transmitted through urine
28 which is commonly used as a scent lure. Commercial
29 moose urine is available for sale in addition to other
30 cervid urine lures.

31
32 And I'll make the motion that we accept
33 proposal 45.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Always in the
36 positive.

37
38 MR. GLANZ: I'll second that, Don.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
41 Discussion?

42
43 MR. WOODRUFF: Our AC took up this
44 proposal and it's kind of a no brainer that if urine is
45 the spreader of this CWD why would we want it in
46 Alaska.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And your
49 Committee voted?

50

1 MR. WOODRUFF: We voted to support that
2 -- the proposal.
3

4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Tom.
5

6 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, members of the
7 Council. Yesterday the Eastern Interior Council
8 upstairs unanimously.....
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You mean
11 Western?
12

13 MR. KRON: Excuse me, Western. Western
14 Interior Council unanimously supported this proposal as
15 well.
16

17 Thank you, Madame Chair.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.
20

21 Tim.
22

23 MR. McMANUS: Madame Chair, we had a
24 Nenana/Minto Advisory Committee and we also supported
25 this one.
26

27 And can I add that somebody asked does
28 the scents really work. I'm kind of a firm believer on
29 there because a few years ago one of my boys shot a --
30 shot a moose and it was a little bit in the water, but
31 we got it out. Ended up tying up the pee bag in a tree
32 after I got it out. When I told a friend of mine where
33 we were he went back in that same meadow area and he
34 got lucky and knocked a bull moose down. But he hung
35 his pee bag up in a tree too and a week later the word
36 started getting around and there was six moose taken
37 out of that one area and there was pee bags hanging up
38 all over the place. In my mind the scents do work. It
39 wasn't rut time, but the pee, the urine smell was
40 strong in there. That's all.
41

42 Thank you.
43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
45 discussion.
46

47 MR. BASSICH: Question.
48

49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
50

1 has been called for. All in favor to prohibit the use
2 of the urine say aye.

3

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any opposed.

7

8 (No opposing votes)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All in favor.

11 It passes.

12

13 All right. Let me look at this. 50.

14

15 MR. WOODRUFF: I'll read it if you

16 want?

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. And you
19 can summarize if you want.

20

21 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you, Madame Chair.

22 Proposal 50, hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

23 Establish registration, archery only hunts for bull

24 moose in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region units

25 that have general moose seasons as follows.

26

27 Institute a registration conventional
28 bowhunting season for bull moose in all units and
29 subunits that currently have a general moose season by
30 harvest ticket. The season would extend for 10 days
31 immediately following the closure of the general moose
32 season. The same bull and antler restrictions in
33 effect in the general moose season in that unit or
34 subunit would apply.

35

36 The purpose of this new hunt being
37 registration would be so that the Department of Fish
38 and Game can monitor the participation and success rate
39 more closely.

40

41 The purpose of this hunt being
42 scheduled after the general moose hunt is to allow for
43 less foliage and cooler weather to minimize potential
44 loss and waste of meat.

45

46 What is the issue you would like the
47 State Board to address and why. The -- Alaska has very
48 few specific bowhunting seasons by comparison with most
49 other States which have long conventional bowhunting

50

1 seasons. Conventional bowhunting seasons provide
2 significant additional opportunity for hunters to be
3 afield and minimal harvest of the resource. Additional
4 bowhunting seasons could provide increased hunter
5 interest and participation as well as possible
6 additional Alaska State and guide revenue.

7
8 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
9 50.

10
11 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
14 Discussion?

15
16 MR. FIRMIN: Just to reiterate back to
17 -- what we did at our AC was this looks like it would
18 include, am I right, Don, or go -- you can go first.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Are you
21 searching, Don?

22
23 MR. WOODRUFF: Huh?

24
25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: He asked a
26 question.

27
28 MR. WOODRUFF: I couldn't hear you.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, I was just going to
31 say I believe I -- I don't have our minutes in front of
32 us as requested for -- from what our AC did, but if I
33 remember correctly we opposed this because it's adding
34 a bowhunting only season during -- in addition to the
35 general hunt which would be in user conflict with a
36 Federally-qualified user hunt. So normally general
37 season closes and then all the other rowdies go home
38 and then it's local folks open. And then you got these
39 guys that want to go out there and bowhunt for an extra
40 10 days with you and run around in the river with
41 whatever they bring out there with them, you know,
42 their airplanes and jetboats and generators and
43 everything else. Normally they go home on the 20th and
44 you don't have to see them so you get a week of moose
45 season at the end by your -- you know, with local
46 people. And now you've got these guys for 10 days that
47 want to run around with bows and arrows. And not only
48 that, they're going to be bear hunting and everything
49 else, getting -- I just see too much room for user
50

1 conflicts so our AC opposed it I believe.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and I
4 was asking Zach, I asked about a week ago to have the
5 AC -- the Upper Tanana Fortymile AC minutes, what they
6 took up on the -- this is the letter, this is not their
7 -- what they did. Like I'm going by memory too now.

8

9 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We don't have the
10 minutes yet I don't think.

11

12 MR. STEVENSON: Through the.....

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What's that?

15

16 (No comments)

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, go
19 ahead.

20

21 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair. A
22 week ago a request was submitted to the State and the
23 minutes have not yet been posted on the ADF&G website.
24 And we were informed that a representative from Board
25 Support would be here today to address that matter and
26 they have not been seen.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I bet it
31 takes a long time to put it up, but, I mean, simple
32 minutes. I mean, I saw -- I saw the vote from Upper
33 Tanana, but I thought the copy would -- it was just
34 short and sweet. Well, this is frustrating. But go
35 ahead, I don't want to interrupt this, but motion on
36 the floor to support. And you're -- you guys were
37 against it?

38

39 MR. FIRMIN: Yes.

40

41 MR. BASSICH: The Eagle AC was totally
42 against it.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I
45 remember my husband telling me that the AC in Upper
46 Tanana Fortymile was against all those bowhunting ones.
47 So for special seasons like that.

48

49 Did you guys meet on it?

50

1 MR. WRIGHT: I wasn't there.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Okay.
4 That -- now we got a report. Any other discussions?

5

6 MR. GLANZ: Call for question. I think
7 I did. I seconded it I believe, didn't I?

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. It was
10 -- I think it was Donald that seconded it, didn't you,
11 50?

12

13 MR. WOODRUFF: Yeah.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it was
16 seconded. And -- all right. The question's been
17 called for on 50 on the bowhunting.

18

19 All in favor.

20

21 (No affirmative votes)

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Andy's
28 not here. So seven.

29

30 MR. WOODRUFF: Do you want to backtrack
31 to 49?

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You want it?

34

35 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sure.

36

37 MR. FIRMIN: The Yukon Flats AC took up
38 proposal 49 as well. That's where the older bowhunters
39 want to be able to use a crossbow in an archery only
40 hunt. And our Yukon Flats AC opposed that as well.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It's another
43 archery one.

44

45 MR. FIRMIN: Well, they want to use
46 crossbows in an archery hunt. So and it's for elders,
47 but if you're too elderly to bowhunt just grab a rifle
48 and go with the general season instead of making a
49 special accommodation for them in the bowhunting

50

1 season. Looks like -- seems like more user conflict
2 among bowhunters to me, but I don't know.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They have a
5 good lobby.

6
7 MR. WOODRUFF: The Eagle AC took that
8 up and we opposed it.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Do you
11 guys want to vote on it? We need a motion.

12
13 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
14 49.

15
16 MR. GLANZ: I'll second.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
19 So.....

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: For discussion the Yukon
22 Flats AC opposed, Eagle AC opposed.....

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And so did
25 Upper Tanana.

26
27 MR. FIRMIN:and Upper Tanana
28 opposed.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Bill, did you
31 guys take it up?

32
33 MR. GLANZ: No, we didn't take that up.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

36
37 MR. FIRMIN: And for the reasons
38 discussed opening.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
41 Someone online is rustling paper and we're hearing it.
42 If you could mute your phone that would be great.

43
44 MR. FIRMIN: Question.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
47 question's been called for. All in favor of proposal
48 49 say aye.

49
50

1 (No affirmative votes)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
4 same sign.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Passes,
9 seven-zero. Oh, he's missing. Or zero-seven. Did not
10 pass, failed. Gosh.

11

12 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
13 51.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yep. Do I
16 hear a second?

17

18 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don seconded
21 it. Go ahead.

22

23 MR. FIRMIN: Proposal 51, hunting
24 seasons and bag limits for dall sheep. They wish to
25 remove the bag limit restriction from one sheep every
26 four years for nonresidents over the age of 60 to one
27 sheep every year.

28

29 That doesn't sound good for anybody
30 that uses the resource whether they are nonresident,
31 resident, paying customer or not. I don't think that
32 special privilege should be afforded to any one person
33 over anybody else that's wishing to use the resource.
34 And the Yukon Flats AC opposed this.

35

36 MR. GLANZ: Not to mention to
37 nonresident. That's the part that gets me.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Me
40 too, it makes us look bad as a guide.

41

42 I don't know what Upper Tanana did on
43 this one. So any other discussion?

44

45 MR. GLANZ:
46 Question.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: What?

49

50 MR. WOODRUFF: Just a minute. Andy, do

1 you remember, did we take this one up?

2

3 MR. BASSICH: We didn't take this one
4 up.

5

6 MR. WOODRUFF: I didn't think so.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair to
11 clarify. Did I hear that the Upper Tanana AC had
12 opposed this?

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They -- I
15 don't remember what they did.

16

17 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you. I'm
18 curious. Charlie, do you have anything to say?

19

20 MR. JAGOW: I would oppose it for
21 the.....

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

24

25 MR. JAGOW:same reasons.....

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

28

29 MR. JAGOW:already stated.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.

32

33 The question was called for.

34

35 MR. GLANZ: I did.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All right.
38 All in favor of proposal 51 on the Board of Game say
39 aye.

40

41 (No affirmative votes)

42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
44 same sign.

45

46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Motion fails.
49 Zero -- I mean, Andy, you are back so I'm recognizing

50

1 that's why it changes to eight.

2

3

Okay. Next one.

4

5

MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal

6

53.

7

8

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I need a

9

second.

10

11

MR. WOODRUFF: I'll second.

12

13

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Don seconded.

14

15

We still got noise coming across out in
16 the -- the phone lines. Please mute your phone.

17

18

Thank you.

19

20

Discussion.

21

22

23

MR. FIRMIN: This is hunting seasons
24 and bag limits for dall sheep. This is an archery only
25 permit hunt for dall sheep in the Interior and Eastern
26 Interior regions as follows which includes units 12,
27 19, 20, 21, 24, 24, 25, 26B and 26C. This is basically
28 going to start a whole new hunt that's going to be
29 archery only. And I see that conflicting with youth
30 hunts, subsistence hunts and so then you'd have
31 bowhunters running around out there with the youth
32 hunts that normally go on those dates and while it
33 might be sound for some areas, I think blanketing the
34 entire Interior and Eastern Arctic is not cool. So our
35 Yukon Flats AC opposed this.

36

37

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I will say
38 that the Upper Tanana voted against all of these
39 special bowhunting seasons. They probably blanketed it
40 with one motion, I don't know. But.....

41

42

Tom.

43

44

MR. KRON: Madame Chair, members of the
45 Council. Yesterday the Western Interior Council
46 unanimously opposed this as well.

47

48

Thank you, Madame Chair.

49

50

MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, if Tina

51

1 could call she could identify it, she's probably trying
2 to figure out how to do it.

3
4 Eagle, did you guys take.....

5
6 MR. BASSICH: No, we didn't take it up.

7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Any
9 other discussion?

10
11 MR. GLANZ: Question.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Question's
14 been called for, all in favor of proposal 53, Board of
15 Game say aye.

16
17 (No affirmative votes)

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Same sign,
20 all opposed.

21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fails. Zero-
25 eight.

26
27 Do you have another one?

28
29 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, I'm just -- sorry,
30 I'm just talking to Nissa here. She's going to send me
31 our minutes.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Eagle took up
34 54 so do you -- make a motion?

35
36 Excuse me, can you find out who that
37 is?

38
39 REPORTER: No, I can't.

40
41 MR. STEVENSON: Star six.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Everybody on
44 the phone needs to mute their phone because there's
45 some really loud, obnoxious noise coming across.

46
47 I think that did it. Nope. Please
48 mute your phone.

49
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
2 54.
3
4 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
5
6 MR. FIRMIN: Motion -- proposal 54 is
7 to reauthorize the resident grizzly bear, brown bear
8 tag fee exemptions for Interior and Northeast Alaska.
9 I think this one comes up every few often and if you
10 remove the hide you have to have it sealed anyway from
11 the area. So saves everybody 25 bucks. And our Yukon
12 Flats AC voted in favor of this.
13
14 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, same
15 reasoning. Eagle AC unanimously supported. This has
16 been a great benefit to rural people for increased
17 opportunity to harvest incidentally and to reduce the
18 burden of purchasing an unused tag.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald, did
21 you -- I thought I saw a hand over here? Nope. Okay.
22 There's one right there.
23
24 Tom.
25
26 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, members of the
27 Council. The Western Interior Council unanimously
28 supported this proposal yesterday.
29
30 Thank you, Madame Chair.
31
32 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. The
35 question's been called for. All in favor of proposal
36 54, Board of Game.
37
38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39
40 MR. GLANZ: Opposed. Aye.
41
42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You're
43 opposed?
44
45 MR. GLANZ: Yes.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So.....
48
49 MR. GLANZ: That's a great deal for us.
50

1 We're getting the brown -- the grizzly half anyway.
2 I'm not.....

3

4 (Laughter)

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, you like
7 the \$25?

8

9 MR. GLANZ: No. Oh, wait, I misread
10 it. Thank goodness I'm not running the show.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I was
13 wondering where are you coming.....

14

15 MR. GLANZ: I change my vote.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. All in
18 favor. Eight-zero. Yes.

19

20 Next.

21

22 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
23 56.

24

25 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

28

29 MR. FIRMIN: Proposal 56 wishes to
30 establish minimum distance requirements for trapping
31 around dwellings in the Eastern Interior and Arctic --
32 Interior and Eastern Arctic region.

33

34 This is -- I understand, but no
35 trapping within a mile. There's just -- I understand
36 their frustration, but whose house, whose cabin, whose
37 dwelling, whose mailbox. What if it's my house and my
38 cabin, I can't set my trap in front of my house, you
39 know, or, you know, like I said somebody -- while we
40 were at our Yukon Flats AC meeting my neighbor posted a
41 -- he snared a wolf right behind our house. So within
42 a half mile of the house. So, I mean.....

43

44 MR. BASSICH: Big thank you.

45

46 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah, exactly. Not -- I
47 don't know. I understand their frustration, however we
48 voted no, the Yukon Flats AC.

49

50

1 MR. BASSICH: Eagle also opposed this
2 unanimously. It basically makes no sense to people
3 living in rural Alaska if you're a trapper even a
4 couple miles from town. You live there, you can't even
5 trap outside your own front door. So it just makes
6 really no sense. It's poorly written. I think we all
7 agree the reasoning for it is probably someone's pet
8 got caught or whatever and we understand, but if that's
9 happening in a more urban setting there are other ways
10 to address this. So we're unanimously opposed to it.

11

12 MR. WOODRUFF: Madame Chair.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Donald.

15

16 MR. WOODRUFF: I'd like to get on the
17 record that at the Eagle AC meeting there were some
18 trappers there that said they would be really offended
19 if their kids couldn't trap rabbits, you know, within a
20 short distance of home. So that -- that's really
21 critical for our future trappers of Alaska.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, I
24 wanted.....

25

26 Tom, go ahead.

27

28 MR. KRON: Yesterday the Western
29 Interior Council unanimously opposed this as well.

30

31 Thank you, Madame Chair.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want
34 to tell you that a dog in Mentasta had gone almost 20
35 miles and got caught in a trap. So it -- weird things
36 happen.

37

38 MR. STEVENSON: Madame Chair.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

41

42 MR. STEVENSON: Andy, I just wanted to
43 clarify, you were referring to the Eagle AC unanimously
44 opposed?

45

46 MR. BASSICH: Correct.

47

48 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I don't
2 have anything to verify it, but I would bet Upper
3 Tanana took this up and also opposed.
4

5 Is there anybody here that was at the
6 Upper -- oh, Jeff. Can you speak to it for me, do you
7 have a memory, I don't have it -- my little -- it was
8 supposed to be sent in and I don't have. That would
9 help. Just stay there, please.

10

11 MR. GROSS: Madame Chair.

12

13 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, this is
14 George Pappas, OSM.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. Hi. Is
17 this the first time I've heard your voice?
18

19

20 MR. PAPPAS: I've been writing silent
21 here. I'm looking at the Upper Tanana Fortymile,
22 community notes from December 17th. Is that the one
23 you're referencing?

24

25 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: No. I'm in
26 reference of the meeting when they took up the
27 proposals. There was.....

28

29 MR. GROSS: 56.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, it's
32 proposal 56. They -- I saw, but I can't bring it up on
33 my computer because my computer's at home and I don't
34 do email when I'm traveling. But it was sent and we
35 don't have it. And it was short, how they voted, bang,
36 bang, bang, all the proposals.

37

38 MR. PAPPAS: Well, Madame Chair, what I
39 have in front of me that's posted on Fish and Game
40 website is the Tanana Upper Fortymile Fish and Game
41 Advisory Committee that took action on proposal 86, 87,
42 88, 89 and 90. They did not take any action from this
43 document for proposals in the 50s -- 40s and 50s
44 series.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They must
47 have made a

48

49 Go ahead, Jeff, you were there.
50

1 MR. GROSS: Madame Chair, this is Jeff
2 Gross at Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

3
4 I did just talk to Nissa and she was
5 going to email I think Andrew and at least one other
6 person and let them know that she actually doesn't have
7 the February minutes, early February is when they
8 brought that up, not the last meeting, but the one
9 before that. And she doesn't have the minutes from the
10 secretary yet is what she said. She couldn't find it,
11 she just looked. And so anyway.....

12
13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I'm going mad
14 then because I got a -- my husband got an email and it
15 comes on my computer and there was a short -- Barb Pine
16 put a short list of all the ones they took up.

17
18 MR. GROSS: Okay.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Is that what
21 you're reading from, George?

22
23 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, I'm reading
24 from the document that was submitted for December 17th.
25 That's all I can find online from the Fish and Game
26 website.

27
28 REPORTER: He's got to repeat that.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes, could
31 you repeat that. We have to turn our mics off when you
32 speak and we didn't get it done.

33
34 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, I apologize.
35 The document posted online is from the Upper Tanana
36 Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting from
37 December 17th. That's the most recent information
38 available.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So we don't
41 have it. All right.

42
43 MR. BASSICH: Call the question.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Jeff.

46
47 MR. GROSS: Madame Chair, I did talk to
48 Nissa and she's going to -- she is looking into it and
49 if we can round it up.....

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I guess.....
2
3 MR. GROSS:by tomorrow we'll try
4 to provide it.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This is so
7 unfortunate.
8
9 MR. BASSICH: Let's just move on.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But, yeah,
12 let's move on.
13
14 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.
15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.
17
18 MR. FIRMIN: I just want to reiterate
19 what Don said, that that's a good point that, you know,
20 a lot of young trappers, that's where they learn how to
21 start snaring stuff is with your kids around your yard
22 or down the road and 20 feet over the cut bank from
23 your house or something like that. And heck we used to
24 -- before -- we used to teach my kids how to trap with
25 -- trap all the stray dogs in the neighborhood because
26 there's so many of them running loose. These guys are
27 getting the opposite end of it, I guess, but that's too
28 funny for me.
29
30 But, yeah, good point, Don.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 MR. JAGOW: Well, I would just -- I
35 would third that. That's how I learned how to trap is
36 in my yard. And according to this if it passed that
37 would be illegal.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. Okay.
40 Very well. And the question's been called for. All in
41 favor of proposal 56 say aye.
42
43 (No affirmative votes)
44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
46 same sign.
47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Fails. Zero-
2 eight.

3
4 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair, I'd like to
5 bring up proposal 55.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

8
9 MR. BASSICH: Motion to support
10 proposal 55.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

13
14 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do I hear a
17 second?

18
19 MR. BASSICH: Yeah, Eagle AC took up
20 proposal 55. It had to do with -- it had to do with
21 allowing hound hunting. And basically in my notes I
22 have everything underlined unanimously opposed to this.

23
24 This proposal, dogs would be
25 potentially caught by local trappers, you know, when
26 you're hound hunting the dogs are loose, they're not
27 under leash or control or whatever. This would create
28 a strong conflict between trappers and hound hunters.
29 It's very disrespectful to the trappers in the area,
30 very disrespectful to lynx, disturbing their natural
31 cycle of life. So we're unanimously opposed to adding
32 hound hunting to one of the methods and means for
33 taking lynx.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Anything
36 else?

37
38 MR. FIRMIN: Maybe they can go hound
39 hunting for cougars.

40
41 (Laughter)

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That's a good
44 point.

45
46 MR. FIRMIN: Question.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
49 question's been called for. All in favor say aye.

50

1 (No affirmative votes)

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
4 same sign.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Zero-eight.
9 Okay. I'm looking at you guys' list here.

10

11 MR. FIRMIN: Move to adopt proposal 63.

12

13 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, wait,
14 there's a 56 [sic] here that Eagle wants to take up.

15

16 MR. BASSICH: We just did that one.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, I'm
19 sorry. Then I got to move on. Go ahead. What number
20 is it?

21

22 MR. FIRMIN: Proposal 63. I'm not --
23 this is the repeal of the Dalton Highway Corridor
24 Management Area.

25

26 Motion to adopt.

27

28 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Go ahead.

31

32 MR. FIRMIN: The Yukon Flats AC, we
33 didn't take this up, but we did have a discussion on
34 it. There's a really pretty complex issue. I mean,
35 maybe Charlie can chime in a little bit here that
36 they're -- you know, being Stevens and them being close
37 to the bridge and the corridor, they have a lot of
38 concerns with the hunters and trappers accessing the
39 area by the road. They didn't want any easing up of
40 any of the regulations in the area. The AC because it
41 was on the edge of our -- you know, just outside of our
42 -- basically our AC area, that we kind of remained
43 neutral, but we did support any -- any of the, you
44 know, Stevens and Rampart areas' wishes on it. Because
45 there is a lot of user conflict on it.

46

47 And I did speak with Randy May earlier
48 in the crowd and he was also voicing his concerns on
49 the -- you know, he thought it was more of a since

50

1 there's already so many people are breaking the law out
2 there let's just change it kind of thing. He didn't --
3 that was how he felt about it.
4

5 MR. WRIGHT: Everybody I've talked to
6 about the -- this proposal doesn't like it. Everybody
7 that subsists in the area. Everybody's already packing
8 a gun to get home off that road using a snowmachine,
9 there hasn't any -- the Department know these people
10 have to use it in these certain areas, there's already
11 rules and regulations in place. Everybody that I talk
12 to oppose it.
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any other
15 discussion?
16

17 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, members of the
18 Council. Yesterday the Western Interior Council
19 unanimously opposed this proposal.
20

21 Thank you, Madame Chair.
22

23 MR. STEVENSON: That's number 63,
24 correct?
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. No more
27 discussion.
28

29 MR. GLANZ: Question.
30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The
32 question's been called for. All in favor of proposal
33 63 say aye.
34

35 (No affirmative votes)
36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed
38 same sign.
39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.
41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Failed.
43 Zero-eight.
44

45 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
46 64.
47

48 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
49
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Proposal 64 is basically
2 the same thing, but I think it's a clarification that
3 came from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm
4 not sure if there's anybody there that -- here that can
5 speak to it, that maybe clarifies it how and what or if
6 it's.....

7
8 Is George online, maybe you can speak
9 to it, George?

10
11 MR. PAPPAS: Madame Chair, I'm looking
12 at multiple documents at this time on proposal 64. The
13 -- we do not have a position under OSM, but the
14 Department of Fish and Game's official comments say
15 they submitted the proposal and support this proposal
16 to reduce confusion and clarify legal uses by hunters
17 and trappers in the controlled use area there.
18 Provisions of the regulation so that it uses exactly
19 the same terms and statuses -- or excuse me, statutes,
20 could reduce the number of inadvertent violations that
21 result from confusion with the current Alaska statutes
22 and would not change existing uses.

23
24 I can go on, but the -- I'm uncertain
25 if it's my position or it's my place to read State
26 comments in the record.

27
28 It's up to you, Madame Chair.

29
30 MR. FIRMIN: Thank you, George. The
31 Yukon Flats AC, they did -- we didn't vote one way or
32 the other on it because it was on -- you know, on the
33 edge or outside of our area, but the same was said with
34 proposal 63. They didn't want to see any changes or
35 easing of the restrictions that are in place because of
36 user conflict. And there are designated places these
37 people can go and hunt and trap and everything like
38 that.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you guys
41 took no action?

42
43 MR. FIRMIN: We took no action.

44
45 MR. WRIGHT: Everybody I talked to are
46 feeling the same way as proposal 63. Things -- the
47 rules and regulations have been in place for a long
48 time and I see more confusion coming out of this adding
49 all this gobbledygook to new a proposal and just going
50

1 to have to learn all over again all the rules and
2 regulations.
3

4 So I don't know what to say on this. I
5 do not support the proposal.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And your AC
8 took it up?
9

10 MR. WRIGHT: I wasn't at my AC.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.
13

14 MR. WRIGHT: I couldn't get there
15 because of weather.
16

17 MS LENART: Madame Chair, this is Beth
18 Lenart from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes. Who's
21 online?
22

23 MS. LENART: This is Beth Lenart from
24 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Hi, Beth. Go
27 ahead.
28

29 MS. LENART: Yeah, proposal 64. So
30 some of our concerns were that the regulation wasn't in
31 alignment with the statute. And so Mr. Pappas, you
32 know, talked about that a little bit. And that's what
33 we were looking for was clarification, the definitions
34 are different in the regulation than they are in the
35 statutes or there aren't definitions. And so we were
36 seeking for clarification so that the Board of Game --
37 so that the hunting regulation is in alignment with the
38 statutes and that's what this proposal is about.
39

40 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thanks, Beth.
41

42 Any questions.
43

44 I see your hand. Go ahead, Tom.
45

46 MR. KRON: Madame Chair, members of the
47 Council. The Western Interior Council yesterday
48 evening spent about an hour and a half on this
49 proposal. And what they decided to do was to support
50

1 the first paragraph. Apparently the proposal is fairly
2 long, they just decided to support the first paragraph
3 and then make statements supporting people being able
4 to go home. A lot of people access their homes from
5 the Dalton Highway corridor. They want to support
6 people being able to continue to use a rifle when
7 they're trapping and they want to make sure the
8 corridor stays in place. But again there were -- it
9 was obvious there were concerns with a lot of the
10 verbiage towards the end of the proposal. So those
11 were their comments.

12

13 Thank you, Madame Chair.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Vince.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, they met again today
18 on that and they drafted a letter and I'll try to
19 paraphrase it on this. He touched upon that they'd go
20 with paragraph one and then three comments I believe is
21 what they call them, certain roads would be allowed and
22 different things like that. But they also put in there
23 and I probably won't get it exactly right, that they
24 wanted to make sure that the Board's actions would not
25 be in violation of ANILCA and ANCSA. And they -- their
26 last version of it requested that the Board of Game
27 would come back with specific proposals on what the
28 clarifications would be because the good presentation
29 from Fish and Game said that there's a lot of things
30 involved with it and that this proposal was basically
31 to get people to submit comments. So the letter is
32 probably completed upstairs, but again it's not printed
33 out. So they're going to submit a letter along with
34 -- along with their -- what Tom covered on the
35 recommendation.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They were
38 thorough. An hour and a half.

39

40 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know.

43

44 MR. GLANZ: I think it's just as easy
45 to throw it away as try to modify it for one paragraph.

46

47

48 MR. WRIGHT: I'd like to say something.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: I was sitting in there
4 yesterday for a little while and then all the problems
5 with it was it's not really clear. They were having
6 problems understanding the verbiage like he said. So
7 they need to clarify. So I can agree to that part of
8 it and move forward with the letter maybe the same as
9 they are upstairs and ask for clarification and to
10 separate them out and clarify them so that we can
11 understand them more clearly so there's no confusion or
12 no laws broken.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Do you want
17 more input from Fish and Game?

18

19 MR. WRIGHT: Well, like they said it
20 would be best to clarify it better. I agree with the
21 people upstairs.

22

23 MR. STEVENSON: Through the Chair.
24 Robert, are you suggesting to support with modification
25 per the Western Interior language?

26

27 MR. WRIGHT: No, I can't speak for
28 that. I oppose it, but I'd like to see more and hear
29 more before I would say yeah.

30

31 MR. STEVENSON: Thank you for that
32 clarification.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

35

36 MR. BASSICH: Yes, I concur with
37 Robert. I think broad written proposals like that
38 leave an open door to things that may happen and we've
39 seen this is the past that we're not in support of. So
40 I think really the best thing we can do right now would
41 be to oppose this, not to support it and if we want to
42 put in a clarification for our reasoning that we need a
43 much more detailed proposal into the future. So I've
44 no problem taking this up in the future, but let's get
45 a concise proposal before us before we voted on it.

46

47 Madame Chair.

48

49 So my position is going to be to oppose

50

1 this. And we're.....
2
3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I am
4 interested in what the Western Interior's.....
5
6 MR. WRIGHT: What's the time.....
7
8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:so maybe
9 we don't.....
10
11 MR. WRIGHT:what's the time frame
12 though?
13
14 MR. GLANZ: Yeah, two days.
15
16 MR. WRIGHT: We got two days, we're not
17 going to make.....
18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're on
20 their second day and we got.....
21
22 MR. WRIGHT: No, no. I'm just saying
23 what's the time frame for getting feedback from the
24 State.....
25
26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh.
27
28 MR. WRIGHT:on what that proposal
29 is before the Board. So let's just take it out, let
30 them -- they're just trying to get comments anyway so
31 let's just put it off until the next time they take it
32 up at the Fed -- at the State Board. And.....
33
34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: They're on
35 three year cycles now.
36
37 MR. WRIGHT: Well, so be it.
38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.
40
41 MR. GLANZ: Yeah.
42
43 MR. WRIGHT: We've had this in place
44 for many, many years, why does it have to change this
45 week or next week.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. So you
48 want to vote against it and then give our
49 justification.....
50

1 MR. WRIGHT: Well, let's see what the
2 vote is.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh. More
5 discussion? Anyone else?

6
7 MR. GLANZ: Question.

8
9 MR. FIRMIN: I agree with Charlie or
10 Robert and the same thing that maybe this could back in
11 several proposals could present it to us instead of
12 giving us a three page proposal that's got to be -- we
13 haven't had time to read. So.....

14
15 MR. BASSICH: So that's a lot of open
16 doors.

17
18 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

19
20 MR. GLANZ: Lots of doors.

21
22 MR. FIRMIN: Question.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The question
25 has been called for. All in favor of proposal 64 say
26 aye.

27
28 (No affirmative votes)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: All opposed,
31 same sign.

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 MR. FIRMIN: Fails.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. Well,
38 you can write me down as I don't know what I'm doing.

39
40 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal
41 82.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I vote
44 against it for the same reasons they're saying.

45
46 All right. We are on -- do you have
47 another one?

48
49 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adopt proposal

50

1 82.
2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. 82.
4

5 MR. WOODRUFF: Second.
6

7 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I have
8 two public comments. Do you want to hear that first?
9

10 MR. WRIGHT: Sure.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. First
13 is Sarah James and then Jim -- do I pronounce it right,
14 Simon?
15

16 MR. SIMON: Yeah.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
19

20 MR. SIMON: Madame Chair, Sarah asked
21 me to go first.
22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Oh, okay.
24

25 MR. SIMON: And I do what she tells me.
26 For the record my name is Jim Simon. I am a consultant
27 with the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Hunting and Fishing
28 Task Force and I'm here to provide the task force
29 opposition to proposal 82. And while there's a lot to
30 say I'm going to make it very brief.
31

32 It -- having spent 14 years working for
33 the Department of Fish and Game, Division of
34 Subsistence, it is shocking to me that this -- the
35 Department would submit a proposal like this to suggest
36 taking a three any sheep bag limit for the subsistence
37 registration permit hunt and to convert that to one ram
38 with full curl horn or larger every four years. That
39 just does not provide a reasonable opportunity for
40 subsistence and does not recognize the customary and
41 traditional use -- pattern of use of sheep in this
42 area.
43

44 So the Tanana Chiefs Conference Hunting
45 and Fishing Task Force would urge this Regional
46 Advisory Council to oppose the proposal.
47

48 Thank you.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Could I --
2 you want to go first?
3

4 MR. FIRMIN: Oh, I just -- Sue, you can
5 correct me if I'm wrong, but under the Federal
6 regulations the locals that are still there would still
7 be able to hunt their three sheep during that same time
8 frame.
9

10 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: This.....

11
12 MR. FIRMIN: So this would be the State
13 season, the general season.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Exactly.
16 That's what I.....
17

18 MR. FIRMIN: So go from them.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:that's
21 what I was going to reiterate. There's -- and we do,
22 even us who see -- work in this all the time, we get
23 confused. This would not affect Federal subsistence,
24 not at all because they go by this book. And this book
25 gives them -- let's look it up here in unit 25, and I
26 think this -- this proposal has three parts to it. One
27 is the take. If the State ever or the Federal Board
28 ever opened like it has in the past this -- the one by
29 draw is only for sporthunting. The Federal regulations
30 allows them to -- the same regulations that's in place
31 would -- is still in place. So it wouldn't change the
32 Federal seasons and bag limits.
33

34 MR. SIMON: Is that -- that's not a
35 question to me, I guess. I mean, I understand that.
36 I'm talking about the fact that this would violate the
37 State subsistence law so why would you support this
38 proposal if you're representing -- you know, it's not
39 like every Arctic Village tribal citizen lives in
40 Arctic Village. So, I mean, they are also State --
41 potential State hunters also. It's just this is --
42 would -- this proposal would make the subsistence --
43 State subsistence sheep hunt in this area a sporthunt,
44 requiring sport trophy bag limits and represents a very
45 significant.....
46

47 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: So you're
48 talking about the winter season only?
49
50

1 MR. SIMON: I'm talking about proposal
2 82 to the State Board of Game. I'm not talking about
3 the Federal regulations on this hunt.
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: To my -- yes.
6

7 MR. SIMON: You can't take an annual
8 bag limit of every -- of three any sheep and say --
9 that has been in place for at least 20 years and say
10 that it's a conservation problem and say that those
11 people only need one full curl ram horn or larger ram
12 every four years. That's.....
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.
15

16 MR. SIMON:that's nonsensical
17 from a -- anyone who understands the State subsistence
18 law that's been on the books since I was 11.
19

20 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I'm going
21 to take full responsibility for this proposal because I
22 brought it before this Board. And my intention when I
23 brought it forth was to make something reasonable. And
24 there's a three sheep limit, yes, it's been on the
25 books that long. But when we as a Council look at, you
26 know, what the Board of Game is doing, we understand
27 the State law, we might not agree with it, the way it
28 works, but under this -- we have here -- I had Pippa do
29 this for me, from regulatory year 2011 to 2018, the
30 harvest. And we're looking at -- I'm going to go
31 through it here.
32

33 MR. STEVENSON: I'd be happy to bring
34 it up on the screen too if you'd like.
35

36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: You can put
37 it up on the screen.....
38

39 MR. STEVENSON: Sure.
40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:yeah.
42 In 2011 there were 16 permits issued and there were
43 seven who used them and they're from Kasilof, Nenana,
44 Palmer. Residence of the harvesters was from Kasilof
45 and the month of kill was April and there were three
46 sheep taken by snowmachine.
47

48 MR. SIMON: So you're talking about
49 non-Federally-qualified harvest within the area that's
50

1 closed to non-Federally-qualified users. I don't
2 understand what you're talking about.
3

4 MS. KENNER: This is Pippa Kenner, I'm
5 going to back us up a little bit because I believe this
6 was a document that I gave to Sue that had to do with
7 the harvest in the registration.....
8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
10

11 MS. KENNER:area which includes
12 26A. Since then.....
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: C.
15

16 MS. KENNER: Oh, C. Thank you. Since
17 then, in fact just recently I sent you something that
18 was -- took us all the way back into the '90s and it
19 just represents the Arctic Village sheep management
20 area. And I have a copy of it that I'm looking for now
21 just so that we're all talking the same numbers.
22

23 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I don't really have
24 anything more to say and it doesn't appear that anyone
25 actually has any questions to me. It just seems to me
26 that there is -- this proposal submitted by the
27 Department as well as the Eastern Interior RAC
28 proposal, 20-59 I think it is, that the Department
29 wrote for Sue and the RAC, I mean, these things are
30 linked together, it's very clear to me who's worked on
31 this issue at least for 17 years what's going on here.
32 And the Tanana Chiefs Conference Hunting and Fishing
33 Task Force is opposed to proposal 82. There may be a
34 lot of elements put in there that should be addressed,
35 but not the way this happened or how this happened or
36 what is actually being proposed.
37

38 I find it highly unlikely that this
39 actually represents a Department proposal. This is a
40 Division of Wildlife conservation proposal because I
41 find it hard to believe that the Subsistence Division
42 would think given their statutory duties outlined by
43 the Legislature to identify and help the Board of Game
44 evaluate reasonable opportunities and determine what
45 are appropriate customary and traditional uses would
46 be, that they would think that going from three any
47 sheep a year to one trophy ram every four years can
48 provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence. It
49 seems -- it seems very clear and we've already heard --
50

1 you have already heard in October and it's very clear
2 in the -- your meeting transcripts from October 15th
3 that there are concerns by residents of Arctic Village
4 about just focusing on mature rams and what the long
5 term consequences to the sheep population there could
6 be about promoting those young rams being the breeders
7 by focusing all harvest on the mature, large rams.

8
9 And David Smith who was unable to get
10 here from -- because of weather conditions as I
11 understand it, you know, spoke about that. I've had
12 other discussions with him about his concerns and I
13 think I'm done speaking and we can listen to Sarah.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I just
18 have one question for you before you leave for Tanana
19 Chiefs. So would you guys be in favor of this -- what
20 we were trying to do is get people to reach out to
21 Arctic Village and the people up there regarding the
22 Board of Game past to have a hunter ethics? To me that
23 -- that was part of what -- it was never written, the
24 hunter ethics thing, that they have to take a course
25 before anybody hunted in that area?

26
27 MR. SIMON: Yeah. I.....

28
29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I -- and
30 earlier I had stated that I think that is number --
31 step number 1 before you do anything is to start
32 working with the village and reach out to the people.

33
34 So would -- do you think Tanana Chiefs
35 would be opposed to that?

36
37 MR. SIMON: No.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. I just
40 wanted that.....

41
42 MR. SIMON: But that's not what's being
43 proposed.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I know. I
46 just wanted a ques -- that answered.

47
48 MR. SIMON: Yeah.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

2

3 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert.

6

7 MR. WRIGHT: Jim makes a very good
8 point and thank you for that, but again it goes to the
9 complexity of it and just -- I know what Jim is saying,
10 but at the same time this registration hunt is --
11 people are running down in -- with snowmachines in the
12 springtime and running down three worn out any sheep,
13 that ewes, lambs, you know, whatever they see and
14 they're shooting them. And these people that are doing
15 it are from the Kenai Peninsula. This is local people
16 going up there with snowmachines and hunting sheep.

17

18 So we're not taking reasonable -- any
19 reasonable from anything, it's that this is just an
20 unfair and it's not a hunt that's -- it's not a
21 reasonable hunt to begin with. If you're going to run
22 up on top of a mountain in April and drive from Kenai
23 with a snowmachine to go run down some little worn out
24 lambs from -- that have been sitting up there hungry
25 all winter, that's not even -- that's not even a hunt,
26 you know, to us. So taking that away and leaving that
27 opportunity there to take a mature animal versus taking
28 any sheep that you see up there. There's a big
29 difference there and I think that's misconstrued
30 between just hearing your testimony and, you know, the
31 intent behind it.

32

33 And that's all I have to say.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And I want to
36 reiterate when we put this proposal forward it was a
37 placeholder proposal. We can amend or change or do
38 whatever. So I do think things are getting
39 misconstrued here.

40

41 And the other thing that concerns me is
42 for -- there's this scare of Movi in the State of
43 Alaska for sheep and it's been found a couple places.
44 I don't know that it's been totally reported, but my
45 son found an eight year old ram that has Movi, it was
46 dead. And Fish and Game went up and got it with a
47 helicopter and brought it back. And then there was
48 another sheep found in our area. So to me I'm
49 concerned about the sheep population. And any kind of

50

1 proposal that has a winter season and you're out there
2 shooting sheep from a snowmachine at April when they're
3 -- that's when most of the sheep will die when they're
4 hungry. We found in the Tok Management Area a dead 14
5 year old and it was in April or early May. And Fish
6 and Game went up and checked it out and it died of
7 starvation, a mature, adult ram died of starvation.
8 That's when sheep die, when they're starved is late in
9 the spring because it -- the snow hasn't melted enough
10 yet and there isn't new green feed for them.

11
12 So I'm pretty passionate about it
13 because I'm a sheep hunter and I'd like to see sheep
14 left in this country for future generations to hunt.
15 So I'm pretty passionate about it. So that's how I
16 feel and I don't feel we're getting anywhere with this
17 stuff when we can't sit and talk to the people. So it
18 -- because the State is different than the Federal and
19 I feel like we're mixing it up right now. And there's
20 three components to this proposal and we may have to
21 handle it differently, might have to just take up a
22 portion of it and at least do what we think is the
23 right thing to do for the people.

24
25 MR. SIMON: Well, and I would -- if I
26 may I would suggest involving Arctic Village people in
27 the beginning as we've talked about how many times over
28 years and years is the way to go instead of have them
29 at the last minute before the October RAC get -- become
30 aware of this.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

33
34 MR. SIMON: I mean, the Department of
35 Fish and Game, despite what staff told us from the
36 Commissioner's office on October 15th, that they don't
37 recognize tribes. In 2002, April, the Department and
38 the Board of Game adopted a tribal consultation policy
39 with a form in order to document that tribal
40 consultation. So show me that form associated with
41 proposal 82 and I would be happy to then get into these
42 details that are outside of the Arctic Village Sheep
43 Management Area, you know, because there's no one from
44 Kenai coming up into the Arctic Village Sheep
45 Management Area and doing all of these things that I
46 have not heard about. I have never heard about local
47 people, Arctic Village or Venetie people, practicing
48 those kinds of abuses. First of all I don't think it
49 would happen and two, it's my understanding and maybe
50

1 I'm wrong, but you guys are here to protect Federal
2 customary and traditional uses. I see what you're
3 talking about with this is a State proposal and
4 eliminate that bag limit, but you've already heard
5 testimony from people from Arctic Village about their
6 concerns about focusing only on taking only -- limiting
7 their take to only trophy animals.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Were you here
10 this morning when we discussed all of our frustration
11 about working groups and working with.....

12
13 MR. SIMON: I was upstairs.....

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

16
17 MR. SIMON:expressing my
18 frustration with trying to be on two floors at the same
19 time like everyone else.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well, we went
22 that. We -- I got to tell you we went through what
23 happened with this -- our request to the Federal Board
24 to.....

25
26 MR. SIMON: Right.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:have a
29 working group. And then there was a long discussion at
30 the Federal Board, it was a four hour meeting and we
31 took up this and then really nothing has happened.

32
33 MR. SIMON: Right. That's just like
34 the Ahtna region having working groups.....

35
36 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah.

37
38 MR. SIMON:and all that. It's
39 just talk, it doesn't happen.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just want
42 you to understand that we ended up discussing that we
43 -- that's our intent, we want to see something happen,
44 we want to work with the people in that. And the first
45 thing to do is develop that thing that they passed in
46 2011 to have a -- and Andrew brought up and he can
47 reiterate, that it doesn't -- it has to be more than
48 just sheep hunting.

49
50

1 MR. FIRMIN: Yeah.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: It needs to
4 be -- something needs to be done. So and you can't do
5 anything until you reach out to the people and.....

6

7 MR. SIMON: Right.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:all of
10 the -- all of this stuff that we -- I read this from
11 our last meeting, it started back in 1990 basically and
12 then '96 and there was requests for them to work with
13 Arctic Village and it didn't happen. And that's what
14 we want to see happen.

15

16 MR. SIMON: Right. And.....

17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We want to
19 see.....

20

21 MR. SIMON:and I agree.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

24

25 MR. SIMON: I mean, I remember the
26 conversations as the Subsistence Division
27 representative when the hunter education requirement
28 was put into regulation what, nine years ago. That --
29 that -- it just needs to be done.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Well,
32 that.....

33

34 MR. SIMON: And that doesn't need
35 regulatory action, it needs the Department of Fish and
36 Game to do it. And passing this proposal or not, or
37 failing this proposal is not going to make any
38 difference as to whether or not the Department does
39 that. So this needs to.....

40

41 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But like I
42 said earlier.....

43

44 MR. SIMON:be severed into very
45 surgical approaches instead of, you know, last minute
46 without good consultation and involvement of local
47 people, Federal subsistence users, in coming up with
48 these solutions. As you guys know, I mean.....

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. I
2 would like to hear from Sarah too, but I -- as I said
3 earlier and he says we got to separate it out. And
4 it's a placeholder proposal that.....
5

6 MR. SIMON: One bad idea.....
7

8 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:nobody's
9 separated out because that's why we wanted the work --
10 working group in the first place.....
11

12 MR. SIMON: Right.
13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:we
15 wanted to have all that done so we can come here and be
16 smart. Now we have nothing.
17

18 MS. KENNER: Can I provide some
19 clarification?
20

21 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yes.
22

23 MS. KENNER: Thank you very much,
24 Madame Chair, and thank you, Jim Simon for your good
25 testimony there.
26

27 I just wanted to remind people that
28 there have been some things happening that we either
29 have forgotten about or because it's happened since the
30 last Council meeting you might not be fully informed.
31 So first of all when we first got these proposals we
32 conducted tribal consultation with all the tribes that
33 might be affected by any of the proposals we receive.
34 For the proposal having to do with the Arctic Village
35 Sheep Management Area I think three people
36 participated. I think there was Venetie, Arctic
37 Village and I believe someone from Fort Yukon called
38 in. Then when this Council requested that a letter get
39 sent to Arctic Village talking to them about the
40 proposal that the Council had submitted and asking to
41 speak with them at this meeting, that letter didn't get
42 sent. So that occurred at your winter meeting, but
43 that letter didn't get sent until August. And when the
44 Office of Subsistence Management staff followed up the
45 tribes asked before they did anything they requested
46 individual consultation with the Federal Subsistence
47 Board. And that because of scheduling, their schedule,
48 our schedule, that didn't happen until November when we
49 had the full blown consultation with Arctic Village
50

1 with four or five members of the Board on the topic of
2 the Sheep Management Area, primarily the Federal
3 proposal 20-49.

4
5 So there has been a lot of
6 communication with the -- with Arctic Village and
7 Venetie. From what I can tell they really appreciate
8 it. And it -- it would have been better for them to
9 have gotten that letter earlier, where we would have
10 had time to have a back and forth, but it -- but it
11 didn't happen.

12
13 So I just -- I wanted to tell you about
14 the tribal consultation and remind everybody about the
15 letter to alert Arctic Village that the Council had
16 submitted this proposal and was anxious to hear from
17 them.

18
19 Thank you very much.

20
21 MR. FIRMIN: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andrew.

24
25 MR. FIRMIN: You guys' frustration just
26 shows -- reflecting ours. A lot of what's been
27 addressed that says it was written into the proposal,
28 this was something that was supposed to prod the State
29 to start the hunter ethics and education part. So that
30 would be set down and start the working group so we can
31 all sit down together and figure this out. And it
32 wasn't trying to take or change anybody's hunts or take
33 anybody's subsistence rights away. The intent was to
34 move this issue forward because we've been here for
35 what, 30 years talking about it. And part of it is the
36 hunter ethics -- hunter ethics isn't the right words
37 for it because it should be to any visitors that visit
38 Arctic Village Sheep Management area or even the whole
39 area as -- the entire area, 25A. If people are up
40 there doing things they need to be mindful that they're
41 in other people's back yards and whether they're just
42 hiking, photographers, camping, sightseeing, floating,
43 whatever they doing, you know, it doesn't have to be
44 just directed at sheep hunters. At Yukon Flats AC that
45 was one thing that I said there and I'll say it again
46 is, you know, I'm not that stupid, you got to show me
47 the candy before I get in the van. And since none of
48 this has been shown, you know.....

49

50

1 (Laughter)

2
3 MR. FIRMIN:I'm -- I just can't
4 get onboard with it, you know. I mean, that -- there
5 was a lot that was supposed to get done from the time
6 we put this forward to the time that's there. So that
7 -- that's why the Yukon Flats AC voted against this
8 proposal. They're going to request the Board of Game
9 for a sunset clause so it can't be taken up for the
10 next cycle. So that'll give everybody plenty of time
11 to do something if they accept that.

12
13 And like I said the intent is good.
14 The intent is in a good light for people there and it
15 was something to, you know, cross the divide with
16 everybody. So and there was other things, thoughts in
17 there, but maybe one thing we can do is amend our
18 amendment to ask them to request this educational
19 activity to be set forth and that's all that our -- you
20 know, our amended proposal can say.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh.

23
24 MR. FIRMIN: We would like to see this
25 working group or the working group develop this
26 educational aspect of this area for all visitors.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: And in the
29 meantime I have three other people that sent me blue
30 cards. So keep that in your mind and Pippa had
31 something more?

32
33 MS. KENNER: I just wanted to also tell
34 the Council that their -- you actually have quite a few
35 options and one would be to adjust the customary and
36 traditional use determination which is quite
37 restrictive to include more rural residents. It would
38 not include tribal members living in Anchorage which is
39 a nonrural area or you could restrict your
40 consideration just to the Arctic Sheep Village -- the
41 Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But this is
44 State, right, this is a State proposal?

45
46 MS. KENNER: Well, what I'm saying is
47 part of the -- part of the discussion is that the
48 Federal C&T is so restrictive that if the State tried
49 to rely on the Federal program to provide a local
50

1 subsistence priority or any subsistence priority, right
2 now it's so restricted you could -- you could open that
3 up, that's one consideration. The other.....
4

5 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The State has
6 it restrictive.
7

8 MS. KENNER: No, the State C&T is for
9 all.....
10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right.
12

13 MS. KENNER:residents of Alaska.
14

15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: But they have
16 necessary for subsistence thing.
17

18 MS. KENNER: Well, one of the things
19 that you mentioned, Mrs. -- Ms. Chair, is that -- one
20 of the problems with eliminating the three sheep
21 harvest limit in the area in the State regulations is
22 that it basically eliminates the subsistence priority
23 by making it that you can only get one full curl ram
24 every four years. That was the argument that was made.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: The winter
27 season is the State part, the other part is for the --
28 that -- that's my understanding so I'm sorry, it's for
29 sporthunting. But, you know, instead of doing this
30 right now.....
31

32 MS. KENNER: Yeah.
33

34 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:I really
35 should hear the rest of the people out that have blue
36 cards here.
37

38 Sarah.
39

40 MS. JAMES: I'm a resident of Arctic
41 Village all my life and it make me who I am today. And
42 that's pretty -- it's pretty easy to me who I am.
43

44 Well, anyway I am against the proposal
45 because we're not talking about us (in Native), we're
46 not talking about sporthunting or bag limit, that's
47 personal, that's who I am. I'm really totally against
48 bag limit because that's not our traditional way of
49 life, that's a waste. And it's aggrieved because you
50

1 don't get to use the whole animal like me. We love the
2 whole animal and we use every part of it. That's why
3 I'm against that, that's who I am because that's not my
4 way. And it's -- I don't think it's any of our way up
5 there because even our children is learning that
6 anytime we kill something for food we use every part of
7 it. And that's very important to us. And trophy is
8 not in our mind or it's not part of who we are.
9

10 And I know where the Federal government
11 is coming from and where the Fish and Wildlife is
12 coming from, but we're talking about limited sheep
13 which is Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek is sacred to
14 us. It's a sacred ground. It's not any old sheep
15 downstate or over at other side of Brooks Range or the
16 side of the Birch Range or the Alaska Range, we're not
17 talking about those sheep, we're talking about Red
18 Sheep Creek. They've got a streak, a red streak in the
19 back, is one type of sheep. And they don't have it
20 anywhere in the world. And there's nowhere in the
21 world that's restricted to sporthunting for sheep.
22

23 Now there's diseases out there that
24 might affect wild sheep, even -- that make it even more
25 so to protect the Red Sheep Creek to us. So for that
26 reason I'm completely -- I mean, it's our way of life
27 and make us who we are. And I'm proud to be, you know,
28 where I come from. And I'm proud I survive because of
29 my mother and father, grandpa and grandma. It wasn't
30 easy, but they did it. And those kind of things are
31 very important to us to survive and be proud. And
32 we're not greedy, we're just one small Red Sheep Creek
33 and Cane Creek. It's sacred ground, there's lots of
34 stuff that's different from other places. It got
35 medicine rock, it's got red ilk and it got a lot of
36 fossil.
37

38 We're not talking about just Red Sheep
39 Creek that goes -- that combine together to be a Red
40 Sheep Creek. And we're so honor when back in bow and
41 arrow days we're so honor that we get sheep, we don't
42 take it into front door, we bring it into back door.
43 We do the same thing for Old John Lake trout because it
44 takes years to be a full curl ram, it take years to be
45 Old John Lake trout. So we treat those with respect.
46

47 And we're not -- we're not -- you know,
48 we share what we got, that way we can share, but we're
49 not going to shear cleaning it and use it for trophy or
50

1 really limited part of the meat which is bag limits.
2 So that's where we're coming from.

3
4 Sorry, but, you know, now the
5 (indiscernible) is talking, but the one went to
6 government so that was still -- you know, we're still a
7 government and we always will be Gwich'in
8 (indiscernible) Gwich'in up there. So we're not
9 nothing else, we're not nonprofit, we're not
10 corporation, we're not environmentalists, we're not in a
11 movement, we're a tribal government.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: If I may,
16 Sarah. I want to explain something. First of all that
17 was a -- what they call a placeholder proposal so we
18 don't -- we could change it, whatever. But when you
19 said that a full curl ram, they don't leave -- it's
20 against the law to leave any part of the meat. The
21 meat -- all the meat has to come out. And some places
22 like where I live my son and I are guides and we have
23 taken people out sheep hunting and we share the meat
24 with the village, the near village, Mentasta. And late
25 Katie John, she loved sheep meat, she said she was
26 raised on it. So it was -- it was a way for people to
27 work together. And it's not -- I think it's a
28 misconception that all the meat is wasted. That's
29 against the law to leave any meat in the field. But
30 they also bring out the horns and the hide.

31
32 MS. JAMES: Well, many times I see a
33 hunter come back from -- sporthunter come back, they
34 only had one bag. It's just -- if it's just right to a
35 Safeway bag it's a hindquarter, that's edible. That's
36 bag limit and that's what they come back for. Where is
37 the rest of the food.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: That person
40 didn't have all of the required meat to bring out which
41 is all of the -- down to the ankle, you know, all the
42 hock meat, all of the meat on -- you mean, I -- I
43 butcher and I take the whole leg and stick it in my
44 pack. There's four legs, there's the ribs, there's the
45 neck, there's all the steaks, it all has to come out.

46
47 MS. JAMES: Uh-huh.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah. And so

50

1 it can be a lot of weight.

2

3 MS. JAMES: I see that many times from
4 hunt.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I just wanted
7 to let you know that.....

8

9 MS. JAMES:hunter.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER:it's
12 required to bring it out.

13

14 MS. JAMES: And then another thing they
15 do is that just so they don't have to carry the
16 hindquarter, they just hang it outside their door and
17 the bear come around and the bear get stun with stun
18 gun. And that gets animal angry. So it just goes on
19 and on, it's not respectful, it's not subsistence, it's
20 not our way of life. I'm sorry, but I can't understand
21 it.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I want you to
24 know that you're reiterating our need for a working
25 group.

26

27 MR. BASSICH: Madame Chair.

28

29 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Andy.

30

31 MR. BASSICH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
32 I think at this point in time it's quite obvious and it
33 has been for many years that this topic needs a lot of
34 input from a lot of different people. If it were up to
35 me I would say just close the entire area down to
36 everybody until we can bring everybody together and do
37 something meaningful for all parties. And I think it
38 boils down to respect.

39

40 And I think one of the biggest problems
41 we have now is that it almost impossible to go anywhere
42 in the State and have an area that's not accessible.
43 And this area's been identified as one of these areas
44 where there is a unique sheep and we know the nature of
45 people that love to hunt sheep and it's attractive to
46 them. And it's creating conflict. And quite frankly I
47 wish we could just close it down, let the people up
48 there have their sacred place, give them the respect to
49 that and let that population live by itself with the

50

1 people up there, leave them alone. Frankly I'm pretty
2 frustrated with dealing with this for 15 years, every
3 year the same discussion over and over again.
4

5 So I'm with you, Madame Chair, we need
6 to pull entities together. I -- we're not going to
7 solve it at this meeting. I'd say let's just move on,
8 let's just keep working on our proposals because we're
9 not going to solve anything by talking right now about
10 this.
11

12 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: I agree.
13

14 MR. BASSICH: Those are my suggestions
15 because we could spend the rest of this -- today and
16 tomorrow talking about Red Sheep Creek.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Right. But I
19 have to honor.....
20

21 MR. BASSICH: And no disrespect to you,
22 I agree exactly with what you're saying. I would love
23 to see us just close it down, let you people live with
24 your sheep and keep everybody away, but that's not the
25 way the world is anymore. Sad to say.
26

27 MS. JAMES: Yeah, and at the same time
28 we -- you know, we're not only trying to be greedy or
29 any way that way, we're trying to educate people that
30 there's special places in the world that needs to be
31 sacred, need to stay -- keep secret, sacred. And share
32 our ways and share the information. And that -- this
33 is why. And that's all I see and I grew up that way,
34 you know, just take care of the environment and know
35 that it'll take care of you. And we're not just -- not
36 a nonprofit, we're a tribal government and we're (in
37 Native).
38

39 Thank you.
40

41 MR. WRIGHT: Madame Chair.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Robert.
44

45 MR. WRIGHT: I agree, we need
46 government to government consultation with these people
47 and it needs to happen that way because we're a Federal
48 Subsistence Advisory Council and we're here for the
49 people and that's the way it needs to go.
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Yeah, and we
4 can take up Board of Game proposals.

5

6 So I have two more people that would
7 like to speak to this. And Vince at the Arctic Refuge
8 and then Karen.

9

10 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you. I'll even get
11 my name tag up here. So, you know, I just need to
12 share. I've been involved with this issue since 1992.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: We can't see
15 it.

16

17 MR. MATHEWS: You can't see it. Oh.

18

19 (Laughter)

20

21 MR. MATHEWS: It might be good you
22 don't see it.

23

24 (Laughter)

25

26 MR. MATHEWS: But anyway I've been
27 involved with this since 1992 so I hear your
28 frustration and I hear it from the village. But this
29 is where we're at.

30

31 So one thing I want to point out, I
32 don't know if I brought it up. Back in 2006 Fish and
33 Game did put together a flyer on this issue. It didn't
34 meet the program, but it was a flyer educating hunters
35 to that area and I have copies of it. So I want that
36 to show that Fish and Game, I don't work for them, did
37 do an effort on the request for hunter ethics.

38

39 Now as a Refuge we go through a review
40 process also on our writing. I did ask yesterday if
41 what I'm going to read from here has been officially
42 released. We don't know that. I believe it has been
43 and if it has it'll be presented to the Board of Game
44 Friday. So this is a letter on the -- from the Arctic
45 National Wildlife Refuge, comments on the Board of Game
46 proposal 82. I'm going to pull it out of context
47 because of the intensity of this subject. So bear with
48 me.

49

50

1 I want to get it -- the first statement
2 I want to get across is that the Arctic National
3 Wildlife Refuge remains neutral on the removal of the
4 Federal Arctic Village Sheep Management Area.
5

6 Okay. So the Refuge would like to
7 submit the following comments for consideration on that
8 proposal submitted by the Eastern Interior to change
9 the seasons and harvest limits for dall sheep within
10 the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
11

12 So number 1, the Refuge supports
13 establishment of a drawing hunt opportunity for both
14 resident and nonresidents within 25A in the area known
15 as Arctic Village Sheep Management Area. Again this is
16 where the statement would come in, the Refuge remains
17 neutral on the removal of the closure. In the event
18 that the Federal closure is lifted a limited drawing
19 hunt offered by proposal 82 would be more acceptable
20 than the less restrictive general harvest season --
21 general harvest ticket hunt that would occur absent
22 this proposal. The general season hunt would be open
23 to any resident or nonresident hunting with a guide
24 thereby potentially increasing hunter presence and
25 possible conflict with local user groups. By limiting
26 the number of hunters through a drawing hunt the
27 impacts to the local community of Arctic Village would
28 be minimized.
29

30 Number 2. If the proposal is approved
31 thereby establishing a drawing hunt the Refuge supports
32 the requirement for hunters who successfully draw the
33 permit to hunt in, I'll just say the closure area, to
34 keep a Department approved -- to take, excuse me, to
35 take a Department approved hunter ethics and
36 orientation course. The intent of the course would be
37 to minimize conflicts between users and to avoid
38 trespass on private land holdings within the Arctic
39 Village Sheep Management Area.
40

41 These two issues are commonly
42 referenced during public testimony at the Eastern
43 Interior Regional Advisory Council meetings when the
44 topic of the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area is
45 discussed.
46

47 Number 3. Please note the majority,
48 greater than 90 percent, of the Arctic Village Sheep
49 Management Area currently is in an unappropriated
50

1 Federal guide use area. There are currently no plans
2 for the Arctic Refuge to advertise and fill that guide
3 use area identified as ARC 12. If this proposal was to
4 pass and the Federal closure was lifted for the Arctic
5 Village Sheep Management Area this would effectively
6 limit nonresident hunter who successfully draws the
7 permit to hunt in a significantly reduced hunting area
8 on the very northeast end of the Arctic Village Sheep
9 Management Area.

10
11 Number 4. The Arctic Refuge supports
12 the proposed harvest limit reduction for a permit RS
13 595, units 25A and 26C from any three sheep to one full
14 curl or larger ram per year.

15
16 The Refuge supports retaining some
17 level of harvest opportunity during winter months for
18 all State residents while reducing the bag limit and
19 restricting harvest to that of only older rams.

20
21 The Refuge supports the continued
22 prohibitions, means of access for the RS 595 hunt as
23 well.

24
25 Number 5. The Arctic Refuge suggests
26 excluding the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area from
27 the RS 595, unit 25A hunt in order to avoid local user
28 and landowner conflict during the winter seasons.

29
30 And if this has been approved which I
31 believe it has, but we haven't officially been told
32 that, it would be signed off by Refuge Manager, Steve
33 Berendzen.

34
35 Both of them had other appointments and
36 I think there's been some dialogue with the Chair on
37 this letter so she may have some more input. I
38 apologize for reading it, but the intensity of the
39 discussions I think required reading the letter.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Any
44 questions.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay. Next
49 is Karen.

50

1 MR. MATHEWS: Thank you.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: She's coming
4 up, Vince. So is it public, the letter now? It's
5 public, you just read it.

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MR. MATHEWS: Well, it's public by the
10 fact that we were allowed, I was authorized to share
11 these comments. Is it going to be the signed letter
12 before the Board of Game, my understanding it probably
13 has been. It has to go all the way to the regional
14 director and I believe it has been, but when I asked
15 there was -- that wasn't confirmed yet. So does that
16 make sense? Our hands sometimes are restricted as well
17 as yours on getting correspondence.....

18

19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Okay.

20

21 MR. MATHEWS:through the system.
22 So I just didn't want to mislead you to say that this
23 is a -- this has been approved, but 98 percent it
24 probably has been. And it'll be to the Board of Game
25 on Friday.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Uh-huh. Or
28 when they take it up. Yeah.

29

30 Karen.

31

32 MS. LINNELL: Thank you, Madame Chair.
33 I'm speaking -- this is Karen Linnell and I'm speaking
34 on my own behalf regarding this.

35

36 As a former Board of Game member, there
37 are no placeholder proposals. They're proposals and
38 they get pushed forward. And they don't say oh, it's
39 just to talk about. It actually is what they're going
40 to act on, what you folks have submitted.

41

42 Just in regards to trying to work
43 things through, before this got written the contact
44 should have been made with folks from Arctic to have
45 them help you write the proposal. And beforehand and
46 sitting there together, writing it together, so that
47 you're all on the same page. It is an important part
48 in working with tribes and the folks that are there on
49 the ground every day.

50

1 One of the things that -- also as a
2 Board of Game member was when we get proposals like
3 this that are multifaceted and trying to change things,
4 it's better to take one subject, one piece that you
5 would like to get put in there, like the hunter
6 education and submit that proposal. And then you want
7 to do something else about changing the bag limits,
8 submit a separate proposal.
9

10 And I totally disagree with the letter
11 and the comments that just got read, but I -- also
12 because it's taking and the State relies on and it gets
13 brought up multiple times and especially in my unit, in
14 unit -- game management unit 13, oh, you guys got --
15 have a Federal opportunity, we can give all the moose
16 and caribou to everybody else in the entire State and
17 we end up with 10,000 hunters looking at the 2,000
18 caribou that we can take. And so -- and they get
19 multiple people out there, traffic, terrain damage and
20 things that caribou habitat is really getting
21 diminished.
22

23 So those kinds of things happen and to
24 allow the State to say well, their subsistence needs
25 are being met as -- under the Federal regime, that's
26 not their authority. They need to focus on what
27 they're doing and not looking at, you know, what the
28 Federal government is doing. We had submitted that
29 community harvest proposal and at the -- one of my last
30 meetings and it was out of season for meetings for game
31 management unit 13, but we were meeting in Dillingham
32 and they were talking about eliminating a hunt and
33 that's because we had put the Federal proposal through
34 for us to be able to manage a hunt.
35

36 And if you remember that community
37 harvest permit was for the full year because we were
38 going to base it on traditional seasons so we didn't
39 want calendar dates so that our elders could tell us
40 when to go out and when to hunt and when to stop. And
41 with that in mind the -- some of the Board members
42 well, they're going to open up and have free rein,
43 we'll just -- we'll eliminate the State opportunity.
44

45 That proposal and that community
46 harvest permit didn't pass and if it -- and if they had
47 passed the one to eliminate our subsistence hunt under
48 the State we would have no hunt.
49
50

1 And so I just urge you to use caution.
2 I would even recommend withdrawing this proposal or
3 submitting a proposal that you want to go forward that
4 addresses your hunter education pieces that you want to
5 address and separate them. But eliminating and going
6 through one every four years for folks who actually
7 subsistence hunt in Alaska, regardless of their
8 residency, they still have that right.

9
10 And so those are my comments.

11
12 Madame Chair.

13
14 MR. FIRMIN: Motion to adjourn until
15 tomorrow.

16
17 MR. GLANZ: Second.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR ENTSMINGER: Thank you.

20
21 (Off record)

22
23 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 3rd day of March 2020 at Fairbanks, Alaska;

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

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

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 8th day of April 2020.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires: 09/16/22