

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

North Slope Borough Chambers
Utqiagvik, Alaska
February 14, 2018
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair
Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
Esther S. Hugo
Lee Kayotuk
Wanda T. Kippi
Steve Oomittuk
Robert Shears
Jerry Sikvayugak

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

Recorded and transcribed by:

Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC
135 Christensen Drive, Suite 2
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-243-0668/sahile@gci.net

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiagvik, Alaska - 2/14/2018)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll ask Esther Hugo from Anaktuvuk to do an invocation to get us started.

(Invocation)

IN UNISON: Amen.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanaq, Esther. I'd like to call the meeting to order and I'll ask the secretary to commence with the roll call to establish a quorum. Currently our secretary is out, so I'm going to ask Madame Coordinator to do our roll call this morning.

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I welcome everyone here that's joined us today and by teleconference. As we do roll call here, just an update. One of our new Council members, Fredrick Neakok got called on an emergency. As many folks are aware, there was just recently a big fire in Anaktuvuk Pass and he serves on the Health and Human Safety and was required to go and make sure air quality was good for the school to be able to open.

So he wanted to express both his appreciation to be here as a new Council member and unfortunately had to take care of that emergency. I'd like to welcome Fredrick and we will certainly catch up with him after the meeting.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. So noted and we'll excuse Fredrick for his duties that he's been called upon.

MS. PATTON: Okay. Roll call. Gordon Brower.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Here.

MS. PATTON: Robert Shears.

MR. SHEARS: Here.

1 MS. PATTON: Wanda Kippi. Again, as
2 noted, Wanda is on weather hold in Atqasuk. We're
3 hoping she might be able to join us later this morning.
4 We'll give her a call and check in. She can join us by
5 teleconference if the flight isn't able to arrive.

6
7 Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

8
9 MR. OOMITTUK: Here.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Again, Fredrick Neakok had
12 an emergency he was called out on.

13
14 Jerry Sikvayugak, Anaktuvuk Pass.

15
16 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Here.

17
18 MS. PATTON: Esther Hugo, Anaktuvuk
19 Pass.

20
21 MS. HUGO: Here.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik.

24
25 MR. KAYOTUK: Here.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak.

28
29 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Here.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Good morning. To let the
32 Council know, our current membership is nine Council
33 members. We still have one vacant seat even with the
34 new appointment, so a quorum would be five, so we do
35 have a quorum.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank
38 you, Madame Chair. So we've established a quorum this
39 morning and I welcome everybody and I think it's
40 important to do our introductions and I'll start from
41 Steve for their introductions.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: I'm Steve Oomittuk from
44 Point Hope. I've been on the Subsistence Advisory
45 Council for a couple years.

46
47 Welcome.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Lee
2 Kayotuk from Kaktovik. I've been on the Council since
3 2006.

4
5 Good morning.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary
10 Ahtuanguaruak, Nuiqsut. I've been on about a dozen
11 years.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm Gordon Brower. I
14 sit as the current Chair and I'm from Barrow. I've
15 been a lifelong resident on the North Slope. Also work
16 for the North Slope Borough as a planning director.

17
18 MR. SHEARS: Good morning. Robert
19 Shears. Formerly I used to represent Wainwright. Now
20 I'm currently representing for the last five years
21 Utqiaġvik. I'm happy to be here again with all of you.

22
23 Good morning.

24
25 MS. HUGO: Good morning. I'm Esther
26 Hugo from Anaktuvuk Pass. At this time I would like to
27 make a moment of silence for James Nageak, who had
28 recently passed at home in December. I'm with the
29 North Slope RAC since -- I don't even know what year I
30 became, but I would like to make a moment of silence
31 for him in his remembrance because he's terribly,
32 greatly missed.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's do
37 a moment of silence.

38
39 (Moment of silence)

40
41 MS. HUGO: (In Inupiaġ)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaġ)

44
45 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Good morning. Jerry
46 Sikvayugak. A longtime resident from Anaktuvuk Pass
47 and I'm the new member to be on the board and I'm also
48 on the North Slope Borough Assembly as well.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq)
2 Welcome, Jerry. It's good to see a good, strong force
3 from Anaktuvuk on the board.

4
5 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yeah, thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe for those that
8 are online if you could introduce yourselves as we get
9 going.

10
11 MR. RICHARDS: This is Mark Richards,
12 Resident Hunters of Alaska. Good morning, everybody,
13 and thank you for your being there.

14
15 MR. PERSON: Good morning. This is
16 Brian Person with the North Slope Borough, Department
17 of Wildlife Management. Hello to everybody. I'll try
18 to get in. I'm in town, but I'll try to get in when
19 the roads get a little bit better.

20
21 Good morning.

22
23 MS. ATKINSON: Hi. This is Hannah
24 Atkinson, the anthropologist with the National Park
25 Service in Kotzebue and I work with the Subsistence
26 Resource Commission and attend Northwest Arctic RAC
27 meetings down here.

28
29 Calling in to listen.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. OKADA: Hello. Good morning. This
34 is Marcy Okada, the Subsistence Coordinator for Gates
35 of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

36
37 MR. PERRY: Hi. This is Phillip Perry.
38 I work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in
39 Bethel. I'm the Regional Management Coordinator for
40 Fish and Game.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Anyone else
43 that's joined us on teleconference?

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It sounds like it.
48 Thank you, Mark, Brian, Hannah, Marcy and Phillip for
49 acknowledging yourselves on the phone.

50

1 For those that are present in person,
2 if you could come to the mic and introduce yourselves,
3 it would be greatly appreciated.

4
5 MR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
6 Members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream. My
7 Tlingit name is Xixch'i Toowoo. I'm an anthropologist
8 with the Office of Subsistence Management assigned to
9 your Council, also to the Northwest Arctic and to the
10 Seward Peninsula. I thank you very much for allowing
11 us to have this meeting on your lands here in the North
12 Slope today.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joshua.
17 Is it Joshua or Josh?

18
19 MR. REAM: Josh is fine.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay.

22
23 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews. I got
24 several positions. I'm Acting Deputy Refuge Manage for
25 Yukon Flats, acting Fish and Wildlife Service
26 representative to the Arctic Interagency Visitor's
27 Center and my duties here are as Regional Subsistence
28 Coordinator for Arctic, Kanuti and Yukon Flats Refuges
29 out of Fairbanks.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Vince.

32
33 MR. SHARP: Good morning. My name is
34 Dan Sharp. I serve as the Statewide Subsistence
35 Coordinator for Bureau of Land Management. I've been
36 in the position for about 10 years now based in
37 Anchorage.

38
39 Good morning.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Dan.

42
43 MR. KLIMSTRA: Good morning. Ryan
44 Klimstra with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Ryan.

47
48 MS. DAGGETT: My name is Carmen Daggett
49 and I'm currently residing in Kotzebue, but will be
50

1 moving to Barrow in May and my Inupiaq name is Siqaniuq
2 and I look forward to listening to this meeting.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.

7

8 MS. FRITZ: Good morning. My name is
9 Stacey Fritz, anthropologist, subsistence specialist
10 with the BLM's Arctic District Office located in
11 Fairbanks.

12

13 Thanks so much.

14

15 I'm glad to be here.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Stacey.

18

19 MS. LAVINE: Good morning. My name is
20 Robbin LaVine and I'm an anthropologist with the Office
21 of Subsistence Management. I'm also acting
22 anthropology supervisor for OSM. Usually I'm in
23 Southwest Alaska or Southcentral or Seward Peninsula.
24 This is my first time ever in Utqiagvik. I've never
25 been here before. I'm so honored to be here and
26 looking forward to working with you over the next
27 couple of days.

28

29 Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Robbin.
32 That seems to be it from those that are present in
33 person. Thank you, everybody. I think we'll go down
34 to item 5, review and adoption of the agenda. Can we
35 have a motion to adopt the agenda to get it for
36 discussion.

37

38 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to adopt.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
41 the floor to.....

42

43 MR. SHEARS: Second.

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER:adopt the
46 agenda. Seconded. Any discussion.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
49 There are a couple updates for this meeting. One key

50

1 item, as the Council was alerted to, that in discussion
2 with the Staff to the Federal Subsistence Board, the
3 ISC meeting, there was a request to bring a proposal
4 regarding closure in Unit 23 back before all the
5 Councils within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou
6 Herd due to more information being available, updated
7 data and also that proposal was submitted by the
8 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. They met
9 and took action on it and made some modifications to
10 their proposal.

11

12 We're hoping to add that to the agenda
13 tomorrow because we have comprehensive caribou updates
14 for the Council. It would be good to review that if
15 the Council wishes after receiving the caribou updates.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Madame Coordinator,
18 where would you propose to slide that in under?

19

20 MS. PATTON: My suggestion would be
21 hopefully today in terms of -- technically it is old
22 business, but in terms of where we would be on the
23 agenda, if we could take that up tomorrow morning.
24 We're hoping to get through all the other action items
25 up until approving the annual report and then start
26 with agency reports tomorrow morning. That would allow
27 us time to have the comprehensive caribou updates and
28 then take up reconsideration of that proposal if the
29 Council wishes to after getting the caribou updates.

30

31 MR. SHEARS: So, Mr. Chair.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

34

35 MR. SHEARS: It seems like it may be
36 appropriate then to amend the agenda to add special
37 consideration on closure of Unit 23 under item 10, old
38 business, and then move old business after new
39 business. Is that what you're saying?

40

41 MS. PATTON: Yes.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears, it's the
44 wish of the Council on how we stick this in. I'm
45 almost inclined to put Alaska Department of Fish and
46 Game caribou update under old business along with that
47 so that they can go hand in hand. If you wanted to do
48 that and we'll get the ADF&G caribou updates and then
49 bring the old item back up as a discussion topic under

50

1 the new information. I think -- it seems to me.....

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER:those two go
6 together and could be dealt with under old business
7 that way.

8

9 What's the wish of the Council.

10

11 MR. OOMITTUK: So move.

12

13 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Second that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
16 the floor to adjust the agenda to move ADF&G's caribou
17 update under item 10, old business, along with the
18 reconsideration for Unit 23.

19

20 Does that sound correct.

21

22 MS. PATTON: That sounds good. If that
23 old business could come tomorrow first thing in the
24 morning so we're able to cover the new business today
25 and then that would give us a fresh start.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good.

28

29 MS. PATTON: Unless we get way ahead of
30 the agenda and we get to it today, but in terms of the
31 timing.....

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion is on the
34 floor.

35

36 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Did we get a second
39 already.

40

41 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. It's been
44 seconded. All those in favor of amending the agenda by
45 placing ADF&G under old business along with the
46 addition of the reconsideration for Unit 23 signify by
47 saying aye.

48

49 IN UNISON: Aye.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
2 nay.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
7 The agenda has been amended. Any further amendments to
8 the agenda.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
11 The only other change at this time just to note that we
12 had the Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
13 planning to attend and present for the Council under
14 agency reports and they will not be attending or
15 participating.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Which item was that?

18
19 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Arctic Landscape.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Under agency reports we
22 have Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative and so
23 they will not be able to present to the Council.

24
25 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to table the
26 Arctic Landscape.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
29 the floor to remove Arctic Landscape Conservation
30 Cooperative from item 12 on agency reports.

31
32 MR. SHEARS: Second.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded by Bob
35 Shears.

36
37 Any discussion.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
44 called for. All those in favor of amending the agenda
45 to remove Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
46 from item 12 agency reports signify by saying aye.

47
48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
2 nay.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. So to capture
7 -- now, to go back, we've moved old business to after
8 new business, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd's
9 recommendation to reconsider Unit 23 closure. Can we
10 consider moving the agency report for Alaska Department
11 of Fish and Game on caribou updates to just prior out
12 of agency reports and make that a component of old
13 business before we consider the Western Arctic Caribou
14 Herd's request?

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think
17 Rosemary is correct, that action did that.....

18
19 MR. SHEARS: We did capture that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER:all in one fell
22 swoop, moved ADF&G.....

23
24 MR. SHEARS: Very good.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to old business.

27
28 MR. SHEARS: Very well. Withdraw.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other amendments
31 to the agenda. We have two amendments so far.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 This is not really an amendment to the agenda but just
35 to provide a heads up or an update. Under new
36 business, item (d), approve the fiscal year 2017 annual
37 report of the Council. You have that draft annual
38 report, so we'll be reviewing that for edits and any
39 updates that you would like to make. At that time I'll
40 also touch base on the Council's Charter, which is what
41 guides the Council. We did just receive a new Charter
42 signed by the new Secretary of the Interior and there
43 is some new language that the Secretary of the Interior
44 inserted in there. So we can address that when we're
45 addressing the annual report. That comes from the
46 Council's Charter in terms of your roles and duties.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So I would think that
49 would be in the form of a motion to include Charter

50

1 amendments that you're talking about?

2

3 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
4 The Council wouldn't be making amendments to the
5 Charter, but the Secretary did insert new language in
6 there and we want to just review that with the Council.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. What's the
9 wish of the Council.

10

11 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Do we need to add it
12 onto the agenda then, review of the Charter?

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would think so
15 because it's not mentioned under approval of FY2017
16 annual report.

17

18 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: So moved.

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
21 the floor to amend 11(d) to include an update on the
22 Charter.

23

24 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Been seconded. Any
27 discussion.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. SHEARS: Question.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
34 called for. All those in favor of amending item 11(d)
35 annual report to supplement that with a Charter update
36 signify by saying aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
41 no.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. Item
46 11(d) is amended to include an update on the Charter.
47 Any further modifications to the agenda.

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question on
2 the main motion.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
5 called on the main motion to adopt the agenda as
6 amended.

7
8 We did the question, right.

9
10 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I just did the
11 question, so we're ready for a vote.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah, we were
14 under discussion. I lost my mind for a second. All
15 right. All those in favor of adopting the amended
16 agenda signify by saying aye.

17
18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
21 nay.

22
23 (No opposing votes)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. The
26 agenda is adopted as amended. All right. Very good.
27 Item 6, election of officers. Madame Coordinator,
28 what's your suggestion here. We do have new members.
29 One is currently in route I guess to Anaktuvuk to deal
30 with some emergencies over there. He's a part of the
31 OSHA group for the Borough and works on things like
32 that. That would be Fredrick Neakok. And Wanda is en
33 route or probably might need to call in if the planes
34 can't get in.

35
36 So I think it's customary to have all
37 the officers or all the Council members present to have
38 a good reorg that everybody is voting on their chair
39 and vice chair and their secretary. We would be remiss
40 to try to conduct this without those other staff.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
43 I may, we're hoping to have Wanda here later this
44 morning. If not in person, by teleconference, so we
45 could delay the Council taking action on the election
46 of officers until we have her participation as well.

47
48 So the election of officers, for new
49 Council members, this comes up every year in the winter
50

1 for the Council to nominate and vote on chair, vice
2 chair and secretary to serve the Council. We would
3 need the Council to take action at this meeting, so we
4 wouldn't be able to delay it until the next meeting.
5 We can certainly wait for Wanda's participation. We
6 would be missing Fredrick's but it will come up again
7 next winter as well.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Having heard
10 Madame Coordinator on the topic, what's the wish of the
11 Council, do you guys want to table it until Wanda
12 arrives or is on the telephone?

13
14 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

15
16 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. A question for
17 our coordinator. Is Fredrick available by cell phone
18 this afternoon after he arrives in Fairbanks to perhaps
19 call in and participate in this one subject?

20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
22 was my understanding in talking with Fredrick this
23 morning that he would likely not be available. He'd be
24 travel en route and then in Anaktuvuk Pass for several
25 days working on addressing the fire there. I could in
26 our break call and leave a message on his cell phone,
27 but I'm doubtful that he'd be able to try to squeeze
28 that in on his way to Anaktuvuk.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, you said we need
31 to take care of this even if Fredrick is not online and
32 is not present and just the majority of the Council
33 take up the reorg?

34
35 MS. PATTON: Yes, that's correct. The
36 way the Council and the election of officers is
37 organized through the FACA Charter we're required to do
38 that at this time. Since we have quorum and we have
39 the majority of the Council here, then the Council
40 could still take action on that.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. So what's
43 the wish of the Council.

44
45 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to make a
46 motion to table this until Wanda can get on and then
47 move forward after that.

48
49 MR. SHEARS: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's been seconded to
2 wait for Wanda to possibly get on to be part of the
3 voting and probably get nominated too. Who knows.

4
5 All those in favor of tabling this till
6 later on in the day or until Wanda becomes available
7 signify by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
12 no.

13
14 (No opposing votes)

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
17 We'll table the election of officers until later on
18 today. All right.

19
20 Item 7, review and approve previous
21 minutes.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
24 You'll find your meeting minutes from the November
25 15th, '17 RAC meeting that was here in Utqiagvik. That
26 begins on Page 4 in the meeting book. I know we have
27 some new Council members that this is their first
28 meeting today. If you can, take a close look and see
29 if there's any edits, particularly spellings that I may
30 have mistaken for both people's names and place names.
31 See if there's any edits or additions you would like to
32 make to the minutes.

33
34 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like
35 to make a motion to approve the minutes.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
38 the floor.....

39
40 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to approve the
43 minutes. Seconded by Steve. Under discussion.

44
45 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. Just for the
46 record on Steve Oomittuk I have a double T. O-O-M-I-T-
47 T-U-K.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. So

50

1 noted. Eva is.....
2
3 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.
4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER:going to get the
6 Eskimo app.
7
8 (Laughter)
9
10 MS. PATTON: Thank you. My apologies.
11
12 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: And there's also one
13 for Esther. You need to include the H on the Council
14 members present.
15
16 MS. PATTON: Thank you.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jerry.
19
20 MS. PATTON: Steve, just to double
21 check. I've got your name spelled correctly under
22 Council members, where did I -- did I spell that with
23 the two T's in here?
24
25 MR. OOMITTUK: On Page 4.
26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: His name is.....
28
29 MS. PATTON: Oh, I see. You're missing
30 a T. There we go. Thank you.
31
32 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Hearing no further
33 corrections I'd like to approve the minutes with
34 modifications.
35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
37 the floor to.....
38
39 MR. SHEARS: I second.
40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. I think we
42 already seconded earlier, so we were.....
43
44 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Call for question.
45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Call for question
47 with the.....
48
49 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Call for question
50

1 with modifications.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those
4 in favor of adopting the November 15 through 17, 2017
5 minutes as amended or corrections signify by saying
6 aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
11 no.

12

13 (No opposing votes)

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. The
16 minutes have passed the Council.

17

18 Reports, Item 8, Council member
19 reports. It's always important to hear from the North
20 Slope from the Council members. I'm going to maybe
21 start from Jerry unless you want to hear others make
22 their reports first.

23

24 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes, Mr. Chair. I'd
25 like to hear the reports since this is my first meeting
26 with you all.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Having
29 said that, Jerry, I'm going to just jump in. As a RAC
30 member we try to represent our communities and we also
31 represent the North Slope in talking about issues and
32 concerns about subsistence resources, fish, issues like
33 that.

34

35 So between our last meeting from
36 November to today I still see that there's been really
37 really mild winter. I think it's been good for some.
38 Maybe good for caribou. My son has been going out
39 harvesting caribou. I couldn't go to my cabin. I've
40 been having a real sore back, but my son, he's 17 years
41 old, and I'm pretty proud of him. I mean I've been
42 taking them up to the cabin for years and years since
43 he was a little guy.

44

45 Now he can go 80 miles to the cabin on
46 his own and go warm up the cabin. I was happy when he
47 came home. He said there was tutu right outside of the
48 camp and he got a really good-sized caribou and it had
49 a lot of fat on it yet. I'm happy for young folks as
50

1 they start to become aware of our subsistence needs and
2 their willingness to do these things. He took some of
3 his buddies up there and they were hoping they would
4 run across some critters, like kavik or something.

5
6 Other than that, other people that have
7 been hunting, I just hear from other hunters that
8 caribou have been fat. Oh, there was a couple --
9 actually some of my relatives was sharing caribou with
10 me and then there was concerns about the caribou having
11 some sort of worms in it, all through the meat, inside
12 the muscle and the backbone. Usually it seems like
13 they would be limited to internal organs or something
14 like that, but the worms were inside the muscle, inside
15 the meat.

16
17 So that was, to me -- I guess Wildlife
18 Department had said they've been seeing other reports
19 like that even from Wainwright and others that some of
20 the caribou are like that. It just alarmed me because
21 I like to make fermented caribou. It's called piguraq
22 for Klawock and it's really good, but things like that
23 kind of makes you wonder because caribou is usually a
24 very clean animal. You don't even have to cook it.

25
26 It's a clean, good animal and for them
27 to start developing worms in the muscles, in the meat
28 that you're going to now be very questioning about
29 eating that and that's alarming me. I'm just concerned
30 about that. I hope there is some level of
31 investigation.

32
33 It seems like when I was growing up we
34 never saw something like that. We never saw -- there
35 was no question because (in Inupiaq). It was clean as
36 you're growing up, but I don't know if this is a trend
37 or if it's going to increase on into the future and I
38 think some biologists and those that study these
39 animals should take some precaution and to start to
40 look at this because that caribou is a clean animal.
41 It just alarms me that I might not be able to have the
42 way I like to eat it, fermented.

43
44 With that, between November and now is
45 not a very big time.....

46
47 (Teleconference music)

48
49 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I

50

1 think someone has put us on hold. If we have staff
2 here that are able to text staff that you know are --
3 because it sounds like a business phone line that's on
4 hold and it's going to play that music in the
5 background here.

6

7

(Pause)

8

9

10 MS. PATTON: So for folks that are on
11 teleconference that are able to hear us over the music
12 here we're going to try to cut that so that we can
13 resume with our Council member reports here. For those
14 folks of you that are on teleconference right now, just
15 to let you know, please do not mute your phones because
16 that music plays to the rest of everyone that's online
17 and in the meeting.

17

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19

REPORTER: They can mute. We don't
want them to put us on hold.

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ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Good morning.
We'll get back to our meeting here and we'll continue
on with Item 8 Council reports. We just got through
hearing Chairman Gordon Brower for his report and we'll
continue on towards the left there with Robert's report
and then move down and go over towards Steve on this
side to continue on.

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
5 Just to make a quick update for those folks that are
6 joining us on teleconference, a friendly reminder, if
7 you can please mute your phones. If you don't have a
8 mute button, you can push *6. When you wish to address
9 the Council, just unmute your phone and you can address
10 the Council that way.

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Also for those folks that are on teleconference please do not put the conference on hold. We get your elevator music and the meeting can't continue. For those on teleconference, if you get an incoming call, please disconnect from the teleconference and then call back in. You can mute your phones, but please do not place us on hold.

Thank you.

MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Eva. Thank you, Lee. Robert Shears here. I don't have a Council member report that I can really delve into the subject of subsistence in my region of influence in this last period since our last meeting. Perhaps it may be a benefit to explain why circumstances can happen like this because my circumstances are very similar to many other people who desire to participate in subsistence activities but simply cannot.

To participate in subsistence activities on the North Slope people need a number of very valuable resources. Time. You need to be able to commit time to it. You need to have the physical energy to devote to it because it's very physically involving. You need to have the financial wherewithal to constantly invest in repairing and upgrading your equipment, which quickly degrades in our environment. Finally, the most important thing you need to have is a network of people that you support and support you. You cannot subsist by yourself. Just like a lone wolf has very little chance of survival. It takes a pack to hunt.

In this last year I've lost -- I've buried all my hunting partners. I had a very terrible year last year and I find myself alone now. I have taken on the additional responsibilities for the mayor of directing Public Works Department and now deputy

1 director of CIPM. Very tremendous responsibilities
2 that takes all my time. The energy is still there, but
3 I devote that as well to my employment.
4

5 The final factor is I've redirected all
6 my financial resources towards establishing a home. I
7 currently rent, live in an apartment here in Barrow.
8 It takes property. You need to be able to spread out
9 and lay down and to take care of your subsistence
10 harvest, to maintain your equipment and protect it from
11 the environment.
12

13 So I've withdrawn from the subsistence
14 workforce and I am taking a hiatus to rebuild my assets
15 so that I can be more secure and reentering it in the
16 future when I get older. Meanwhile, I've got to
17 rebuild my network of hunting partners and that's
18 probably the hardest thing.
19

20 That's all I have, Mr. Chair.
21

22 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
23 Robert, for that.
24

25 Moving on to Esther at this time.
26

27 MS. HUGO: Good morning. I don't have
28 really a report, but our caribou came at the rutting
29 season. As I speak now, they're all high up on the
30 mountains. My brother-in-law and my daughter-in-law
31 they all had to travel to Chandler and go get us some
32 tutu for the feast, New Year's feast. Still they're up
33 high on the mountains because of the wolves and the
34 foxes.
35

36 We've got a lot of rabbits. I mean
37 this is more than last year even. As I walk the
38 distance in between the houses you'll see them just
39 going all over. I haven't seen so many rabbits in my
40 life in my area where I live around my house. Of
41 course, there's a lot of weasels, itigiaq. We try to
42 catch them and kill them because the (in Inupiaq) tend
43 to get to our meat if they're in the (in Inupiaq) and
44 stuff.
45

46 The last month we've been meeting with
47 the city and we're in the process of the UCAN, United
48 Caribou Association of the Nunamiut. We're pretty
49 excited because we've gotten this far and we've been
50

1 waiting. I'm excited for the community, my community,
2 because we've been wanting to set this association of
3 the Nunamiut, United Caribou Association of the
4 Nunamiut. Which the name came from -- James came up
5 with that name for our group.

6
7 There's just been hardly any snow.
8 Hardly anybody travel or go trapping because all the
9 little rivers were all open. Even just by the glacier
10 down by the runway. As you look up the mountains,
11 there's hardly any snow either. So it's a change for a
12 lot of us. Got to travel in the rugged path all the
13 way just to catch caribou way out there. But they're
14 still around. I'm really happy because, you know,
15 that's the only thing that a lot of us tend to eat
16 everyday. Just have to take it day by day because we
17 never know where the caribou are. They have four legs,
18 like my father-in-law says.

19
20 That's about all I have for now.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
25 Esther. Jerry Sikvayugak for your report.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Mr. Chair. I had
30 mentioned earlier that it would be best if I heard the
31 reports from the other members since I'm the new one on
32 the board, Mr. Chair.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
35 Jerry.

36
37 Steve Oomittuk.

38
39 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning. I'm from
40 Point Hope. I was born and raised there. I lived on
41 the North Slope all my life either in Barrow or in
42 Point Hope, but I was born in Point Hope. The majority
43 of my life I lived in Point Hope.

44
45 Point Hope, you know, we live a cycle
46 of life that we've always depended on the animals that
47 migrate. They always came at a certain time. We knew
48 when they were coming from the south and then going
49 back south from the north. In the last 10 years we've

50

1 seen the migration patterns change for the times, the
2 abundance of different species.

3
4 We mainly mostly hunt in the ocean,
5 ocean people, but we do hunt inland also, caribou. You
6 know, when food is not in abundance in the ocean,
7 caribou is always there for us too. They migrate right
8 through at certain times of the year. Usually the
9 first part of July into June we usually get our caribou
10 coming back south. Lately they've been kind of late,
11 more so into August.

12
13 We always celebrate the born of the
14 ice. When the first slush ice connects to the land,
15 when it's starting to freeze up, we notice that coming
16 later and later. Our ice packs, we didn't get ice
17 until January in our ocean and the abundance of east
18 wind. We've never seen so much east wind in the fall
19 time and the winter time also and the summer time. A
20 lot of east wind and it blows the ice away. The young
21 ice, when the ice forms, it blows out.

22
23 The animals, you know, sometimes follow
24 with the wind. They'll go to -- and the ice, you know,
25 brings the animals to us. The seals, the walrus are
26 around when the ice is here. The bearded seal.

27
28 The migration of the fish we've seen a
29 different species. You know, we hunt -- you know, when
30 the fish are coming through in late July, early August,
31 migrating north, right on the shoreline. Char, salmon.
32 We've seen more and more king salmon closer. The
33 abundance of char has been pretty good. That's the
34 main food source in our ocean is the char of the fish.
35 The whale is the center of everything to us.

36
37 Like I said, you know, we celebrate the
38 born of the ice by bringing the whale's tail out. We
39 start in the ice cellars made out of whale's jaw bones
40 and we store them in the ice cellars in the springtime
41 through the rest of the spring and summer then fall.
42 When fall comes and the first slush ice connects to the
43 land they call that the born of the ice, then they pull
44 the whale's tail out and it's fermented. That is
45 getting -- we didn't have it until just about
46 Thanksgiving. This is late November. We're used to
47 having it in October, maybe first part of October.

48
49 The ice has always been around us and
50

1 the food source -- you know, the birds that migrate,
2 the murrens that lay their eggs in the cliffs of Cape
3 Thompson and Cape Lisburne, Cape Thompson we have
4 300,000 birds nest there and at Cape Lisburne 600,000.
5 We gather their eggs usually first part of July, into
6 June, first part of July we get the eggs.

7
8 It's been kind of dangerous on the
9 south side of Cape Thompson because the cliffs, there
10 are a lot of slides this year. Whole sections of cliffs
11 have fallen down. You can see the dust for miles and
12 miles up in the sky. We see a lot of land dropping off
13 from the cliffs especially at Cape Thompson. There's
14 some at Cape Lisburne, not as much. Cape Lisburne is
15 to the north of us and Cape Thompson is to the south of
16 Point Hope.

17
18 Since the closure of the non-hunting on
19 Federal lands to non-residents, we seen the abundance
20 of caribou the last couple years. We knew the
21 migration patterns changed so much, but the population
22 has dropped by more than half. This last couple years
23 since the closure to non-residents on Federal lands we
24 see an abundance of caribou coming back in their
25 natural migration routes. We had a lot of caribou this
26 year. More so than the last 10 years.

27
28 A lot of our younger generation are
29 catching their first caribou. I know that in the
30 Kotzebue area the migration was a little late also
31 going up the Noatak closer to Kotzebue, but it also was
32 a little later for Point Hope also because the winter
33 didn't come when it normally does, fall time.
34 Migration patterns are changing because of the weather.
35 Rutting season, you know, you have to watch out for
36 that with the meat.

37
38 We've seen a lot of changes. When you
39 live off the land and when you subsist for a living and
40 your parents subsist and their parents, your
41 grandparents, you hear all the stories of how it was
42 and you live that cycle of life. I think our
43 generation has seen some of the most changes we thought
44 would happen in our lifetime on the patterns or the
45 different parasites or warmth that you're seeing,
46 warmer waters. The ocean is taking a lot longer to
47 freeze. The erosion problem we're having. The main
48 ice is going further, melting further north. North, we
49 have three, four hundred miles of open water compared
50

1 to 150. So it's more than doubled the last 10 years.

2
3 Point Hope is considered one of the
4 oldest continuous inhabitant in North America. We've
5 been there for thousands of years. The Tikigaq people,
6 the Point Hope people have been there about 3,000
7 hunting the whale, but the anthropologists that were
8 there they discovered a village with about 600 houses
9 and their doors face the west. Their houses were made
10 for warmer climate. The animals they hunted -- and the
11 doors are on the west side and when you feel that east
12 wind constantly, you start to wonder did they see this
13 three, four thousand years ago also. You know, is a
14 cycle that follows.

15
16 There's a lot of history in that area
17 because the food has always been in abundance. You
18 know, we've been there for thousands of years because
19 the food came to us. They fed us, clothed us,
20 sheltered us and we live that cycle of life that has
21 always been with us. The connection with the animals.

22
23 We see the changes that are happening
24 with the abundance. The belugas were low population
25 this year. We didn't have -- spring time they didn't
26 come as close as they normally do. I think I only
27 caught three belugas. Normally we get a lot more than
28 that. Whales, we got 10 whales. That was good. But
29 we're seeing migration patterns.

30
31 And more and more traffic coming
32 through our communities, you know, international
33 traffic. Now the opening of the Northwest Passage.
34 We're concerned about what kind of pollution they might
35 be bringing into our waters, if they're dumping their
36 sewage from their boats. Our ocean is very delicate to
37 us. The smallest -- the largest of all things eat the
38 smallest of all things, so we're very concerned for our
39 ocean.

40
41 This Federal subsistence, they say we
42 don't have jurisdiction over our ocean, just what's on
43 land, and we are recognized and appointed from
44 Washington, D.C. as Federal Subsidence Advisory.

45
46 That's the report I have.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
49 Steve, for that report. I'll be moving on to Kaktovik.

50

1 We had a pretty mild winter or fall anyway. We got
2 three bowheads. We got a beluga this summer. We tried
3 to fish in October just to see what we'll catch. It
4 was October 10th. We got a silver salmon there in
5 Kaktovik just to see what we'll catch, but we did catch
6 a silver salmon that day.

7
8 Geese were not too bad, I guess, but
9 brants, we can't wait for them until later on because
10 the water comes too fast these days that we have to
11 return back home because the melting of the ice is just
12 too fast these days. It used to stay frozen, but not
13 anymore though. So we're not able to hunt our brants
14 during the springtime because of the thawing of the
15 tundra and leaves water everywhere.

16
17 The Porcupine Caribou wasn't so good
18 this summer. We probably -- maybe the village got 15
19 caribou out of 213,000 caribou. Most of those caribou
20 stayed more to the east and higher up inland, so it was
21 a poor hunt for our village this summer.

22
23 We did get to harvest a moose on a
24 Federal permit, which we got one moose on the Kongakut
25 River last spring, which did help out the community a
26 little bit. We got to get out a second moose, but we
27 went out the next time but we didn't see any moose.
28 There was 40 in that area, but we went 18 miles up the
29 Kongakut River but didn't see any moose at that time,
30 but we were lucky to harvest a moose anyway.

31
32 This year again we're allowed to hunt
33 two more moose on a permit, which is good to help out
34 the village. It's still a long distance away, like 140
35 miles or something, to the Kongakut River from
36 Kaktovik, so we'd have to spend a couple days there to
37 harvest in that area for a permit to allow us to hunt
38 in that area to get a moose.

39
40 On Hulahula there's a moose, but, you
41 know, it's a moose and a calf and that's been closed
42 for several years now due to low count of moose in the
43 area. Now we have muskox showing up on the river now.
44 We have three or four muskox that wintered on Hulahula,
45 which are still there now.

46
47 There's a few wolves running around.
48 Probably some wolverines. There's a lot of fish in the
49 first fish hole, which is 30 miles inland to Kaktovik.

50

1 There's a lot of arctic char fish this fall -- this
2 winter anyway. At least there's signs of a lot of
3 fish. Last year were no fish because all the otters
4 were hanging around the area, which is not good for
5 fish to harvest, because once the otters come around
6 there's no fish in the area.

7
8 Other than that I don't have anything
9 at this time.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This
14 year by second oldest son was able to get a kaliq (ph)
15 in November. It was his first harvest of furbearer.
16 We've had another hunter who's had a fairly good start
17 to the furbearing season.

18
19 Our hunters have complained quite a bit
20 about the changes that are happening with the caribou
21 hunting. The access has been changed with the changes
22 to our lands and waters. There was a lot of discussion
23 around the new road that's gone out from Nuiqsut into
24 the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska and failures of
25 our community to establish utilization of that road and
26 hunting practices and they, in effect, said it may be
27 causing the migration of the caribou coming from the
28 west side.

29
30 There's already been a lot of
31 discussion in the community about the migration as it
32 comes from the east side and how the changes to the
33 east has greatly impacted our harvesting. There are
34 hunters that have been able to harvest caribou, but not
35 in the quantities that the hunters need for providing
36 for our families. Many hunters have gone out and come
37 back empty-handed and that's a great concern.

38
39 Others have mentioned being able to get
40 on the gravel road with vehicles. Off-road vehicles is
41 a concern to traditional hunting practices and having
42 the changes with the increased traffic patterns are
43 affecting the local access to the caribou.

44
45 We did have a good fall fishery. There
46 were a number of hunters that went out and put their
47 nets out. My son was able to get over about 400, 500
48 fish and has been sharing them throughout the extended
49 families. There are a number of fishermen that

50

1 complained about the quality of the fish, having more
2 fish with parasites, worms that were seen in the
3 qaaktuq. The Arctic cisco, they're definitely
4 impacting that.

5
6 There were a number of fishermen that
7 complained about the fish mold and still seeing that on
8 various areas where they've been harvesting. The broad
9 whitefish are still being impacted with that concern.
10 There have been some of our fishermen that have
11 decreased their harvesting because of the concerns
12 around this fish and that's a really important factor
13 that we need to have some better discussions on what
14 our fishermen can do and reassurance that the fishing
15 gear are being impacted with the health. When you get
16 fish that have the mold, they're worried about the
17 fishing gear may be contributing to that continued
18 problem.

19
20 We have had a number of people who have
21 been able to get out and travel throughout the region,
22 but we also are seeing the changes to traditional
23 waterways with some of our tributaries being impacted
24 with non-freezing, open water in certain areas. There
25 are many discussions that are occurring with our local
26 hunters for the spring traveling and concerns around
27 efforts of preparing for that spring hunting that will
28 occur.

29
30 There are a lot of our hunters that are
31 talking about traveling out in groups instead of going
32 out as individuals because of their concerns for coming
33 back safely and the need to assist our hunters and
34 travelers with breakthroughs and risks to returning
35 because of the changes to the water and ice that is
36 greatly affecting their safe return.

37
38 So those are some of the changes that
39 we're going through. We have had a number of people
40 who have talked about concerns about the late migration
41 and changes to the way that the caribou -- the health
42 of the caribou. Definitely caribou were in good shape
43 later than usual and there were concerns around some of
44 the hunters felt the rut was moved later in the year
45 because of the changes to the climate. Some of the
46 animals were harvested late in October and hadn't gone
47 through the rut and concerns about what that's going to
48 mean for the health of the caribou as we go into the
49 future and normal patterns for their productivity and
50

1 recruitment coming back.

2

3

4 There were a lot of families that were
5 able to get out and do the gathering for the various
6 plants, but we had a really colder summer so we didn't
7 have as many berries this fall and people were really
8 talking about that and made increased effort to share
9 with other communities that had better seasons.

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So there was a lot of effort to work
with other villages and receive in exchange with
traditional foods for foods that we didn't have as
accessible to us this year. The sharing patterns have
been extended because of some of these changes trying
to have access to some of the foods that we greatly
desire and have less access to.

Thank you very much.

ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
Rosemary, for that report.

Moving down to.....

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair, if I may. I
want to recognize Jerry again and realize you are new
to the Council. Anything you'd like to share from your
community and your family in terms of subsistence.
It's a way to connect with the Council here and also
bring awareness to what's going on in your community if
you'd like to share.

Thank you.

MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Thank you for that,
Eva. Mr. Chair.

Yes, we did also have a mild winter as
well in our area. The rivers and caribou patterns are
slowly changing due to activities that's been going on
just about every year on the support hunters that we
get yearly. It's been the issue in our area that we've
been having so many meetings, roundtables with the
Borough and Fish and Wildlife as well. That's the
impact that we've seen every year. That's what we
mainly feed on is the caribou and the fish in our area.

There are going to be a lot of
activities going on here soon and we need to be aware

1 that we have the State, Federal and the Borough that we
2 need to be aware of that here in the future. We've
3 been impacted for a number of years.

4
5 I'm glad to be here on the board to
6 voice out for our community and all the communities as
7 well. I'm looking forward to get this solved and it
8 won't happen overnight. Just to voice that the State,
9 Federal and the Borough that we do have a voice for our
10 village and for our region.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
15 Jerry, for that. Do you have anything at this time,
16 Eva, to continue on with our agenda?

17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
19 Thank you very much for all of your reports. It's so
20 important to hear from each of the communities in the
21 region and your observations and to bring awareness to
22 these issues.

23
24 Next on the agenda is public and tribal
25 comment on non-agenda items. I know the roads were
26 pretty bad out there this morning, so it may be that
27 people will be joining us later or tomorrow morning. I
28 do know that we had some folks on teleconference that
29 wish to address the Council at this time on public and
30 tribal comment on non-agenda items.

31
32 So maybe we can check in with folks on
33 teleconference.

34
35 MR. RICHARDS: Good morning, Eva. This
36 is Mark Richards.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Good morning, Mark. If
39 you could talk a little bit louder. It was a little
40 difficult to hear you.

41
42 MR. RICHARDS: Sure. Is this any
43 better?

44
45 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Do you have a volume
46 you can increase?

47
48 MR. RICHARDS: Let me go off speaker
49 and try this. How's that?

50

1 MS. PATTON: There you go.

2
3 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: That's better.

4
5 MS. PATTON: Much better. Thank you.

6
7 MR. RICHARDS: Good morning, everybody.
8 My name is Mark Richards. I'm the executive director
9 of Resident Hunters of Alaska. Just a little bit about
10 our group. We are all about trying to form a resident
11 hunting priority for all resident hunters of Alaska no
12 matter where they live, how much money they make. We
13 are all about putting residents first.

14
15 I want to thank you first of all to all
16 of you for taking the time to serve on the Council. I
17 really appreciate your involvement in these issues. I
18 wanted to speak to the Central Arctic Herd issue. I
19 know you've already got the WP18-57 proposal before the
20 Federal Subsistence Board. It will come up in April.
21 I just wanted to let you know we will be opposing that
22 and I just wanted to discuss a little bit about some of
23 our concerns that we have with the Central Arctic Herd.

24
25 It was our organization that put in the
26 first proposal to limit hunting because of the concerns
27 we had of the population. What we wanted to do though
28 was to have non-resident hunters bear the brunt of the
29 restrictions that were placed on all of us with the cow
30 closures and season changes. What the Board of Game
31 ended up doing though was giving a very high allocation
32 to non-resident hunters and last fall non-residents
33 took the majority of the Central Arctic Herd caribou.

34
35 So I guess what I wanted to talk to you
36 guys about was that we would like to work with you down
37 the line to use the Board of Game process to try to put
38 further restrictions on non-resident hunters. We
39 really believe -- we have a lot of our members that
40 that's where they get their food for the winter is on
41 the North Slope, myself included. I've hunted up there
42 for a number of years. Usually east of the Haul Road,
43 sometimes west.

44
45 These closures are going to affect all
46 of us who want to hunt on Federal lands on the North
47 Slope. We've been talking with the Department, with
48 Fish and Game. You're going to get a report I think
49 from Beth Lenart or Ryan. The new population estimate

50

1 shows about 28,000 Central Arctic Herd caribou. The
2 herd is stable. We've still got the restrictions in
3 place that the Board of Game placed a couple years ago.
4

5 So we would just like to work with you
6 all on the North Slope to try to come to a better
7 system of trying to limit hunters. We understand you
8 have concerns. We have concerns as well about the
9 population, but we really believe that when we're going
10 to restrict hunters we need to restrict the
11 non-resident hunters first. Unfortunately, the Federal
12 system doesn't allow you to do that. All non-locals,
13 whether they're Alaskans or non-residents, are treated
14 the same.

15
16 That's where we're coming from.

17
18 I just wanted to give you a heads up
19 and thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to
20 talk and for your service on the Council.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mark.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.
25 Was that on the proposal that's coming up later on on
26 the agenda?

27
28 MS. PATTON: Mark was referring to the
29 North Slope Regional Advisory Council's proposal that
30 was submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. That
31 will not be coming before the Council again. The
32 Council already took action on that and made
33 recommendations to the Board. The Board will meet in
34 April, the week of April 13th, and that is an
35 opportunity for the public and tribes to address these
36 issues.

37
38 So Mark was reaching out to the Council
39 to -- expressing an interest to continue to work on
40 this issue with the Council in the future. But we will
41 not be readdressing it at this meeting. Just the Unit
42 23 proposal is coming back before the Council.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Again, that was the
47 Council's own proposal which requested Unit 26A and 26B
48 be closed to non-Federally qualified subsistence users.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mark.

6

7 Do we have anyone else on
8 teleconference who would like to address the Council
9 during public and tribal comment on non-agenda items?

10

11 (No comments)

12

13 MS. PATTON: Okay. For the Council, we
14 have some new Council members here.

15

16 We have this opportunity in the morning
17 on both days. It's just on the agenda once, but we'll
18 check back in tomorrow. The roads are not so good out
19 there and weather issues, so we may have folks from the
20 public joining us later.

21

22 Thank you.

23

24 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.
25 So we'll continue on with agenda items here, agenda
26 number 9 on public and tribal non-agenda items.

27

28 Are we moving on to number 10 under old
29 business?

30

31 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. As
32 the Council agreed, we were moving old business, which
33 would include a review of that Unit 23 closure
34 proposal, until we get to agency reports and have the
35 caribou updates at that time.

36

37 So we were going to move on to new
38 business.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.

41

42 Continuing on to item number 11 under
43 new business.

44

45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
46 I may make a recommendation. If we can take a brief
47 break and I'll try to call Wanda and see her flight
48 status, if she's en route or if we can connect with her
49 by teleconference.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.
2 We'll take a short break if we can get the rest of our
3 Council members online.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you. For those who
8 have joined us on teleconference we're going to take a
9 brief break here and try to get some of our Council
10 members that are weathered out at the moment to see if
11 we can get them connected.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 (Off record)

16
17 (On record)

18
19 (Started without reporter in the room)

20
21 MS. KIPPI:yeah, just four. So
22 many hours and it took off in like a westward --
23 southwest kind of direction. We never saw it again
24 after that. That was interesting to see. There were a
25 lot of foxes. I keep seeing foxes during that time I
26 was camping. And this winter too there's a lot of
27 foxes coming into town. There's something out there
28 that's scaring them into town. I don't know what
29 though.

30
31 I can't think of anything else that I
32 might have forgotten maybe.

33
34 I think I'm done with my report.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
39 Wanda, for that report.

40
41 MS. KIPPI: Oh, we didn't start
42 catching more caribou and reindeer until after November
43 and now we're seeing more around the village after. So
44 some people are catching now, I think, since November
45 to today's date they've been catching some reindeer and
46 caribou and they're seeing some around -- around town
47 people have been posting pictures. I see some on the
48 lake going towards south from the lake on Imakruak
49 Lake. Two of them the other day and they've been

50

1 posting some around by the airport area. So there's
2 been some around.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
7 Wanda, for that report.

8

9 I want to welcome Roy Nageak and Beth
10 Lenart at this time this morning for joining us.

11

12 Eva, at this time, we'll follow up on
13 the agenda items.

14

15 Rosemary.

16

17 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: We had an incident
18 that was reported by one of our hunters coming back
19 through that Dalton Highway with a number of muskox
20 that were hit or killed on the road. There was concern
21 around that our hunters have been restricted due to the
22 numbers on the muskox. We know that there is always
23 muskox in that area and if we need to get some better
24 communication with those that are traveling on the
25 Dalton Road about that muskox, it should occur. That
26 was a large hit for those animals.

27

28 They did report to the community that
29 if we have community members that are interested in
30 obtaining some of those, the harvest from that, they
31 could contact Prudhoe Bay for that and there are
32 families that would like to harvest that if they can
33 work with the Native Village of Nuiqsut to allow that
34 to be distributed so that they're not wasted. That is
35 also very important to occur and ways to reduce
36 conflict and concern around those animals.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
41 Rosemary.

42

43 At this time we'll continue on with our
44 agenda items.

45

46 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair.

47

48 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Go ahead.

49

50

1 MS. KIPPI: I just remembered that
2 during the ice fishing season there was a silver salmon
3 caught during the ice fishing season, which was
4 interesting. Never had caught one before on the ice
5 fishing line.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
10 Wanda, for that. Continuing on. Eva, at this time, are
11 we going to continue on our agenda items?

12
13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
14 did lose two of our members that got pulled into the
15 director's meeting immediately behind us here. We're
16 coming up on some important reports and action items
17 that would be good to have the entire Council present
18 for that. They thought they would be just briefly in
19 that meeting.

20
21 What I am wondering is that in
22 particular we have a couple of our Anaktuvuk Pass
23 Council members here and maybe from the agency reports
24 that were planned for tomorrow that don't involve
25 action items. We might want to take one of those up if
26 Marcy Okada -- I'm wondering if you might be available
27 and interested to provide updates for Gates of the
28 Arctic National Park.

29
30 We do have quorum here with our Council
31 if the Council concurs.

32
33 MS. OKADA: Hi, this is Marcy. I'd be
34 available to give an update.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Eva.
37 Marcy, if we can continue on with that update, we'll
38 follow along with our agency reports at this time to
39 move along as our items continue.

40
41 Thank you.

42
43 MS. OKADA: Okay. This is Marcy Okada,
44 Subsistence Coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
45 National Park and Preserve. I just want to make sure
46 you received two handouts.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Marcy, I'm going to hand
49 those out to the Council right now.

50

1 MS. OKADA: Okay. Once everybody has
2 those handouts I'll go ahead and start.

3
4 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, we have them.
5 Thank you, Marcy.

6
7 MS. OKADA: Okay. I'll start off with
8 the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
9 Commission. They met last November 14th and 15th and
10 the meeting was in Fairbanks. At this meeting we were
11 given presentations by Toolik Field Station. The
12 basically provided information on the research station
13 and they were interested in hearing a report from the
14 Subsistence Resource Commission number on local
15 observations and opportunities to possibly work
16 together on research projects in the future.

17
18 We were also provided a presentation by
19 the Wildlife Conservation Society. A researcher
20 provided information on a wolverine ecology project
21 that's based out of Toolik Field Station. That project
22 is live trapping wolverine or qavvik across the North
23 Slope and they're putting radio collars on the animals
24 in order to look for den sites and then their
25 monitoring of den sites and also measuring snow
26 qualities of those den sites. This is to learn more
27 about qavvik ecology and basic snow conditions used.

28
29 The SRC took action on the Ambler
30 Mining District access road and they submitted a
31 comment letter to the National Park Service and the
32 Borough of Land Management. I'll be providing an
33 update on the Ambler Mining District road as it
34 pertains to Gates of the Arctic.

35
36 So our next SRC meeting is scheduled
37 for April of this year and it will be in Allakaket.

38
39 Any questions on this.

40
41 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary.
42 We've expressed previously that there is concern around
43 what's going to happen with the migration of our
44 animals coming to the west side with the Ambler Mining
45 District industrial access project. We also have a
46 very big transportation plan that's being introduced as
47 well as increased changes to our lands and waters with
48 the National Energy Policy.

49
50

1 All of these accumulative effects are
2 going to be very concerning on what happens with the
3 animals as they migrate through these areas and whether
4 or not they actually get to us in the arctic and
5 whether or not they're healthy.

6
7 We've had a tremendous amount of
8 concern coming through the last few years from Nuiqsut
9 on stress and strain to the animals and concerns about
10 the health of the caribou with more hunters harvesting
11 caribou that have illness in them. You also heard our
12 Chair discuss that. So these are very concerning.

13
14 The risks for the animals as they move
15 through these areas, especially with mining activity,
16 and the health of whether or not their foods are safe
17 for their consumption with the changes that are being
18 proposed with these mining activities. We're greatly
19 concerned in making sure that there's an effort to
20 assess these animals and the health for our continued
21 consumption is a big concern.

22
23 Access is a big concern. Nuiqsut has
24 provided tremendous amount of communication about
25 change to access of harvest with the changes around our
26 community. This is only going to increase the stress
27 and strain in this area, so we're very concerned about
28 that.

29
30 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Rosemary. I
31 think the Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource
32 Commission has shares many of the same concerns you
33 have regarding Arctic caribou herds that migrate
34 through the North Slope and further south.

35
36 I'll go ahead and continue with the
37 update for Gates of the Arctic if no one has any
38 further questions.

39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Marcy, this is
41 Eva. If you could, just a real brief update again so
42 the Council members are aware of the Ambler Mining
43 District project schedule and further public
44 opportunities for comments on the proposed road.

45
46 MS. OKADA: Okay. So along with the
47 Gates of the Arctic update there is an Ambler Mining
48 District Industrial Access Project newsletter. On the
49 front page of that newsletter there's a project
50

1 schedule in the bottom left-hand corner. The
2 approximate schedule is the public comment scoping
3 period has just ended. It was through the month of
4 January. We received comments from across the street
5 but then as well from the Lower 48.

6
7 I don't want you folks to get confused
8 with the government-to-government consultation process
9 and so that process is ongoing. We have expanded our
10 government-to-government consultation to all of the
11 communities that harvest caribou from the Western
12 Arctic Caribou Herd. That's from the North Slope down
13 to the Seward Peninsula. That process is ongoing, so
14 we will be taking comments throughout the government-
15 to-government consultation period.

16
17 I believe for the North Slope
18 communities we had an in person consultation meeting in
19 Point Hope, a teleconference meeting with Nuiqsut and
20 Wainwright and Anaktuvuk Pass. We will continue to
21 listen to the concerns from all the communities on the
22 North Slope as well as elsewhere.

23
24 So if you continue to look at the
25 project schedule, it says between winter and summer of
26 this year the Park Service will be preparing a draft
27 EEA. EEA stands for Environmental and Economic
28 Analysis. The reason being as to why it's an EEA as
29 was stated in ANILCA for the creation of Gates of the
30 Arctic should minerals be discovered or should an
31 access road be needed at such a time to access the
32 minerals in the Ambler Mining District, Gates of the
33 Arctic would allow a right-of-way through the southern
34 portion of the preserve unit down there and we would be
35 required to do an Environmental and Economic Analysis
36 and not an Environmental Impact Statement.

37
38 I'll continue on.

39
40 Summer of this year there will be a
41 public review of the Draft Environmental and Economic
42 Analysis and then fall later this year the Final EEA
43 will be prepared and then later winter of 2018 the
44 Final EEA will be released. That's just an approximate
45 schedule at this time.

46
47 Do folks have any questions.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: This is Lee.

2

3 Marcy, you said you were going to be
4 collaring wolverines this spring?

5

6 MS. OKADA: Just to clarify, Lee, the
7 wolverine project is the project that's being conducted
8 by the Wildlife Conservation Society and they -- I
9 believe researchers will be going out shortly if not
10 already and they're based out of Toolik Field Station.
11 There will be live trapping and collaring wolverine.
12 Gates of the Arctic became aware of this project
13 because researchers had applied for a research permit
14 to catch the wolverines in Gates of the Arctic. At
15 this time none of those captures will be within the
16 Park. It will be on lands north of the Park.

17

18 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Okay. Did you
19 say how you were going to catch them?

20

21 MS. OKADA: So they use live box traps.
22 I don't know complete details of this, but I can pass
23 on contact information for the researchers and.....

24

25 MR. KLIMSTRA: Marcy, this is Ryan
26 Klimstra. I might be able to speak a little bit more
27 to this if you'd like.

28

29 MS. OKADA: Okay. I'd appreciate it.
30 Thank you, Ryan.

31

32 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah. Lee, so this is a
33 project that I actually helped start when I was working
34 with the North Slope Borough. I guess it would have
35 been 2014 and started with the Wildlife Conservation
36 Society. The goal of this project was to -- there's
37 not much known about wolverines on the North Slope
38 other than it's an important subsistence animal. Our
39 goal was just to ultimately figure out where are
40 wolverines, why are they there, classify their
41 different habitat types. So this is just a
42 continuation of that project.

43

44 There's some good work coming out of
45 this group. What they do is they basically use
46 snowmachines to kind of -- as a subsistence
47 hunter/trapper would do, to kind of find areas where
48 there's wolverines hanging out and they will then set
49 up their live traps and the goal is to capture them

50

1 alive. They have some really nifty devices on a lot of
2 those live traps. It lets them know like immediately
3 when a wolverine is captured. I'm pretty sure they're
4 probably still using those.

5
6 They put the animal under using drugs
7 for a little bit and they collar the wolverine and then
8 they release it. All those collars are programmed to
9 drop off at a certain time. So the animal doesn't even
10 wear it for the rest of its life. They're trying to
11 get denning information. All kinds of little bits of
12 information about these wolverines that we don't know
13 much about other than they're important to us.

14
15 One thing I can assure you WCS does a
16 really good job of -- if there's any subsistence
17 hunters that are using the area or anything like that,
18 they're not going to operate in that specific area.
19 They're not going to compete for use of those animals
20 by any means. Once the collar goes on there -- I think
21 they put their information inside the collar. If the
22 animal is captured by a hunter or trapper, it will have
23 a little number on there and they can turn in the
24 collar back into WCS. I believe they may offer like a
25 gas voucher. I maybe shouldn't say that if they don't.

26
27 Anyhow, they're really good folks. Lots
28 of good information. They will be sharing a lot of
29 information to groups like this in the future on the
30 kinds of things they're figuring out and finding. So
31 hopefully that helps a little bit with what's going on
32 out there with wolverines.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Ryan.
35 Yeah, I was just concerned about the wolverine and
36 collaring, you know. Just like in our village where,
37 you know, it's hard -- we're trying to get it stopped,
38 like the polar bears. There's coming up with new ways
39 of just footprints, you know, instead of putting a
40 chain around your neck for 30, 60 days or something
41 like that is quite long. Other than that do you have a
42 timeline for collared wolverines, like 90 days or
43 something like that?

44
45 MR. KLIMSTRA: I can get you the
46 specifics on that, Lee. I'm not 100 percent sure. I
47 know in the past years, I think last year all collars
48 were programmed to come off after denning. So sometime
49 in late April or May all collars should be off. The
50

1 other goal here is they want to retrieve these collars
2 because you can reuse them. They're worth a lot of
3 money and they contain a lot of data in them. In order
4 to go get those collars without using an expensive
5 helicopter, it has to be while there's still good snow
6 on the ground so you can land a plane on skis, which is
7 way cheaper than using a helicopter.

8
9 So I would imagine sometime in late
10 April, early May, unless some of their objectives have
11 changed, which they may have, but I do know that their
12 sample size for individuals that they're trying to
13 collar is fairly small. They're not shooting for 30
14 wolverines or anything like that. I think in the past
15 it's been somewhere in the neighborhood of five. So
16 maybe upwards of 10 it could be like their total sample
17 size.

18
19 As you know as a hunter, these things
20 are not -- you don't just like drive out to the river
21 and catch a wolverine. You've got to work for it. So
22 I can find out more information about that on how long
23 those collars are going to be on there if you'd like.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you, Ryan.
26 I know we did collaring with a chopper before and
27 there's no way a wolverine is going to -- I mean
28 there's no way the chopper could easily catch that
29 wolverine. We did it before and there's no way. That
30 wolverine just left us. I mean they're just like I'm
31 out of here.

32
33 MR. KLIMSTRA: The very first collar we
34 put on a wolverine or one of the first collars we put
35 on a wolverine in that project we did dart from a
36 helicopter and it was very difficult. So they've
37 definitely moved away from that just because of how
38 tough it is to these box traps, which are really really
39 great traps. It's a good technique they're using.
40 Safe for the animal.

41
42 Again, I can't reiterate enough that
43 the whole goal of this is just to find out more about
44 these animals that you guys in your communities find to
45 be so important and useful. You've got a need for them
46 and we want to make sure that that need continues and
47 we're just trying to study them and find out more
48 information about them.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you. I
2 know, yeah, it's a very vicious, vicious animal. You
3 don't want to be messing around with them. It could
4 walk up to you and he could just easily come and just
5 rip into anybody. Anyway, thank you for that.

6
7 MR. KLIMSTRA: Yeah, hopefully that
8 helps, Marcy, if you're still there. Sorry to cut you
9 off there.

10
11 MS. OKADA: Thanks, Ryan.

12
13 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I appreciate the
14 effort to try to gain some of this information. We
15 also have hunters that are utilizing this resource and
16 making sure that we communicate with our communities
17 about this information is important as well as to
18 receive information back from our hunters that may
19 facilitate some of your information is important.

20
21 I haven't had any hunters that have
22 communicated about seeing the wolverine monitors, but
23 we have had concerns from other monitoring, especially
24 around caribou and how it affects the health of the
25 animal and polar bears. So those are appreciated that
26 the layers of communications that have gone across
27 different animals and research and trying to prevent
28 continued conflict is important, but making sure that
29 we have the various access to people who can contribute
30 to some of this information is very important.

31
32 Thank you for working to inform this
33 body as well as our communities about this research is
34 very important, but also making sure that we go through
35 a concerted effort to make sure our communities are
36 informed as you're gaining this information back, that
37 it's not just between your organization obtaining this
38 information and the hunters, that there is that feed
39 loop that goes into our communities as well is very,
40 very important.

41
42 I'm very concerned about the way that
43 some of our information has been fragmented with
44 various research and monitoring efforts and allowing
45 projects to be approved and not coming back to our
46 communities to allow us to vet whether or not that
47 fragmentation should be even incorporated into some of
48 these decision-making criteria that are occurring.

49
50

1 These are very important issues as
2 we're going forward especially with the amount of
3 change that we're going through around Nuiqsut and into
4 the future, but our whole region has gone through a
5 tremendous amount of changes with the climate changes
6 and how that's affecting these animals and other
7 animals that are part of the ecosystem is very
8 important.
9

10 On one hand I'm happy that we're
11 getting some information, but on another hand I'm very
12 concerned about how this information is going to be
13 incorporated into various ways of decision making.
14

15 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Rosemary. I
16 would just share that one of the permit stipulations
17 for this research to have been conducted in Gates of
18 the Arctic look for the project to be shared with the
19 community of Anaktuvuk Pass. So September of last year
20 I traveled with the researcher of this project and we
21 shared information at a community meeting and we also
22 shared information at the city council and additionally
23 we also met with a couple of the trappers in the
24 community just to make them aware that this project was
25 happening.
26

27 It turns out that the trapping wasn't
28 occurring in Gates of the Arctic and then also the
29 researchers shared the information with the Subsistence
30 Resource Commission.
31

32 I thought it was a good opportunity
33 when we did meet with a couple of the trappers in
34 Anaktuvuk Pass. They shared some of their local
35 knowledge about the techniques they used to trap
36 wolverines in their local environment and then how the
37 wolverine fur is used to make ruffs on people's parkas.
38 It was just a good interaction overall last September.
39

40 MS. FRITZ: Hi. I don't want to
41 interrupt. This is Stacey Fritz with the BLM Arctic
42 Office. It was a couple years ago that we processed
43 this original permit for the Wildlife Conservation
44 Society. We were also concerned about impacts to
45 trappers from Nuiqsut. We put them in touch with the
46 Native Village of Nuiqsut and key trappers there. I
47 believe it was a 50-mile buffer we put around Nuiqsut
48 because a lot of the work was being conducted out of
49 Umiat.
50

1 As far as I know, I didn't participate
2 in the tribe's meeting with WCS, but I understand that
3 they got it all worked out. I'm not sure if it's been
4 kept up, the communication, but I will share whatever
5 information I have with the Council.

6
7 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you. I
8 appreciate that.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you for
11 that. Kind of moved a little bit too much forward and
12 kind of making sure if there was anything else on the
13 Ambler Mining District Access Project and the EEA. Is
14 there anything else on that that anybody else at this
15 time want to say anything?

16
17 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair. I'm just
18 wondering, Marcy, I know we had some meetings at home
19 regarding the Ambler Road Project. It says that 20
20 miles of the Gates of the Arctic National Park and
21 Preserve is proposed on road crossing. Will Anaktuvuk
22 or AKP get benefits for that, 20 miles to alternative
23 north and south? Can a different road be recommended
24 by the Park other than what we see on the map?

25
26 I just feel personally that -- I know
27 that the National Park is legally required to permit
28 right-of-way access, but I know it's pretty far from
29 home, but it's within the Park.

30
31 So I'm just curious or concerned about
32 that.

33
34 MS. OKADA: So, Esther, you're correct.
35 The portion that would go through the lower Preserve
36 unit in Gates of the Arctic there's two proposed
37 routes, a north route and a southern route. As you were
38 mentioning the map on the newsletter, it would go
39 through the -- you know, from the Dalton Highway west
40 and it's going through the southern portion of the
41 Park, so quite a ways away from Anaktuvuk Pass.

42
43 You had mentioned benefits of the road
44 to Anaktuvuk Pass, but I recently became aware of, I
45 guess, an ice road route that's being proposed by the
46 North Slope Borough. It would go from Galbraith Lake
47 or possibly Toolik area and then head west and then
48 down to Anaktuvuk Pass. That's a completely different
49 road and that's an ice road that's in the works, in the

50

1 planning stages.

2

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I'm not trying to confuse you, but the Ambler Road, the route that's proposed, at least to the Gates of the Arctic there's just two routes at this time. An additional route wouldn't be discussed at this point.

MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Marcy, has there been any discussion -- I know in our region we had talked about roads that go east to west or west to east are much more impactful to migration. Our traditional knowledge really incorporated trying to angle the road to a north to south angle instead of straight across. Has there been any discussion around that or is there any documentation that shows support of some of this concern?

MS. OKADA: So there has never been a north to south route proposed.

(Teleconference music)

MS. OKADA: It seems we're going through the same issue we did earlier. I'm just going to stop my update until we can stop the music.

MS. PATTON: Hi, Marcy, sorry about that, and everyone on teleconference. We're going to just take a break here and see if we can disconnect the line on hold through the operator.

Just a reminder to everybody that is on teleconference with us for muting your phones either push your mute button or *6, but please do not put the conference on hold because we get your lovely music in the background and it disrupts the meeting. So we're going to have to try to disconnect that line here.

Thanks, Marcy. Sorry for the interruption. We'll try to get this addressed.

(Pause)

MS. PATTON: Okay, go ahead, Marcy. Sorry about that. We got that line disconnected.

Thank you.

1 MS. OKADA: So in regards to Rosemary's
2 question, the routes have always -- the routes proposed
3 originally were always east to west route. What was
4 proposed back in the day when the road initially came
5 up was bringing it from the coast inland, heading east.

6
7 What we're left with currently is the
8 proposed route from the Dalton Highway heading west to
9 the Ambler Mining District. So that's what's going to
10 be evaluated through an Environmental Impact Statement
11 by Bureau of Land Management and then for the portion
12 within Gates of the Arctic it's the Environmental and
13 Economic Analysis.

14
15 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Marcy, I want to
16 give support to Anaktuvuk Pass for their concerns
17 around this project and the risks that will happen to
18 migration for Anaktuvuk and to the concerns for Nuiqsut
19 and what will happen with the migration of the caribou
20 through these areas.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Rosemary.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you.

27
28 Steve, did you have something.

29
30 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, we had
31 a chance to meet with Greg Dudgeon. He came to Point
32 Hope to report on this Ambler Mining road. We were
33 kind of surprised because we're way up north on the
34 west, but it is in the route of the Western Arctic
35 Caribou Herd migration route. That was the concern
36 about the road being across through there and going
37 further south, you know.

38
39 With the population of the Western
40 Arctic Caribou Herd dropping by more than half, we have
41 concerns with the migration routes that have been
42 changing, you know. When you look at the Haul Road and
43 say that it won't have access to public use and here
44 you see people use it all the time.

45
46 We wanted to hear -- the people of
47 Point Hope wanted to hear more on that side of the
48 interstate of, you know, what their concerns were
49 because we are, I guess, further west and further
50

1 north, but it is -- you know, the Western Arctic
2 Caribou Herd is very important to us and their
3 migration route and ensuring the safety of these
4 animals so their population, their calving, their
5 wintering grounds and migration south is protected
6 also.

7
8 We're pretty much the only people on
9 the North Slope that are not -- you know, not too many
10 villages are connected to a road system. The higher
11 cost of living. So we depend on our subsistence way of
12 life to support us and we want to ensure that the
13 animals are protected also.

14
15 They've fed us, clothed us and
16 sheltered us for thousands of years and we want it to
17 continue on to our next generation and years to come.
18 So the insurance of safety of all animals have made us
19 who we are and gave us our identity as a people,
20 connection with the land and the sea. We want to make
21 sure that never goes away from us.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
24 Steve.

25
26 Vince.

27
28 MR. MATHEWS: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Vince
29 Mathews, Refuge Subsistence Coordinator for Kanuti.
30 This whole topic on the Ambler Road will be on the
31 Western Interior agenda. I'll try to summarize,
32 because I go to a lot of public meetings, but the
33 general opposition is it possibly could open up the
34 area, caribou migration, impact on stream crossings.

35
36 The village of Allakaket has been in
37 opposition of this road. I'm trying to think who else.
38 Well, the Western Interior had extensive letters in
39 opposition to it. The Koyukuk River Advisory Committee
40 for the State has not met to my knowledge. They may be
41 taking up that topic also. They represent Allakaket,
42 Hughes, Huslia and that, so they may be taking up that
43 topic.

44
45 The last thing, I was scrambling
46 through my computer there, is the Doyon Native
47 Corporation has submitted a letter of comments on it.
48 It's quite lengthy, so I won't attempt to summarize it,
49 but if you want a copy I'm sure it can be obtained

50

1 either from Doyon or BLM. It is a definite issue of
2 concern for Western Interior.

3

4 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
5 Vince.

6

7

8

9

10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
11 just wanted to follow up with Marcy. Again, just to
12 clarify, we do have a new Council member from Anaktuvuk
13 Pass, Jerry Sikvayugak, and of course Esther Hugo is
14 the North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council's
15 appointee to serve on the Gates of the Arctic
16 Subsistence Resource Commission.

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So in regards to the government-to-
government consultation process with the tribal
councils, when I mentioned earlier that it's an ongoing
process, meaning that we've either already met via
teleconference or in-person meetings, but some of the
tribal councils, the continuation of it, would be just
making contact with some other tribes that we haven't
heard from or heard back from.

1 Then also continuing to keep the tribes
2 that have shown interest updated with the Environmental
3 and Economic Analysis process just to give them updated
4 information as things move along.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR KAYOTUK: Thank you,
7 Marcy.

8
9 Eva.

10
11 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Marcy. I think
12 you were moving into other updates for Gates of the
13 Arctic. Did you have further updates for the Park?

14
15 MS. OKADA: Yes. Just to quickly
16 provide information about bear studies that have
17 occurred within the Park. Just to also bring up animal
18 collaring as well. Grizzly bears were collared in the
19 southern portion of Gates of the Arctic in order to get
20 a better understanding of grizzly bear populations and
21 the areas that would be affected most by the Ambler
22 Mining District road.

23
24 There were a couple journal articles
25 that came out of this collaring project. One of them
26 was looking at spring body composition. So grizzly
27 bear populations were compared in Kodiak, Katmai, Lake
28 Clark and Gates of the Arctic. The results that came
29 out of that were that Kodiak bears -- and this might
30 already just be sort of intuitive -- but Kodiak bears
31 are twice the size and twice the mass of Gates of the
32 Arctic bears.

33
34 As well, Katmai bears and Lake Clark
35 bears are heavier than Gates of the Arctic bears.
36 That's mainly due to the marine meat resources that are
37 available to the bears in Kodiak and Katmai, especially
38 for the salmon resources that are available there. And
39 then for Lake Clark bears the summer and fall runs of
40 Bristol Bay salmon also allow the bears there to get
41 quite a bit bigger.

42
43 So Gates of the Arctic bears that were
44 shown to rely on smaller runs of chum and king salmon
45 in the Noatak, Kobuk and Koyukuk River drainages were
46 quite a bit smaller when you compare them to Kodiak,
47 Katmai and Lake Clark grizzly bears. Gates of the
48 Arctic bears have lower percentages of body fat and
49 they were also -- and this was due to a combination of

50

1 shorter growing seasons and reduced nutrient
2 availability. Basically it showed that they were
3 nutritionally restrained.

4
5 So Gates of the Arctic bears are likely
6 to have low resilience to adapt to further habitat
7 limitations and therefore, in regard to this, would be
8 the Ambler Mining District road, which would cause a
9 major disturbance to these bear populations.
10 The second study that I had mentioned also had results
11 where it showed that Gates of the Arctic bears are
12 nutritionally limited.

13
14 Then I'll just quickly go to the Dall
15 sheep surveys that were conducted last year in July.
16 Results from these surveys continue to show that Dall
17 sheep numbers are very low in the northeastern portion
18 of Gates. That would be the Itkillik Preserve. Even
19 though the survey showed that the ratio of lambs to
20 ewes is increasing, it also shows that sheep
21 populations have not really recovered from the 2013
22 population crash.

23
24 So the estimate showed that there were
25 about 1,000 sheep in northeastern portion of Gates.
26 This portion also included Itkillik Preserve and the
27 areas around the community of Anaktuvuk Pass.
28 Geographically speaking, it just shows that it was an
29 area -- if you go from Anaktuvuk and head towards the
30 Dalton Highway, it includes Publituk, Tinayguk and the
31 Oolah Pass area of Gates of the Arctic.

32
33 We'll continue to monitor these
34 populations and manual surveys. The next survey is
35 scheduled for July of this year. We have been
36 traveling to Anaktuvuk Pass and updating information
37 with the community through community meetings and then
38 also with the city council as well as the sheep hunters
39 because many of the sheep hunters don't go to meetings
40 per se, so I'm going to try to meet with them
41 individually just to share updated information about
42 the sheep population.

43
44 I think that's it.

45
46 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Marcy, this is Jerry.

47
48 MS. OKADA: Hi, Jerry.

49
50

1 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Maybe at some point
2 maybe we could have the tribes get involved during the
3 SRC meetings that we can have the tribes get involved.
4 That way they can know what's going on in our region
5 here in the future, if that can be done, the tribes
6 here on the Slope.

7
8 MS. OKADA: Jerry, if I'm understanding
9 you correctly, you're requesting that not only the
10 tribal council in Anaktuvuk Pass be notified of
11 Subsistence Resource Commission meetings, but also the
12 other North Slope communities as well?

13
14 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes, that is correct.

15
16 MS. OKADA: Okay. At least for the
17 Subsistence Resource Commissions I normally email out
18 and send out a meeting agenda to Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk
19 Pass because they're considered what are called
20 resident zoned communities of Gates of the Arctic, but
21 I can also send out information to the other North
22 Slope communities whenever we have a meeting.

23
24 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes. That way they
25 can have also some feedback from the tribes and that
26 would be very helpful with our communities as well.

27
28 MS. OKADA: Okay. Thank you, Jerry.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I just wanted
31 to chime back into the meeting. This is Gordon Brower.
32 I had handed the Chair over to vice president Lee.....

33
34 MR. KAYOTUK: Vice Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was it Lee?

37
38 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. Just Vice
39 Chair instead of Vice President.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah. Vice
42 Chair. Anyway, I'm back into the meeting. Maybe for
43 my own -- Marcy, were you done on your talk or was
44 there other items?

45
46 MS. OKADA: I had just wrapped
47 everything up and had gone over the Park update and the
48 Commission.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Maybe
2 I'll have to catch up somehow. I didn't know what was
3 the issue about the sheep, that it still hadn't
4 recovered and was it starting to affect the ability for
5 customary and traditional uses for the folks that
6 depend on those subsistence resources.

7
8 Is that what I'm hearing?

9
10 MS. OKADA: So continual annual surveys
11 have showed that there was a population crash in 2013
12 and since then the populations around Anaktuvuk Pass
13 and Itkillik Preserves haven't really shown that the
14 population is recovering. Currently nothing has been
15 proposed to the customary and traditional use of sheep.
16 Nothing has been set in the works to affect the harvest
17 of sheep by Anaktuvuk Pass. We've been keeping the
18 community and the sheep hunters notified of survey
19 results from year to year.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I just
22 wanted to understand a little bit more about that.

23
24 Lee.

25
26 MR. KAYOTUK: Just a follow up. We
27 just got through the Ambler Mining District Access
28 Project EEA. If you want anything about that, that's
29 where we were at. Then the collaring of the wolverines
30 on NPR-A. That's where we were at too. And just to
31 follow up on your sheep thing, we'll continue on at
32 this time.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee. All
37 right. Was that it for Gates of the Arctic National
38 Park and Preserve as an agency report?

39
40 MS. OKADA: Yes. If there's no further
41 questions by the Council, that's the end of my update.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
44 Maybe I need to reacquaint myself where we are on the
45 agenda. It looks like we skipped over some stuff that
46 may have been action items to make sure we had a voting
47 council present to do some of that. Are we doing
48 agency reports at this time?

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 After you had to step out for a minute there, Wanda
3 Kippi was able to join us on teleconference and
4 provided her report for Atqasuk and subsistence
5 activities in the region there. We're anticipating --
6 her flight did get cancelled this morning, so she'll be
7 able to be on with us by teleconference to participate.

8
9 As you recall, the old business got
10 shifted until later while we can take up the caribou
11 updates and then review of the Unit 23 proposal. So
12 we got down to new business, which is full of the
13 action items for the Council. So we took up Marcy's
14 agency report just now to help provide time, especially
15 since we had Anaktuvuk Pass Council members here and
16 Nuiqsut to address that.

17
18 So we're back to new business. It is
19 noon. We do have Wanda on to join us for those action
20 items and election of officers. At the Council's wish,
21 if you wanted to have lunch and resume with the new
22 business after lunch with all the Council here.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
25 Coordinator. What's the wish of the Council?

26
27 I know it's lunchtime, but at the same
28 time I want to do a little bit of update. NARL is
29 closed now, so travel to and from NARL for Borough
30 staff, they've closed Borough offices over there. I
31 think it's the elementary school. Don't know which
32 grades are being affected right now. Some kids are
33 being sent home or something to that effect. That's
34 the update we got in our other meeting, so we don't
35 know to what extent the Borough is going to continue to
36 close some of their offices based on the continuing
37 escalation of the storm, but they're still open while
38 we're here.

39
40 So what's the wish of the Council, do
41 you guys want to take lunch?

42
43 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I think we
44 could have lunch and resume this afternoon with a full
45 quorum to continue on our reports. If we do have a
46 full board, I think we should continue on with our
47 election of officers to be selected at this time.

48
49 Thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
2 it's affirmative we'll take a recess until 1:15. Okay.
3 So we'll be recessed until 1:15.

4
5 MS. PATTON: Wanda, if you can join us
6 back on teleconference at 1:15, we'll have election of
7 officers and then a series of key action items for the
8 Council this afternoon.

9
10 MS. KIPPI: Okay. I shall call back at
11 1:15. Good afternoon, everybody.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you so much,
14 Wanda.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good afternoon,
17 Wanda.

18
19 MS. KIPPI: Alrighty. Bye. Hi,
20 Gordon. Bye.

21
22 (Off record)

23
24 (On record)

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I think we have
27 enough to have a quorum. We were going to reconvene at
28 1:15.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. You can start
31 with checking who is on teleconference.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. Who's online,
34 if you could acknowledge yourself online, please. I
35 know we had Wanda a minute ago, I think.

36
37 MS. KIPPI: I'm still here, Mr. Chair.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

40
41 MS. KIPPI: You're welcome.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other Staff or
44 participants online.

45
46 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good afternoon. This
47 is Marcy Okada with Gates of the Arctic.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All
50

1 right. I'm going to go ahead and entertain to get back
2 into our meeting and get out of recess and call the
3 meeting back to order at 1:25. We are back in the
4 assembly room.

5
6 Be reminded that Barrow is under a
7 winter storm warning and much of the North Slope
8 Borough has closed. Only essential staff and all non-
9 essential staff have been sent home. We did have a
10 concern that -- this meeting is moving forward and
11 we're hoping we didn't risk anybody in the blizzard
12 here to attend the meeting.

13
14 What's the wish of the commission, do
15 we want to go ahead and push on through the agenda to
16 get some of this stuff out of the way or do you guys
17 feel that it's a risk to the community for the
18 potential participants to try to be here? With that, I
19 would like to hear a little bit of suggestion whether
20 we continue on the agenda or -- I know the weather
21 forecast says it's going to die down somewhere this
22 evening. So the weather is expected to stir like this
23 for at least the remainder of the day, I think.

24
25 So if you guys -- if I could hear from
26 you it would be good.

27
28 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: For me, I worry
29 about the public participation and life, health and
30 safety. When our North Slope Borough makes the call of
31 essential staff participation, the ability to maintain
32 road access is a reality. Being able to get across was
33 fine, but definitely there's a lot of drifts that are
34 out there and if they are not able to maintain our
35 ability to get back to the hotel, it's going to be an
36 issue.

37
38 I walk all the time. I go skiing all
39 the time, but I try not to take those kind of risks
40 when we have adverse conditions. So I wouldn't
41 encourage the public to come and participate if we're
42 having a winter storm warning and to risk them is a
43 reality that -- I respect that all of us have the
44 importance of participation and providing comments in
45 this process, but I also recognize the public is very
46 important to participate. If we're meeting the
47 objective to have a meeting and the public can't
48 participate, that's an issue in the discussion.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

2

3

So I take it you're a no.

4

5

MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Correct.

6

7

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We do
8 have one resident that came in. We know Roy can take
9 all kinds of chances. I think it's important, the
10 amount of work that's going on, and the expense of
11 postponing and I don't know what kind of hit it would
12 take to the budget of OSM and that kind of stuff in
13 preparation to have this.

14

15

Frankly, when they declare a snow day,
16 I like to work. It frees up my time to things I want
17 to focus on. I did trek over here from my house, which
18 is way out by the hospital. The roads seem to be
19 passable. So one for, one against.

20

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27

Anybody else want to chime in? If we
want to conduct business, we should, you know, probably
make haste and be speedy about our stuff. Maybe Steve
or Lee or Bob or Esther or Jerry, if you guys want to
chime in. Do you guys want to continue while it's
blizzarding? I know that's an issue.

28

29

MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

30

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Shears.

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MR. SHEARS: One subject that's
extremely relevant to public participation and that's
the old business discussion on the Western Arctic
Caribou Herd recommendation that we rescheduled after
new business. If we could proceed, I'd be fine with
proceeding. It's just that one subject that's
extremely relevant to the public. If we reach that
point on the agenda, if we could defer it until
tomorrow, that would be my recommendation.

41

42

43

Otherwise, I say let's continue.

44

45

46

47

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Two for. We've got
two that say let's continue. A third, thumbs up.
There's another thumb's up. All right. The decision
is made. We're going to go ahead and continue and see
what we can get done and we'll work with the blizzard.

1 Madame Coordinator, if you could
2 reorient us where we are on the agenda and what's the
3 next order of business.

4
5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
6 did defer election of officers until we had Wanda Kippi
7 join us on teleconference and she is on teleconference
8 now this afternoon. So we could start with election of
9 officers. Then we're under number 11, new business,
10 which is addressing some of the action items for the
11 Council.

12
13 There's a call for fisheries proposals,
14 call for nonrural determination proposals, and updates
15 on the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and the
16 Council's involvement in those priority information
17 needs, and then we're reviewing the Council's annual
18 report.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
21 Coordinator. All right. Let's go back to item 6,
22 election of officers. Maybe we'll go by election of
23 the Chair. We had waited for Wanda to be on and Wanda
24 is on. We recognize that we do have another additional
25 new member, but he had to be sent out to Anaktuvuk on
26 urgent business and that was Fredrick Neakok and we
27 also welcome him to the RAC.

28
29 So let's open the floor for nominations
30 for Chair.

31
32 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Shears.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Fellow Council members, I
37 would nominate Gordon Brower continuing in his role as
38 Chair. Requesting unanimous consent.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a nomination
41 on the floor with the request for unanimous consent.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Steve.
46 Discussion.

47
48 MS. HUGO: Question.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
2 called for. I guess it's unanimous. All right.

3
4 Well, I would just like to say I am
5 eager to serve and I've been doing this since 1998 or
6 1997 and I did have a little lapse. I think it was
7 2000 and something. I forgot to put in my renewal or
8 something. I thought it was automatic at that point or
9 I must have had cobwebs.

10
11 MR. SHEARS: I don't think Eva would
12 ever let that happen.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Anyway, I take
15 the role very seriously. I think it's a benefit for
16 our communities on the Slope to be diligent, to look
17 out and work for our communities and working with OSM
18 and all other staff.

19
20 I am honored.

21
22 I think you have a lot of confidence in
23 me to continue as your Chair.

24
25 Thank you very much.

26
27 With that I open the nominations for
28 Vice Chair.

29
30 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. I nominate
31 Lee Kayotuk.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a nomination
34 for Lee.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, that's a
39 nomination. We're under nominations. We could do
40 various things. Was there a request to close the
41 nominations?

42
43 MR. SHEARS: Request to close the
44 nominations.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
47 the floor to close nominations.

48
49 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Second.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any
2 discussion.
3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Question.
5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
7 called.....
8
9 MS. KIPPI: Question.
10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
12 called for. All those in favor of closing nominations
13 for Vice Chair of the Council signify by saying aye.
14
15 IN UNISON: Aye.
16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
18 nay.
19
20 (No opposing votes)
21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. We
23 have nominated Lee as the Vice Chair. Do we need to
24 vote?
25
26 (Laughter)
27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's only one
29 applicant at the closure. All right. Congratulations,
30 Lee.
31
32 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Gordon, for
33 that. A number of years I've been sitting on here and
34 still learning a lesson. Every day is a different
35 thing. When it comes up to these issues for the nine
36 regions, you know, it's a fairly wide state thing to
37 address these issues on subsistence or other issues
38 that come up is very important to each and other
39 villages that surround our areas.
40
41 Thank you.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq), Lee,
44 (in Inupiaq).
45
46 All right. We'll continue on the
47 election of officers. I'll open the floor for
48 nominations for Secretary.
49
50

1 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Nominate Wanda.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a nomination.
4 Wanda has been nominated for Secretary. Any other
5 nominations.

6

7 MR. SHEARS: Request closure of
8 nominations. Wanda by unanimous consent.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
11 the floor to close the nominations.

12

13 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

14

15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Steve.

16

17 Any question.

18

19 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Question called.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
22 called for. Congratulations, Wanda. You are elected.

23

24 MS. KIPPI: Oh, thank you, guys. Thank
25 you very much.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That concludes
28 election of officers.

29

30 We'll move on to new business, I think.
31 Item A, call for Federal fisheries proposals. Madame
32 Coordinator, is there.....

33

34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
35 Yes, we have Joshua Ream, who is an anthropologist with
36 OSM and he will be providing an overview on the call
37 for fisheries proposals and we're here to address any
38 questions. This is an opportunity both for the
39 Council and for the public to submit subsistence
40 fisheries regulatory proposals, C&T.

41

42 Josh will provide an update, but that
43 is just now going to the Federal Register, so there
44 will be a broad public announcement that goes out to
45 all of Alaska on that, but this is the opportunity for
46 the Council to address it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
49 you, Madame Coordinator. Let us know when we've got to

50

1 start using this thing here. Sometimes I forget that
2 we've got to go down this list too.

3

4 With that, Josh, if you could enlighten
5 us, please.

6

7 MR. REAM: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
8 and members of the Council. Again, my name is Joshua
9 Ream, anthropologist with OSM. So today I'll be
10 providing you an update on the three programmatic areas
11 in our fisheries program. You'll be hearing first the
12 fisheries regulatory cycle and then later I'll also
13 talk to you a bit about our Partners for Fisheries
14 Monitoring Program as well as the Fisheries Resource
15 Monitoring Program.

16

17 These will be brief updates, but please
18 feel free to ask questions if you have any and I'll do
19 my best to answer them. I also wanted to check to see
20 if we have any of our OSM fisheries staff on the line.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MR. REAM: It does not appear so, so
25 I'll do my best.

26

27 Starting with the fisheries regulatory
28 cycle updates, the Federal Subsistence Board is now
29 accepting proposals through March 21st of this year to
30 change Federal regulations for the subsistence harvest
31 of fish and shellfish on Federal public lands and
32 waters for the 2019-2021 regulatory cycle. You can
33 find the announcement flyer starting on Page 21 of your
34 Council books and that describes the regulatory cycle
35 process in depth.

36

37 The Board will consider proposals to
38 change Federal fishing seasons, harvest limits, methods
39 of harvest and customary and traditional use
40 determinations. There are a number of ways that you
41 can submit proposals. If you have a fisheries proposal
42 that you would like to submit as a Council or as
43 individuals, we can discuss those now. You can also
44 submit proposals to OSM through your Council
45 Coordinator, Eva, by hand or by mail. We can assist in
46 the crafting of these if you would like. There is also
47 an online process outlined more clearly on the flyer in
48 your books, again on Page 21.

49

50

1 This concludes the fisheries regulatory
2 cycle update.

3
4 I'll take any questions.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
7 Josh.

8
9 Rosemary.

10
11 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: One of the concerns
12 that I'm seeing increased risk factors is natural water
13 distribution and the fisheries migration. We're having
14 many proposals that are recommending changes to our
15 lands and waters with increased gravel placement.

16
17 Our concern about some of these issues
18 have been presented at various meetings over the years.
19 But the rapidity of the amount of gravel placements
20 that's occurring especially around Nuiqsut is greatly
21 concerning as to the changes that are coming as well as
22 the amount of erosion that is occurring on some of
23 these tributaries.

24
25 We've expressed concern around the
26 fisheries as a whole and concerns in changes in the
27 health of the fish with the issues that we've had with
28 our fishers providing concerns around the fish mold.
29 But these issues are important to look at the foresight
30 that their proposals are before us with increased
31 efforts for transportation planning in the region and
32 those concerns need to be assessed prior to the
33 placement of the gravel to make sure that we're
34 maintaining the important subsistence fisheries that we
35 have before.

36
37 That is one area that I'm really
38 concerned about. Around Nuiqsut we've had industry in
39 control of the changes to infrastructure when they're
40 putting in these different placements. It's really
41 difficult for us to address some of these concerns when
42 they decide whether or not it's a certain size culvert
43 or if it's a passage that goes over with the bridge.

44
45 With these kinds of changes we've had
46 to go through and have lots of meetings around these
47 discussions, but the rapidity of the plans for changes
48 that are coming increase the need to certainly assess
49 this process.

50

1 Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

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Do you have any feedback on that, Josh?

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MR. REAM: Yes. Thank you, Rosemary.

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Unfortunately, our Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program doesn't fund habitat or contaminants types of studies, but there are ways that the applicants can partner with other entities to do that type of work. So my recommendation would be that the concern be added to your annual report.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: That strikes a question for me, I guess. To do with habitat. If we're having concerns about the normal harvesting levels and not achieving the normal harvest levels that we're used to from some of the water bodies that are in NPR-A and is it just declared an act of God that you're not going to intervene in the decline of those fish populations based on because it's a habitat issue?

I've expressed concern over several years about Tusikovuk Lake. I don't know exactly where that is. It's a very accessible lake. It's about 18 miles from here. The community has used it extensively for many, many years. At one point it was impacted by the Navy doing dynamite seismic. My dad could recall when he was alive that one year those guys, being fools that they are, were part of the geodesic survey and they did dynamiting in the lake, you know, through the ice to collect seismic data in that one spring come up the area was full of dead fish. It has since recovered, but that was probably in the '50s.

From the fishermen that I know, including myself, struggle with the same harvest levels that we used to see and a drastic decline in harvestable fish. So people have been going elsewhere, going somewhere else, thinking that's a dying lake or

1 something.

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So what do you do about concerns like that when it's related to habitat or some other issue like that?

MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Eva can help me out if I'm incorrect here, but I would just like to remind the Council too that you do have the opportunity to write letters to other entities, whether that be the Environmental Protection Agency or the State Department of Environmental Conservation or even to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to address your concerns on these issues.

Thank you.

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If I may add as well, on BLM NPR-A lands, in their permitting process and in consideration of development, Section 810 of ANILCA requires Federal agencies to consider impacts to subsistence uses. Stacey plays a role in that review. If you know the land ownership of the areas of concern to bring that forward to the Council, the Council can forward these requests, issues of concern, either to BLM, as Josh noted, or the other land management agencies too, if it's Department of Transportation, to ensure that these local observations and concerns in the continuation of subsistence uses are addressed.

So one thing that's really helpful is if you're aware of who that land ownership may be under, then we can help the Council draft a letter to that agency to ensure that those subsistence concerns are addressed. Again, we have staff from BLM here that are here to listen to the Council as well. That is a requirement under ANILCA that impacts to subsistence uses be considered as part of the EIS process and involvement in permitting.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. That's good to know. I thought when you have fish proposals and yet you're just taking on -- talking about harvest levels, quotas, other things like that, not the health and the sustainability of the resource it sounds like. I'm glad Stacey is here because that lake is -- I think three-quarters of it I think is BLM and I think it's just on the outer fringes of UIC

1 corporate lands.

2

3 Yeah, that is a concern. It's good to
4 know the difference. When we had expressed concern
5 about the level of harvesting in that lake, it kind of
6 like took a dive on a lot of -- I know a lot of
7 fishermen that fish that lake have said that the level
8 of harvest levels has drastically declined. We don't
9 know exactly what it is, but I do know for a fact over
10 the course of several years that some hunters couldn't
11 take their nets out. They got frozen in.

12

13 That just goes to some level of concern
14 if it's over the course of time and there's a few of
15 these types of abandoned nets in the ice and when they
16 thaw out and they're continually catching fish without
17 being cleaning up of the lake. I'm just concerned
18 about that.

19

20 Anyway, I could go on too long.

21

22 Any other questions for Josh.

23

24 Rosemary.

25

26 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: There's a lot of
27 concerns around these issues. I know that hearing the
28 proposal with the Ambler changed. North Slope has
29 other transportation plans that are being put for
30 discussion. The level of issues that we're dealing
31 with is in many, many acres of gravel placement and
32 that's a real concern to our fisheries.

33

34 I'm not sure how we should best address
35 this, but I know that if we don't identify some
36 important mechanisms to maintain our fish migration
37 pathways, the reaction that we may face in the future
38 are really important because of the hardships that put
39 on our communities when we're not able to harvest our
40 fish.

41

42 I've listened to some of our elders as
43 they talked about putting the net in the river and
44 being able to pull out 300 fish in a harvest and yet
45 having many of our family members no longer harvesting
46 these numbers are important discussions. When we're
47 putting forward our discussion in the various layers of
48 what's happening to us, we're not effectively able to
49 try to prevent some of these conflicts that are

50

1 arising.

2

3

4 I think that we really need to look at
5 subsistence in the way that we're researching and
6 monitoring our fisheries and discuss some of the
7 mechanisms that are going to be used as ways to try to
8 prevent the impact. When the layers are put to the
9 decision-making process to allow our project to occur,
10 alternatives that could be incorporated are not being
11 incorporated in that prevention factor. It's very
12 concerning that even though we're participating in
13 decades of this process, their fragmentation of our
14 ability to effectively communicate is being obstructed.

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I'm not sure where we can try to get
this foresight and planning research done because
waiting for our subsistence harvest to continue to
decrease, the health of our species to continue to
decrease, we've put forward a lot of discussion around
this. Effectiveness in the process is greatly tolling
on our ability to participate and try to prevent.

Gordon, I give it back to you. This is
very concerning that we're having these issues. We've
participated through a number of decades but we still
don't have the appropriateness of that foresight and
planning to research and monitor and to effectively
discuss processes to try to prevent the subsistence
impact.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

Is there anything you would like to add
to that there, Josh, or response?

MR. REAM: Only that it sounds like
there's maybe two things that you could add to your
annual report. One is specifically the concerns over
the habitat, but possibly two of how the Federal
Subsistence Program can think outside of the box or
find alternatives or review their process in being able
to provide you with opportunities to research and
address those types of issues. So a process-oriented
bullet and then the concern itself.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

1 Any other questions to Josh.

2
3 (No comments)

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Is there additional
6 stuff you had for discussion or was that it?

7
8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
9 might just add as well that -- and we've discussed this
10 before with the Council too, the ongoing concerns about
11 impacts to habitat or impacts from contaminants in
12 terms of communities being able to harvest their fish
13 and harvest at levels that they used to. Also avoiding
14 harvest out of concerns for the consumption of
15 potential contaminants.

16
17 While the FRMP program can't address
18 habitat or contaminants directly, there's sort of two
19 arms of the funding for research for subsistence
20 fisheries. One is stock, status and trends, looking at
21 the population of the fish themselves. The other is
22 traditional knowledge and harvest monitoring. So those
23 projects are also funded and at the recommendation of
24 the Council regions for where those research priorities
25 should be.

26
27 So while an FRMP project can't fund the
28 actual contaminants monitoring or fund exclusively
29 habitat-based work, can monitor these important changes
30 that you're identifying, that communities are not able
31 to harvest fish like they used to or are not harvesting
32 because they're concerned about the health of those
33 fish. That can be addressed through that arm of the
34 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

35
36 Josh will be covering where we are in
37 that funding cycle. This Council has created a working
38 group as well as the whole Council being very involved
39 in identifying what those research priorities should
40 be. So that is an avenue in that regard there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

43
44 Go ahead, Josh.

45
46 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: One more point, Eva.
47 Do we have this information adequately addressed in the
48 draft that we have for subsistence or do we need to add
49 that into our report that we're going to be previewing?

50

1 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair and
2 Council. So in your draft annual report there is one
3 subject line, number 5, the documentation and
4 recognition of the shifts that occur within subsistence
5 resources. That was addressing both shifts in harvest
6 from caribou and sheep, making sure that the full range
7 of subsistence resources are available. When one is
8 not available, another becomes more important. Steve
9 had addressed that earlier.

10
11 It does address fisheries in that as
12 well, making sure the subsistence fisheries resources
13 are protected and are healthy for subsistence
14 communities.

15
16 So it addresses it to some degree
17 there.

18
19 There was a specific point in number 6.
20 Both the Council and we had numerous members of the
21 public and president of ICAS addressing the Umiat waste
22 site and concerns that that cleanup was not proceeding
23 and feeling there was a Federal nexus there since that
24 was a military site and affecting the communities on
25 the Colville River.

26
27 So it is in there a little bit, but I
28 think we can get in to really the specific that the
29 Council is seeing these impacts across the region and
30 concerns for continued development and what avenue
31 there would be to pursue that monitoring and make sure
32 the health of the fisheries is there for the
33 communities. We'll get to that review of the annual
34 report when we've done these other topics here.

35
36 I'll make sure everybody's got a copy
37 again. It was mailed out along with the meeting book,
38 but we'll take a chance to review that and add that
39 detail and language that you'd like to see.

40
41 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: All right. Thank
42 you. Appreciate that. Thank you for your feedback on
43 the discussion and thank you for understanding the
44 complexity of trying to address these concerns. I
45 agree. I know you provided communications, Gordon, on
46 this issue and I've provided a lot of discussion, but
47 these are important times of planning that are
48 important to capture and trying to be as effective in
49 this discussion is important.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Mr. Chair.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Jerry.

6
7 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes, I do have another
8 concern when it comes to contaminants in our region
9 that they always -- you know, from Barrow are some
10 lakes that are contaminated and are still in place.
11 They've been doing some site cleanups west of our
12 village and trying to focus towards Akpiukpa (ph), I
13 believe, and Shainin Lake and those are the types of
14 contaminants that we need to look at also and to have
15 the Corps of Engineers if they can be on hand also and
16 we can get some research and to see what contaminants
17 we need to look at.

18
19 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Jerry, it's
20 important when we do this discussion he brought out we
21 can't look at contaminants, but if we look at the
22 stocks on the subsistence harvest of those fish from
23 that lake you're specifically talking about, that can
24 be done, but we can't look at the contaminants.

25
26 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
27 Just to add. It is important still -- you're seeing
28 these things in your communities to convey what you're
29 seeing and the concerns of the community. As much as
30 we're able to help get that information to the
31 responsible party and people that can address
32 contaminants, we will try to do that.

33
34 So that information and feedback is
35 important. I understand it's impacting subsistence in
36 the communities. The authority doesn't lie within the
37 Federal Subsistence Program, but we can assist getting
38 in touch with the right people and seeing what follow
39 up can be done.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you for the
42 clarification there, Madame Coordinator. Jerry, I
43 think it's okay to express the concern. It's just that
44 it will be another responsible party purview to address
45 it and it seems like some willingness of OSM to convey
46 that information is likely to occur is what is being
47 said.

48
49 MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yeah, because we do

50

1 our subsistence on fishing there on them lakes also.

2

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
5 I'm going to jump in here. For those folks that have
6 joined us on teleconference, somebody is either frying
7 eggs or you're typing in the background. So just a
8 reminder to push *6 and that will mute the background
9 noise that's interfering with our meeting here.

9

10

(Pause)

11

12

MS. PATTON: There you go.

13

14

Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
18 you. If you could continue, Joshua.

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MR. REAM: Yes. Just one thing I'd
like to add to the discussion too. And we'll talk
about where we are in the monitoring program process
here in a little bit. At your fall meeting we went
through the applications for the next round of funding
for the FRMP program. According to the Technical
Review Committee, the technical merit of one of these
fell a little lower and that was 18-104, which was the
broad whitefish health in northern Alaska.

Your Council did mention that you'd
like to see that one moved up, you'd like to see us
work with the applicant to improve the methods that
were proposed. All of those comments were captured and
will be provided to the Federal Subsistence Board in
the next few weeks when they're trying to determine
which projects will be funded.

So I wanted to make sure that you are
aware of that.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just maybe as a
feedback on that one for the health of the broad
whitefish. Be reminded there's broad areas. There's
the Colville River area, there's the Ikpikpuk River
area and then there's those that are in the lake, which
the ones I had expressed concerns based on hunters and
fishermen. I think that one wasn't really about their
health, but about the declining number. They're a very

1 different taste than many that are going back and forth
2 in the river. The one in the lake is almost like a
3 delicacy if you get that one in the lake is what they
4 eat over there.

5
6 Anyway, I just thought I'd point that
7 out. I don't want to add to the confusion on this
8 stuff.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
11 Can you please repeat which lake was that that you're
12 referring to.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This particular lake
15 is called Tusikvoak.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Can you please spell that
18 for me.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ta, T-A.....

21
22 MR. NAGEAK: T-E-S-H-E-R-O-A-K.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I can point to you on
25 the map. It's like a five or ten-mile-long lake and
26 about two miles wide. One of the bigger lakes.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If you could
31 continue.

32
33 Are there any other questions for Josh.

34
35 (No comments)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Is
38 there anything else you need to add?

39
40 MR. REAM: No. Barring any more
41 questions or any proposals that you'd want to submit
42 for this round, I think that is everything for the
43 update.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank you
48 for your presentation there, Josh.

49
50

1 Next order of business is the call for
2 nonrural determination proposals. I don't know who's
3 presenting that because it doesn't have a name next to
4 it.

5
6 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. That would also
7 be me.

8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Well,
10 let's get to it.

11
12 MR. REAM: Thank you. So I'll be
13 providing you with a brief overview of the new call for
14 proposals for nonrural determinations in Federal
15 regulations. The materials begin on Page 24 of your
16 Council books and there are copies on the table in the
17 back of the room, over here at the side actually, for
18 people in the audience.

19
20 This is not an action item.

21
22 I'll start with some history.

23
24 In January of 2017, the Federal
25 Subsistence Board adopted a new policy on nonrural
26 determinations that was developed with input from all
27 10 Regional Advisory Councils. We presented the final
28 policy to you at your winter 2017 meeting about one
29 year ago. It lays out the requirements for submitting
30 a proposal and a three-year timeline.

31
32 Proposals submitted during the upcoming
33 call will be considered by the Federal Subsistence
34 Board in January of 2021. The call for proposals
35 actually just opened this week. The public
36 announcement should be coming out any day.

37
38 I want to draw your attention to the
39 flyer, How to Submit Proposals to Change Nonrural
40 Determinations, which is found on Page 24 of your
41 Council books. The flyer includes a list of items a
42 proposal must contain to be accepted for consideration
43 by the Board and information on where to submit a
44 proposal. A form is not required.

45
46 The anticipated timeline for this
47 process begins on Page 33 of your Council book.
48 Councils will have multiple opportunities to provide
49 recommendations and feedback on proposals affecting
50

1 their region, during the fall meeting cycle in 2018 and
2 then again, once the analysis is complete, during the
3 fall meeting cycle in 2020. The Board would then make
4 their determination in January of 2021.

5
6 The four-year cycle begins concurrent
7 with every other fisheries regulatory cycle. So the
8 next call for proposals on regulatory changes to
9 nonrural determinations will not occur until the spring
10 of 2022.

11
12 Again, this is not an action item for
13 your Council, but an update on where we are in the
14 process.

15
16 Thank you very much for your attention
17 and I'll try to answer any questions you have on this
18 call.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 The actual policy, the new policy also
23 can be found on Page 26 of your Council books.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
26 Josh on nonrural determinations.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So this new way of
32 doing nonrural wipes the slate clean, right? Wipes the
33 slate clean and determines all areas to be nonrural
34 unless somebody submits through this criteria
35 challenging an area that -- no, everything is rural --
36 it's the reverse. Everything is rural and if we want
37 to challenge that with this criteria, that's basically
38 -- it's like starting all over from the beginning. All
39 the arguments we had 10 years ago about Prudhoe Bay and
40 the oil patch.

41
42 Now we're back to square one, is that
43 what it is?

44
45 MR. REAM: Yes, Mr. Chair, except for
46 those communities that were found to be nonrural by the
47 Board back in 1990 and there is a list of those
48 communities on the bottom of Page 27 in your Council
49 books.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it just seems
2 to me that we're going to take up the torch to re-fight
3 the same battles and the same dialogue to what we
4 accomplished 10 or 15 years ago when we had made a case
5 for Prudhoe Bay that it was a rich, rich, mega-wealthy
6 leaseholder playground. With his employees of 10,000
7 people, that these were transient and did not have
8 schools, did not have regular homes and things like
9 that, that it didn't constitute a community and it was
10 an oil province.

11
12 Seems to me those old arguments are
13 going to be back at hand if we wanted to challenge the
14 wiping of the slate clean. Those were, I think,
15 arguments made back then that I could remember being
16 around back then to look at rural and nonrural
17 determination for these areas.

18
19 I don't know if we're going to go back
20 to arguing those things, but it is alarming the amount
21 of activity that goes around that area, primarily those
22 folks that have worked in the oil patch that have
23 become accustomed to using the Haul Road that might be
24 contributing to the drastic decline in the Central
25 Arctic Herd is just part of my concern. We heard the
26 Central Herd from 50,000 animals down to less than
27 20,000 at this time.

28
29 Anyway, I guess it just opened this
30 week, I guess, right, to start those arguments?

31
32 MR. REAM: It did open this week and
33 the program will be accepting those applications
34 through March 21st.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a final little
37 thing. So if we express it here, it's not you that's
38 going to write it down or Madame Coordinator is not
39 going to fill it out for us, we've got to fill it out
40 on our own with these bullets in hand.

41
42 Is that the case?

43
44 MR. REAM: That is my understanding. I
45 do have a number of materials that I could provide to
46 the Council to support you, but I think we can provide
47 some level of administrative support. Just not the
48 technical writing of the application.

49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
2 can help clarify as well. If the Council wishes to
3 submit a proposal, the Council can do so. This
4 proposal process is just a little bit different from
5 our call for fisheries and call for wildlife proposals
6 in terms of the technical and administrative staff
7 support.

8
9 So if the Council did wish to submit a
10 proposal regarding nonrural determination, we would
11 need as much of that discussion on the record and in
12 detail as possible. On Page 24 you'll find under how
13 to submit a proposal on nonrural determinations. So
14 the Board has a little bit more stringent threshold in
15 terms of the proposals they receive for it to be
16 validated.

17
18 It says your proposal must contain the
19 person or entity submitting the proposal; a statement
20 describing the proposed nonrural determination action
21 requested; a detailed description of the community or
22 area under consideration, including any current
23 boundaries, borders, or distinguishing landmarks, so as
24 to identify which Alaska residents would be affected by
25 the change in rural or nonrural status; rationale and
26 supporting evidence for the Federal Subsistence Board
27 to consider in determining the rural or nonrural status
28 of a community or area; a detailed statement of the
29 facts that illustrate that the community or area is
30 rural or nonrural using the rationale and supporting
31 evidence stated above; and any additional information.

32
33 One of the things this Council had
34 recommended and other Councils as well to the Federal
35 Subsistence Board when this new policy was being
36 developed and then adopted by the Board, was the
37 Council was interested in helping to inform the Board
38 what you feel are criteria that come into play for
39 rural communities in the region. So the criteria that
40 used to be in place were lifted. There's much more
41 flexibility. Either for the Council or the public in
42 making that recommendation, as much detail as you can
43 provide in that reasoning and justification.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
46 Thank you.

47
48 Lastly, I would just like to also, for
49 the rural/nonrural determination, does it cross
50

1 boundaries between State and Federal lands? The oil
2 province over there is all State, but the resources
3 they don't discriminate against the boundary. They go
4 back and forth.

5
6 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. What we're
7 really focusing on in the process are the residents of
8 that area that's determined to be rural or nonrural.
9 Currently, according to the census, there's not
10 permanent residents in the Deadhorse/Prudhoe Bay
11 enclave. So in the past when this was submitted by the
12 Council I think in 2006, the Federal Subsistence Board
13 -- and I have the transcripts, but they had a
14 discussion about whether or not it was appropriate to
15 declare a place nonrural that really doesn't have any
16 residents and they ended up going along with the
17 Council's recommendations to go ahead and do that, but
18 there was one family in 2000, according to the census,
19 five members of a household, and that household is no
20 longer there.

21
22 So the current population is zero.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank you
25 very much. Is there any other dialogue on
26 rural/nonrural determination. We have a resident, Mr.
27 Roy Nageak. I don't know if he's being a resident or
28 BLM staffer or just subsistence guy.

29
30 MR. NAGEAK: Just a traditional
31 knowledge guy. The discussion you're having right now
32 brings to mind an old story -- not an old story, but my
33 wife's grandpa, who was a longtime subsistence, even
34 before Prudhoe Bay was starting or whatnot, and then a
35 transition. He saw the transition of the discussion of
36 what is happening now of how people from Outside come
37 in.

38
39 I'm going to try to get that story from
40 KBRW because it really reflected on traditional
41 knowledge and the transition of people that come in and
42 start talking about rules and regulations and the
43 threshold of the fish and the animals prior to Prudhoe
44 Bay. He had that knowledge. Also people that come in
45 without really knowing what the threshold of the land
46 of the species and the animals that were there and
47 across the North Slope. The map really reflects on it
48 at the North Slope Borough Museum or Heritage Center.

49
50

1 Across the map our names, Inupiaq
2 names, of every little creek that transforms all
3 through the North Slope. The reason there's a name for
4 it is because there were people that utilized every
5 little creek or every little mouth that's got a name on
6 it. There's a reason they put a name there. You look
7 at that whole map. It reflects on where the people
8 have migrated back and forth to hunt across the North
9 Slope.

10

11 The point that she was making -- and I
12 still need to get that because it really reflects on
13 what is happening now with people that want to know the
14 threshold, that want to know what limits of species
15 could survive with. The point that she was kind of
16 making is that there's enough for everybody, but I
17 don't think there's enough rules and regulations that
18 the people that were there first to comply with.

19

20 There's too many rules and regulations
21 across the board that they came with that you don't
22 know what kind of law you're breaking just trying to
23 live off the land and the sea. When people try to come
24 with these thresholds, what's the limit of hunting or
25 using a species and the term that he used, he said, in
26 a way there's enough for somebody, but they're not
27 limiting it to one region. Gordon brings out a good
28 point of the Haul Road. When too many people use that,
29 then the species around it will disappear.

30

31 One other thing he noted, and I'll try
32 to pass this on, in one of our big meetings, he said if
33 people argue too much about a species, it will
34 disappear by itself because it's not out right to own,
35 it's not our right to control, it's not our right to
36 talk about a species and make it like it's our own and
37 regulate it. It's not ours to own and to regulate.
38 It's ours just to feed off and not argue about it.

39

40 When we're talking with issues like
41 these and go back and forth -- Gordon, you said that
42 going back to how we first started when they came in
43 and started putting rules and regulations on some of
44 the species that we survive with. It will never work
45 because we'll always have that argument. When you have
46 arguments, that's when the species start disappearing.

47

48 So in some sense when people ask people
49 on the North Slope what do you think will be enough,
50

1 what do you think is a number, what is the number that
2 you can survive with. It's not a number. It's what
3 you look at when it comes in front of you. The creeks,
4 all the creeks that you know that have Inupiaq names.
5 Those are the ones that we know.

6
7 So somehow the message needs to be sent
8 to people. It's not a matter of threshold. It's just
9 a matter if there's enough. Not to control or rules
10 and regulations for a hungry person to go out and just
11 to live off the land. It's so simple. It's our
12 freedom to go and catch what we need and we limit
13 ourselves.

14
15 It's not somebody else to come and
16 control or put rules and regulations to comply with
17 because when you're looking at the species we don't
18 control it, nature does. Nature controls what species
19 will be available for our food and not somebody to come
20 down on us and set rules and regulations of how much we
21 can. It's always nature that controls what is
22 available and usually there's enough.

23
24 That's why when you have something
25 permanent like the Haul Road and people come from
26 nonrural areas or rural areas or what the definition
27 is, then it gets impacted by overhunting basically.
28 How do you control that. Do you control the people
29 that are living there that knows where all the animals
30 are and where they feed out of or how they tend to move
31 away from certain places so that species will
32 repopulate at that certain year and then go to
33 different places.

34
35 That's why locally here when I'm
36 hunting I change my routes every two to three summers
37 and go to a different area and not bother the animals
38 or fishing one section and just keep moving around.

39
40 That's all I need to say is that
41 there's so many people on the Haul Road trying to hunt
42 and it's just going to disseminate what's here. It's
43 not a matter of the people that's here that's got to
44 move around and hunt and then you're trying to regulate
45 them. It's the people that come Outside that want to be
46 like us in a sense because they have learned how to eat
47 the caribou and the fish and everything else that we
48 hunt.

49
50

1 One of the things that I heard from a
2 young man I teach how to hunt, he says why don't they
3 open up more of the speckle belly and the white geese
4 down south because there's starting to be too many
5 around here. When you see geese going between the
6 houses and eat, somehow that's getting to be too much
7 and we see all the white geese in the tundra where
8 we've never seen them before here, right behind our
9 yard.

10
11 It's like those are the ones that they
12 need to hunt down south someplace. They come here to
13 repopulate and there's so many and then they try to
14 come in and put rules and regulations on them. Because
15 we're 8:00 to 5:00 people now and not much hunting
16 going on, the species are getting too populated in
17 essence.

18
19 That brought me back to what my wise
20 grandfather was saying. He said there's enough for
21 anybody, but got to look at to move around. There's
22 enough for everybody, but to try to locate anyone like
23 the Haul Road it's going to be decimated and that's
24 what's happening.

25
26 It was just common knowledge,
27 traditional hunter that spoke trying to set thresholds
28 from our point of view from people that just go in, go
29 out, to see how much is out there. We've always had
30 that problem. Go in, go out, count. Go in, go out,
31 count. Go in, go out, count. Rather than look at the
32 people that have stayed there all year and see what's
33 happening. That's a relationship that needs to be
34 built on, this traditional knowledge and the people
35 that tend to put rules and regulations and thresholds
36 and limits.

37
38 That's it.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanaq, Roy.

41
42 Any other questions for Josh on
43 rural/nonrural determinations.

44
45 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Bob.

48
49 MR. SHEARS: Hi, Josh. I was looking
50

1 at the policy on nonrural determinations adopted
2 January 2017. I'm on Page 27. The first paragraph near
3 the top of the page, last sentence where it says, "All
4 other communities or areas would, therefore, be
5 considered 'rural' in relation to the Federal
6 subsistence priority in Alaska." So we've got two
7 subjects, communities or areas.

8
9 Then you go to the bottom, last
10 paragraph of the policy at the bottom of Page 27 and it
11 says that, "As of November 4, 2015, the Board
12 determined in accordance with 36 CFR 242.15 and 50 CFR
13 100.15 that the following communities or
14 Census-Designated Places (CDPs)."

15
16 So am I correctly interpreting the
17 policy that an area equates to equal as a Census-
18 Designated Place, a CDP, is an area a CDP as defined by
19 the policy?

20
21 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Shears. So
22 in some cases in the past they've used boundaries,
23 municipal boundaries or they've used borough
24 boundaries. When the application is submitted, the
25 applicant would need to specify exactly what boundaries
26 they're talking about. In the past, Prudhoe Bay -- I
27 have a map of it if you'd like to see where it was
28 included in the 2006-2007 decision to become nonrural.

29
30 MR. SHEARS: No, I just want to know
31 what the definition of an area is.

32
33 MR. REAM: My understanding is that the
34 Board has defined the areas and it includes the cities
35 and the CDPs, the Census-Designated Places.

36
37 MR. SHEARS: Okay. So that's pretty
38 clear what an area is. So the greater Prudhoe Bay unit,
39 the Deadhorse operating area, is a Census-Designated
40 Place. In fact, the North Slope Borough accounts for
41 the census population there as part of the population
42 of the North Slope Borough, approximately 10,725 latest
43 count. That's looking at positions of personnel that
44 are there for six months or longer.

45
46 Many of them are rotation positions,
47 two on/two off, three on/three off, so two people equal
48 one full-time position. So of the 5,400 positions
49 working at Prudhoe Bay area that are populated by the
50

1 10,750 people that reside there, that's a Census-
2 Designated Place and it's not on this list, so we've
3 got a problem.

4
5 MR. REAM: Mr. Shears. I just want to
6 point out that because we reverted to the original list
7 and Prudhoe Bay was determined to be nonrural during
8 the decennial review afterwards, it is now considered
9 rural. However, I don't believe that those temporary
10 residents are considered Federally qualified users
11 because they're not full-time residents. So we right
12 now don't consider any of them to be Federally
13 qualified users.

14
15 I think there was concern by the
16 Council in the past that somebody or multiple people
17 would in the future become residents of the area and
18 then be Federally qualified. I think that most people
19 that are using the Haul Road to hunt from areas like
20 Fairbanks are probably not Federally qualified users.
21 It depends on the resource and who has a customary and
22 traditional use determination for it.

23
24 People from outside of the North Slope,
25 for instance maybe Wiseman has a C&T for caribou in
26 Unit 26B. If the Slope workers were residents of a
27 community like that that had C&T, then they'd be a
28 Federally qualified user, but currently there are none
29 living in the area that we previously defined as
30 nonrural.

31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

33
34 If I can just clarify really quickly.
35 To be considered.....

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hold on for a second.
38 We've had a hand being raised like three or four times
39 and you're jumping in line.

40
41 MS. PATTON: Sorry. You bet.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just want to be
44 fair there, Eva.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. I just want
47 to clarify what a resident is under Federal subsistence
48 regulations.

49
50

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: Mr. Chair. My name is
2 Pat Petrivelli and I'm the BIA subsistence
3 anthropologist. I got to help work on this analysis
4 that was done in 2006. Helen Armstrong was one of the
5 authors too. I'm sure she did the Prudhoe Bay one.
6 But I know she was addressing a concern by your Council
7 to have -- and I know, just like Joshua said, the idea
8 that there was only one family, but I know the Council
9 was still concerned, which was why they wanted Prudhoe
10 Bay to be nonrural.

11
12 I think one way of addressing this
13 regardless of who's considered a permanent resident or
14 not a permanent because technically under the
15 regulations Federally qualified users must be permanent
16 residents. You know, are those people permanent
17 residents of the area. We don't really need to argue
18 that here or now in case someone moves there and makes
19 it their permanent residence.

20
21 Under the new policy you could submit a
22 proposal that would address your concerns. I was
23 thinking rather than just being worried about filling
24 all these criteria out you could just say that there
25 was the analysis prepared in 2006 that contained all
26 the criteria that was used by the Board previously to
27 make that a nonrural area. Those criteria could be
28 valid still today and you could just use those same
29 boundaries and then that would be the proposal and then
30 using the same as 2006.

31
32 This is going to come back to you in
33 the fall. By then you could look at it and compare if
34 those boundaries are still appropriate. If there's
35 different criteria, then you could suggest to the Board
36 to update all of that information because it's just a
37 proposal and you could just say we would like the Board
38 to consider making this Prudhoe Bay area nonrural
39 because you feel that it's truly not a rural area and
40 any characteristics that are rural for the North Slope
41 Region. Then use the same criteria that was in that
42 analysis and you'll have a chance this fall to review
43 those criterias and make refinements if the boundaries
44 need to be adjusted because the boundaries could have
45 changed in 10 years or it's 12 years now.

46
47 MR. SHEARS: I hear what you're saying,
48 Pat, but that's really not an acceptable answer to me
49 because that area there in Prudhoe Bay is a subsistence
50

1 area for the rural area of Nuiqsut and I believe those
2 people should be allowed to harvest and participate in
3 that area, just not the people who are residing there.
4

5 MS. PETRIVELLI: And the area itself
6 will still be -- it's part of the -- it's not Federal
7 public lands. It's just the people who live in Prudhoe
8 Bay would be considered nonrural. So is Nuiqsut part
9 of the Prudhoe Bay area?
10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to refer
12 that to Nuiqsut. I think their customary ties and uses
13 to all of that area.
14

15 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well, actually,
16 technically, I know what the Prudhoe area was defined
17 in 2006 and Nuiqsut was not included in the Prudhoe Bay
18 area. You know, it was just Prudhoe Bay. What a
19 nonrural determination means is the people living in
20 the nonrural area are nonrural.
21

22 The way it works on the Kenai Peninsula
23 for the whole Kenai Peninsula, there's a Kenai area, a
24 Kenai/Soldotna area, Homer area and a Seward area.
25 Those people are considered nonrural and there's other
26 rural areas such as Hope, Cooper Landing, Ninilchik,
27 Port Graham. You know, about 12 communities that are
28 considered rural. They can go fishing on the Kenai
29 River on Federal public lands, but the residents of the
30 Kenai area cannot.
31

32 MR. SHEARS: Okay.
33

34 MS. PETRIVELLI: So even if you declare
35 Prudhoe Bay a nonrural area doesn't mean it's a non-
36 subsistence area. The State works that way. The State
37 declares non-subsistence areas. The Board is not making
38 a non-subsistence determination. It's just saying the
39 residents of this enclave are nonrural but the area can
40 still be subsistence.
41

42 So you're not affecting -- as long as
43 you're comfortable -- the previous determination was
44 for Prudhoe Bay and I meant to try to bring the report
45 and I forgot to get it in my files, but I did manage to
46 download the report on my iPad. I think I have it
47 downloaded. At least I have a picture of the front
48 page.
49
50

1 But I'm sure Nuiqsut wasn't included in
2 the Prudhoe Bay area. So that was determined to be
3 nonrural on the basis of it being an industrial
4 enclave.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Pat. I
7 think that was very enlightening. It's good for my
8 heart to hear it that way.

9
10 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, me too.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We see a map here and
13 Nuiqsut wasn't included. It looks like it stopped
14 around Milne Point or something like that. Very good
15 insight.

16
17 All right, Madame Coordinator, you can
18 jump in now.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
21 Thanks to Pat for bringing that up. There's a long
22 history here and Pat was a part of some of these
23 original analyses, so I really appreciate that.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Refreshed my brain.

26
27 MS. PATTON: Yeah. And many of you
28 were part of that process as well, so thank you. I
29 just wanted to clarify that in terms of being a Federal
30 subsistence qualified user rural residency is a
31 permanent resident, so at a minimum someone has to live
32 in that area and consider it their permanent residence.
33 They have to be there for 12 full months. One full
34 year. So the transient workers don't qualify. There
35 may be permanent residents that move to the area, but
36 the transient workers do not qualify as permanent
37 residents.

38
39 MR. SHEARS: Where is that stated?

40
41 MS. PATTON: I believe actually --
42 basic information in terms of Federal subsistence
43 qualifications and residency. It should be in the
44 handy dandies. I'm trying to remember, if you recall,
45 if it was stated in the policy in terms of
46 re-explaining.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Pat here
49 has some serious knowledge in her books.

50

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: Technically, a
2 resident -- I'm sure like people at the Glennallen
3 Field Office have to deal with it and then you have to
4 be a permanent resident, so they ask for proof of
5 permanent residency. The 12 months is for a hunting
6 license. To get a resident's hunting license you have
7 to be a resident for 12 months.

8
9 Now if you're not required to get a
10 hunting license, do you have to prove that you've lived
11 there for 12 months? But you have to have some
12 evidence of proof that you have permanent residence in
13 the area. So whoever is issuing a Federal subsistence
14 permit or a hunting license or a fishing license, it's
15 just whatever the State would use. Technically, I
16 think you could do 30 days. For a resident hunting
17 license you have to live there a year.

18
19 But do you have to get a hunting
20 license to hunt? I mean you're supposed to. But could
21 you go fishing? But there are regulations that -- and
22 our regulations say to be a resident of the region and
23 then to get the hunting license, to get a resident
24 hunting license, it's 12 months. Our regulations just
25 say you're a permanent resident and it's up to whoever
26 is issuing that permit to have whatever information is
27 available to determine what their residency is.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Often permanent residency
30 also entails that you have your mailing addresses
31 there, you're registered to vote. There's additional
32 background information that helps support someone is
33 actually a resident of that area.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva and
36 Pat. I think there's conflicting regulations that we
37 know of. We've heard 30 days to be a resident. We're
38 hearing one year to get a hunting license. We've got a
39 brand-new person over there. I forgot her name now.

40
41 MS. DAGGETT: Carmen.

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, Carmen, yes.
44 ADF&G.

45
46 MS. DAGGETT: I've got a handbook here
47 and it's got the definition of resident on Page 141.

48
49 MS. PATTON: Thank you for providing
50

1 that page number. Also on Page 6. So it's in all the
2 Federal subsistence regulations handy dandy books, the
3 basic background.

4
5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
6 for Josh on rural and nonrural determination despite
7 all the conflicting regulations on residency.

8
9 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This is
10 a very important issue especially to Nuiqsut and where
11 the changes may lead to us. A big part of this
12 discussion was reality that rural areas were limited by
13 year-round road access. That is something that our
14 village may be facing by changes here with increased
15 activity around our community and further development
16 into the National Petroleum Resource.

17
18 So as we go forward this process is
19 really important to protect Nuiqsut and our access to
20 traditional subsistence harvesting activities but also
21 to recognize the conflicts that we're facing with
22 others that want to come in and be considered due to
23 their length of employment in the industrial field.

24
25 We do know that we have a post office
26 there in Prudhoe Bay and there are a number of people
27 who have post office boxes and that is very concerning
28 as we're looking at these various layers of
29 interpretation as to who is considered rural residents.
30 Whatever we can do to make sure that we are most
31 protective of our traditional communities is very
32 important in recognizing that we have many different
33 changes that are changing whether or not post offices
34 occur around this region.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
37 You always bring up some interesting points there.

38
39 I'll recognize Roy, Nageak.

40
41 MR. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak. I was born in
42 Oliktok July 22, 1951, then went to go live in -- some
43 of my other siblings were born along the coast all the
44 way to Point Thompson or that area east of Prudhoe Bay.
45 There's so many people that have lived in that area and
46 used those as traditional subsistence areas, but they
47 lost a lot of those and can't utilize them because the
48 industry and leaseholders are utilizing them.

49
50

1 I tried to get a passport a few years
2 back, but since I was born in a place that didn't have
3 a P.O. box number and in an area that was just out in
4 the middle of nowhere at that time -- when our family
5 moved back to Barrow and Alaska became a state, then
6 they backdated the dates on my birthday July 22, 1951,
7 but they used as the date as a recognized local
8 resident in 1959, and for that reason somehow I was
9 accepted or got a passport.

10

11 MR. SHEARS: You were an alien.

12

13 MR. NAGEAK: That's what I said. The
14 confusion in all these rural or nonrural and the
15 utilization of the lands for subsistence -- and, like I
16 stated, all that area where Prudhoe Bay was was
17 utilized for subsistence areas by our people and
18 there's people that were buried. There's graves in
19 there that our elders used to cry over, that the oil
20 industry put gravel over most of their graves.

21

22 Then we see leases being sold out
23 towards NPR-A and the relationship between the lease
24 and the person that has subsistence living in that
25 area, the rural subsistence user and then the nonrural
26 people come in and lease it. The relationship is going
27 to change. Who's got that priority? The leaseholder
28 or the rural area subsistence user?

29

30 That, to me, when they try to start
31 finding who we are, rural or nonrural or subsistence
32 user or the definition of us, there's so many
33 definitions of us now and you've got to try to look at
34 dates and stuff who I am. Federal, State, to finding
35 us what category we fit in to be able to utilize the
36 land that we have utilized forever.

37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Roy.....

39

40 MR. NAGEAK: That becomes a big
41 predicament for us because Trump, in his wisdom and
42 understanding, just declared the whole NPR-A lease area
43 is being leased. What do they define us in those lease
44 areas?

45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Roy, from my
47 understanding, Nuiqsut is rural, Barrow is rural,
48 Kaktovik is rural. If Prudhoe Bay -- what we did back
49 in them days, we argued to turn Prudhoe Bay into

50

1 nonrural because of its oil province, did not affect
2 your right as a rural resident to subsist in Prudhoe
3 Bay. It only affected those people that are working
4 there saying you're a nonrural resident. That's what
5 it did. But it didn't affect people from Nuiqsut,
6 Barrow and their ability to subsist as a rural resident
7 in these areas. (In Inupiaq) from those categories.
8 It was limited to those that had permanent residence on
9 the North Slope as a rural resident.

10

11 (In Inupiaq)

12

13 MR. NAGEAK: The reason why I came here
14 I just needed water.

15

16 (Laughter)

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Roy.

19

20 MR. NAGEAK: But it's always
21 interesting because I've got a good friend in the back
22 of me that went right in front of Prudhoe Bay and
23 toward the land with their canoes and the next thing
24 they knew there was helicopters right on top of them
25 and saying you're trespassing. It's that typical. I
26 mean if areas are going to be start leasing with the
27 same as Prudhoe Bay and NPR-A, then all of us will be
28 trespassers unless it's well defined. I think this is
29 where the question of definition and well defined of
30 who we will be in the leased areas should start.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any further questions
35 on rural/nonrural determinations for Josh.

36

37 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Roy, I really
38 appreciate those discussions. It is very important to
39 incorporate all the years of discussions as we go
40 through these various changes. That was one of the
41 reasons why I considered whether my placement for the
42 effectiveness in the way that I comment was more
43 important to be a part of the Federal subsistence
44 versus being a part of the BLM process.

45

46 Once these changes occur it does affect
47 where do we give the comments the most effective layer
48 of engagement in this discussion. These are very, very
49 important issues and being engaged at all layers of the

50

1 process to affect these decisions is very important.

2

3 As we've gone through there are various
4 layers of assumptions that we make hoping to retain our
5 traditional way of life, but when the regulatory
6 enforcement process fails to engage us in this process
7 and we become impacted with our subsistence and
8 cultural uses, it's very difficult to come back from
9 these losses. Nuiqsut has been engaged tremendously
10 trying to prevent these issues.

11

12 But, you're right, it's the broad
13 sweeping regulatory changes that are very impactful
14 into our ability to understand the longevity of what
15 we're saying in the process versus what now becomes the
16 rules and regulations that we're dealing with. Each
17 one of these processes -- you know, we worked really
18 hard to be real prescriptive in discussing what was
19 important for regulatory enforcement in changes around
20 Nuiqsut in these various layers.

21

22 But when the Federal and State
23 government come with broad reaching word changes like
24 industry must do this, now industry may do that, we've
25 suffered tremendously because of those changes. We're
26 not able to regulate or enforce being our traditional
27 and cultural uses in our lands. These are very
28 difficult discussions that are going forward because
29 when they make these broad sweeping rule changes, it
30 changes the interpretation through so many layers of
31 the decision-making process.

32

33 All of your discussions have been very
34 important. The historical discussions have been very
35 important. The review of the discussion on what this
36 mean has been very important, but the reality is these
37 changes are going to affect traditional and cultural
38 uses into the future with the subsistence lifestyle
39 that we live. We have been on the losing end of these
40 regulatory enforcements. We don't have the leverage we
41 thought we had. In '97 we really put some real
42 prescriptive measures. Boom, come 2005, it completely
43 changed.

44

45 So I really appreciate that you're
46 bringing this discussion because every time we go
47 through these regulatory changes our subsistence way of
48 life is impacted and it's not right that you come in
49 and do a sweeping change like this. We've had decades
50

1 and decades of engagement. But it's through our
2 inability to stay effectively engaged where layers of
3 discussions change the interpretation of these rules
4 and were presented in a public hearing where the
5 document has already presented but that's not what we
6 put into the process, we lose out tremendously.

7
8 We're trying so hard to try to prevent
9 these changes. So I really, really appreciate that you
10 came up and shared that traditional knowledge of the
11 story of your wife's grandfather. It's been discussed
12 tremendously through this process and I'm very
13 concerned about what this interpretation is going to be
14 meaning because others are going to be engaged in ways
15 that affect the way that this interpretation occurs.

16
17 I know we are constantly on the losing
18 end of these discussions and it's not right. I put my
19 foot down firmly that these are very big impacts that
20 are really affecting the longevity of our participation
21 in an effective means.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

26
27 Any further questions to Josh on
28 rural/nonrural determinations.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none.

34
35 Are you done with rural/nonrural
36 determinations?

37
38 MR. REAM: Yes, sir.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
41 going to move on to the next agenda item 11(c),
42 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program updates and
43 discussion, supplemental. It appears to be Josh. They
44 should give you a raise, you know. You've got so many
45 things on your agenda.

46
47 MR. REAM: I think so too. Thank you.

48
49 I'll just start off with the Partners

50

1 for Fisheries Monitoring Program update. There is a
2 flyer that I believe Eva has at the end of the table
3 that she can pass down to you.

4
5 The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
6 notice of funding opportunity will be opening in
7 August. This fall the Office of Subsistence Management
8 will seek proposals for the Partners Program to
9 strengthen Alaska Native and rural involvement in
10 Federal subsistence management.

11
12 The Partners Program is a competitive
13 grant that is directed at providing funding for
14 biologist, social scientists, educator positions and
15 Alaska Native and rural nonprofit organizations with
16 the intent of increasing the organization's ability to
17 participate in Federal subsistence management.

18
19 In addition, the program supports a
20 variety of opportunities for local rural residents and
21 students to connect with subsistence resource
22 monitoring and management through science camps and
23 through paid internships. The notice of funding
24 opportunity will be announced via news release and
25 posted to the Office of Subsistence Management website.
26 That's doi.gov/subsistence/osm.

27
28 If anyone wants more information or has
29 questions, I can definitely follow up with you and
30 provide that after the meeting, but if you have local
31 organizations that are interested in perhaps becoming a
32 partner in the future, we would like you to take the
33 information back to your communities and provide that
34 to those entities to potentially apply to this program.

35
36 If you have any questions, I can
37 attempt to answer them.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
42 Josh on Partners for Fisheries Monitoring notice of
43 funding opportunity.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I have a question.
48 How about working with local tribal college and
49 bringing the level of interest of local people that are
50

1 wanting to be in a field of this kind of study to
2 actually do some of the studies here on the North
3 Slope. I think the college would welcome an
4 opportunity to knock on their door to develop this type
5 of expertise locally on the Slope with young people.
6

7 MR. REAM: I do believe that a local
8 organization would be eligible to become a partner or
9 to apply to the program, but I also want to point out
10 that we work extensively with the Alaska Native Science
11 and Engineering Program and we have a lot of students
12 from around the state that we support to be engaged in
13 that program and to participate in many of our
14 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program projects.
15

16 We actually do have them in the field
17 and they are being paid and learning and getting an
18 education, often getting college credits during high
19 school. We're very proud to work closely with that
20 program. I believe at your fall meeting you were able
21 to hear from a couple of those students that presented
22 on their work.
23

24 Thank you.

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks, Josh.

27
28 Is there something you wanted to add,
29
30 Eva?
31

32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. I just wanted
34 to add that the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring
35 Program is a grant-funded program and can be housed
36 within a tribal agency, a Native nonprofit, an
37 educational nonprofit and through a university. So the
38 tribal college would be eligible if they were
39 interested to partner in getting a Partners for
40 Fisheries Monitoring Program. The North Slope Borough
41 can also partner.
42

43 Both myself and Josh and Karen Hyer,
44 who is your staff fisheries biologist for the North
45 Slope Region, are available to help with that kind of
46 networking to get a collaborative grant together. We
47 had worked previously with the school district. There
48 was an interest in trying to join the school district
49 with the Partners Program.
50

1 So keep in communications with us.
2 You're connected to these entities in the region, so
3 let us know if we can help get information to folks and
4 see what options are for building those partnerships.
5 But the tribal college is an excellent place to start.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. One
8 follow-up question was earlier we talked about the
9 other fisheries stuff and this was the other area to
10 talk about a problem like Tusikvoak Lake. For Partners
11 for Fisheries Monitoring notice of funding opportunity,
12 give me an example of how this, in coordination with
13 local -- maybe the Wildlife Department or maybe through
14 the college -- could look at the concerns that are made
15 by local fishermen in the Tusikvoak Lake area.

16
17 You mentioned that this Fisheries
18 Resource Monitoring Program was the area to potentially
19 take a look at problems with the lake.

20
21 MR. REAM: I just want to check quickly
22 to see if any of our OSM fisheries staff are on the
23 line.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
26 do know fisheries biologist Karen Hyer had hoped to be
27 on for as much of the Council meeting as possible. She
28 actually had conflicting meetings addressing student
29 grants for working on fisheries projects, so she was
30 concerned she might get pulled for that. So if she's
31 not on right now, she will be available for any
32 questions the Council has and we'll work on that with
33 you.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
36 you. I guess Karen is not here. I thought maybe it
37 was something that you were leading to that this was
38 the area that more discussion on the issues around
39 subsistence harvest levels and issues related to
40 Tusikvoak could be more expressed.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
43 Maybe I can just clarify. So there's the Fisheries
44 Resource Monitoring Program, which is the grant program
45 to address subsistence fisheries research priorities.
46 Again, both traditional knowledge and harvest
47 monitoring and stock/status/trends.

48
49 This is a separate program, but
50

1 related. This is actually grant funding for a staff
2 biologist or a staff anthropologist or a staff educator
3 to be based within the region partnering with the local
4 tribal entities, Native nonprofits, communities. So
5 it's actually funding for a staff person with a program
6 to address community-based subsistence fisheries.

7
8 So it's a separate grant and really
9 looking to build those partnerships, build that
10 capacity for the local communities to be involved in
11 these research projects and to direct the priorities in
12 the region. So they're two separate grants. They're
13 interrelated because often those Partners Program end
14 up securing FRMP grant funds to do the research that's
15 identified by the communities and have it be a
16 community-based project.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

19
20 Any additional questions to Josh on the
21 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program update and
22 discussion.

23
24 MR. OOMITTUK: I've got a question.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve. Point Hope.

27
28 MR. OOMITTUK: I know I missed some
29 stuff here. Point Hope, we depend on fish quite a bit
30 also, especially the char or Dolly Varden that migrate
31 going north and then coming back south in late August
32 when it starts getting dark. We've seen an abundance
33 of Dolly Varden or char the last few years and also
34 salmon, king salmon, silver salmon. We used to get a
35 lot of humpies. We don't get those much anymore.

36
37 When everybody had dog teams in the
38 days we used to get a lot of fish and the humpies were
39 mainly used for the dog supplies and we depend on the
40 Dolly Varden or the char because that's a delicacy. We
41 see an increase in traffic in our ocean and we're
42 concerned with our fish also in the fall time
43 especially with all the open water. The ice don't form
44 until -- the ships are staying later and later.

45
46 Are you guys going to be monitoring
47 stuff like that or is there any kind of regulations we
48 can put on these ships of dumping sewage in the ocean
49 and stuff like that that they have in their boats? You
50

1 guys will be monitoring migration of the fish and also
2 checking for pollution of any sort from all the traffic
3 that we've been seeing?

4
5 Especially now that we're seeing more
6 and more -- I think they were going to have like three
7 cruise ships come through through the Northwest
8 Passage. Some going south to north and north to south
9 from the east coast to the west coast. Especially
10 tourism, the cruise ships with about eight, nine
11 hundred people on board. They do stop up in Point
12 Hope. I've been on their boats a few times.

13
14 Is anybody monitoring what they're
15 putting into the waters at all? Is that something you
16 guys will be monitoring, any kind of raw sewage or
17 disposals or pollution?

18
19 Because our ocean is so delicate, you
20 know, and we're concerned with all the traffic. Not
21 just the cruise ships but industry that goes through
22 there. That's also going to be a shortcut in the
23 future and we just want to ensure the safety of all our
24 animals. You know, the fish, the seal, walrus, whale
25 and their migration routes and feeding grounds so they
26 can continue.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

29
30 Josh.

31
32 MR. REAM: Thank you very much, Steve.
33 So, once again, our Fisheries Resource Monitoring
34 Program funds do not go to contaminants or habitat-type
35 studies, but we can study the stocks, including their
36 behavior, their migration patterns, their life history.

37
38 I don't want to misspeak and I can get
39 back to the Council later, but in terms of our Partners
40 Program, I don't believe that the individual that we
41 would support within a partner agency would be
42 precluded from looking at some of those types of things
43 if that partner was interested in that. They just
44 would not be able to get the funding from our Fisheries
45 Resource Monitoring Program.

46
47 Again, there are two things that I
48 think your Council can do, is either write letters
49 specifically to other Federal or State agencies that do
50

1 deal with those types of things. The other thing is to
2 make sure that those points are included in your annual
3 report.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Josh. Was
8 that sufficient there, Steve?

9
10 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

11
12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think some of those
13 other agencies like Coast Guard and the Oil Pollution
14 Act, OPA 90 and those kind of things that limit
15 discharge, bilge water, invasive species, those kind of
16 things that require them to be filtering in some cases.
17 You know, they get fined for dumping. I've seen that
18 in the news more than once with those kind of events.

19
20 With that, do you have something to add
21 there, Roy?

22
23 MR. NAGEAK: Yes. I don't know how the
24 advisory groups or people that work for the Federal
25 government in Alaska receive information, but I just
26 had gotten back a couple weeks ago from a training
27 where a lot of regional people from around North
28 Dakota, Denver, BLM or Department of the Interior, but
29 recently they opened up for Alaska for tribes to start
30 taking control of what is considered subsistence game
31 or the subsistence food.

32
33 It's a new policy initiated by Trump
34 through the Department of Interior Secretary and it's
35 just coming up. I don't know whether some of the
36 Federal people are behind times, but there's a new rule
37 and regulation that's going to give the tribes more
38 control over what's happening with their subsistence
39 hunting and animals that they hunt.

40
41 You're right, there's so many different
42 -- they understand there's so many different Federal
43 agencies that take a piece of whatever they're supposed
44 to control or take care of. Like you say, so many
45 multiple layers of rules and regulations that's
46 happening and they see that from a national point of
47 view.

48
49 There was some regional people that

50

1 were from North Dakota, there's a new rule that's
2 coming down from Trump and the Department of Interior
3 that states that in Alaska that the subsistence users
4 will be given the right that they had to control and
5 regulate their own subsistence use. I'm trying to see
6 if anybody has seen that new rule come down yet.

7
8 It might be whether it's being layered
9 down. It's supposed to happen. It's like breaking
10 ground for tribes to take control of their own destiny
11 with the subsistence way of life. I don't want to be a
12 breaker of anything, but this is one opportunity for
13 our own people to start controlling what they utilize
14 for their subsistence food.

15
16 With that perspective on the fisheries,
17 a statewide meeting that I was with from people all
18 over the state with Natives and people with Fish and
19 Game and Department of the Interior. Rather than look
20 at a species they want to start looking at the
21 ecological areas and how intertwined the smallest fish
22 to the biggest animal are intertwined.

23
24 The discussion started with the polar
25 bear and how the polar bear eat the seals and how the
26 seals eat the fish and how the little fish eats the
27 little anthropoids. Or rather than look at it from a
28 species point of view to look at it from a ecological
29 point of view.

30
31 And the reasons why they're doing that
32 is they see what's happening around Kuskokwim or the
33 Bethel area where the three-mile limit the State
34 controls and then the Federal area where most of the
35 damage is being done, a connection, and that's being
36 run by the Pacific Fisheries, whatever they call them,
37 outside of Alaska, controlling what happens out in the
38 Federal land.

39
40 And they want to start looking in those
41 areas because it's impacting the fish with the State
42 control of the fisheries inside three-mile limit and
43 all over the state. He said through the tribes
44 ecological point of view of spreading it out further
45 away from the three-mile limit to start asking
46 questions why they're doing fisheries like that.

47
48 Your question on Tusikvoak. I just ran
49 into a guy that says, man, there's small fish now at
50

1 Tusikvoak. When you're looking at fisheries, like my
2 family, my boys went out this fall and the water was so
3 high that it was so dirty that they couldn't fish for
4 aanaakliq for a considerable amount of time, that's
5 impacting the fish. He said the rivers are so high and
6 there's so much dirt that you can't even put a net out.
7 It would just be weighted down.

8
9 I'm glad you brought up the humpies
10 because when I go up hunting little creeks that attach,
11 there's so many humpies that are in creeks that I've
12 never seen before either. I'm going holy smokes, I've
13 never seen humpies going through these little creeks
14 and spawn. They were spawning. That's happening in
15 almost every lake that I go into with my Honda and I'm
16 going something is happening that's changing. And
17 then, when I start talking humpies, the Southeast
18 people say that's the best fish to smoke because it
19 don't harden. It just stays soft.

20
21 But the rules and regulation should be
22 coming around. I don't know why it's taking so long to
23 come up here, that new rule or order that's coming out
24 from Trump. I know it's funny how Trump is doing
25 things in the United States, but I think he's taking a
26 liking to the tribes.

27
28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Roy. Any
29 further questions for Josh on Fisheries Resource
30 Monitoring Program updates and discussion.

31
32 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I think that it's
33 very important, to add to Roy's discussion, that the
34 Federal government has made a lot of changes within the
35 various agencies and the various funding that goes
36 through various agencies that contribute to some of the
37 assessments that we're dealing with in understanding
38 the changes to subsistence and health of our people.

39
40 It is also very important that some of
41 these issues, like the marine mammal program that may
42 be cut with funding, EPA and these different agencies,
43 that have been contributing to various layers of the
44 studies that give us information to interpret what's
45 happening to the health of our subsistence way of life
46 are being impacted.

47
48 Some of these discussions are very
49 important when we're looking at longevity of looking at
50

1 some of these issues because these are changes that are
2 not being met with funding and will impact us into the
3 future. Those are very important discussions. When
4 we're given various layers of promises that some of
5 these informations are going to be funding through
6 these various agencies and this administration is
7 cutting those very funds that contribute to our
8 assessment, it's very important.

9
10 We went through Indian Health Services
11 that got a bunch of money, but they were also given 20
12 different programs to add on to that funding source.
13 When Indian Health Services wasn't able to look at all
14 of the various issues that they were already funded
15 because of lack of adequacy on funding of these certain
16 questions, it affects whether or not we're fully
17 interpreting some of these understandings.

18
19 The North Slope Borough was involved in
20 creating a health impact assessment with the National
21 Petroleum Reserve - Alaska, but yet we do not have the
22 health impacts to oil and gas development information
23 or statistical data. Those various layers of
24 discussions, when they're not funded, they're just
25 promises that are put out in the air, but the reaction
26 is in our lands and waters without monies to fully
27 address and effectively respond to the changes that
28 we're addressing.

29
30 It's very concerning that we're having
31 so many agencies that contribute to data and research
32 and monitoring that are impacting this process and what
33 is that going to mean to our future interpretation of
34 the health of subsistence.

35
36 Thank you.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
39 Sometimes I wonder too the effectiveness of some of the
40 programs that OSM is pushing. The amount of time
41 especially of review, advocating for something and then
42 the limited amount of success because really the amount
43 of things that need to get done and the level of
44 funding that comes along with it. And then, on top of
45 that, the remoteness of the arctic up here and the
46 ability for folks to sustain a complete study and
47 things like that limited to a certain window of
48 opportunity primarily in the summer season and those
49 kind of things.

50

1 Probably the need to eliminate
2 duplication from other agencies and to coalesce some of
3 these studies to make one more meaningful study where
4 it's well-funded together from multiple agencies. I
5 think NSSI is one of those that is trying to look at
6 duplication and who's doing what and trying to put two
7 and two together for those that need to do things like
8 this resource monitoring.

9
10 It seems to me that, you know, there's
11 limited success when you're completely independent, I
12 think, and the need to work together and put resources
13 together to mount a real effective effort to doing some
14 of the things that need to be done up here. I mean I
15 don't know how many years now we've talked about
16 various different issues or if anybody is even going to
17 take up the torch to do anything about any of these
18 things.

19
20 Some of my concern is to -- if I could,
21 give me all the money, I'll go do the studies. I'm a
22 fisherman. I fish and I can go clean up the lake.
23 Give me some funding and maybe that will help. Let the
24 local people do a lot of things that could be
25 beneficial. Who knows. I think many of us has various
26 different points and I just wanted to express that
27 we've been expressing for a long time I think.

28
29 With that, any other questions or any
30 other response you have to offer, Josh? It seems like
31 you're putting together a lot of different
32 presentations. I don't know if you're just tasked with
33 doing them or if they're all in your back pocket or
34 not.

35
36 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
37 we've touched on a lot of these things already, but the
38 update that I gave previously was on the Partners
39 Program and I do have a couple of more points related
40 to the actual Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program,
41 the funded projects. Unless there's any more Partners
42 questions I can move on to that.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing no objection,
47 go on ahead.

48
49 MR. REAM: Thank you. So this is the

50

1 2018 update and where we are currently is in the final
2 phases of the 2018 FRMP funding cycle. The Federal
3 Subsistence Board will be meeting on February 22nd to
4 23rd and will finalize the Fisheries Resource
5 Monitoring Plan and select projects for funding.
6

7 Once the Federal Subsistence Board
8 supports the plan, the Office of Subsistence Management
9 Assistant Regional Director approves the final plan and
10 researchers will be notified of the results. However,
11 even though the 2018 plan hasn't been finalized yet, it
12 is time for the Councils to begin to form the priority
13 information needs for the 2020 Fisheries Resource
14 Management Program call for proposals that will be due
15 out in November of 2018.
16

17 Priority information needs, we call
18 them PINs, are an important component of the program as
19 they identify issues of local concern and knowledge
20 gaps related to subsistence fisheries using input from
21 the Regional Advisory Councils. These PINs provide a
22 network for evaluating and selecting the project
23 proposals.
24

25 You do have a working group here in the
26 region and the working groups will meet during the
27 summer to start developing these priority information
28 needs aiming for about four to six per region. Now in
29 the FRMP program, the northern region includes the RAC
30 regions; yours, the Northwest Arctic and the Seward
31 Peninsula.
32

33 Those participating members of the
34 working group should develop a course of action to meet
35 over the summer to update the priority information
36 needs for the 2020 FRMP funding cycle. We will
37 re-gather again in the fall to get those on the record.
38 Nothing prevents you from beginning to talk about them
39 now, but we will have your working groups meeting this
40 summer to hash out some of those things in the interim.
41

42 Thank you.
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thanks for the
45 update, Josh.
46

47 Do we have any questions on his update.
48

49 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd encourage our
50

1 membership to engage in this process. There's a lot of
2 information you can learn, but it's really important
3 that our region is engaged into assessing the various
4 projects that come before the Fisheries Monitoring.
5 Some of the information needs for our region versus
6 what's going on in the Seward Pen Region are very
7 different, but if we don't get to that table to list
8 our priorities and why we feel a certain project will
9 go forward or not really affects those funding issues
10 that we're going through.

11
12 It is important to look at some of
13 these cross-region issues, but it's also very important
14 to really stand strong on our regional response issues.
15 So I really encourage us to engage effectively in this
16 process because it is very limited funding opportunity
17 to try to address some of our concerns and we're
18 competing against other regions that are also putting
19 in Fisheries Monitoring proposals.

20
21 The more that we have engaged in the
22 process the better it is about the communications when
23 it comes to assessing the determinations that come up
24 to deciding one project versus another.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

31
32 Madame Coordinator.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
35 Thank you, Rosemary, for that. As Rosemary noted, this
36 Council has formed a Fisheries Resource Monitoring
37 working group, so I'll be following up this spring and
38 this summer. We can meet by teleconference to talk
39 further about those research needs that you see need to
40 be addressed still in this region.

41
42 The partnerships -- one of the criteria
43 for those research grants is community partnerships,
44 capacity building, local engagement with the community
45 and the tribes in the region. So your input both on
46 what the research needs are, the engagement interests
47 of the community and helping hone in on those research
48 criteria. As Gordon noted, it's a vast area and to
49 make these proposals as effective as possible.

50

1 So we'll be following up in the spring
2 and through the summer. The discussion the Council's
3 had on the record at this meeting and the last meeting
4 addressing key issues of concerns and ways you can get
5 at some of these changes that are happening with
6 subsistence harvest of fish. So we've got that on the
7 record. That will be included in your requests for
8 that research.

9
10 So I just wanted to let you know you're
11 welcome to provide as much feedback at this meeting and
12 then we'll be following up through the spring and
13 summer with the working group and it will come back
14 before the Council to discuss and confirm those
15 research priorities.

16
17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, if you could
18 enlighten us as to who's all on the working group.

19
20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
21 It's very open. There were a handful of individuals
22 that had expressed interest to definitely be
23 participating. Rosemary Ahtuanguak was a key person
24 on that. You were very interested as an active
25 fisherman in your area. Robert Shears had provided a
26 lot of feedback, so we were sure to get some feedback
27 from Wainwright as well, that their interests and
28 concerns were incorporated. But it is open to the
29 entire Council.

30
31 So I'll be reaching out to all of you
32 to see if you'd like to participate in that
33 teleconference meeting.

34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Do you worry about
36 having too many on there to establish a quorum to act?

37
38 MS. PATTON: Not at all. So when the
39 Council forms a working group, what's nice about that
40 is the Council is essentially authorizing itself to
41 meet informally and it's an open discussion between the
42 Council members. The Council can talk with other
43 regions and also bring in staff, other people that you
44 want to bring into it. So it's not formal in terms of
45 requiring quorum.

46
47 The working group provides that input
48 and it comes back to the Council and then the Council
49 takes action on those recommendations and observation.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that's good
2 to know that you don't follow those kinds of rules.
3 Like the Planning Commission or the Assembly you can't
4 have too many of them sitting together talking about
5 something for potentially violating an Open Meetings
6 Act or something like that as elected officials.

7
8 MS. PATTON: So this is through
9 essentially the Council because you authorized on the
10 record to form a working group for this purpose. Its
11 intention is to get as much information, have as much
12 dialogue as possible, so it's very open, very flexible.
13 No Robert's Rules, no quorum required. Also as much
14 engagement is a positive thing.

15
16 Then that working group presents that
17 information back to the Council. So any formal action
18 then is taken by the whole Council on the record at a
19 public meeting. But it's a great opportunity for
20 continued engagement by the Council to get the work
21 done that you want to see done.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. We would
24 look forward to being more engaged with that working
25 group and to provide feedback to the full RAC.

26
27 Any other questions for Josh.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. If I may just
30 add. We'll talk about the Fisheries Resource
31 Monitoring Program also. This is just a heads-up that
32 this call is going to be coming next fall. So this is
33 an opportunity to start networking in your communities
34 and in the region. Ilisagvik College is a great place.

35
36 So we'll be talking about this as well
37 in the working group meetings and any way that we can
38 be of support in helping to start that networking now
39 because this call will come out in the fall and the
40 Council will address this again and it will be publicly
41 noticed quite widely at that time.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

46
47 Rosemary.

48
49 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Eva, through various

50

1 processes we also have the arctic cisco working group
2 that's been engaged in Nuiqsut. How does that process
3 engage here?
4

5 MS. PATTON: And we want to keep those
6 discussions included in the Council's work as well.
7 Those concerns raised by Nuiqsut are a very important
8 part of this process that the Council identifies those
9 research needs and help facilitate the community's
10 engagement in that research.
11

12 The proposals that went to address like
13 for arctic grayling, for example, the Board is going to
14 have their work session. So final project funding
15 hasn't yet been determined. That will be soon when the
16 Board work session meets, so we'll know which of those
17 projects got funded coming up soon here.
18

19 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. Because
20 that's fairly important. We have limited resources and
21 if we can get some of this information, data gaps
22 through other resources, such as the arctic cisco
23 working group, we don't want to concentrate the same
24 effort within this process, but making sure that unmet
25 research issues are being looked at in between the two
26 different discussion processes.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
29

30 Do we have any more questions for
31 Joshua on his presentation.
32

33 (No comments)
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Are
36 you done or do you want to continue on something?
37

38 MR. REAM: Mr. Chair. I do have one
39 more quick item for you all regarding the Fisheries
40 Resource Monitoring Program. I passed out just an
41 overview sheet there of a project that we have in the
42 water on subsistence fisheries in the Meade River. It
43 is being led by Beth Mikow. She is a social scientist
44 with the Division of Subsistence at the Alaska
45 Department of Fish and Game.
46

47 I have the privilege of serving as the
48 project officer, sort of overseeing from OSM's
49 standpoint this project, and I had the honor to travel
50

1 with Beth last year to Atqasuk to do some key
2 respondent interviews and some harvest surveys at
3 various households. I got to meet with and speak to
4 Wanda while I was there.

5
6 This overview that she sent me with to
7 provide to you does not have any preliminary
8 information. I want to point out that the reason for
9 that is because she wants to give the Native Village of
10 Atqasuk the opportunity to review and approve the
11 distribution of that data before we give it out.

12
13 So I think that Beth is planning on
14 providing you with a more in-depth overview at your
15 fall meeting. If you have any questions about it, I
16 can either try to answer them or get you in touch with
17 Beth over the next several months, but she will be here
18 in the fall for you.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions for
23 Josh on that.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think it's
28 important for the Native village to take a look at that
29 work and making sure that it's not presented in a way
30 that hurts the community. We often worry about those
31 kind of things. So I think it's great that Beth can do
32 that and I can wait until that part of it is done to
33 hear more about it.

34
35 MR. REAM: And her contact information
36 is provided there and she said she would welcome any
37 phone calls or emails, any questions that anyone has.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just want to make
40 sure Wanda is still there. In working with Atqasuk
41 residents, it sounds like there's some interaction with
42 the community that's coming there, Wanda.

43
44 MS. KIPPI: Hi. I'm still here, still
45 listening.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. I just
48 wanted to make sure. It was pretty quiet.

49
50

1 What Josh mentioned about the Meade
2 River subsistence fisheries and working with Beth.....

3
4 MS. KIPPI: Uh-huh.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER:and the
7 information that's being developed and coordinating
8 that with the community, the Native Village of Atqasuk,
9 before we get a second chance of looking at it with
10 more detail.

11
12 MS. KIPPI: Yeah. Yes, I would like to
13 see that too with more detail.

14
15 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I also want to
16 recognize that this research project that's being
17 proposed came through from a number of years ago. I
18 know Paul Bodfish was engaged in bringing forward some
19 of these concerns. It takes a number of years to get a
20 concern into the process to where we actually get a
21 project and recognize the communities' long-term
22 engagement to try to address some of their concerns.
23 This isn't just something that came up rapidly. It
24 came up over many, many years to get to this point.

25
26 So I really appreciate that you're
27 staying engaged, Wanda, and that your community is
28 being engaged at the tribe to respond to some of these
29 concerns as well as the length of time it takes for us
30 to get this actual boots on the ground to gather the
31 information.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 MS. KIPPI: Yes, and thank you too.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

38
39 Any other further questions for Joshua.

40
41 (No comments)

42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Unless
44 you have any further discussion items, thank you very
45 much.

46
47 MR. REAM: Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let's go ahead and
50

1 take a look at our agenda. We basically went through
2 item 11(a), (b), (c) and it looks like we're down to
3 (d), which is approval of FY-2017 annual report and the
4 update on the Charter. We'll go from there on that
5 item.

6
7 Is that Josh again?

8
9 MR. REAM: No, sir.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You were sitting
12 there so long. I thought, boy, he's really going to do
13 everything.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
16 I'll be addressing that for you. I'll make sure --
17 because this was mailed as a supplement along with your
18 meeting book, so I'll make sure everybody's got a copy
19 of your draft annual report. These are the topics that
20 the Council identified at your November meeting in your
21 report to the Board. So this is a draft for you to
22 edit, add more information, additional topics you'd
23 like to address to the Board. Then we'll finalize that
24 for the Council.

25
26 I'm going to hand out another copy so
27 everybody's got a clean copy to take a look and then we
28 can review.

29
30 (Pause)

31
32 MS. PATTON: I'd like to take some time
33 -- I'll provide a brief summary, but it would be nice
34 for the Council to get a chance if there's any edits
35 that you'd like to see here. Again, the topics that
36 the Council had identified for their report to the
37 Board is they were interested in getting information on
38 the Unit 23 Working Group. The folks that had gathered
39 to identify some of the user conflict areas in that
40 analysis.

41
42 The Council was interested in the role
43 of the Regional Advisory Council in making
44 recommendations to the Board. They had asked for more
45 information on the history of the Council's role as
46 defined in applicable Federal Subsistence Program
47 policy and wanting to understand what deference means.
48 And the Secretarial Review from 2009.

49
50

1 Item three was understanding customary
2 and traditional hunting practices, community harvests
3 and potential effects of registration permit
4 requirements. There was a lot of discussion in
5 particular for the traditional harvest and sharing
6 practices in Wainwright and other communities in the
7 North Slope Region where a few households provide for a
8 large portion of the community and what were avenues
9 that those super hunters or super households could be
10 supported, understanding the conservation measures that
11 the Council had supported and interest in the harvest
12 reporting but wanting to make sure that these
13 traditional sharing practices were not undermined by
14 those regulations.

15
16 Topic number four was Anaktuvuk Pass.
17 Interest in more research regarding caribou movements
18 and the caribou herd, potential deflection of the
19 caribou herd. Also Anaktuvuk Pass being interested to
20 convey to the Board the importance of caribou for that
21 community in particular. An essential subsistence
22 resource for that community.

23
24 Item number five was documentation and
25 recognition of the shifts that occur within subsistence
26 resources. The Council had discussed when the caribou
27 herd numbers are low sheep harvest becomes more
28 important for some communities or moose harvest becomes
29 more important for some communities in the interest of
30 managing for healthy populations for all subsistence
31 resources and that other resources may become more
32 important when there's a decline.

33
34 Also addressing the fisheries, making
35 sure that the rivers and streams and lakes were healthy
36 to support healthy subsistence fish and again shifts in
37 resources that -- although subsistence fisheries have
38 always been important, if there's a decline in another
39 resource they become even more important.

40
41 Communities become central to sharing
42 across the region. So the Council was wanting to bring
43 this to the awareness of the Board to keep in mind for
44 management of subsistence resources.

45
46 Item number six. A lot of discussion
47 by both the public and the Council on the Umiat
48 military waste site and contaminants affecting
49 subsistence in the Colville River. Concerns that that
50

1 cleanup process and protection of subsistence fisheries
2 was moving slowly and Council was seeking support for
3 getting that cleanup addressed and protection of
4 subsistence fisheries and communities that rely on
5 those fish.

6
7 Item number seven. The loss of sea ice
8 in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas and impacts to
9 subsistence. Council Member Steve Oomittuk in
10 particular again had expressed these concerns today of
11 loss of sea ice in the region and impacts that has to
12 subsistence resources. While the Council recognized
13 that marine mammals and management of the ocean's
14 resources are outside the jurisdiction of the Federal
15 Subsistence Board to recognize the interrelation of all
16 of those aspects of subsistence. Also asking for
17 information on shipping and increased traffic in the
18 area and ways to monitor that and address any potential
19 spills.

20
21 So those were the seven items that were
22 identified at the fall meeting. You can take a look
23 carefully at the details and see if what you want to
24 convey is in there and the way that you want to convey
25 it.

26
27 If there's any edits or anything that
28 you'd like to add.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. What's
31 the wish of the Council here? I do see some maybe
32 paraphrasing a little bit, you know. It's not word for
33 word. Sometimes when you do things like that it kind
34 of loses the integrity of what we're trying to convey.
35 I mean I could go into a little bit detail when you
36 talk about an area of influence and what it means.

37
38 For others to consider plans that are
39 mandated by law to be developed for a community, such
40 as a community/village comprehensive plan which
41 identifies a village area of influence for that
42 community and the definitions that are outlined what
43 that village area of influence means.

44
45 The contemporary and traditional use
46 areas that define the immediate outward boundary from
47 the village district boundary that supports subsistence
48 use activities to support the community. Then the
49 community goes into identifying the village area of
50

1 influence for those contemporary and traditional uses
2 to provide that food security for a community.
3

4 Those and how Federal managers need to
5 be more cognizant about their approach in management of
6 fish and game to protect that village area of influence
7 so that the community would not suffer food security
8 issues based on their dependency on those resources.
9

10 Nowadays, even the international arena
11 in the indigenous people's rights to subsist and exist,
12 like the ICC is taking up these kinds of concerns about
13 food security for indigenous
14 people. That's where the deflection of resources like
15 the large-scale migratory movements of caribou become
16 argumentative and areas where closures maybe -- not
17 closures, but restrictions like what we do with the
18 bowhead whale.

19
20 If we can do that with the bowhead
21 whale, the North Slope Borough policy says that oil and
22 gas activities are not to occur in front of the
23 movement of bowhead whales unless the community has
24 established their quota, has caught those quotas. We
25 have a cease and desist of seismic operations, oilfield
26 drilling operations that are in the path of the bowhead
27 whale.
28

29 Say, hey, you work under the guise of a
30 conflict avoidance agreement with the Alaska Eskimo
31 Whaling Commission that has a co-management regime with
32 the Federal government and the international groups for
33 the management of bowhead whales. You sign that CAA
34 and we'll give you your permit to go ahead and do your
35 activities. If you don't, we'll still give you a
36 permit but give you a cease and desist when those
37 hunting opportunities for the bowhead whale happen.
38 Basically those types of things when you start to look
39 at food security issues.
40

41 For me, I can go on and on if you're
42 going to talk about policy and things like that. I
43 think it's prudent to convey this to the State
44 managers. Look at this. These are village
45 comprehensive plans created and developed by
46 communities, adopted by the legislative bodies of the
47 North Slope Borough, mandated maybe by Federal and
48 State law to develop comprehensive plans for
49 governments for their communities on their rate of
50

1 growth and how you want to do these things.

2

3

4 So when you start to paraphrase like
5 the section -- where did I see that. I think it's
6 section one, Unit 23 working group preventing
7 deflection of caribou and user conflicts and then start
8 to detail. I don't know where Federal managers or the
9 Board would consider area of influence. Whose area of
10 influence? I mean I don't think they have a clue of
11 when you're starting to impress that upon the Federal
12 -- is it Federal Board of Game?

12

13

MR. SHEARS: Federal Subsistence Board.

14

15

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Federal Subsistence
Board.

17

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MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
this is the Council's report to the Board. So under
ANILCA the Councils advise the Board on Federal
subsistence issues.

22

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe our advice
should be -- the Federal Subsistence Board should get a
workshop on all the comprehensive plans for these
communities so they can look at the struggles of the
communities in terms of the available resources that
migrate through their community to address other
conflicting users of that resource.

30

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Maybe there needs to be that level of
engagement and somebody showing them that these are
issues of food security for our communities as defined
by local village comprehensive plans expressed by the
people. Because if you look at the definitions, you
know, it's pretty important to know why an area of
influence exists for a community.

38

39

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45

46

Anyway.

Any other dialogue.

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

47

48

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MR. OOMITTUK: On item six the Umiat
military waste site contaminations. You know, Point

1 Hope is still concerned about what happened in Project
2 Chariot over 58 years ago when stuff that we've been
3 trying to get declassified that are top secret what
4 they buried over there, what they did there, what their
5 plan was, you know. It was to build a deep water
6 harbor.

7
8 There's documents showing that
9 something was brought over there and put under the
10 ground, but we never got a clear answer. I don't know
11 if anybody heard of Project Chariot and what they did
12 there.

13
14 Also the iodine 131 testing on the
15 people and all the miscarriages they had in the late
16 '50s, early '60s. You know, I think we should add that
17 in there. We still want to see, you know, what exactly
18 was put at Cape Thompson at Ogotoruk Creek at the
19 Project Chariot site.

20
21 Also in the Cape Lisburne area. We
22 still subsist in those areas. The animals still
23 migrate through there. That's always been a topic in
24 Point Hope of finding exactly what the military did and
25 what exactly did they leave behind and why are they not
26 cleaning up what they did. That happened 58 years ago.
27 We live in a new time and era that we can't change the
28 clock back. It happened. Let's get it cleaned up and
29 let's find out exactly what was buried over there.

30
31 We know they wanted to do a blast that
32 was 100 times stronger than Hiroshima, you know. They
33 wanted to do it on a strong north wind so all the
34 contaminants would fall out on the ice and the ice
35 would take it away.

36
37 Edward Keller and his bunch of guys
38 wanted to reshape the world and made instant harbors or
39 instant lakes, whatever, and commercialized it, which
40 never happened. Thank God. I think if they ever
41 blasted that we would probably still be living in Nome.
42 We're very fortunate that our elders were very strong
43 people and fought for their subsistence rights and
44 stood up to that. This is their way, this is where
45 they're going to stay and they weren't going to move.

46
47 But we still need to find out, you
48 know, what exactly at these DEW lines. You've got one
49 here at Umiat, but all along the coastline you see

50

1 abandoned DEW line sites, dump sites. Our animals
2 still migrate through those areas. We still hunt in
3 those areas. So we need to find out and see if we can
4 get the documents that show us exactly what they're
5 hiding. Why can't we see these top secret documents
6 that shows exactly what was brought there and what was
7 put there.

8

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

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Rosemary.

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ICAS had a meeting in which they dealt with the military just last year and got confirmation related to some of the things that were stored after that project occurred and making sure that the various layers of information that goes out in this process is incorporated into the discussion because failures to recognize some of these historical changes are very important into affecting whether or not a full assessment is occurring that's looking at the tribal health of our people and our subsistence resources.

It is very important not to let others put blinders on the interpretation of some of this information by failing to look at all of the various layers that are so important to look at these issues because we've got generations of engagement as well as generations of exposure and if we're not incorporating all of these various layers, we're not fully assessing

1 the health of our people or the subsistence.

2

3

Thank you.

4

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

6

7

Thank you, Steve.

8

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MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Mr. Chair.

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead there,
Jerry.

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MR. SIKVAYUGAK: Yes, I agree with
Steve and Rosemary's statements also in regards to the
impacts. I happen to be one of those that cleaned up
the sites there at Chandler, west of Anaktuvuk Pass.
We picked up about seven tons of material from the lake
there at Chandler and we still have more fuel drums
there in AKP and north of AKP. As far as we know, they
are still contaminated. I haven't heard what are in
those fuel drums. They've been sitting there for years
and we really need to get a lot of research done on
those and cleaned up as well for our region.

26

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CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Jerry.
You know, there's -- I think it's called a Restoration
Advisory Board and it has members of local people. We
used to have a membership in there from the Planning
Department from the North Slope Borough. We have yet
to re-engage. I think Bart Ausogeak was our last RAB
member.

34

35

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These folks deal with contaminated
military sites. I think even superfund sites. I think
there's another acronym for that. All the military
activities on the North Slope and the cleanup schedules
and what the Federal government with the Corps of
Engineers, the Navy, Air Force, all of those people
working together to assess the situation.

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We did recently get an invitation for a
meeting with I think the Corps of Engineers for Umiat,
so we have expressing through the RAB, even
strengthening it through Regional Subsistence Advisory
Council I think adds to the layer of concerns to
formerly used defense sites on the North Slope.
There's a lot of them.

1 Back then they didn't even have laws.
2 You know, you're shooting an atomic bomb? Oh, yeah,
3 we'll put that atomic bomb right there. You know, they
4 did that kind of stuff. They saw a lake and it was in
5 their way on their way to doing seismic, they're
6 looking for oil, well, we'll blow up the lake. They
7 blowed it all up.

8
9 There was no laws, environmental
10 regard. It was gung-ho, like Patton and those guys,
11 onward Christian soldiers and get things done. That's
12 what they did. So we're still reeling with the
13 aftermath today. The concerns I don't think will
14 diminish.

15
16 I think we continue to express these
17 concerns because, you know, who puts a landfill right
18 next to the Colville River and expect it to stay there.
19 When the river meanders and moves around, now it's --
20 you know, it's some of the stupidest things that go on.
21 It's like a man that's got no map and he's trying to go
22 from one end of the country to the other end without
23 asking any questions. I'm afraid that happened quite
24 frequently back then.

25
26 But the Restoration Advisory Board I
27 think we do express greatly. Whenever I get a chance
28 to address those folks I take into regard what I've
29 heard from other communities and express those concerns
30 and Chandler has come up about debris coming out, Umiat
31 coming out. So meetings do occur.

32
33 So I just want to -- I think what we're
34 doing here just kind of compliments and restates a lot
35 of the things that we've been expressing. And
36 government is so slow. They're as slow as the North
37 Slope Borough, I think.

38
39 Anyway, I just wanted to point that
40 out.

41
42 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I really appreciate
43 all of that discussion. It is very important. All of
44 these layers of discussions are very important. It's
45 how we have to incorporate the discussion in these
46 processes. We've been adding to these discussions for
47 a long time around these issues, but it is one area
48 that has resources to assess and clean up and monitor
49 some of these different impacts that we're discussing.

50

1 We also have to be diligent because
2 they have done some assessments as to the exposures,
3 but their willingness to assess by our traditional
4 knowledge of areas that are of concern are not at the
5 level that it needs to be. Some of our people have
6 been involved in various layers of this process and
7 forcing sampling in different tributaries or lakes has
8 had to happen. They're not very willing to allow us to
9 get as much information.

10

11 Getting some of the information engaged
12 from Anaktuvuk Pass on your areas was because of your
13 membership being involved in the local meeting. If
14 they had not been involved in that local meeting, there
15 wouldn't have been the assessment that occurred. The
16 same thing with Point Hope. There were a number of
17 tributaries that were incorporated when Teddy was on
18 board that led to some of the assessments that were
19 there.

20

21 Our traditional knowledge of our
22 historical and traditional uses versus others coming in
23 and impacting those changes to these different areas it
24 hasn't been to the level of our traditional knowledge
25 and that's really important to discuss because we have
26 to fight to get any sampling done and to prove the
27 historical contamination and those are very, very
28 difficult processes to fully incorporate where the risk
29 factors are coming from because of the way the Federal
30 government controls and protects their liability.

31

32 The State and Federal government also
33 do their layer of protections and yet our traditional
34 and cultural uses are the families and generations of
35 exposures that are happening because of this process.
36 So I really wanted to stress that importance. There has
37 been some assessments, but it's not to the level of our
38 tribal risk factors that should be done.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

43

44 Any other input on the 2017 annual
45 report.

46

47 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there, Lee,

50

1 from Kaktovik.

2

3

4 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah, I find different
5 animals in our areas too, you know. We've got the
6 military that's right on the coast here that, you know,
7 we've got a dump site that's originally right in the
8 ocean and, you know, years and years since the military
9 in the '50s came around. They just literally let's put
10 something here. They booted out the village three
11 times before they had to stop and say you guys can't
12 keep moving us around here.

13

14

15 There's concerns these days at the site
16 that the DEW line, you know, dumped right in the ocean.
17 There's still today a sign by there that say do not
18 enter, PCBs in this site and area that has a sign there
19 that, you know, still today that, you know, my wife was
20 really surprised to see that PCBs in the area.

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19 The fish and wildlife and stuff like
20 that, you know, should, you know, take really serious
21 about, you know, not taking its time about having these
22 kind of dump sites in the area that people are fishing
23 in very close to these areas that are contaminated
24 with, you know, we don't know yet, but could affect our
25 area that's been there for years and years and years.

26 Like the caribou and the sheep. You
27 know, the sheep are declining in the population, which
28 in our area too that, you know, they did these studies
29 for years and yet we see what's happening with the
30 sheep or caribou that, you know, no like sampling of
31 any kind of sickness or anything yet brought to a paper
32 like this that's showing why is it declining.

33 Like, for instance, say microplasma
34 could be affecting the sheep population and things like
35 that that share other -- in the same herd that share
36 other food that is contaminated or something that could
37 spread throughout the different populations of fish and
38 caribou that we harvest.

42 Thank you.

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee. I
44 know Eva's typing full blast. Any other input on the
45 annual report.

46 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears.

2

3 MR. SHEARS: Thank you. You captured
4 the discussion on our supporting the registration
5 permit, our proposal supporting it, voted four to one.
6 And I did make what I believe is an accurate statement
7 that, you know, there's some super hunters out there
8 who are not conforming to the registration permit
9 requirements and the State law.

10

11 So I've got to ask the Council here.
12 Do we want to portray it so literally to the Federal
13 Subsistence Board as noted on Page 2 in the last
14 paragraph of that page. Do we want to make such a
15 public statement of that? It does send a message.
16 It's a powerful statement that the registration permit
17 is not recognizing customary and traditional use. That
18 it makes outlaws out of some hunters who are very
19 valuable to our rural communities.

20

21 If you want to leave it in there, I'll
22 stand behind it, but I don't think that that decision
23 should be made lightly. I'd like the entire Council
24 here to weigh in on this. Should that paragraph remain
25 in this report.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Where is that?

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Second paragraph on Page
30 2.

31

32 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: We did share from
33 multiple communities that same type of concern. I know
34 I brought up my son in that contribution of discussion
35 because I was very worried about the regulatory changes
36 that we were facing and what that would mean to his
37 hunts and the reality of his sharing with so many
38 families.

39

40 These are a repeated story that occurs
41 in all of our communities because there are extensive
42 sharing patterns and the reality that our key hunters
43 are able to get out and do this type of harvesting to
44 allow for our ability to survive. It has been
45 extensively shared, but the risks of this kind of a
46 comment to those hunters are real and it is a change.

47

48 We've been assured through some of this
49 process that it's an effort to educate and receive

50

1 information, but we fear about the repercussions. In
2 Nuiqsut we have had hunters that have faced
3 repercussions over the last few years with hunting
4 enforcements and failures to get their appropriate
5 documentation or the interpretation of what the
6 regulatory changes mean. We've had impacts with
7 muskox, with caribou and geese. It's not just one
8 species it's multiple species. It's multiple families
9 that are impacted with this.

10

11 So I agree we have to be very cautious
12 in the way that we put our statements out and protect
13 our hunters and families in our communities because we
14 are feeding our village for the year. It's not feeding
15 in regulations where you have hunters that go out and
16 have access to a resource.

17

18 We have migratory resources that leave
19 our region for extended periods of time and that
20 harvesting occurs with the way that our traditional
21 life occurs. Not with the regulatory enforcement that
22 comes from others interpreting how we should be hunting
23 in the Arctic.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

28

29 Any other dialogue on the super hunter
30 statement that's listed on there.

31

32 MR. KLIMSTRA: Can we have a copy of
33 that statement?

34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hide it. Ryan's
36 looking at it.

37

38 (Laughter)

39

40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
41 This is the draft report, so it is not published. This
42 is the reason it comes before the Council. This was a
43 very specific question, especially on this topic, for
44 Wainwright that we can convey in general terms the
45 importance of those sharing networks and don't need to
46 say literally as was discussed on the record at the
47 meeting. So it's a very important point.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: I imagine the Safari Club

50

1 International will notice it.

2

3 MR. KLIMSTRA: Mr. Chair, I just wanted
4 to clarify.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure, go ahead, Ryan.

7

8 MR. KLIMSTRA:something here if
9 that's all right. The scenario that Bob has in here
10 about 18 caribou and keeping one, giving away the rest,
11 that's completely fine under the registration permit.
12 You can do that.

13

14 Now, that being said, they are season
15 and bag limits that the State has in the regulation
16 book that you would have to adhere to, but the
17 registration permit you can put 10 on there and then,
18 guess what, you can have a second registration permit
19 and put another 10 on there and then a third one and a
20 fourth. You can harvest unlimited number of caribou
21 under those registration permits. So the registration
22 permit certainly does not impede these super hunters
23 under any circumstance.

24

25 If they are also adhering to the State
26 or Federal hunting regulations. The registration
27 permit is just again, as we've talked about before, a
28 way for us to gather information on harvest. To
29 hopefully one day address things like Gordon always
30 brings up with the ANS situation, stuff like that.

31

32 I think we repeatedly hear that this
33 group, the fish and game management committee and all
34 these other entities are hungry for information about
35 harvest and what's really happening out there and this
36 is the way with this registration permit. I understand
37 what you're talking about and that was the reason why
38 we went with the registration permit or one of the
39 reasons, is because we didn't want these super hunters
40 to feel like they were like all of a sudden, oh, great,
41 now what are we supposed to do.

42

43 So I just wanted to point that out and
44 make sure that we're all clear that that registration
45 permit you can still be a super hunter and use the
46 registration permit.

47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
49 Thank you very much. And to follow up. These questions

50

1 and concerns are being brought up on either community
2 confusion or inadvertently undermining those
3 traditional sharing practices through potential
4 misunderstanding.

5
6 The Council had also discussed, as was
7 noted, that there's seasons and bag limits and the
8 Council had supported those conservation measures in
9 reducing the bag limit. This helps bring to the
10 attention of the Board and helps clarify these things.

11
12 So there are opportunities through --
13 you have designated hunters through the Federal
14 program. So an individual in Wainwright can hunt for
15 multiple people and you would have twice that bag limit
16 if you went out in the day. So this is helping
17 identify where there's confusion or concern so that we
18 can help clarify that.

19
20 The Board can help clarify that so that
21 we can get back to the community of Wainwright or other
22 communities and let them know you can be a designated
23 hunter for others in your community. You're not
24 necessarily limited to just a single bag limit. There
25 are other avenues.

26
27 These are good discussions.

28
29 These are good questions.

30
31 You know, where there's confusion or
32 where someone might feel that they're limited we want
33 to clarify that. But I also want to make sure that
34 there's no language in here that will cause problems or
35 incrimination for anyone.

36
37 So we want to be very clear about that
38 as well.

39
40 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Eva's right.
41 This is good information to share with them. It's a
42 good discussion. I agree with everything you said.

43
44 I'm asking you to look at the
45 possibility that opponents who see Federally qualified
46 subsistence hunters as competitive to their sport
47 hunting program and their hunting for profit agenda
48 would use this information against subsistence hunters
49 to make it as an appearance of derogatory -- to make it

50

1 a derogatory statement that subsistence hunters are
2 illegal hunters. They break the law. They do not
3 conform to the stipulated daily bag limits that the
4 Council hands down upon them.

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. I've
7 been aching a little bit after reading some of this.
8 I'm a little bit more confident with Ryan's explanation
9 as well too. The need for information to be conveyed,
10 but equally concerned about what we experience in a
11 public hearing last spring where a dead caribou
12 testified, you know.

13
14 This guy, with all his mighty powers,
15 went to somebody's yard and stole his caribou and
16 forced it to testify and saying that it was just
17 outside when 90 percent of the people keep caribou meat
18 outside in the wintertime. It's a way to keep it
19 frozen and it stays good. But yet pulled it out of
20 somebody's yard. If it were me and I was a policeman,
21 I would have arrested him for theft, you know, for
22 stealing somebody's caribou and forcing it to talk.

23
24 That's what we're afraid of. They make
25 it derogatory and try to use it against you. That's
26 maybe the type of information that -- you know, your
27 public hearings somebody has to marshal them. You
28 shouldn't bring a carcass to work, you know, and talk
29 to it. It shouldn't just be allowed. It really
30 diminished me. It really put me down. It made me feel
31 ashamed of a people the way it was being displayed like
32 that and talked about when that's not the case.

33
34 Anyway, talking about hunting
35 practices, a person like me that's a whaling captain,
36 I've got to feed my crew members, my crew members'
37 family and extended family. So when I hunt, I'm not
38 thinking about I've got to stop. I've got to catch as
39 much as I can when the resources are there and when
40 they're prime. Because they're not going to come
41 around and be prime the full year. They're going to go
42 into rut, have calves and they're going to struggle
43 through the winter. There's different hunting pressure
44 for that kind of struggling animal versus one that had
45 summertime to build up its fat reserve.

46
47 So I'm just trying to say that
48 describing a whaling captain and their need to sustain
49 themselves, their crew and then hunt enough to have a
50

1 traditional festival, a Nalukataq, where I've got to be
2 working with other captains and try to feed 2,000
3 people. That is what is at stake when you're dealing
4 with customary and traditional use. It's hard to
5 describe and then be relegated to other competing uses
6 of that resource.

7
8 Anyway, it's sometimes a little bit
9 harder to describe. I don't consider myself a super
10 hunter, but I try to harvest as much as I can knowing
11 what is at stake. The fish that have eggs only one
12 time. They're going to come through just for only
13 about three weeks and then it's over and that's the
14 time I've got to get as much as I can. There's no ifs,
15 ands or buts.

16
17 My mom and my dad since when I was a
18 little boy they said they encountered hunger,
19 starvation. They heard about people starving and they
20 learned the best time to get the most so that you put
21 away for others and do that. Up here on the Slope it's
22 the same as it was back then. There's jobs all right,
23 but if you look at the ratio of who's employed and
24 who's got the jobs. In a community of 500 people,
25 there might be 50 jobs. Well, what are the rest of the
26 300 people doing, you know. They're subsisting.

27
28 Anyway. Yeah, I agree with Bob that we
29 should be careful as to how we describe ourselves in
30 our relationship with our resources, but they're very
31 very tied to traditional and customary uses that will
32 never change I don't think. Nobody's going to stop us
33 from Nalukataq'ing and feeding the people because that
34 was how the communities are bound together. Those are
35 very important things and important details.

36
37 Unless the Federal government, like in
38 the '70s, I think it was 1976, gave us lots of beef and
39 other meats, say you can't hunt that much that way,
40 we're going to give you -- I would say about 2,000
41 pounds of beef I would need to feed the community. So
42 you would have to do that for me if you're going to
43 replace that.

44
45 Anyway, I tend to over explain
46 sometimes and Bob caused it this time. Sorry, Bob.

47
48 MR. SHEARS: So if you agree I'd make a
49 motion to amend the report to remove my name and my
50

1 statement from the report because it could be taken out
2 of context and reprinted in the Anchorage Daily News
3 and then put into the court of public opinion without
4 our ability to defend it. So strike it.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Absolutely, Mr. Chair.
7 What I would like to do is to revise that section and
8 have you review it again so you feel comfortable with
9 it. The intent -- and the Council had a lot of
10 discussion on the importance of those sharing networks
11 and the importance of -- Gordon had stated those are
12 the ties that bind the community together and they're
13 so central to the way of life.

14
15 I think it's important to convey that
16 to the Federal Subsistence Board and to help illuminate
17 that importance and also where there's any confusion
18 where the regulations or permitting might interfere
19 with subsistence that we can help clarify that so
20 people are not feeling burdened or imposed upon.

21
22 MR. SHEARS: I'd be happy to offer it
23 as verbal testimony at the Federal Subsistence Board
24 meeting.

25
26 MS. PATTON: That will be fabulous as
27 well. Thank you. So I will strike that and I will
28 edit that and bring it back to you for your review.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other discussion
33 on the 2017 annual report to the Federal Subsistence
34 Board.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just want to
39 emphasis preventing deflection of caribou and user
40 conflicts in making sure the intent is reflected in how
41 we say something. When we start to omit a few little
42 things, it's my perception that the intent of what
43 we're trying to project can be altered or misconstrued.

44
45 I remember talking about the village
46 area of influence and the comprehensive -- I don't see
47 any mention of the village comprehensive plans adopted
48 by communities from their -- supported by their city
49 councils, tribal councils, village corporations, by the

50

1 planning commission and ultimately adopted by the North
2 Slope Borough Assembly as law. As an ordinance enacted
3 into law.

4
5 When you diminish that language to
6 explore that, it deviates from what we know to be law
7 enacted by the legislature of the North Slope Borough
8 on principles that are Alaska statutes in nature and
9 probably driven by Federal act. So there needs to be a
10 little bit more comprehension in this statement about
11 -- just to talk about village area of influence.

12
13 I see in here that the Federal
14 Subsistence Board would be highly confused as to where
15 to find such language. I think it just needs to have a
16 little bit more thoughtful way of expressing that
17 because those village area of influences defined by
18 each community on the North Slope as their contemporary
19 traditional use for the harvest of subsistence uses on
20 the immediate surroundings outside of the village
21 district boundary.

22
23 There's a village district boundary and
24 then there's an area of influence identified by the
25 community.

26
27 MR. SHEARS: I'd like to add to that
28 that you can possibly accomplish that by adding a
29 footnote on the subject dealing with the North Slope
30 Borough and identifying area of influence and then put
31 a footnote right there that would send them to the
32 North Slope Borough website as a footnote.

33
34 MS. PATTON: Absolutely. I will get
35 with you, Gordon, to get the language correct on how we
36 define that area of influence. As Bob noted, we can
37 put a citation or a footnote in there so the Board has
38 access and understands these are regulations.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, was it Unit
41 23 they were -- OSM had redefined a closure area to be
42 a smaller area by the Squirrel River and it was kind of
43 rejected a little bit. If you were to visit that and
44 it kind of looked like the village area of influence
45 for Noatak. That's what we're talking about. OSM was
46 willing to look at that portion as a critical area for
47 the subsistence needs of Noatak and the conflicts that
48 occur around the Squirrel River.

49
50

1 If you look at that initial concept and
2 you enacted that and implement that for each community,
3 that an area of influence was identified for the food
4 security issues and the unobstructed movement of
5 terrestrial migratory animals in these areas, you'd go
6 a long ways into making a management system that works.
7 That's what I think.

8
9 MR. SHEARS: We're pretty proud of it.

10
11 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I also wanted to add
12 that over time there's a lot of impact into the way
13 that our subsistence hunting research information is
14 accumulated. With one of the studies at Nuiqsut when
15 we had a family member not included in the survey that
16 did follow up subsistence research, the map was greatly
17 changed into what our traditional and cultural uses
18 were.

19
20 It was because of those that were
21 engaging in the research did not know that by having
22 one of the family members pass and not incorporating a
23 family member from that family into the research data
24 criteria it greatly affected what came out of that
25 research criteria.

26
27 The layers of interpretation of this
28 information is really important. A lot of research and
29 data is being done in modeling and criteria that
30 affects the way that research and monitoring is being
31 done in those modeling to allow a project to occur can
32 greatly impact our village's ability to subsist and our
33 traditional and cultural uses.

34
35 These are very, very important
36 situations that we're having to defend against because
37 traditional knowledge is being incorporated into a
38 fragmentation of how researchers want to access data
39 points. When you leave communities out of that
40 interpretation and allow others to interpret that data,
41 they're greatly impacting decisions that have before
42 decision-makers where villages are not being
43 incorporated into those decision-making criterias.

44
45 We may be involved in one layer of the
46 process, but if we're not engaged throughout the
47 decision-making process our priorities get left behind.
48 We cannot allow this fragmentation to occur. It's
49 really important. The discussion we're having here is

50

1 part of those discussions. The way the Borough went
2 through their process and to get the village areas of
3 influence are greatly engaged in some of those
4 discussions.

5
6 But it's getting that information
7 throughout the process to allow the village priorities
8 to stay engaged. That's when our communities are
9 facing the greatest hardship because we've had to deal
10 with responding to research related to suicide
11 prevention and yet, when you come down to looking at
12 some of these suicide statistics, if you're not
13 incorporating some of the land use changes in this
14 assessment, you're excluding key amounts of data that
15 affect others deciding that subsistence and suicide do
16 not correlate and yet they greatly correlate in
17 statistical data accumulation.

18
19 I really want to stress this
20 importance. I really greatly appreciate Gordon and
21 Robert bringing up these discussions, but it's about
22 our longevity and engagement in these processes when
23 we're having to defend traditional knowledge because
24 others incorporate data points. Those are really key
25 processes. Local control, local ownership and
26 longevity of engagement into the generations are key to
27 these processes.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

32
33 All right, Eva, you've got lots of
34 rewriting to do. I'm just saying that.

35
36 MS. PATTON: No, that's good. Thank
37 you for all your feedback. That's what this process is
38 for, is to make sure this reflects your concerns and
39 what you're trying to convey to the Board and
40 accurately.

41
42 So I have all the edits and recommended
43 changes that you've suggested here and I'll go back and
44 rework this and then get it back out to all of you for
45 your review and approval before it gets finalized and
46 sent to the Board.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

49
50

1 Any other dialogue on the 2017 annual
2 report to the Federal Subsistence Board from us.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having no additional,
7 let's move up to the update on the Charter, right?

8
9 MS. PATTON: Yes. Mr. Chair and
10 Council. We do have some new Council members here. On
11 Page 50 you will find the Charter for the North Slope
12 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. Again, the
13 Councils were created under Title VIII of ANILCA, which
14 is a statute. That formed the Councils and the
15 Council's role in advising the Federal Subsistence
16 Board on matters related to subsistence on Federal
17 public lands. So the Charter essentially reflects
18 those roles and authorities of the Council based on
19 ANILCA.

20
21 You'll see the objectives and scope of
22 activities. To provide a forum for the residents of
23 the regions with personal local knowledge of conditions
24 and resource requirements to have a meaningful role in
25 the subsistence management of fish and
26 wildlife on Federal lands and waters in the region.

27
28 In the description of the duties also
29 comes from the core of ANILCA and the Federal
30 subsistence regulations. So the Council recommends to
31 the Federal Subsistence Board the initiation of,
32 review, and evaluate proposals for regulations,
33 policies, management plans, and other matters relating
34 to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on public
35 lands within the region.

36
37 Provide a forum for public expression
38 and recommendations by persons interested in any matter
39 related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife on
40 public lands within the region.

41
42 Encouraging public participation in the
43 decision-making process and then, (d) preparing the
44 annual report to the Board, which is what the Council
45 was just engaged in. Focused on identifying current
46 and anticipated subsistence uses of fish
47 and wildlife, an evaluation of current and anticipated
48 subsistence needs, recommended strategy for the
49 management of fish and wildlife and subsistence uses,

50

1 recommendations concerning policies, standards,
2 guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy
3 for Federal subsistence management.
4

5 This Council also appoints one member
6 to the Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence
7 Resource Commission in Section 808 of the ANILCA and
8 make recommendations on determinations of customary and
9 traditional uses of subsistence resources. Make
10 recommendations on determinations of rural status.
11 Provide recommendations on the establishment and
12 membership of Federal local advisory committees.
13

14 Now there's an additional section which
15 is new. The Council's Charter has remained largely the
16 same. The Council reviews the Charter every two years.
17 It has to be renewed and approved. Ultimately the
18 Secretary of the Interior reviews and approves that
19 Charter and signs off on it. So this is the Council's
20 first Charter under Secretary Zinke.
21

22 Council approved its Charter and the
23 Secretary of the Interior included new language in the
24 Charter. There's a Secretarial order, which you'll
25 find under Section (I). These are the issues of
26 interest to the Secretary that were required to be put
27 in all Advisory Council and Committee Charters. They
28 apply only where applicable.
29

30 There's many items that you'll see
31 coming under Section (I) that do not pertain to the
32 duties of the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory
33 Councils; however, they were required to be put in your
34 Charter. So I wanted to alert you to that change and
35 to let you know that your mandate comes through ANILCA,
36 so these apply only where applicable.
37

38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
39

40 MS. PATTON: The Secretarial order
41 starts on -- it's number 4, Section (I) and also (j)
42 until you get down to number 5 and then it resumes back
43 to what was in the original Charter for the Council.
44

45 MR. SHEARS: Interesting.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So we're going to
48 take into account the updates and these identifying
49 regulations.
50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils were
3 formed under Title VIII of ANILCA. It's in statute.
4 That has not changed. The roles and duties of the
5 Council are directed under ANILCA.

6
7 The Secretary required this language to
8 be included in all charters for all Regional Advisory
9 Councils across the entire United States. These are
10 directives of the Secretary, interests of the
11 Secretary, but they only apply where applicable.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, talking about
14 apply where applicable.....

15
16 MR. SHEARS: No kidding, huh.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You know, not too
19 long ago the North Slope Borough held the Oil and Gas
20 Forum 2016 and had in the preamble of the statement for
21 better communication and coordination -- responsible
22 oil and gas development through better communication
23 and coordination. But at the preamble of that, to get
24 the attention of Federal lawmakers or Federal agencies,
25 the State agencies like DNR, DOT, one of the preambles
26 in that Oil and Gas Forum was the North Slope Borough
27 is a home rule borough. Home rule with its own laws to
28 do things.

29
30 Our consultants, we had them dig up all
31 the language that we could muster up that say BLM, Fish
32 and Wildlife Service, DNR, DOT, you know what, you have
33 to conform to North Slope Borough laws and ordinance
34 unless you provide explicit language that exempts you
35 from those laws. So even Alaska statute says the
36 departments of the State have to conform to the North
37 Slope Borough's zoning laws.

38
39 That was put out there to make a
40 statement on the North Slope Borough's Oil and Gas
41 Forum. In the same way, when we look at the
42 comprehensive plans that become enacted by ordinance
43 and have areas that need to be adhered to in terms of
44 when areas of influence are identified, those kind of
45 things.

46
47 When we start to look at this,
48 eliminate jobs, inhibit job creation, outline
49 unnecessary and ineffective stuff, impose costs that

50

1 exceed benefits, create a serious inconsistency or
2 otherwise interfere with regulatory reform initiative
3 and policies, you need to look at that section because
4 Title 19 applies.

5
6 Within the North Slope Borough boundary
7 where there's Federal land, State land, private land
8 and Borough land, it's an umbrella. The North Slope
9 Borough has an umbrella of its home rule power and we
10 need to work together somehow.

11
12 If the North Slope Borough were to
13 rezone the area of influence. I remember when Rex
14 Okakok was the director. He thought about rezoning the
15 area of influence into a subsistence zone and to create
16 a little bit more stringent policy to protect the area
17 of influence. The need to abide by that and develop
18 your management plans from the State and from the
19 Federal land managers to include recognizing the area
20 of influence might be already upon you all because
21 these are all new plans and adopted as law.

22
23 Within the last two years we've adopted
24 for Point Hope, for Anaktuvuk Pass, for Point Lay, for
25 Wainwright, for Barrow, for Kaktovik. The only
26 remaining one is Nuiqsut. If we were to -- if you look
27 at those that affect, I think it affects the areas that
28 you would need to recognize.

29
30 Anyway, I thought I'd just point that
31 out. These are important things to the Borough. As
32 the number one North Slope Borough land manager, that's
33 why I'm called the director, also the land management
34 administrator for the North Slope Borough. I'm telling
35 you these as these are laws that are enacted by the
36 Borough now.

37
38 There needs to be some recognition
39 because these plans are derived from State law, which
40 are consequences of probably Federal acts of developing
41 comprehensive plans for your communities.

42
43 All right. I think I said -- you know,
44 if you put me on the spot and to talk about a topic,
45 I'm so brainwashed that I can talk about them in my
46 sleep practically.

47
48 With that, I think those are important
49 things to bring out.

50

1 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree. These are
2 all very important issues. The way that the Secretary
3 has listed these orders are very important because it
4 affects the interpretation. The issues that we're
5 facing are very important throughout the region,
6 especially important for some of our communities.

7
8 I know this comes into play with the
9 recent decision in our region to approve the project.
10 Even though we had over 250 people in opposition to
11 that project, the precedence allowing a project to be
12 within three miles of a community, all of our villages
13 are at risk with that discussion.

14
15 When we're layering the criteria that
16 affect whether or not a village decision is given the
17 precedence versus the regional decision, those are key
18 factors that are allowing villages to be impacted in
19 some of these criterias that are being assessed.

20
21 The village comes out in discussion
22 because of the exposures that we've already faced with
23 failures to protect our community and the health of our
24 people and the importance of our traditional and
25 cultural uses. Failure to harvest in these regions
26 with the number of families that presented these
27 comments.

28
29 When we're up against the Borough in
30 some of these discussions, we have failed to protect
31 our village because of the regional interest. This is
32 very, very concerning because it is putting the
33 Secretary's interpretation of this process into layers
34 that allow the village issues to go lower in these
35 criterias of interpreting.

36
37 I'm very concerned about this. This is
38 very costly to our village. This is very costly to the
39 health and safety of our traditional and cultural uses,
40 our subsistence way of life, but it's the health of our
41 people and the failures to protect the health of our
42 people that have led to trying to be engaged in an
43 effective manner. It doesn't matter that we're coming
44 through and creating the discussion with the importance
45 of the health and safety of our people when our
46 priorities are put down into these layers of
47 interpretation.

48
49 This is very, very concerning that
50

1 we're having to react to these discussions and not
2 being engaged in an effective way to prevent this
3 interpretation from being interpreted to allow our
4 village to be severely impacted. I'm very concerned.
5 I feel that we've been engaged in this process for over
6 20 years and now with the swoop of a pen we're being
7 put down layers and layers in the interpretation and
8 it's not right.

9
10 This is very wrong. I don't know how
11 we could make it better. The North Slope Borough has
12 tried to incorporate some of these issues, but even the
13 Borough has sacrificed our village in some of these
14 decision-making criterias. They haven't been
15 protective of us. Yet now we're allowing the Secretary
16 of Interior to come out with another swooping pen to
17 really impact our traditional way of life and our
18 subsistence and the health of our villages.

19
20 This is regionwide, this is statewide.
21 It's not just our village. It's not just our region.
22 These are statewide issues that are having
23 interpretation with a swoop of the pen by this
24 Secretary of Interior. I really oppose this. I don't
25 know what we can do in discussing this, but I'm not
26 taking this open-handedly.

27
28 I fought for this process because I had
29 elders who had come to me when I was a young person and
30 asked me to do this process. I gave up some of this
31 process because I tried to focus and bring the layer of
32 my participation more effectively into the process, but
33 the elders came back to me and told me I had to get
34 back on this board.

35
36 I have to stay engaged. It's important
37 for our village. It's important for our subsistence,
38 our Native allotments. It's important for the health
39 of our people into the future. I'm not going to back
40 down on this issue.

41
42 I know many of you also are very
43 concerned about how this is being incorporated because
44 this is very impactful to us and the decisions that
45 we're having to face and criteria that's being
46 interpreted by this Secretary that's going to affect
47 the generations to come.

48
49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

50

1 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Mr. Shears.

4
5 MR. SHEARS: Exactly what Rosemary is
6 saying. Wow. I mean interpreting this literally,
7 here's an example of what the Secretary has imposed on
8 us. He could submit a proposal for our consideration
9 to modify the critical habitat for polar bear where it
10 blankets a 1002 area because it inhibits job creation.

11
12 We cannot consider the fact that the
13 polar bear have been forced ashore to hunt for bird
14 eggs in the summer because of lack of sea ice in that
15 area. We can't recognize it as a subsistence resource
16 anymore. But now we have to look at it as an area
17 listed as a critical polar bear habitat on the 1002 in
18 ANWR. Inhibits job creation.

19
20 I mean the bastardization of what he is
21 turning the Subsistence Advisory Council into is a
22 joke. I would have to resign if asked to consider such
23 a proposal by the Secretary.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

26
27 Any other comments on the Charter
28 update.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, I see it as a
33 great opportunity for doing more in working with tribes
34 and working with local governments. It's spelled out
35 with states, tribes or territories. In some of the
36 things that we've been just talking about.

37
38 If you're looking at village area of
39 influence and working together to provide a more
40 meaningful role in decision-making and the use of
41 Federal public lands and all of those obstacles that
42 we've had for maybe the entire time I've been on here,
43 since the 1990s, and that we have an opportunity to
44 hopefully work together.

45
46 I would work towards developing a
47 Federal MOU with the North Slope Borough to work under
48 these guidelines how we can work together. Not just
49 through the OSM and not just through Eva, but through

50

1 the management scheme because all of this stuff --
2 unless Secretary Zinke through Trump develops a
3 language that says all of my work on Federal public
4 lands is exempt from local laws and zoning of the home
5 rule borough, I don't see that language that says that.

6
7 Even the State law says that the
8 departments from DOT to DNR and all those have to work
9 with us and conform to the existing plans and laws of
10 the borough. To what extent these agencies ever yield
11 to those laws is another thing. But I think this
12 language here -- I think, to me, I see opportunities to
13 -- and I don't know who's going to do all of this.
14 Maybe -- who's going to do the work of what's being
15 outlined in the update to the Charter.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
18 I may, this was just signed by the Secretary December
19 4th, 2017 and then OSM received it shortly thereafter
20 and this is part of the Council's regular process is to
21 review their Charter and approve it. The Council was
22 not consulted on this additional language that was
23 inserted by the Secretary. This is what we received.
24 There's a lot of questions, concerns that I would not
25 be able to answer. It would take our Solicitor's
26 Office.

27
28 Again, the important thing to remember
29 is this Council is established under Title VIII of
30 ANILCA. It is governed by those statutes and that has
31 not changed. So the role of this Council is in statute
32 and that language doesn't change that. So my
33 understanding is this language was inserted into all
34 Regional Advisory Councils as Secretary Order in
35 interest of the Secretary and applies where applicable.

36
37 So like you say, Gordon, the greater
38 collaboration with states, tribes and territories.
39 That is in the Council's role and responsibility to
40 engage in public meetings and get that input and
41 collaboration with communities and other entities,
42 tribes, et cetera in the region.

43
44 If this Council has concerns about this
45 language, the process, I think an avenue to convey that
46 would be, if you're interested, to write a letter to
47 the Federal Subsistence Board conveying these concerns
48 and we could try to get more clarification or answers
49 for the Council.

50

1
2 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, in talking about
3 this, whose job is to implement this? Is it OSM? Is
4 it the Federal Subsistence Board? Is it by
5 recommendation of the Regional Advisory Councils? I
6 mean ultimately the changes would they go to Secretary
7 Zinke to enact those changes as prohibitive language
8 that needs to be done away with?

9
10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
11 Again, this Charter arises out of essentially the
12 duties of the Council established under Title VIII of
13 ANILCA and that role and relationship of the Regional
14 Advisory Councils to the Federal Subsistence Board and
15 the role of advising subsistence uses, needs, making
16 recommendations on subsistence uses on Federal public
17 lands and customary and traditional uses.

18
19 The Council reconfirms its Charter
20 every year. Essentially the Charter has not changed
21 since the inception. There's only a couple things the
22 Councils can modify and that's the number of Council
23 members that serve on the Council, a name. This arises
24 out of statute.

25
26 Again, I can't speak to what happened
27 here or the process, but this language inserted only
28 applies where applicable and much of it does not apply
29 to the roles and duties of the Council as established
30 under ANILCA.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. I'm
33 just trying to get a little bit more insight as to how
34 we achieve some of this stuff as recommendations. I
35 have a lot of good ideas, you know. I would pull out
36 all the village area of influence maps. It says to
37 make new policy and enact new policies here. Develop
38 some policy guidelines for the use of those village
39 area of influence and back it up with ordinance
40 language that these are laws and ordinances of the
41 local North Slope Borough, home rule borough.

42
43 That it conforms to the provisions that
44 are being asked for in the new Charter revisions and do
45 it that way and make the Federal subsistence management
46 manage around those village area of influences in a way
47 that protects the village to have the first access or
48 unobstructed access of large-scale terrestrial
49 movements of migratory animals to where they're

50

1 normally found for reasonable subsistence opportunities
2 without conflict.

3

4 Boy, that would be a great policy.

5

6 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there, Lee.

9

10 MR. KAYOTUK: I think we should resume
11 if this is, you know, a Charter thing that needs to be
12 further discussed. You know, 5:00 o'clock is 5:00
13 o'clock. We're not going to go beyond. Issues like
14 this is important too, but I think -- you know, we've
15 been sitting here since this morning. We had this
16 discussion before or matters of discussion. This is
17 the way it should be.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Lee.
22 Thanks for reorienting us. Sometimes we need to call a
23 point of order because our heads get too big with the
24 new Charter update.

25

26 Any other discussions on the Charter
27 update that Eva provided for us.

28

29 MR. SHEARS: Eva, a question. Are we
30 expected to take an oath on this Charter that we pledge
31 to serve it and ANILCA Title VIII as Council members?

32

33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 The Charter is what guides and authorizes the work of
35 the Council. There's a lot of questions I can't answer
36 about this inserted language and that process. That's
37 a really good question and I can try to relay these.

38

39 I don't know if we'll get answers back
40 tomorrow, but I would encourage the Council to make
41 your questions and concerns known so that we can relay
42 that both to the Federal Subsistence Board and they, in
43 turn, to the Secretary. I'll have to get back to you
44 on a lot of these questions. It will involve our
45 solicitor being able to try to interpret some of this.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

48

49 Any other questions to Eva on the

50

1 Charter update.

2

3

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve,

6

Point Hope.

7

8

MR. OOMITTUK: Are you telling us we
9 have to take action on this?

10

11

MS. PATTON: No, you don't need to take
12 action on this. There's been a lot of good discussion
13 and I think some concerns and questions. If you have
14 other concerns or questions that come up, we have
15 tomorrow as well.

16

17

MR. OOMITTUK: I like Gordon's
18 comments, you know, the wordings. This is the North
19 Slope Advisory Council and, you know, the North Slope
20 Borough is a home rule government. I think what Gordon
21 stated out, you know, they keep putting us more and
22 more into a corner and we might not be able to get out
23 of it someday. We need to really understand what these
24 words mean, you know, and what the Secretary of
25 Interior is trying to do. I wouldn't want to approve
26 anything without understanding it.

27

28

MS. PATTON: Actually the Council did
29 approve your Charter at the last meeting, but it did
30 not include this language. So this was inserted
31 without consultation of the Council.

32

33

MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I see that, but
34 it's not in parentheses where -- you know, it shows the
35 whole Charter and it doesn't show that this part is
36 added in, it just shows like the whole Charter. I see
37 it's that one section, but it doesn't have parentheses
38 or anything. It's set in there like it's already in
39 stone. That's the one thing I don't like.

40

41

It doesn't say draft or anything like
42 that. It's in there. If we go and approve it, we
43 can't turn the clock back. I just feel that it should
44 be in parentheses and this is added in, but it doesn't
45 show that. The Secretary of Interior, we should have
46 had a workshop on it or something so we better
47 understand what we're approving.

48

49

I just feel that we don't have an

50

1 understanding. It might put us in a corner that we
2 can't get back out. Like Gordon said, we are a home
3 rule government. We have our own, the North Slope
4 Borough. We are North Slope Borough Advisory Council.
5 We follow the borough charter. It's a home rule
6 government.

7
8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, maybe I need
9 to make myself clear. The North Slope Regional
10 Advisory Council is a Federal Advisory Council to the
11 Federal Subsistence Board. The North Slope Borough is
12 independent altogether, a state chartered subdivision
13 of the state. That's where the difference is.

14
15 The reason why I express the home rule
16 charter of the Borough is because we are developing
17 plans and have adopted plans and enacted them into law.
18 There are no laws that exempt the Federal government
19 unless it specifically states that we exempt them, that
20 they are exempt from following local laws and
21 ordinances, which in our Title 19 also says they apply
22 our laws -- Title 19 applies to Federal land to where
23 it's applicable unless otherwise explicitly excluded by
24 the Federal government.

25
26 State statute say they must abide by
27 local zoning laws as well and we pointed that out just
28 so that we could have a good working relationship and
29 not be not an equal player so the State and Federal
30 agencies could recognize what the home rule borough was
31 about.

32
33 I just wanted to make sure we're clear.
34 The North Slope Regional Advisory Council is not a
35 North Slope Borough Charter thing here. This is
36 created by the Federal agencies here. The Borough has
37 its own plans, own ways and develops its own things.
38 There has to be a way to refer to local plans and
39 that's what I'm trying to get at.

40
41 MR. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree. I think
42 getting a letter out to the Federal Subsistence Board
43 is very important from our region. I think that there
44 will be other regions that provide comment on this
45 modification that's being presented for discussion and
46 that also would be very important for us to review and
47 assess as we interpret this change. As well the
48 Borough's interpretation is very important because of
49 the layers of decision-making criteria that is

50

1 incorporated with this change.

2

3 Being that we did not get to comment in
4 it, it is very important that we provide a letter in
5 response to this change and that we put forward our
6 layers of concern that affect our ability to protect
7 subsistence and the health of our people.

8

9 I appreciate that we're given this
10 opportunity, but I'm greatly cautioned because of
11 failures to protect Nuiqsut and the changes that we
12 face to subsistence and the health of our people by
13 failing to be able to harvest at quantities that we
14 need to harvest and the risks that we pose to the
15 health of our people because we're not getting some of
16 this information that could protect human health
17 incorporated into the layers of the decision-making
18 criteria in an effective manner.

19

20 So I encourage this RAC to submit that
21 letter with the concerns that we've been discussing and
22 get some interpretation as well as follow up in our
23 next meeting in this process. I recognize that we
24 can't get all the answers, but I would also encourage
25 that we have the solicitor participate in our next
26 meeting so that some of these questions that we're
27 going to put forward have the interpretation from the
28 solicitor that allows us to have some answers to this
29 discussion as we go forward.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
34 There's a request that it's after 5:00 and we were
35 scheduled to meet until 5:00 and we've overindulged
36 ourselves with the Charter update.

37

38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
39 I may, if the Council does want to draft a letter to
40 the Federal Subsistence Board expressing concerns and
41 the questions that you have, then that would be good to
42 get a motion on the record of your intent and if you
43 wanted to include the discussion here. If the Council
44 drafts a letter on behalf of the Council, then it takes
45 a motion to formalize that on the record.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva, I think we could
48 continue the dialogue tomorrow, right?

49

50

1 MR. SHEARS: Yeah. That way we can
2 sleep on this.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Give us some snoring
5 time and whatnot.

6
7 MS. PATTON: Thank you.

8
9 MR. SHEARS: Motion to recess.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
12 the floor to recess until -- what is it, 9:00 o'clock
13 tomorrow?

14
15 MS. PATTON: Nine o'clock tomorrow
16 morning, yes.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor.

19
20 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded. Any
23 discussion.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. All those
28 in favor of recessing until tomorrow morning at 9:00
29 signify by saying aye.

30
31 IN UNISON: Aye.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
34 no.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Aye.

37
38 (No opposing votes)

39
40 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Wanda.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We're
43 recessed.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (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 NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 14th day of February in Utqiagvik, 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 23rd day of February 2018.

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