

NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

Inupiat Heritage Center
Barrow, Alaska
March 15, 2017
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Brower, Chair
Rosemary Ahtuanguak
Esther S. Hugo
Lee Kayotuk
Wanda T. Kippi

Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Barrow, Alaska - 3/15/2017)

(On record)

ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Eva, maybe we can start off on the agenda and do an invocation. And I'd like to ask Roy Nageak to start us off this morning, if you could, Roy.

MR. R. NAGEAK: Thank you, Gordon. We want to give thanks to our Creator God who created all the animals, every fish in the sea, every animal in the sea, and all the animals in the land. Then he created man to go forth and multiply, and suffer all the animals for food. Heavenly Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, we thank you for this day to serve people in Barrow and all the whaling villages in the springtime, because we -- for the coming of the great bowhead whale which you have created for our sustenance. Heavenly Father, we always pray that you give us the gift of the whale for our people who then share (in Inupiaq). In everything we do, oh God, you have give us our Inupiaq values to guide us for hundreds of thousands of years. We thank you, that you have allowed us to have the freedom for our children and our grandchildren to do what we have done following our creation with the animals. As we go forth, Heavenly Father, we thank you for blessing us with the resources that we have on the North Slope that our nation needs for energy, and our ability to utilize a system that comes with them to tax, so that we could have the financial resources to do what's good for our people, along with all the animals that you have created for us.

Heavenly Father, I ask you to guide these people that are to meet together to have the understanding that it's for the good of the people that you create everything. And we thank ye that today we (indiscernible) still to what we have created for us to live off, the beautiful animals for our food. Thank you that we are able to create and guide all existing.....

Thank you, Lord, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Amen.
2
3 (In Inupiaq)
4
5 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Before we do call
6 to order, I need our vice chair -- is it vice chair?
7 Is usually delegated as the Chair for the meeting, and
8 Rosemary is tending to her father's needs, and if she
9 could relinquish the Chair over and delegate somebody
10 in Barrow present, it would be appropriate at this
11 time.
12
13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, thank you. And
14 I appreciate that, Gordon.
15
16 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. Rosemary,
17 is there somebody you want to delegate as the Acting
18 Chair for this meeting?
19
20 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, Gordon, if you
21 could go ahead and take the Chair, or one of you that
22 are in the conference area where the activities are,
23 that would be greatly appreciated. There is so much
24 more that is shared in the process when you're in the
25 room than when you're on the telephone, and it's
26 important to task one of you all there.
27
28 So thank you. I appreciate that.
29
30 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
31 Rosemary. Atqasuk, Kaktovik, any of you have any
32 objection to me taking the Chair, or would one of you
33 want to Chair the meeting.
34
35 MS. KIPPI: No objections from Atqasuk.
36
37 MR. KAYOTUK: No objections.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. We
40 have unanimous, Gordon Brower will be Acting Chair
41 today.
42
43 Thank you very much, and we'll call the
44 meeting to order at 9:23 a.m.
45
46 And Madame Secretary, if you could do
47 the roll call.
48
49 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Mr. Chair
50

1 or whatever you.....

2

3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Oh, I apologize.
4 I thought it was Eva doing the roll call, but, Lee, I
5 didn't mean to call you Madame. I apologize.

6

7 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Gordon. I'd
8 like to call the Board members here if they're present.

9

10 Gordon R. Brower.

11

12 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Present.

13

14 MR. KAYOTUK: 2011, 2017. Number 2,
15 2011, 2019, Robert V. Shears.

16

17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 Robert just stopped in this morning and let us know
19 that he was just hired into a directorship position
20 with the Borough and had to attend to that today. He
21 was hoping he'd be able to stop in tomorrow for some
22 important action items, but he will not be here today.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MR. KAYOTUK: Number 3, 2016, 2018,
27 Esther S. Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.

28

29 (No comments)

30

31 MR. KAYOTUK: Number 4, 2015, 2019,
32 Wanda T. Kippi, Atqasuk.

33

34 MS. KIPPI: Present.

35

36 MR. KAYOTUK: Number 5, 2017, vacant.
37 Number 6, 2017, vacant. Number 7, 2015, 2019, Steve A.
38 Oomituk, Point Hope.

39

40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
41 Steve was not able to travel to Barrow today. He will
42 be able to join us by teleconference tomorrow, so he'll
43 be on all day tomorrow.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. KAYOTUK: Number 8, 2015, vacant.
48 Number 9, 2006, 2018, Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik. Present.

49

50

1 Number 10, 2009, 2018, Rosemary
2 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow.
3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Present.
5
6 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair, that's
7 Regional Advisory Council board members at this time.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, thank you,
10 Lee.
11
12 And I don't think we've established a
13 quorum, but we will proceed informational. Those that
14 need action item will be delayed until such time we
15 establish a quorum.
16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 Esther Hugo is scheduled on a flight this morning, and
19 so will arrive this afternoon. Currently we have seven
20 Council members on the Council with the vacant seats,
21 so we need five members to establish quorum. And
22 Rosemary is on teleconference, and her participation is
23 part of quorum and taking action. So Esther should
24 arrive this afternoon.
25
26 Thank you.
27
28 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Just a question.
29 When Esther arrives, will we be able to establish a
30 quorum should we have something as an action item?
31
32 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
33 Yes, when Eva arrives, we will be able to establish
34 quorum and take action.
35
36 There are a number of items on the
37 agenda that are some of our standard Council work items
38 that do require a motion and action by the Council.
39 Approving the minutes, approving the annual report of
40 the Council. Review and approval or any edits to that
41 report. And we do have election of officers for the
42 Council to establish and Chair and Vice Chair and
43 Secretary. And so those are all presently needing
44 action for quorum.
45
46 The main -- important business of the
47 Council is if the Council wishes to develop any Federal
48 subsistence wildlife proposals. This is the meeting to
49 do that, and we will have updates in particular on the
50

1 caribou herds and the status of the herds, and
2 information to help Council in any consideration of
3 Federal subsistence wildlife proposals. So that's the
4 critical action item, if the Council wishes to submit a
5 proposal that would require a quorum.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
8 And I think some of those were listed on the agenda.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Yes.

11
12
13 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And we'll just
14 proceed. And with that, I'd like to go into welcome
15 and introductions. And maybe agency Staff could start
16 with their -- to introduce themselves, whoever's on
17 line. And then we'll proceed to those that are present
18 in the meeting in person. On line, introduce
19 yourselves.

20
21 MS. RATTENBURY: Good morning, Mr.
22 Chair. This is Kumi Rattenbury with the National Park
23 Service in Fairbanks, Alaska. And I want to let you
24 know Marcy Okada is also on her way to the meeting and
25 should be there mid day today.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you.
28 Anybody else. Is anybody else on line. I thought I
29 heard somebody said something.

30
31 MR. GALLOWAY: Chester Galloway here in
32 Point Hope.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq) from
35 Point Hope?

36
37 MR. GALLOWAY: Chester Galloway,
38 wildlife and parks director for Native Village of Point
39 Hope.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq)
42 Good morning from Barrow.

43
44 MR. GALLOWAY: Good morning.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I need to correct
47 myself. I think the change is official. It's
48 Utqiagvik now. We've got to learn how to say Utqiagvik
49 more often.

50

1 MR. GALLOWAY: Yeah.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq) on
4 line. Who else is on line.

5

6 (No comments)

7

8 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Hearing
9 none, we'll start with introductions with agencies and
10 participants in the meeting here in Utqiagvik. And if
11 you can come up to the mic, introduce yourself, who
12 you're affiliated with would be proper.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 MS. PETRIVELLI: Well, I'm Pat
17 Petrivelli with BIA, and I'm the subsistence
18 anthropologist. I work out of Anchorage.

19

20 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Pat.

21

22 MR. SCANLON: Good morning. My name is
23 Brendan Scanlon. I'm a fishery biologist with the
24 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and tomorrow I'm
25 going to have a short presentation on some FRMP
26 research projects.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Very good.

31

32 Thank you, ADF&G.

33

34 MR. EVANS: Good morning. Mr. Chairman
35 and members of the Council. My name is Tom Evans. I'm
36 the wildlife biologist for OSM, the North Slope, and
37 the Southcentral, and the Kodiak-Aleutians Councils.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Tom.

40

41 MR. KLIMSTRA: Good morning. My name
42 is Ryan Klimstra, a biologist for Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game.

44

45 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Good morning,
46 Ryan. (In Inupiaq)

47

48 MR. R. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak, Sr., Bureau
49 of Land Management, natural resource specialist in

50

1 Barrow office.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Good morning,

6

Roy.

7

8

(In Inupiaq)

9

10

MR. E. NAGEAK: (In Inupiaq)

11

12

I was born and raised in Barrow. I've lived here all my life. Since I grew up the subsistence way of life, I've been involved with subsistence activities with the -- I started off with the State Fish and Game, then the Village of Barrow wildlife department, our local Native tribal government, Native Village of Barrow, and now have been working for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the past five years as Alaska Native affairs specialist for the North Slope in the Barrow region.

22

23

And we just got done with our Native relations training we host every year, so we have a couple of my fellow students behind me. We were taught how to introduce ourselves, and, you know, let our lineage out and where we come from. And, you know, we might have something in common during breaks, and might want to have interactions, so.....

30

31

ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

32

33

It was a great introduction, and I appreciate that.

35

36

MR. COGSWELL: (In Odawa) Hi.

37

38

My name is Stewart Cogswell, and I just spoke to you -- Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. I just spoke to you in Odawa. I am from Wisconsin. I'm a member of the Little River Band of Odawa Indians, and I am very happy to be here today. So I was born in Michigan to Stewart and Sharon Cogswell. And my Native village is on my father's side. My grandpa was Francis Cogswell, and born in Michigan. And I moved to Wisconsin, and lived most of my life in Wisconsin with my mother. And I've been working for the Fish and Wildlife Service for 23 years -- or 26 years now, and 23 of those were in Green Bay, Wisconsin as a fish

50

1 biologist. I love my job, thought I had the best job
2 ever, but I did a detail in Bethel with Gene Peltola at
3 the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and sort of
4 fell in love with Alaska. And there was a job opening
5 a year later, and I got hired, and I've been in Alaska
6 for two and a half years now, and I love it. So my
7 heart is with -- I grew up in a subsistence lifestyle,
8 a little bit different than here, but, you know, we
9 gathered berries and fruits, and we hunted deer. We
10 ate a lot of white sucker, which people don't -- even
11 back there, they're like, what? You ate white sucker?
12 But, yeah, it was a big staple for us. I tell all my
13 friends it was salmon, but it was white sucker.

14
15 And so my current job is the fisheries
16 division chief for the Office of Subsistence
17 Management.

18
19 And I'm very thankful to be here.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, and
24 that was a great introduction. And I really appreciate
25 those that have a heart to be around and work with
26 subsistence and I think it's a great opportunity for
27 folks that come from other places. And I appreciate
28 your introduction.

29
30 MR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
31 members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream. My
32 Tlingit name, adopted Tlingit name is (in Tlingit). I
33 was a few years ago adopted into the (In Tlingit) clan
34 of the Stikine Tlingit. I'm originally from
35 southwestern Pennsylvania, both sides of my family are
36 from there. Both sides traditionally would have been
37 from Germany.

38
39 I've been in Alaska for more than 10
40 years. I've been with the Office of Subsistence
41 Management for about nine months now. And before that
42 I was with the Division of Subsistence at the State.
43 Last year I finished a doctoral degree at the
44 University of Alaska Fairbanks in ethnobiology. So I
45 do have some working knowledge that's interdisciplinary
46 both in biology and in anthropology.

47
48 I have been assigned to the North Slope
49 and to the Northwest Arctic, and then I help out

50

1 elsewhere in the State when possible.

2

3 So I look forward to continuing to
4 getting to know you and to working with you, and to
5 doing good work.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq)

10

11 Any other introductions.

12

13 (Indiscernible on teleconference,
14 breaking up)

15

16 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. Who's
17 on line and hasn't muted that is talking over. We're
18 hearing the conversation, if you haven't muted
19 yourself.

20

21 But if you haven't introduced yourself
22 yet, we're introducing folks that are present in
23 Barrow. Let us finish that before we go back to see
24 who's on line that hasn't introduced themselves yet.

25

26 Go ahead.

27

28 MR. TWITCHELL: Good morning. Chair.
29 Council members. My name is Adam Twitchell. I was
30 born in Anchorage, but grew up in Takotna, Alaska. I'm
31 a member of the Orutsararmiut Tribe from Bethel. My
32 parents were reindeer herders on my grandmother and
33 grandfather's side, Lakwanme Jensen, Ellen Marie. On
34 my father's side, my father married into -- a Native
35 lady, Irene Kochik from the Kasigluk area, and
36 continued to herd reindeer and live in the Lower
37 Kuskokwim area for the rest of their lives.

38

39 Currently I'm the assistant manager for
40 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I've been there for
41 eight years now. Prior to that I worked three years on
42 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and prior to that
43 I worked 15 years at Denali National Park, and 10 years
44 at Lake Clark National Park. So I am -- sort of a
45 diverse western and northern part of the State, and
46 I'll be addressing the Council on a number of issues a
47 little bit later in the meeting.

48

49 Thank you.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Adam.
2
3 And maybe our recorder.

4
5 MS. HALL: Lynn.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Lynn.
8
9 Anybody else on line that has not
10 introduced themselves, it's an opportunity now to
11 introduce yourself.

12
13 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning, Council.
14 My name is Hilary Robinson. I am the chief of
15 resources at Western Arctic National Parklands, which
16 include Noatak National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern
17 National Monument, and Kobuk Valley National Park. I
18 am listening into the RAC meeting today in case there
19 are any questions that the Council has that relate to
20 what is happening in our parklands, that I'm able to
21 answer those. I believe also Marcy Okada is there in
22 person from Gates of the Arctic National Park and
23 Preserve. I'm happy to be here listening in, and if I
24 can be helpful in answering questions, I'm here to do
25 that.

26
27 Thank you.

28
29 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
30 Hilary. And if Marcy's here, she's got her cloak on,
31 because she's invisible. So maybe she'll com in later.

32
33 MS. ROBINSON: Oh, okay.

34
35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
36 Marcy also was on that flight coming to Barrow
37 yesterday that got canceled, so she'll be on the flight
38 this morning. Marcy and Esther will be arriving on the
39 same flight together, and due in roughly probably
40 around noon, so they'll be able to join us after lunch.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

43
44 And when they arrive, we will
45 acknowledge their presence.

46
47 Anybody else on line.

48
49 (No comments)

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right.
2 Hearing none, then we have item 5, review and adoption
3 of agenda. What's the wish of the RAC.
4
5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
6 do have a couple additions to the agenda from when the
7 meeting book was printed, which goes out quite some
8 time ago. One important addition is we have Hollis
9 Twitchell here from Arctic National Wildlife Refuge who
10 also was on of the primary people serving in the review
11 of the Alaska Native Relations Policy, and the U.S.
12 Fish and Wildlife Service policy.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. If you
15 could maybe just find a spot where those require new
16 additions would be, and then they can introduce that at
17 the appropriate time, so we don't have to like
18 duplication of efforts or something.
19
20 MS. PATTON: Sure. You bet. So we had
21 added them under -- Alaska Native Relations under new
22 business, E. And we did have a couple potential
23 changes to the agenda to make sure that we can
24 accommodate both when we have quorum and key Staff that
25 -- or key Council members, that there's updates of
26 interest to Anaktuvuk Pass in particular. And Marcy
27 Okada will be arriving this afternoon, if there's an
28 opportunity for her to provide the Gates of the Arctic
29 National Park update, either this afternoon or first
30 thing tomorrow morning. And similarly we have Brendan
31 Scanlon who will have an update in part on the
32 Chandalar Lake project to be able to.....
33
34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Eva, maybe just
35 for some clarity.
36
37 MS. PATTON: Sure.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Is that on Item
40 12, agency report for Marcy.
41
42 MS. PATTON: Correct. Both Brendan and
43 Marcy were under agency reports, under Item 12, Gates
44 of the Arctic National Park NPS. And then ADF&G -- I'm
45 sorry, we had a Fisheries Resource Monitoring program
46 updates. And those were under agency reports.
47
48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. It appears
49 they're on the list already, and so.....
50

1 MS. PATTON: Uh-huh. It is just a
2 matter of timing, that Marcy has to leave tomorrow, so
3 she would need to present either today or first thing
4 tomorrow morning.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. You're
7 suggestion is where do we put Marcy. Before Item 12?

8
9 MS. PATTON: Sure. We could have Marcy
10 present this afternoon. That would be an option
11 since.....

12
13 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And, Eva, is that
14 an action item we're needing a quorum, or is that
15 informational?

16
17 MS. PATTON: That is an informational
18 update.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. So there's
21 a wish to place Marcy Okada somewhere else other than
22 agency report, because of her -- she's going to have to
23 depart early or something like that.

24
25 MS. PATTON: Yes. Uh-huh.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, I would
28 need your suggestion as to where you want to put her.

29
30 MS. PATTON: Okay. We could this
31 afternoon have Marcy present, if that would work well
32 for the Council. And that way she would be able to
33 make sure to get time to have her presentation and any
34 discussion and questions with the Council.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Is it new
37 business, or would that be considered something that we
38 know about and it's an update that could be under old
39 business at front, at Number 10?

40
41 MS. PATTON: Sure, it could go under
42 old business, and, in fact, some of it is updates
43 following up from the fall meeting.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Suggestion
46 that we put Marcy at old business.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Okay.

49
50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So move.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There's a motion
4 on the floor to adjust the agenda to -- is it National
5 Park Service?
6
7 MS. PATTON: Yes. Gates of the Arctic.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: To put National
10 Park Service, Marcy Okada, under old business, Item 10.
11 What's the wish.
12
13 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. So move for
14 Marcy Okada to Number 10 under old business at this
15 time.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. I think we
18 just needed a second to do that. I think there was a
19 motion on the floor.
20
21 MR. KAYOTUK: Second it.
22
23 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Questions. Do we
24 have any -- all those in favor of moving Marcy Okada to
25 Item 10 signify by saying aye.
26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.
28
29 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. We've
30 adjusted where Marcy should be to expedite her report.
31 Any other.
32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 One other maybe little bit of a rearrangement, if it
35 works for the Council. We have Ernest Nageak with us
36 here today. He may not be able to be here tomorrow,
37 and his would be an informational update that we don't
38 need quorum for, just to introduce himself and his work
39 to the Council. We may have (Indiscernible) Nageak
40 also with the Barrow field office, and she had thought
41 she might be stopping in if she had a chance. And so
42 those are informational updates. It would a wonderful
43 chance for them to, especially as we have new Council
44 members, to share a little bit of their work with the
45 Council.
46
47 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Eva, can we put
48 that under old business as well, maybe old business,
49 Item B or something?
50

1 MS. PATTON: Sure. That would be
2 great. And then since that's informational to this
3 area, that could happen this morning, too, if there was
4 time after the Council has welcome and introductions
5 and Council member reports.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Well, Eva, I
8 think we're past item 4, welcome and introductions, and
9 we're in review and adoption of the agenda, so it would
10 have to be somewhere.....

11
12 MS. PATTON: Pardon me, Mr. Chair. I
13 was thinking under -- after Council member reports and
14 the Chair's report. We have public and tribal comment
15 on non-agenda items, and we could fit in Ernest after
16 that.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Are you thinking
19 about under reports adding Ernest right after Chair's
20 report.

21
22 MS. PATTON: Yes, that would be great
23 or right after public and tribal comment on non-agenda
24 items.

25
26 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right.
27 There's a consideration to put Ernest from the Fish and
28 Wildlife Service maybe as an item under 9, public and
29 tribal comments, non-agenda items, just before old
30 business, and make it an Item A.

31
32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So move

33
34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There's a motion
35 on the floor to move a report for informational from
36 Ernest Akungnyuk (ph) for Fish and Wildlife Service as
37 an Item 9(a).

38
39 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right.
42 Seconded by Atqasuk. Any discussion.

43
44 MR. KAYOTUK: Correction, Mr. Chairman.
45 Ernest Nageak.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: You know, what I
48 was thinking about a story so much, because Ernest used
49 to be a chief at Utqiagvik a long time ago, and I
50

1 listened to my dad.
2
3 MR. KAYOTUK: That's my (in Inupiaq),
4 so I have to be heard.
5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. I think
7 about those old stories sometimes and then I say
8 Akungnyuk when I hear Ernest.
9
10 Thank you, Roy, for the correction.
11
12 Any discussion.
13
14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Are we ready to call
15 for the question on the rest of the agenda.
16
17 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Question's been
18 called for. All those in favor of adding Ernest Nageak
19 from Fish and Wildlife Service, informational, under
20 Item 9 as A signify by saying aye.
21
22 IN UNISON: Aye.
23
24 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. We
25 got Earnest as item 9(a). I think we didn't vote to
26 amend the agenda under new business to have item (e),
27 but we did move Marcy to old business. The Alaska
28 Native Relations, and who was going to do that.
29
30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
31 have Hollis Twitchell with Arctic National Wildlife
32 Refuge, and he'll be providing that update.
33
34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There's a
35 suggestion on the floor from the coordinator to amend
36 the agenda under Item 11 to add (E), Alaska Native
37 Relations, Hollis Twitchell.
38
39 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So move.
40
41 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There's a motion
42 on the floor to add Item E, Alaska Native relations.
43
44 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.
45
46 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by
47 Atqasuk. Any discussion.
48
49 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Call the question.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Question's been
2 called for to add Item 11(e), Alaska Native relations,
3 Hollis Twitchell. Signify by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Any other
8 suggested changes to the agenda.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
11 may work seeing how the meeting proceeds to be
12 flexible in terms of the remaining agency reports. If
13 things are moving along and we don't have quorum for
14 the action items, then we can take up the remainder of
15 the agency reports as it works well for the Council.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There's a
18 suggestion on floor from the coordinator to be very
19 flexible as agency reports, action items are not able
20 to be conducted, those that are informational, if the
21 opportunity arises to get those out of the way.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
24 And our plan was, too, to have the critical wildlife
25 reports, in particular caribou reports and other
26 reports, prior to the Council taking any deliberation
27 on the submission of a Federal subsistence wildlife
28 proposal, if the Council wished to do so. So we try to
29 bring those together so the Council has the latest
30 information to consider. So that's kind of combined
31 with that action item, so we would get those reports
32 prior to the Council considering Federal subsistence
33 wildlife proposals.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yes, Eva and
36 members of the Council, I think there's not a spot to
37 put that on the agenda, but I think we should remain
38 flexible and accommodate when we don't have a quorum to
39 be able to get some of these presentations off of the
40 way until we establish a quorum to do the actual items.
41 And I think the Council here would be amenable to do
42 that.

43
44 Any other changes to the agenda.

45
46 (No comments)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: What's the wish
49 of Council as the agenda's been modified.

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary. I
2 agree. We live in an area where it's really hard for
3 us to pull all membership together, and working through
4 the opportunities of making sure information is
5 distributed and shared, and opportunity discussed by
6 making sure that we take shape the schedule to the
7 needs to be on the schedule when we need a quorum. So
8 I really appreciate the Staff and all their efforts to
9 work with this complex process and trying to get us
10 through what we need to do. So thank you all.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
13 Rosemary.

14
15 And we have an agenda that we've
16 amended, and I think we need a motion to adopt the
17 revised agenda.

18
19 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I so move to adopt
20 the revised agenda.

21
22 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There is a motion
23 on the floor to adopt the agenda as revised.

24
25 MR. KAYOTUK: Seconded, Mr. Chair --
26 Vice Chair.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Seconded by
29 Kaktovik. Lee. Any discussions.

30
31 MR. KAYOTUK: Call for question.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Question's been
34 called for. All those in favor of adopting the agenda
35 as amended signify by saying aye.

36
37 IN UNISON: Aye.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: We have an
40 agenda, so we're able to start to conduct business.

41
42 Item 6, election of officers. I think
43 we need to make a motion to table that as we are few in
44 number today, and election of officers should be when
45 we're a full board and capable of having a real vote in
46 person.

47
48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
49 Again this afternoon we will have quorum when Esther
50

1 Hugo arrives, and tomorrow Steve Oomituk had planned to
2 participate, so we will have quorum. And since we are
3 missing with the retirement, early retirement of long-
4 time Chair Harry Brower, Jr., we have been missing an
5 actual Chair. Rosemary as the Vice Chair has been
6 acting in the capacity of Chair. So tomorrow would be
7 good. When we have quorum, the Council can take up
8 election of officers so we can fill the Chair's seat.

9
10 Thank you.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
13 So Item 6, maybe we can postpone that to tomorrow when
14 we establish a quorum. Or what's the wish of the
15 commission. A lot of times under Robert's Rules of
16 Order, when we're going to conduct an election of
17 officers, usually you need to be present, but I will
18 take the advice of the coordinator that you can
19 participate and vote through -- even if you're on the
20 teleconference.

21
22 So we're on Item 6. Do we want to
23 postpone that until tomorrow or table it to our next
24 meeting. What's the wish of the Council.

25
26 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Vice Chair. I'd like
27 to table it for tomorrow until we have a full quorum
28 established to move forward on this Item 6 of election
29 of officers.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
32 Kaktovik, Lee. And just for purposes of being correct,
33 Rosemary's actually the Vice Chair. We don't have a
34 Chairman. And if Rosemary was present, she would have
35 to act as Acting Chair. She's not present, and you
36 need to have somebody present to chair the meeting.
37 And so Rosemary relinquished the Chair to myself, so
38 I'm Acting Chair, not Acting Vice Chair. Right?

39
40 MS. PATTON: Correct.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And Rosemary's
43 still the Vice Chair.

44
45 So with that, there's a motion from
46 Kaktovik to table -- not table, to postpone the
47 election of officers until we get a quorum tomorrow.

48
49 MS. KIPPI: I'll second the motion.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: The motion is
2 seconded. Any discussion.

3
4 MR. KAYOTUK: Call for question.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Question has been
7 called for. All those in favor of postponing the
8 election of officers until we get a quorum tomorrow,
9 signify by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. Item
14 6 is postponed until tomorrow, until we get a quorum.

15
16 That brings us to Item 7, review and
17 approve previous meeting minutes. And I'm going to ask
18 for advice from the coordinator. Can we without a
19 quorum approve the minutes or do we need the quorum.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
22 is an action item for the Council to review the minutes
23 and feedback for any edits, additions, and to approve
24 the minutes either as written or with edits. And so it
25 requires a quorum to have an official mote on that, so
26 again we'll have Esther Hugo this afternoon and Steve
27 tomorrow, so we can take up those action items either
28 later today when we have quorum.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right, Eva.
31 It appears that we cannot take action on the minutes
32 until we get a quorum. We may get one this afternoon.
33 And there's a lot of adjusting still going on here. So
34 there's a recommendation to move that maybe to this
35 afternoon. And what's the wish of the Council. We'll
36 get a quorum this afternoon as folks are en route and
37 had airplane problems so that I heard of. But still we
38 will get a quorum this afternoon. So need some -- we
39 can move that to this afternoon sometime.

40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: So move.

42
43 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Motion on the
44 floor to move the review and approve previous meeting
45 minutes to sometime this afternoon when we establish a
46 quorum. And that's the motion on the floor.

47
48 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: It's been second
2 by Atqasuk. And any discussion.

3
4 MR. KAYOTUK: Call for question.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Question's been
7 called for to do Item 7, review and approve previous
8 meeting's minutes when we establish a quorum this
9 afternoon. Signify by saying aye.

10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. Item
14 7 is effectively moved until we get a quorum, any time
15 we get a quorum, we'll take up that action.

16
17 And it brings us to Item 8, reports.
18 And maybe we'll start off with Atqasuk. And it's
19 always good to hear from your region what your concerns
20 are, what your experiences were, and it's always good
21 to introduce yourselves.

22
23 But I want to also emphasize we are
24 very short-handed. We have at least three vacancies.
25 We need more -- I think Harry Brower has resigned as
26 he's a new mayor. And I'm hoping the other communities
27 that should try to submit nominations for their
28 community. I don't know if nominations are closed, but
29 we really need to make sure the North Slope communities
30 are represented, and not just overwhelming from Barrow.
31 I know a lot of times I've heard OSM say, so long as
32 you're from the North Slope, it's good, but we actually
33 want to make sure we're fully represented by
34 communities that are on the North Slope. Sometimes
35 it's hard to speak on their behalf if we have a
36 distance relationship, you know. If you had a -- if I
37 had a long-distance relationship, it would be hard to
38 maintain that and it kind of leads to divorce
39 sometimes. I just thought I'd express that. It's good
40 to have membership from communities, and it's important
41 to hear from all of our villages.

42
43 So with that, I'll start off with
44 Atqasuk.

45
46 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. My name is
47 Wanda Kippi from Atqasuk. Thank you, Gordon.

48
49 At this time I don't know what to
50

1 report right now. The only thing I could think of is
2 that our hunting season was a little slow due to bear.
3 There was a lot of bears in our area, around the
4 Kuluruak area last year, and they scared the caribou
5 and the reindeer away from that area, about five or six
6 miles radius, so there was hardly any caribou for a
7 while around that area, and had to go pretty far to go
8 hunt this year.

9
10 And I haven't any reports from the
11 community, and I had asked if we had any proposals to
12 bring here today, and I didn't receive any from the
13 city or from the community.

14
15 That's all I have.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.
20 And while we're under the Council members reports, and
21 before we conclude, you'll have an opportunity to
22 supplement that if you kind of remember something.

23
24 So with that we'll go to Kaktovik.

25
26 Lee.

27
28 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you. We had a
29 pretty rough winter I guess, not rough, but really
30 windy weather, you know. Recently we just had like 80
31 miles an hour like a couple weeks ago, which was very
32 devastating weather to have. And no one's really been
33 out camping more than two months, because of the
34 weather.

35
36 We got like some caribou east of us,
37 probably reindeer like 26 miles east of Barter Island.
38 Other than that, no snow, no polar bears yet, which is
39 pretty good. But no one's really been out on the land
40 yet due to high winds and weather the past two months,
41 so everybody's just been hanging around the village and
42 hunting from the village, and now we're getting a lot
43 of time (ph) in the village, which is good, must be a
44 sign of spring, but other than that, no one's really
45 been out hunting during this time for the past two
46 months, so hopefully this coming couple of weeks people
47 will get out and try to harvest more meat for the
48 village.

49
50

1 Thank you.

2
3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
4 Kaktovik. Lee.

5
6 And, Rosemary, did you want to add from
7 where you're at, and maybe there's some part of.....

8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. This was a
10 really interesting year for us, but we went through our
11 loss with mom, and having family from every village
12 share food with our family was very helpful and
13 appreciated. Mom was able to get every type of food
14 that she requested with different nieces and nephews
15 and cousins that shared. Walrus was a little bit hard
16 to find. We would have to put a few more requests for
17 that, but it -- we always were able to get the
18 varieties of food. And it's a really important part of
19 our culture, the sharing of our foods, bearing in this,
20 and a family needing assistance, and I think that was
21 really important to bring out as part of some of these
22 discussions that go on. It was a very extensive
23 sharing network that provides for our families, and
24 without knowing resources would just come with just the
25 families sharing discussions of different types of food
26 and the next thing another cousin would come knocking
27 on the door. The importance of these opportunities are
28 really important to continue to nourish into the
29 future.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
34 Rosemary, and I think those are well-taken. They're
35 good points.

36
37 I guess I'll do my report as just a
38 Council member. And then -- yeah. Our fishing was
39 very difficult from the reports that we got. The fish
40 were running good, but the temperature in order to
41 preserve when we're trying to get a lot of fish to
42 preserve them, especially when they're -- you need to
43 freeze the right away to preserve the eggs and things
44 like that, was difficult. If you went fishing and your
45 brought your catch home immediately and stored it, you
46 were the lucky one. If you left it up there and stored
47 it up there, the weather was such that your fish, you
48 know, got rotten. And I heard that from more than one
49 fisherman. And I think for this region around Barrow,

50

1 you know, it's for the broad whitefish during the
2 spawning time, which is a big deal. And that was one
3 of the difficulties of last fall was the temperature.

4
5 I think caribou was pretty good, and
6 some of the folks that got caribou, even though they
7 were -- you had to look for them, but in the fall time
8 just before the rut that was pretty good caribou.

9
10 There were still concerns about the
11 USGS connexes hat they use for shelters, that they have
12 disturbed the migration for -- I've heard this
13 repeatedly for at least four years now, where caribou
14 were abundant and moved through corridors, and that
15 includes me in my area by Akavera (ph), Chipp Ford
16 area. They're not coming through there any more. And
17 I've heard from folks by PK13, Nyak Camp, that those
18 connexes where USGS put a science project over there,
19 and when I took an observation of them, they had like
20 11 little real bring red little tents, like a classroom
21 setting. And when we went an hovered over with a
22 helicopter and looked at them, they put it right on the
23 main trail of those -- you could see it from when
24 you're way up, the big trail to that would come up
25 between Aluktuk and Chipp and Ikpikpuk and go out
26 towards Ishulumunik (ph). And that trail is not being
27 used any more, and I've worked really hard to find out
28 where they're crossing again. And I think I know where
29 they're crossing. They moved to the west side by
30 Kalovik (ph), those Kalovik cows, and following those
31 big nugmuks (ph) going up. But you can intercept them.
32 Another 25 miles up they kind of come back around. So
33 that was some of the big concerns for a long time.

34
35 And from my own work, we've been
36 visiting a lot of villages with comprehensive plan, and
37 they're worried about subsistence. And in the
38 comprehensive plans that required by the State of
39 Alaska, under statutory laws, and required by the
40 charter and code of the Borough, we have to develop
41 what is called an area of influence for each community.
42 Their hunters from their use pattern will make and draw
43 an area of influence , and those are described as areas
44 we would do more to protect in case of development, in
45 case of disturbance, to advise operators when you're in
46 these area of influence, the policies to protect
47 subsistence is highlighted. And I think that needs to
48 be also conveyed to OSM. When we're looking at
49 concerns like from Unit 23, because for many, many

50

1 years we hear the concerns out of Squirrel River. You
2 all know where Squirrel River is, right?

3
4 And Tom is trying to go to sleep over
5 here. When we start doing important talk, he closes
6 his eyes and start nodding off, and I'm going to give
7 you a shot of coffee here pretty soon.

8
9 (Laughter)

10
11 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Because I think
12 these are important, and not to go to sleep while
13 Council members want you to hear the concerns of our
14 communities in terms of subsistence. How best to
15 approach subsistence and the needs of our communities
16 under the terms of food security, because we can
17 interrupt that. These are -- I don't take it lightly.
18 I have a big heart for our communities to provide food
19 on the table. And when we're describing in our own
20 comprehensive plans that are mandated by the State in a
21 charter and code of ordinances of the North Slope
22 Borough say, hey, build your comprehensive plan that
23 has a big component about subsistence, we need to make
24 sure we convey that to the Feds. And you're real big
25 on subsistence. ANILCA. And these are the things that
26 we need to -- where we need to mirror, we need to have
27 somehow a marriage how best to work with our
28 communities.

29
30 And that area of influence is one of
31 those things that's important and identified by each
32 community. And I bring to light concerns I've heard
33 from the NANA about Squirrel River where it's an
34 argument. Primary subsistence use area for village
35 communities arguing to the point of threatening each
36 other, because of food security to put food on the
37 table. And those are big concerns. Traditional
38 subsistence is something we passed down to our people.
39 We don't pass on an argument. So when it comes time to
40 re-open Unit 23, when the caribou is starting to climb
41 up, somebody's going to make a suggestion, either the
42 sporting lobby, the guides, are going to say, hey,
43 there's enough caribou now, let's re-open Unit 23 up
44 and everybody have a shoot-em-up rally again.

45
46 There needs to be conscious effort to
47 recognize food security, and don't open up to create an
48 argument. We need to recognize that. You need to
49 consider food security for our communities. That's
50

1 what comprehensive plans kind of help do in terms of
2 managing subsistence. So I think those are important
3 points to take, because I think the Feds have to follow
4 the same, unless you're categorically excluded from
5 following local laws. And the comprehensive plan is
6 adopted by ordinance, and that's what the communities
7 have, is comprehensive plan.

8
9 And I think the only time the Federal
10 Government shouldn't follow the laws in times when
11 we're in war and it's an emergency or something, which
12 I think our own land use code on the North Slope says
13 that the State government has to abide by the land use
14 laws of the home-rule borough to the extent that the
15 law is applicable to Federal agencies. So you have to
16 say to us, our process doesn't apply, and you have to
17 show your exclusion and your excuse for not following
18 local laws. That's what it says.

19
20 So those are some of the concerns that
21 I as a Council member reporting, you know. Fishing was
22 a little bit difficult. In fact, I look to my
23 neighboring village to get fish. First time in my --
24 you know, a long time. You know, I wanted fish, so I
25 ordered several sacks from Nuiqsut, and flew them up to
26 my -- for my own personal consumption.

27
28 The other concern that we've had from
29 local hunters is the fish in Tusikruak. It's a lake
30 about 18 miles southeast of Barrow. And many, many
31 years ago when they did geodetic surveys, and this was
32 testimony given by several folks, including my father,
33 and they watched it, because they were working for
34 them. They dynamited inside the lakes to get a seismic
35 profile back in the 50s, and then the spring time come
36 up and they -- the local people go fishing and go camp,
37 the lake had thousands of dead fish everywhere. And
38 it's taken a long time to reestablish a big, viable
39 population of whitefish in that lake to sustain the
40 community. And it was good fishing until about maybe
41 1999, 2000, and then folks started having concern that
42 their nets are not catching the fish that they used to
43 catch, so something kind of going on with that lake.
44 It's a big lake, maybe 10 miles long. You can see it
45 right there on the map. Not Tasekpuk, and don't get it
46 mixed up with that one, but Tusikruak, which is not too
47 far from Barrow.

48
49 And I've heard more than one fisherman

50

1 said their net got frozen, and they couldn't pull out
2 their net. And I suspect some that may have left their
3 nets when they get stuck, their buoys under the ice and
4 it freeze, and they couldn't take the time to chip it
5 out, that those nets are catching fish by themselves
6 and not being harvested. I would encourage some look-
7 see into the productivity of Tusikruak Lake, because
8 they've got some of the best tasting fish out of that
9 lake. That is a pretty heavily subsistence use lake.
10 And some of the fishermen that just last fall in
11 November in saying they only got one, the entire time
12 that they had three nets out, when we usually get, you
13 know, 15 and 20. So I think there's a need to report
14 these kind of things where it's warranted. Anyway,
15 that was one other concern that came from fishermen.

16
17 And just as an informational, the BLM
18 is doing legacy well plug and abandonment cleanup
19 activities on the outskirts of Barrow. Marsh Creek is
20 the contractor, and we stipulated on the Marsh Creek
21 permit that they need to conduct active subsistence
22 mitigation activities, and they had advised -- wanted
23 advice on how do you do that. So those operations,
24 it's good to contact -- get the point of contact if
25 there are subsistence activities that are impacted,
26 that I think they're going to have fuel on site their
27 cleanup activities. If there was an impacted
28 subsistence goer, they may be able to supplement their
29 fuel to go a little bit further. And that's a
30 stipulation of their permits from the Borough. BLM was
31 concerned about it, so the Borough and BLM sat down and
32 -- because Marsh Creek had some objection to it, but
33 talking with BLM, they said Marsh Creek has to do it.

34
35 The other project is the North Slope
36 Borough is hauling gravel to Atqasuk this year in I
37 think it's like 200 loads to provide gravel for
38 Atqasuk. We've also stipulated to CIPM, you need to
39 conduct a subsistence mitigation program so that the
40 subsistence activities can have supplemental fuel to
41 have an extended hunting period. So CIPM is going to
42 -- they should already be starting, as I doublechecked
43 on it before I came here, to do subsistence mitigation
44 for Wainwright, Atqasuk, and Barrow, because of the
45 haul of 200 loads from Barrow to Atqasuk, going back
46 and forth until that project is completed.

47
48 So I just thought those were important,
49 and if you have any questions about CIPM's obligation
50

1 to do subsistence mitigation, you can call planning
2 department or call CIPM. In fact, I checked on that
3 project to ask them, did your mitigation program start,
4 and they said they had lack of funds. And I checked
5 with administration and finance, and they said those
6 funds were transferred March 3. Now who's not paying
7 attention here. So I think they're going to get with
8 it and start the mitigation program for that.

9
10 I thought these are important, because
11 they deal directly with subsistence and impacts to
12 local subsistence users, and to make it a balanced
13 project, we have to mitigate and look out for
14 subsistence impacts as well.

15
16 And with that, I could probably go on
17 for the next three or four hours with other topics, and
18 give the opportunity for somebody else to state their
19 concerns.

20
21 Any other Council member reports or
22 questions.

23
24 MS. KIPPI: I just wanted to add, when
25 you mentioned fish, I forgot about the fish in Atgasuk.
26 The slough, the Anahliq (ph) and the Patuktruak (ph)
27 this year, they were catching in the beginning when
28 they were putting nets out, but all of a sudden they
29 catching lots of dog salmon and less anakluks (ph) and
30 pikutuak (ph) during the summer.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Uh-huh.

33
34 MS. KIPPI: And that was a lot of dog
35 salmon. I would have loved to see more anakluks,
36 right? So we were a little low on that anakluk and
37 pikutuak this year, too. I don't know if it was the
38 change of weather or the dog salmon coming from way up
39 there or from lakes or something. I have no idea.
40 That was interesting though. We got more dog salmon
41 than anakluk and pikutuak this year.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq)
46 Thank you, Wanda. Yeah, we started seeing that on
47 Ikpikpuk and Chipp River about maybe -- I would say
48 like 1985 when my folks started talking about the -- I
49 think they're the same thing, like humpies. They've
50

1 got those big bumps in the back?
2
3 MS. KIPPI: Uh-huh.
4
5 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And they started
6 noticing the change, but right now if you go up there
7 in June and July, your (In Native) are going to be full
8 of those kind. And they're good eating all right. I
9 like to fry them up. But.....
10
11 MS. KIPPI: They taste so different.
12
13 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: But we see those,
14 and we flew over one time with a small aircraft, and
15 you could see them from the airplane moving, all these
16 salmons. But they subside and then it gets real crazy
17 with anakluks. And for us it's the fall time, mid
18 September to about mid -- to -- yeah, mid October.
19
20 It's good to hear these things.
21
22 MS. KIPPI: And late freeze up. And
23 the late freeze up, too. It's getting later and later,
24 the freeze up, to pull (in Inupiaq).
25
26 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, those are
27 very important things, because it's just that late
28 freeze up really ruins a lot of big catches all right.
29
30
31 Any other reports from the Council
32 members. And if there's any questions.
33
34 (No comments)
35
36 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Hearing none,
37 Eva, we have the Chair's report. Is that something
38 you're going to read into the record.
39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
41 Usually the Chair would share a report, often reporting
42 also from the Federal Subsistence Board meeting. Due
43 to Harry's recent retirement, we didn't have a Council
44 Chair attending the Federal Subsistence Board meeting
45 this year. The action the Board took was on Federal
46 subsistence wildlife proposals -- I'm sorry, Federal
47 subsistence fisheries proposals. And so as the Council
48 may recall, and Wanda Kippi is our wonderful new
49 Council member from Atqasuk, the Council did review a
50

1 Federal subsistence fishery proposal that was really
2 from the Western Interior region. Oftentimes there's
3 crossover, communities have C&T, and so may go fishing
4 in another Council region. And there was a proposal
5 specific to their harvest of pike, and the Council
6 supported Western Interior's recommendations, and the
7 Board adopted that proposal as written.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah.

10
11 MS. PATTON: The Board also did reject
12 Wildlife Special Action 16-03, and that was the request
13 of the State to open Unit 23, which is currently closed
14 to only Federally-qualified subsistence users on
15 Federal lands in that region. So those were the two
16 main actions that the Federal Subsistence Board took
17 that relate to the North Slope region.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Just a question
20 there, Eva. Is that something usually we have written
21 into the Chair's report, and if Rosemary attended as
22 the Vice Chair any of the -- any of those meetings -- I
23 think ADF&G had a proposal that was submitted to OSM?

24
25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
26 That was the Wildlife Special Action 16-03, and the
27 Council did have an opportunity. There were public
28 hearings and also an opportunity for the Council to
29 make a recommendation on that, since the process
30 overlapped with the Council's fall meeting. It.....

31
32 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Well, maybe I'd
33 better clarify this. I know we can rehash real quick
34 things that we've done, but I was to the understanding
35 that it was up for reconsideration, and there was
36 different public hearings in the NANA region. I tried
37 to make it to a place where I could provide public
38 testimony; I wasn't able to, but I was very interested
39 to know what was the decision of the Federal
40 Subsistence Board's action with that proposal from
41 ADF&G to reopen Unit 23 to all hunters or something
42 like that.

43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
45 The action of the Board was to reject that proposal.
46 So it did not pass, and that was the recommendation of
47 the Councils in the region as well. So that proposal
48 did not pass, and that was the action of the Board at
49 the January Federal Subsistence Board meeting.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Eva.

2
3 Rosemary, do you have anything to add
4 if you had attended on behalf of the Regional
5 Subsistence Advisory Council. I'm not sure if you
6 attended any of these.

7
8 (No comments)

9
10 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: We must have lost
11 Rosemary. But I do as Acting Chair for today, do have
12 a little bit of concern with the action and the decline
13 of caribou. I was real surprised to hear the new
14 numbers from the Central Arctic Herd. In my mind I
15 thought that herd was not struggling. In fact, many of
16 the testimony in the past that that herd is in fact the
17 fastest growing herd on the North Slope, because it's
18 our oil patch herd. It splits down the -- comes down
19 the TransAlaska Pipeline, splits into two towards
20 Badami and the other half towards Melt Water and calve
21 and mill around and then they go back. And I was
22 alarmed that that herd was, I think less than 20,000
23 now. And all this time I'm thinking that herd is, you
24 know, somewhere around 50 and 60,000. To hear it less
25 than 20,000 was quite alarming, and quite frankly when
26 we have inspections down the Haul Road, we've had
27 reports from our inspectors saying, we saw at least two
28 caribou walking around with arrows stuck in them, you
29 know. That kind of thing, which is sometimes heart
30 wrenching to see wounded animals walking around like
31 that that are not harvested. They're just wounded and
32 probably going to die and get sick. And those are some
33 other concerns.

34
35 The other concern is I think wanting to
36 start the permit process for subsistence activities.
37 I'm not suer if that's coming or if you're hearing
38 something like that, to start to be very intrusive on
39 all the caribou hunting that our communities have
40 enjoyed for many years, to provide for their families.
41 And I think that's something that really needs to be
42 fleshed out so that it's not hindering the ability for
43 rural subsistence users to provide food on the table.

44
45 One other complement concern related to
46 the decline of caribou in the Western Arctic Herd is
47 the quickness for the area biologists to say they're on
48 a rebound, and to entertain ideas of changing the bag
49 limits, because pressure from the game lobby, big game
50

1 guides, because when you start to see the decline and
2 you go into a conservation management scheme, it
3 fizzles out the big game operators, the guides, and
4 quite frankly it fizzles out Fairbanks, it fizzles out
5 Anchorage, Juneau, all those other communities that
6 want to conduct subsistence. It fizzles those out,
7 denies them, when you're in a conservative management
8 of the caribou.

9
10 And in Unit 23 where only -- they're
11 down to you have to be a resident of that community, a
12 rural resident, in order to hunt the caribou. So the
13 guides are being -- they can't book their hunts, you
14 know, because I tried to have our staff at the Borough
15 that are permitting recreational activities, what is
16 their process. They book hunts and advertise hunts on
17 line, and the pressure from Unit 23, because it's now
18 limited, and I think rightfully so it's limited, and it
19 should be an act of Congress to reopen it to other than
20 rural users in a way that doesn't provide an argument
21 to the rural subsistence users with guides. There
22 needs to be a conscious effort to -- when it's time to
23 reopen to think about how you open those kind of
24 things.

25
26 So in relationship to Unit 23, we're
27 starting to see the pressure in Unit 26, because that
28 same restriction is not in Unit 26. All those guides
29 that argue for a spot in Unit 23 and the subsistence
30 users from Fairbanks and Anchorage and Juneau now
31 they're going to move that pressure over to Unit 26,
32 because we haven't taken up any similar regulatory
33 restrictions in the way that the NANA region in Unit
34 23, which we supported as the North Slope RAC, reduce
35 the Federal public lands to only rural sub --
36 Federally-qualified subsistence users, which are the
37 rural residents. So we're seeing the pressure start to
38 shift over to the North Slope, and I'm starting to
39 think that we're going to need to address that from
40 this RAC sometime in the near future, if not now.

41
42 Those are some of the concerns I would
43 raise, is the shift in hunting pressure on the North
44 Slope, because we don't have that kind of restriction
45 in Unit 26.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 And I think that would -- I'm going to
50

1 ask one more time if Rosemary's on line, if she had
2 anything to add under the Chair's report.

3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes, thanks for
5 allowing me to get back on. I had to take a phone
6 call.

7
8 But I appreciate all of these
9 discussions. We are having so much increased action
10 around our traditional use areas. There are many
11 layers of conflicts that are being developed. It's
12 important when we're communicating in this process we
13 understand where we're communicating from and that
14 we're bringing the importance of our subsistence use
15 priorities through the discussions and not within the
16 process, but those around us. This is the point where
17 we have to be the strongest for our traditional way of
18 life. And it is very important to understand there are
19 other activities that are going on around us, but those
20 discussions have to be brought forward within the
21 process of these discussions that bring forward these
22 discussions, and that we're blurring the lines and the
23 communications.

24
25 I value the information that you bring
26 up about -- for the participation that you're bringing,
27 but I also know that when we're giving our traditional
28 knowledge into this process for the activities that are
29 here, that's a very important discussion that cannot be
30 minimized by other communications that are being
31 brought forward and the layers of changing our lands
32 and waters. Our process before us must be very strong
33 in protecting the importance of continuing to teach our
34 families to eat our foods and waters from our land and
35 waters. I actually being forward these discussions.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq)
40 Thank you, Rosemary. And I kind of look to you.
41 Sometimes you're attending some of these meetings
42 outside of Barrow on behalf of the Chair as the Vice
43 Chair, and I think it's important that those that
44 attend meetings have the opportunity to air those out
45 during our public meeting.

46
47 There was one other item I wanted to
48 discuss, but I've kind of lost my train of thought,
49 because your comments were pretty good, and it was good
50

1 listening.

2

3 So with that, Eva, would that conclude
4 the Chair's report.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Yes, Mr. Chair and
7 Counsel. And Rosemary also participated, we had a
8 teleconference. The Council had voted to have a
9 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program working group to
10 keep those discussions going about identifying
11 subsistence research priorities, fisheries concerns,
12 interests of the communities to take a look at changes
13 that are going on. And so Rosemary did participate in
14 a teleconference we were able to have last week with
15 Brendan Scanlon and our OSM fisheries Staff and
16 anthropology Staff, and Rosemary might have more
17 discussion about that when we are covering the FRMP,
18 that feedback from the communities, the interests and
19 concerns on subsistence fisheries, very important. So
20 Rosemary did participate in that meeting as a
21 representative from Nuiqsut was able to provide a lot
22 of feedback there.

23

24 And, Rosemary, I don't know if we lost
25 you on line, Brendan Scanlon is here, and we will be
26 covering updates on the other FRMP projects that are
27 currently underway, and also any input from the Council
28 on the interests of research you'd like to see in the
29 region. So if you wanted to share anything on that,
30 Rosemary, or when we get to the FRMP discussions.

31

32 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: For me it's really
33 important to bring into this process there's a lot of
34 effort to learn about research and monitoring around
35 us, and the process that I bring forward is that I
36 believe that our communities need to be engaged
37 effectively in this process. Our tribal membership are
38 going to be living here through the generations to
39 come, and researchers and research projects and
40 research funders come through in various ways and
41 actions with their own effort. But it's important to
42 have our communities own this process as we're going
43 forward. We should not have to defend against
44 traditional knowledge that is being cut down into bites
45 and pieces to be utilized to allow projects to go
46 forward when information has not been always taken in
47 the context that it's being utilized to prepare
48 information and reports without our knowledge of
49 staying engaged in the process before us. It is very

50

1 important that we're in control of this process.
2 There's a lot of layers of discussions that must occur
3 for us to get the answers that our traditional
4 knowledge needs in regulation to the many layers of
5 changes that are occurring in our traditional lands and
6 waters around us, but there's not always the support
7 that allow us to get the information that we need. The
8 effort that comes, to come and get and put information
9 before decisionmakers is in the guise of the process of
10 allowing projects to occur. And this process has been
11 very difficult for us to maintain some of the best
12 interest and process that allows us to -- to allow us
13 to work really effective in the many different meetings
14 that are going to collect information on the resources
15 that we have around us. But it is very important that
16 we look at all of the different activities that are
17 being proposed as they're doing research and
18 monitoring, because there are many approved projects
19 that are already occurring within our lands and waters.
20 And when we're increasing the concentration of
21 activities during our increased efforts to subsist,
22 it's really important that we don't just continue to
23 allow to occur when there's too much that's already
24 occurring in the guise of trying to gather information
25 that is important together.

26
27 We have to really look and make
28 informed decisions on whether or not this activity
29 should occur this year or maybe we need to consider
30 whether or not this activity should occur at a
31 different time, or maybe this activity can occur within
32 activities that have been occurring for other things to
33 decrease the conflicts that are happening with our
34 efforts to harvest and feed our families. It's also
35 the process that's about educating our families in the
36 many layers of the discussions that are being held
37 around the things that are affecting their life,
38 health, and safety, and the importance of our
39 traditional culture. There are efforts to work in many
40 different ways, but the cost is affecting whether or
41 not we get food in our tables for the generations to
42 come, and not just allow the process for others to come
43 and gather information to occur. We have to work to
44 create our own institutional review boards that have a
45 better control over the activities that are around us,
46 because while activities around us have taken
47 generations of knowledge and information, but we are
48 not in control of the recordings of these informations,
49 and we do not continue to stay at the table where these
50

1 recordings are being utilized to affect decisions.

2

3 And that's -- so for me, I work very
4 hard to understand what occurs in many different
5 layers. But when I cannot be home where all of these
6 layers of information are at, it affects my ability to
7 communicate specifically as a part of the process. But
8 being very strong about trying to import -- to protect
9 the importance of our daily life activities and the
10 future of our generations is how I go about the
11 process.

12

13 Many will say that I really don't want
14 these activities to occur. Yes, sometimes I have to
15 say I really don't want these activities to occur with
16 the high costs of trying to continue to be traditional
17 in our lands and waters with the amount of competition
18 of activities that are occurring that are affecting our
19 daily lives. But I also know we don't have information
20 around that's in a box, and that affecting those
21 decisions that are important with continued increased
22 changes to the climates and lands and waters, with
23 tremendous amount of rains and erosion, infiltration,
24 and changes to the continuity of hydrology of our
25 rivers are affecting the way that we are harvesting our
26 traditional resources. And, yes, there are things that
27 must occur. But working together effectively so that
28 we don't make decisions that put one village cost over
29 another village benefits and allow impacts to occur
30 cannot allow to occur in these criterias of
31 decisionmaking.

32

33 So that's an overlay of some of the
34 communications that occur. There's other
35 communications that occur within this process, but when
36 you -- I didn't get to be on for part of the discussion
37 because I had to take that phone call, so I don't know
38 some of the discussions that always occur, but when
39 people wonder what and where I go and do different
40 things, it's because I participate in our local
41 community meetings and others that are engaged in these
42 processes ask for participation in different areas,
43 whether it's in the tribal process, whether it's in the
44 national through health or whether it's within the
45 Smithsonian Institution. I don't always get to choose
46 how I participate, but I do try to continue to
47 communicate from the form of the discussion that has
48 always been supported through the elders that ask me to
49 participate.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
4 Rosemary. As always, you're always speaking
5 eloquently, and bring a lot of insight with your
6 dialogue, and I appreciate that quite a bit.

7

8 And that prompted me with some of your
9 dialogue to remember why I had a senior moment a while
10 ago it seems like and forgot what I wanted to say. But
11 there were two items that kind of prompted, and I wrote
12 them down so I forget.

13

14 And it was the concerns about ADF&G and
15 things that I've heard about wanting to institute
16 heavier controls for our village harvesting of caribou.
17 By permitting. And I think there are other ways to
18 show conservation measures on -- instead of restricting
19 and making it onerous to be harvesting animals for our
20 communities and our families. And I think one of the
21 ways that we've already begun was to make traditional
22 practices into law. Right now some of our traditional
23 practices that we say we're not going to hunt bulls,
24 because we don't hunt them anyway during when it's the
25 rut time until about the first week in December. So we
26 made and introduced a regulatory change, because it's a
27 conservation measure that we've done locally anyway.
28 So recognizing that we're naturally conservative
29 people, already conserving. Because I don't like to
30 eat rutted bulls myself, you know.

31

32 And then when the females are very
33 pregnant, we put a time limit so that an opportunity
34 for a lot of fawns to be born. So we cut ourselves off
35 from getting the females that are real pregnant, and to
36 be selective in your harvest.

37

38 And the other one is before we go and
39 start saying we're going to -- you're going to need a
40 ticket or a tag, we can do one more layer to -- as a
41 conservation measure for our communities, and that's
42 what we did in Unit 23. Limit the harvesting in Unit
43 26 only to Federally-qualified users. You've got to be
44 a rural resident. That will take Fairbanks, Anchorage
45 that have float planes and private airplanes, and take
46 that away, because that shift is coming up here.
47 That's going to take away all of that subsistence
48 activity, because they're not rural residents, they're
49 urban hunters conducting subsistence activities. If we

50

1 add that additional layer on Unit 26, that will do a
2 lot more to applying conservative management principles
3 to protect the continued decline of the herd. I think
4 we've got to pull out all stops before we start doing
5 more regulatory actions to the rural subsistence users.
6 That should be the last thing to do that.

7
8 And quite frankly, maybe we stepped on
9 our own toes to implement traditional hunting practices
10 of making them into regulatory process. We were
11 willing to meet half way and work with ADF&G, saying,
12 hey, we've got good conservative principles, too. We
13 just enact them and make them into laws that need to be
14 -- and there was even some push-back from that. I was
15 thinking the guides were pushing back, because we don't
16 want the meat when it's a bull and it's the best period
17 of time, but the guides do. They want the racks,
18 because they're big beautiful racks. So there was
19 those kind of things that we kind of fought with to get
20 to where we are.

21
22 So I think we've done a lot of
23 conservative measures, and what I see coming down the
24 pike about aligning ourselves with the State any more,
25 and their request to consider you're going to need to
26 have a permit to conduct subsistence activities, I
27 think we're not there yet. I think we have another
28 layer of regulatory process in place, a tool that has
29 not been implemented on Unit 26, and that is restrict
30 all other users and limit it to rural residents, which
31 is in effect in Unit 23. I thought that's something I
32 wanted to point out and that was something that I
33 forgot earlier that slipped my mind.

34
35 And the other thing in terms of the
36 fisheries that we're seeing develop at Tasikruak, the
37 low catch, almost non-existent catch. Tasikruak Lake,
38 18 miles from Barrow. Needs to look at that. I could
39 remember old stories from reindeer herders, they used
40 to go Itisilak (ph) Lakes, and they would check the
41 depths, do bathymetric themselves, then reindeer
42 herders, check the lake for depth. And if it didn't
43 have fish, and it was deep enough, they'd go put fish
44 in it themselves, so that when they move the reindeer
45 around, they said, oh, we've got to go to this Nubvruk
46 (ph) so we can put a (In Native) and feed the crew and
47 their dog teams. And so they had a habit of stocking
48 lakes after they check the depth, if it can support
49 fish.

50

1 And we need to think about maybe that
2 approach for Tasikruak. It's real easy to catch fish
3 that have lots of eggs in them and get the male and put
4 them in a bucket and put the fertilizer on them and
5 then bring them in the lake and cool them in there, and
6 spill them in there, and I think that would help to
7 restock, because I think there is a crises at Tasikruak
8 Lake. Many hunters, many fishermen have expressed
9 this, Tasikruak, why that lake has not the amount of
10 fish that it has -- and also to run it maybe with a
11 grappling hook, and see if you can catch nets, over 30
12 years, some of them that been frozen -- when they're
13 putting nets under the ice, they froze and they
14 couldn't take them off. And the buoys get stuck under
15 the ice. And maybe drag that lake. There might be
16 fish nets that have been catching fish by themselves
17 for a long time. And once in a while I think we need
18 to check the health of these lakes that support
19 subsistence activities when we're starting to see the
20 lake completely struggle to provide subsistence
21 resources when it wasn't like that in the past. So
22 keep that in mind.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 And those are the two other items I
27 thought I needed to add under the Chair's report.

28

29 So is there any other items under
30 Chair's report, and, Rosemary, I'm really glad that you
31 provided your input. But I think we're -- we might
32 be.....

33

34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon, I wanted to
35 make sure I communicate a little bit more on what you
36 just said. It's really important that we respect that
37 there are many that are doing the right thing to
38 provide hunting and fishing, and traditional activities
39 that are being done in the right way in which they're
40 maintaining their equipment and their hunting sites and
41 fishing sites. There are actions that have happened
42 over time with emergencies that may have contributed to
43 loss of gear, but many will go back and try to get
44 their gear and protect that fishing activity. But
45 there are things that happen where gear can be lost
46 over time, and it is important that where there are
47 activities that we communicate amongst the various
48 layers to identify where we need to go out and look at
49 areas of concern to assess whether or not there's

50

1 things that are being left behind that are affecting
2 migratory runs, and that we protect that fish
3 migrations that are occurring in reference to the
4 discussion that was held.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
9 Rosemary.

10
11 And if we are done with reports with
12 Council members, we agenda Item Number 9, public and
13 tribal comments on non-agenda items. And I think I'll
14 open that up, and I think we had Ernest Nageak, Fish
15 and Wildlife Service, that was -- we'll let your dad go
16 first, if he's the elder. We'll recognize Roy Nageak,
17 BLM.

18
19 MR. R. NAGEAK: Roy Nageak. For the
20 record here, I'm being here as a subsistence hunter,
21 and the comments that need to be made in regard to some
22 concerns that are happening immediately around our area
23 of subsistence uses.

24
25 A tragic thing happened a couple weeks
26 ago in regards to one of my family members, one of my
27 cousins that was walking his dog around (In Native)
28 area, and it got caught by -- inadvertently got caught
29 in a conibear trap. And he sated that he tried to take
30 it off, but it was so strong that his dog perish right
31 in front of him. And I do have a camp in that Beranuk
32 (ph), and once snow thaws out, I take my family out
33 there, and it just kind of scared me that somebody left
34 a conibear trap out there, didn't go get it. I could
35 see one of our young family members playing around the
36 abandoned house and just get caught in those, and it
37 just scared me on whether -- and I think this is a
38 debate that's going on a statewide basis of walking
39 trails or where a lot of people walk their dogs and
40 what not, and people are trapping. And it's statewide
41 issue with issues like these, but it's starting to hit
42 us close, especially with the bigger traps that are for
43 bigger game. That's one issue on how it affects our
44 people if they're being left behind or where people are
45 trapping so close our vicinity that it will impact our
46 children, especially with those bigger traps.

47
48 But I agree with the comments on
49 traditional knowledge. That's when you'll see in a
50

1 sense rules and regulations that control the human
2 aspects of looking at a species of animals that
3 basically run free as they wish. But they're being
4 impacted by us, but our traditional knowledge knows,
5 and we're taught by how we look at the animals, and
6 which way they go and how we look at them, and how we
7 use them, utilize them, and not to hunt them out of
8 extinction, and to move on other areas. We used to
9 move on from different camping sites to other camping
10 sites, and not stay here too long, because of low fish
11 and because of traditional knowledge of migration of
12 the caribou, we leave them alone. But now with a
13 species, especially with the caribou, were they go
14 along the shore, that's always the best time to try to
15 hunt them to get dried meat, and to -- like you state,
16 especially along the shoreline, when you raise a
17 caribou and hang it up for a couple weeks, that's the
18 best kind of raw meat in the wintertime. And those are
19 the periods when they run away from the mosquitos that
20 we tend to make dried meat, and they are real tasty raw
21 meat that you hang up for two to three weeks, four
22 weeks, to make it good for wintertime.

23
24 And then in the falltime, when you
25 start going inland, they used to do their hunting
26 starting in August so that they could use the fur from
27 the young fawns and the fur from caribou to use for
28 clothing. We don't do that no more, but we still use
29 the sinew. And at the time, that's the best time to
30 get the caribou at the fattest, to use for (In
31 Inupiaq). But then when I see within our region,
32 especially around the areas where the caribous used to
33 go to run away from the mosquitos, Prudhoe Bay,
34 Oliktok, Milne Point, that big herds that used to go
35 there, and now heading towards Teshekpuk area, upper
36 Teshekpuk. And then just when they need to go back and
37 get fat for the winter, then you see the Haul Road
38 people disturbing them and aggravating them. And when
39 you aggravate caribou, the thing is that they'll go
40 some place else, and they'll disappear from that
41 region.

42
43 And one of the things that our elders
44 taught us, and this is always in front of us, when they
45 start talking about rules and regulations, from our
46 side, from our perspective, the Inupiaq people, that
47 you don't argue about animals. You don't argue about a
48 species, and you don't claim it as yours when it was
49 something that was created by a greater being, our God.
50

1 And we are in no position to be regulating it or
2 arguing about it, because the old elders said that is
3 how to hunt, that when you start arguing about an
4 animal, it will be gone in a couple years. And we've
5 seen that happen before where a species that if we as
6 human beings start arguing about it and start
7 controlling it, and saying things like it's ours, and
8 we need to regulate it, and rules and start a conflict.

9 And when I see our older people before,
10 when they started seeing rules and regulation come in
11 to regulate a species, I've seen them just stay silent.
12 Our older elders stay silent. And I've seen people
13 that come in from Federal and State side, especially
14 when Alaska became a State, well, they're saying
15 nothing, it must be all right with them. But for us
16 that knew our elders, and not to fight over animals,
17 especially if they're going to be regulated, it's not
18 right. There's got to be better ways to manage than to
19 manage it from a conflict point of view.

20
21 And your traditional knowledge and our
22 Inupiaq values that has controlled our life for
23 hundreds and thousands of years, and you hit on some
24 basis of why Inupiaq values, which is traditional
25 knowledge of the animals, and how we, you know, in our
26 conservative way of knowing what lakes we've hunted and
27 what other lakes other people have hunted, and they
28 move on to different lakes, for them to refurnish or
29 recall what was taken out. That's our way of
30 traditional knowledge of hunting to make sure that we
31 leave species behind so that they could grow again.

32
33 But when you have a wide-open season
34 with planes and motor-size vehicles that come up from
35 the south and disturb it at key times, like in the
36 falltime, where the animals need to get fat for the
37 harsh winter, that's when you start seeing some of the
38 impact of the species. Sometimes we tend to talk about
39 what we -- and how we can manipulate ourselves so laws
40 and regulations are ourselves, and not really look at
41 the species that need the attention. Let's look at the
42 species rather than ourselves on how and when we can
43 hunt. Let's look at -- especially when you look at the
44 caribou herd from NANA region to here. We are
45 northwestern, or the Western Arctic Herd, how before it
46 had grown freely between our two regions. And with the
47 manipulation and the systems of hunting by air, and how
48 that have grown drastically, and how people have made a
49 lot of money transporting like you stated for horns,

50

1 must have taken a toll. And when the Federal
2 Government did what they did at region 23 to assure
3 that some of the local people in that region could hunt
4 and get what would support them for the winter. The
5 other thing that really we saw was the freedom of the
6 caribou to start moving where it had presently every
7 year, move back and forth and go to areas that they
8 know that will have food for them. They move, and they
9 move to different regions. So people know that, and
10 they follow the herd, and they say, ah, the caribou
11 herd haven't been in this region like on the Kaktovik
12 side. A lot of the health. And they move with them.
13 They know, they forecast them. They know their
14 traditional knowledge of where caribou herds have been
15 in prior years, and how they follow them. Traditional
16 knowledge is key.

17
18 One of the concerns that you had for
19 Kasiliarok (ph) and what is happening within our region
20 along the shore is the flooding. It's the high level
21 of sea water. When I would fly from Nuiqsut going to
22 Barrow, right around Umwaksa (ph), the bigger lakes
23 that are close to Wemuska (ph), Kasiliarok, I saw two
24 big lakes that were joining, where they all had sea
25 level, and I'm going, wow, the water level is rising so
26 high, like it's joining with the two lakes that are
27 closer to the shore right around Umwaksa, right where
28 Kasiliarok is. And I don't know how much impact the
29 sea water has in those fresh water lakes where the
30 anokluks usually stay before they start -- where they
31 spawn. Before they go out, they go to the fresh waters
32 to go spawn. And the impact that has had. Sumarok
33 (ph) lost a lot of water, lost a lot of water. Where
34 water used to be, you could go right alongside the
35 shore of the lake, and it's so hard and so smooth, you
36 could travel at high speeds. But the water has dropped
37 drastically. Sumarok Lake, one of the biggest lakes
38 that is close to Barrow has lost probably half of the
39 volume that was in there this summer when you look at
40 it. And those are climate changes that are happening
41 that people aren't really looking at in regards to the
42 fish.

43
44 And right behind here, the lake right
45 by the gas field where we get our -- we used to get our
46 fresh water ice.

47
48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Kuralik (ph)?

49
50

1 MR. R. NAGEAK: The Kuralik. I went
2 along there this summer and I saw a lot of dead salmon
3 where they never used to be. Everywhere I travel, and
4 it's connected to a walk, there were dead salmon. And
5 I've never seen that before. And this was a good year
6 for us in Kununak (ph) for salmon in the high numbers,
7 which is good in a sense, but the impact it has on the
8 whitefish, especially the influx of sea water into our
9 fresh water lakes, and the weather that has impact on
10 the fish.

11
12 And the rules and regulations, when you
13 look at each region in the beginning of the newly
14 appointed members in each region, Federal Advisory
15 Subsistence Boards, I think from a Federal standpoint,
16 and when you look at State of Alaska, and the financial
17 straits that it has, and how limited they will be in
18 trying to manage what they need to manage, and not for
19 them to have the financial whereabouts to manage it on
20 a statewide basis, from a Federal regional basis, I
21 think more and more we need to look at the Federal
22 Advisory Board for more direction, especially you have
23 lands that have conflict limits. We have NPR-A where
24 Bureau of Land Management treats it as public lands,
25 but the caribou and the fisheries don't know no
26 boundaries. When you try to deal with the caribou, and
27 you're in the boundaries of NPR-A and then you go to
28 State lands, which is wide open, and how rules and
29 regulations that guide subsistence, especially is
30 different, and how as a whole, especially in North
31 Slope area, there's two systems that we need to work
32 with, the Federal and the State. When you're in like
33 Nuiqsut, it's real easy to address, because like the
34 handout that I have and will bring out during the BLM
35 report, that NPR-A is strictly guided by Federal rules
36 and regulations, especially with development, and how
37 subsistence uses have a say through a working group
38 committee that has been set up by rules issued by the
39 Federal Government, which is good. And the State of
40 Alaska on the other side of the river is completely
41 different. A different animal. And how those two in a
42 sense try to manage one species like the caribou, need
43 to work hand-in-hand.

44
45 And what the Federal Government has
46 closed in Unit 23, and start looking at it from a point
47 of view, I see that they're trying to work with the
48 local people in the management of the caribou, like
49 when you start seeing traditional knowledge, they're
50

1 listening to the traditional people that are in the
2 group that manage the caribou, the Western Arctic Herd,
3 which some of our people are involved with that, too.
4 Western Arctic Herd. And more and more we need to look
5 at the species rather than the people that hunt, try to
6 control the people that hunt, but to take care of the
7 welfare of the animal as a whole, and that the people
8 had tried to regulate the people that are hunting. But
9 look at the species as a whole, and that allowed
10 airplanes, to start -- block them when they start
11 moving as big herds to different areas like the North
12 Slope and closing out Unit 23, shows that once they
13 stop the planes from going into Unit 23 to hunt, it
14 opened up ways for the caribou to go into our region,
15 especially Anaktuvuk Pass area. I see that as a plus
16 to look at the species, and not try to regulate -- in a
17 sense to regulate people that hunt the species in a way
18 the species will survive. Before when you opened it up
19 wide open, they block areas by landing in areas to stop
20 the migration of the caribou. They need to hunt and
21 control people from going ahead, and that's what we
22 have learned ever since we were young, to let the front
23 herd go through first before you start hunting them.
24 That way the other caribou, the bigger herds will
25 follow through. It's the same thing.

26
27 And I think if we need permits for
28 subsistence way of life, I think every plane that flies
29 away from our open areas to go hunt or manage
30 sportshunting, they could track every airplane if they
31 want to. And they need those kinds of rules and
32 regulation to manage the natural resources that are
33 renewable, like the caribou herd, because they don't
34 have the financial resources, but they could say the
35 rules and regulations that say, we want to see where
36 you go with your plane to assure that you're not
37 stopping or blocking the migration of the caribou.
38 Make recommendations with rules and laws that will
39 allow GPS tracking of anything that will impact the
40 caribou herd. Just a concern.

41
42 And the trapping issue, it's a
43 statewide issue where traps are set where our animals,
44 our pets are roving, and they could get caught in those
45 traps. I just want to point that out. It's dangerous.
46 It just send a chill on my spine when somebody go get a
47 conibear trap, and inadvertently forget to go get it.
48 I could see one of my grandkids getting caught in one
49 of those. I just want to point that out.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Roy.
4 (In Inupiaq) That was good listening. It's always very
5 enlightening when you bring those topics up in the way
6 you do. And I appreciate that.

7
8 With that, we've got Ernest Nageak. I
9 called him Ernest Akungnyuk, because I was thinking
10 about his predecessor Ernest that I know. Fish and
11 Wildlife. There's public and tribal comments. And we
12 had allowed Ernest to move ahead, because he had some
13 urgency behind it, and then once Ernest is done, we're
14 going to go back to public and tribal comments, and
15 we'll have ICAS come right after you.

16 Ernest.

17
18 MR. E. NAGEAK: (In Inupiaq) Oh, how is
19 that?
20

21
22 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That is better,
23 thank you. Gordon's perfect.

24
25 MR. E. NAGEAK: Uh-huh. Earnest Nageak
26 for the record. Native affairs specialist for U.S.
27 Fish and Wildlife Service. I never thought I would
28 picture myself working for the Federal government, let
29 alone the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. You know,
30 learning the history of the bear ducking, the banning
31 of fall whaling, and, you know -- our elders were our
32 own biologists and our scientists that, you know,
33 taught us the way of life out on the ice or the tundra.
34 And like you said, we're always concerned, you know,
35 only catch what we eat, always look out for the animals
36 and the numbers and with the effects of the government
37 at the time, it kind of pushed away -- pushed our
38 people away from the government and kind of hesitant to
39 share our ways of life.

40
41 And I noticed that when -- I passed out
42 our Barrow field office newsletter. We have yearly
43 newsletters, but we've been around since 1999 with our
44 Eider Journey, but 2008 we had more of a presence when
45 there was endangered birds found on the side of the
46 road, and that increased the presence of U.S.
47 Government officials, and not just wildlife biologists,
48 but law enforcement. And, you know, when they first
49 came up, it was like the bear, duck and all again, like
50

1 all one-sided, oh, the government coming here, telling
2 us when and when not to hunt and whatnot, and the
3 community got tired of that, and we came up together
4 with the bird committee, and we hashed it out, and came
5 up with the best solution. So that made me want to
6 move over to Fish and Wildlife Service so we could have
7 a say, you know, a say in what we want to do for our
8 animals and how we want to hunt.

9
10 And with that being said, we have to
11 share our, you know, unwritten rules, because the way I
12 was taught to hunt, you know, animals like the birds,
13 we had to maximize our catch. You know, with 40 to 50
14 bucks a box of shells, you don't want to only catch 25,
15 you want to try to get 40 to 50 out of that box. So I
16 was taught to, you know, maximize my shooting, and not
17 just point out one duck and shoot at that one duck, but
18 it turns out I was doing it all wrong, and I was taking
19 a risk at shooting other birds.

20
21 But with that being said, you know,
22 we're here at the table. The Fish and Wildlife Service
23 is improving relationship with communities, not just on
24 the North Slope, but all over Alaska. We're able to
25 sit down together and hear each other out, and come up
26 with the best solution, so I commend the Federal
27 Government for making that step to improve our
28 relationships and hearing our Inupiaq people and the
29 people in the rural areas.

30
31 Our office, or the U.S. Fish and
32 Wildlife Service made it a requirement to have the
33 people going to rural areas to have a Native relations
34 training. It's like cultural orientation from elders
35 all over the State of Alaska to share our way of life,
36 you know, what to expect in villages, and a lot of
37 concerns where we don't get enough outreach, you know.
38 We don't hear all these rule changes, we don't -- you
39 know, some people may represent us, but we don't get
40 information back on what they learned at the meeting,
41 or if they changed the caribou harvest. You know,
42 that's just need to stress the importance of outreach.

43
44
45 So with that being said, we have two
46 people in our Barrow field office. I've been coming
47 here the last few years giving updates on what we did
48 in the summer, and we have -- right now we're doing our
49 -- we're just getting down with the schools. We have
50

1 students get involved with our Alaska migratory bird
2 calendar contest. I had brought some 2017 calendars
3 over there if you guys need some new calendars, you
4 know, they have drawings of birds and some poems, and
5 maybe some recipes on birds. But we have that going on
6 right now at our office.

7
8 In April, during (in Inupiaq) we will
9 be partnering with the Borough and other few entities
10 to have a spring gathering, you know, talk about
11 wildlife. We used to call it welcoming the birds, or
12 welcoming the animals, because it's a new start, new
13 year, new circle of life, trying to get all the animals
14 we need for the next winter to come.

15
16 And I'll just share a little bit of
17 numbers we had from last summer. We had hired about
18 seven intern students. So after April and May, we're
19 going to the schools, so if any of you guys have
20 students 14 and over. We used to get some from
21 villages, but, you know, we have -- if they have a
22 place to stay and stuff like that. We don't have no
23 housing for them, but with the funding, you know, with
24 -- on the Borough, we usually have nine or 10, but with
25 last year's funding, we had about seven.

26
27 And about seven volunteers from all
28 over Alaska where they go out and -- Eider Journey we
29 call it, where they pair up and survey, go out nest
30 searching, and capture, you know, monitoring the nests
31 throughout the months of June and July. So we had
32 about four students. And I'll give you some numbers on
33 the steller eiders, because our office is mostly based
34 along the steller eiders and the spectacled and now the
35 yellow-billed loons, we have been having concerns with
36 the nests. And just to give you guys numbers, they are
37 relatively low this past year. They had found 12
38 nests, you know, located near the Barrow area where
39 they walk, our students and volunteers walk many miles
40 a day. And of these 12 nests, six of them hatched.
41 Five were depredated by either asungmunks (ph) or
42 foxes, Jaegers, and one final fate remains. I don't
43 know, this was late July, so they were waiting for one
44 more if it hatched. And they found a total of 23
45 spectacled eider nests have been confirmed, and nine
46 hatched, 12 were depredated, and two await a final
47 check. And they had found four snowy owls, but all
48 four failed there in the season. The Jaegers nested in
49 low density, and three nests were found. Six of the 12
50

1 steller eider nests were found within 350 meters of the
2 Jaeger nests. But this year they had cameras, lapse
3 cameras that showed what ate some of those eggs, and
4 primary the depredation was by Arctic foxes, seven, and
5 one from Jaeger, and another one from a different
6 parasitic Jaeger. And a few nests will remain to be
7 evaluated. So last year we had an early thaw-out, like
8 a week early or maybe a week and a half early before
9 May was ended. There was hardly any snow. And they
10 tried -- on long-tail and king eider nests, they tried
11 to use -- tried out a new method to have a cover on
12 top, a camouflaged cover to try to protect the nests.
13 And out of those overhead covers, the king eider and
14 long-tailed nests, they returned to nest and were
15 successful. They had a little camouflage material that
16 partially sees through on the top where the female
17 could see over, and so king -- they all hatched during
18 that time.

19
20 And we had partnered with the U.S.
21 Department of Agriculture, wildlife services. They did
22 our yearly fox predator control where they went out and
23 trapped and killed foxes. Since we had an early thaw-
24 out season, our number was 100 arctic foxes from the
25 month -- early May to the 8th of July, and we had a few
26 interns helping with that. But we will be putting that
27 aside this summer, you know, with concern from the
28 Borough and other people in the town of the effects of
29 that situation with the killing of foxes.

30
31 But after our season, we usually have
32 our interns, you know, they bring it to the schools and
33 they have kind of like science fair projects with that,
34 and they also provide an end-of-the-year open house.
35 Our office has an open house where we have people
36 coming in from law enforcement or marine mammals to
37 answer questions. You know, we have gatherings twice a
38 year at our office, provide outreach with anything, and
39 I'm here for the villages. We don't really get too
40 much involved with Kaktovik since they're part of the
41 Alaska National Wildlife Refuge program over there, but
42 Atqasuk and other people, you know, guys field the
43 questions.

44
45 This summer we may be talking with
46 fishermen on the Elson Lagoon on the yellow-billed
47 loons. If they need help, we could go out and help
48 them and try to get them out of their nets. I tried --
49 on my net, I tried to put balloons or extra floats to
50

1 kind of deter the birds away. So we're thinking about
2 looking to do that to prevent less yellow-billed loons
3 being caught in these nets.

4
5 And we usually have other programs that
6 -- oh, and I'm proud to say our office is 100 percent
7 locally. We have our -- Unya Aleak (ph) who is our
8 local outreach coordinator/biologist that works with
9 the eider program.

10
11 And you could see -- our office does
12 marking and tagging of walrus and polar bears, hides,
13 walrus tusks, and we go to villages, Point Hope, Point
14 Lay, Wainwright to try and get animals tagged.

15
16 And we provide science and culture
17 camps for the youth, you know, just get them outdoors,
18 you know, from second grade to high school. Show them
19 how to do field work, look at plants and animals, and,
20 you know, this is a good program. And our biologist,
21 Unya Aleak, was part of this Eider Journey, and look at
22 where she's at. She's back with the Fish and Wildlife
23 Service, and is our local biologist. So I enjoy this
24 program, to get the kids out, you know. That's how I
25 got involved with wildlife, you know. I grew up in the
26 neighborhood with Geoff Carroll, and he seen me
27 graduated and he needed help in the summer, and I
28 jumped right on it, you know, working with caribou,
29 working with the populations. I went on photo census.
30 I helped tag in Ambler. And that made me want to stay
31 in wildlife since, you know, it's important food supply
32 for a lot of our families. But we need to get more
33 kids involved, because, you know, a lot of -- we're
34 becoming a working society, you know, hard to get time
35 off. I'm hoping one day the Federal government will
36 have some sort of subsistence leave, or at least
37 cultural leave, a few days. But it all starts with the
38 hunters ourselves, you know, passing on our own
39 knowledge and how we were taught from our elders,
40 because it all starts within us, and once we teach the
41 young ones, they'll teach their peers, and we'll --
42 when I get old, hopefully I'll be able to still have
43 (in Inupiaq), still have nanook, and bullhead whales.
44 It all starts with our own people in our own
45 communities, and whether you guys don't have no science
46 programs over there, bring your kids out and show them
47 yourself.

48
49 Quyana.

50

1 Any questions on the office or.....

2

3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
4 Ernest, from Fish and Wildlife.

5

6 Are there any questions to Ernest.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I certainly got
11 lots of them. In terms of fish, is there any programs
12 other than what OSM biologists and trying to seek
13 funding to study an area that's becoming a problem? Or
14 if we did things, what they did in the past ourselves.
15 Like I can get a five-gallon bucket, and I'll put all
16 the eggs in there, and put the fertilizer from the male
17 fish and stir it all up. Now I've got one million
18 fertilized eggs, and go -- and put that inside of
19 Tasikruak (ph).

20

21 MR. E. NAGEAK: I heard my (in Inupiaq)
22 doing that right near our cabins, not too far from your
23 guys' cabin. They would put fish in other lakes to
24 increase the numbers, because sometimes like this year
25 when we were out on the rivers, the river was so high,
26 and it was so dirty, we had to put our nets in the
27 lake, so we were able to -- I remember when I was
28 younger, he showed me some lakes, and I happened to
29 bring my nets over there, and sure enough there was a
30 good amount of fish, and we were able to bring enough
31 home. But I don't know if they have -- they have
32 certain programs in other regions, like Yukon-
33 Kuskokwim, where they have kids involved, and they
34 count the number of fish going by in these fisheries
35 and stuff, but I don't know what kind of funding they
36 have on that, but somebody else may answer from
37 somewhere else.

38

39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yes, it seems to
40 me like if I was a willing participant, because I'll go
41 fish, because when I'm getting my fish off the Kugarunk
42 (ph) that's the spawning time. They're already -- the
43 eggs are -- when I'm pulling them out, their eggs are
44 coming out, and it's spawning. It's real easy to get
45 one in a few seconds, put it in a bucket, and get a big
46 male and squeeze the fertilizer out, mix it all up, and
47 somebody pick it up. I can call, hey, pick up a five-
48 gallon bucket and take it to Tasikruak. If there was
49 some -- that could be quick, easy that wouldn't

50

1 compromise the eggs. It seems like it would be a
2 wonderful way to try to see if a program like that
3 works.

4
5 I had this particular conversation with
6 Oliver Petuk (ph) while we were in Point Hope a few
7 days ago. He was really wanting to have (in Inupiaq)
8 near Wainwright. And he says there's -- we don't get
9 that kind over there, and they have to trade for it.
10 And then we got into talk about what this old timers
11 used to do when they were moving reindeers, and they
12 wanted to eat food, they plant these as they graze
13 them. They said, oh, let's go over to this (in
14 Inupiaq) and bring the reindeer over there. We can (in
15 Inupiaq) and eat, and so they were making like their
16 own Walmart and stocking fish on their path anyway.
17 And I told Oliver, find a lake that's deep enough, and
18 if it don't have any fish, let's talk about how you can
19 bring those kind of resources in your area. And that
20 was something that was done in the past, but it seems
21 to me for some of our lakes that are struggling like
22 Tasikruak, we should start to get ahead of the curve.
23 There's already too many complaints about Tasikruak
24 that I think we're behind the curve in looking at that,
25 what's wrong with the lake.

26
27 MR. E. NAGEAK: Yeah. Well, out there
28 the Federal government has this Federal tribal wildlife
29 grant. Native Village of Barrow was once rewarded for
30 it, and they had this young hunters youth program to
31 get the youth out and I think recently Point Lay had
32 won that tribal wildlife grant to help monitor their
33 walrus, because, you know, the haul-outs and monitoring
34 them themselves through the tribal wildlife grant. So
35 that would be something that you might look into.
36 Maybe the Tribal Village of Wainwright, if they want to
37 look into getting that grant. It may provide them
38 funding to look into something that is of concern in
39 their area. So they range from 100,000 to 150. It
40 depends on the grant and what you're proposing for. So
41 that's one way for the tribal, Federally-recognized
42 tribes to get funding for wildlife activities.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Are there any
45 other questions for Fish and Wildlife Service from
46 Barrow. And I really appreciate your handout. It's
47 very informative.

48
49 MR. E. NAGEAK: Yeah, they were sent to
50

1 every North Slope mailbox I think. Our office didn't
2 receive our own copies, but that's why you have these
3 big copies.

4
5 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: This is Rosemary,
6 and I.....

7
8 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Oh, Rosemary.

9
10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK:really
11 appreciate the discussion that's going on around this
12 area. It is important to look at these various
13 opportunities. I've also heard previous talk about
14 this, about ways of harvesting the fish and helping to
15 take them into areas where numbers were down. Those
16 were activities that were done in various ways. And
17 understanding the importance of trying to protect and
18 do things in a safe way important to do, and making
19 sure that the efforts are maximizing the contributions
20 that are occurring. We don't want something that moves
21 too fast, and where production rates are not effective
22 and for the effort because we wanted to get something
23 on the ground in a hurry, but we want it being done in
24 a way that's the most productive and for the revenue
25 resources that we have in this area. But these are
26 very important types of discussions and have to occur
27 within the various ways of looking at the numbers of
28 how this species, but understanding the way that our
29 species utilize the lands and waters of our people are
30 very important parts of the discussion that also have
31 to be looked at when we look at the various layers of
32 information that must be collected.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
37 Rosemary, and thank you, Ernest.

38
39 We've got 10 minutes before lunch, and
40 we do have one other agency, tribal agency, ICAS, that
41 wants to address the Regional Subsistence Advisory
42 Council. Doreen Lampe.

43
44 MS. LAMPE: Thank you, please.

45
46 MS. PATTON: Turn your mic on, please.

47
48 MS. LAMPE: Thank you. Good morning.
49 Nice to see you all here this morning. I appreciate

50

1 the Nageaks coming up to speak and hearing their
2 concerns and your concerns about the fishing this
3 summer. Those are really alarming changes during our
4 short lifetimes that we're just not even elders yet,
5 and we're seeing so many changes occurring.

6
7 But I'd like to introduce myself. I'm
8 Doreen Lampe. I'm the executive director for ICAS. My
9 parents were Fred and Beverly Ugeak (ph). They have
10 both passed on. My husband was the late Wiggins Lampe,
11 Sr., from Barrow. So just a little of who I am.

12
13 I really enjoyed the discussion today
14 regarding the permitting of natural resources and I do
15 hope that we seize the.....

16
17 (Indiscernible -- feedback)

18
19 MS. PATTON: Folks in the
20 teleconference, we're getting some feedback. I'm not
21 sure where it's coming from. Oh, there it went away,
22 so maybe it will be good now.

23
24 MS. LAMPE: All right. So anyways,
25 regarding the permitting of natural resources, I do
26 hope we do not take that route for our subsistence
27 hunters. That's one of the last things that our
28 stakeholders are leaning towards hunting and fishing,
29 harvesting. And that would just be such a hassle for
30 our hunters.

31
32 ICAS has a strategic plan meeting with
33 the Council members in all our villages for the past
34 three years at the ICAS annual meeting. The air
35 traffic concerns scaring caribou away from their summer
36 camps has been the biggest concern in all the villages.
37 I do like Roy Nageak's recommendation installing GPS
38 tracking systems for managers to manage air guiding
39 outfitters. If they say they're going from Point A to
40 Point B, that should be monitored. There was so much
41 frustration that some hunters over the VHF were so
42 frustrated to the point they were voicing out radical
43 statements such as they wanted to shoot those planes
44 down, because they haven't been able to catch their
45 caribou migrating through their summer camps. And I
46 did bring this to BLM, RAC committee, the BLM SAC
47 committee. I don't think I brought it to this
48 organization. But you can see there's a lot of
49 organizations managing our resources on our behalf.

50

1 And what ICAS would like to do a
2 hunter/gatherer commission so that this hunter/gatherer
3 commission can maintain hunter access to their hunting
4 and traditional fishing grounds, and attack issues
5 pertaining to their harvest on a regional level. So,
6 you know, one little hunter trying to tackle the issue
7 of air traffic scaring away caribou from their summer
8 camps doesn't make a dent in the problem, but if we can
9 come together regionally and express the concern that
10 this is regional from Point Hope to Kaktovik, Barrow to
11 Anaktuvuk, we're all equally feeling this negative
12 impact. So we've been bringing it to the attention of
13 managers that attempt to manage our natural resources
14 with regulations and so forth. I would like to see one
15 of these organizations consulting with the tribes and
16 the communities.

17
18 We have a monthly ICAS meeting, first
19 Thursday of the month. It now starts at 3:00 p.m. It
20 used to start at 6:30 p.m. There's really lack of
21 communication, like we saw with the Federal government
22 when they come with, how Roy pointed out, NPR-A and the
23 State government, State lands. I mean, we now have
24 five commissions. Alaska Nanook Commission, Eskimo
25 Walrus Commission, Ice Seal Commission, Alaska Eskimo
26 Whaling Commission, Beluga Commission. There's a
27 caribou working group. There's an Office of Special
28 Management for the State of Alaska. And then you have
29 all these Federal, five agencies, that's going to
30 report to you most likely tomorrow or late this
31 afternoon. So there's just so many organizations and
32 it seems like we're not effectively communicating with
33 one another.

34
35 So regarding this hunter/gatherer
36 commission, we would like to work and solve problems
37 regionally, at a regional level instead of one little
38 person fighting on the whole air traffic control. I
39 did try to get in touch with FAA, but they have a very
40 strict program to monitor and make sure the safe and
41 landing of aircraft, that they don't do anything else.
42 I wasn't able to get ahold of an FAA liaison or
43 anything like that.

44
45 But at BLM they did provide a
46 spreadsheet of the magnitude of studies going on in the
47 Arctic Slope. It was like three pages on an Excel
48 spreadsheet. And they're studying every little thing.
49 And all these studies are now impacting the hunter.

50

1 The hunter is the impacted stakeholder now, whether
2 it's regarding development or conservation, we have all
3 these studies that affect our access to our natural
4 resources.

5
6 So we are trying to start this up. It
7 is very difficult to get funding to start this up.

8
9 Regarding the Alaska Nanook Commission,
10 we're having a big issue with that. All the tribes
11 except the Federally-recognized regional tribe are
12 members of this defunct, bankrupt Alaska Nanook
13 Commission. And this defunct, bankrupt Alaska Nanook
14 Commission managed the Chukchi polar bear, and were
15 appointed, tribal representation on this Alaska Nanook
16 Commission to represent their tribes, local tribes.
17 Kaktovik -- Native Village of Kaktovik, Native Village
18 of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Barrow, Wainwright
19 Traditional Council, Native Village of Point Lay,
20 Native Village of Point Hope, and then the west,
21 western region of Alaska.

22
23 So they had this commission that was
24 appointed a tribal member, and then this Alaska Nanook
25 Commission somehow thought they had the authority to
26 make treaties with Russia. So now Russia has a
27 bilateral agreement with Alaska Nanook Commission to
28 try and manage the Alaska Chukchi polar bear, and place
29 a quota, 50-something, 59 for both countries, 29 in
30 Alaska, 30 in Russia. And this is a commission, a
31 State of Alaska by law chartered commission with an
32 appointed tribal representative, making treating with a
33 foreign company to implement quotas on us, the
34 stakeholders, the hunters of the region. And that is
35 not right. That should have never happened. The
36 Federal Fish and Wildlife or whoever Federal agency who
37 went to go talk with the Russian government, should
38 have come to the Inupiaq government and consulted with
39 us. And that did not occur. So now they're trying to
40 create another responsible, organized commission. They
41 don't even know the name of it, United States Polar
42 Bear Commission, who knows. So they went bankrupt.
43 They had over \$200,000 in debt, and they had two bad
44 audit findings.

45
46 So now we're dealing with commissions
47 now. We're not even dealing with tribes. Anything to
48 cut the tribes down is occurring. Everything and
49 anything to cut the voice of the tribe out, it's being
50

1 silenced everywhere you go. So tribes matter. People
2 matter. Hunters matter. That's why you have all these
3 organizations so that people can continue their
4 traditional way of life and have reasonable access to
5 these habitats. And these habitats are really
6 important, and there's not really a very good
7 conservation management style occurring in the North
8 Slope. You have all the area in between the eight
9 villages zoned as conservation district. But in a
10 heartbeat, if they find oil, they're going to rezone it
11 to resource development district just like that. I
12 mean, it's going to be zoned something else, even
13 though it says conservation district.

14
15 So what are the criterias to preserve a
16 conservation district, to remain a conservation
17 district? When can we say, no, this is too important
18 for our natural, renewable resources to sustain their
19 population, to sustain their numbers. When are we
20 going to say no? We haven't said it once in my
21 lifetime that I've seen.

22
23 So you have all these commissions, you
24 have all these agencies placing all these guidelines
25 and regulations on us. And then now the tribes in
26 coordination with the rich organizations such as the
27 North Slope Borough or ASRC or NANA or Northwest Arctic
28 Borough, we are now litigating every species that is
29 being place on the endangered species list or the
30 threatened species list. So we did not fight the
31 bowhead whale listing, we did not fight the steller and
32 spectacled eider listing, so we're stuck with that
33 listing, and we're having to manage and count whales
34 and provide safe nesting areas, and try not to shoot
35 them when they mix with other ducks, and so forth. And
36 I heard that the bowhead whale is no longer a
37 threatened or endangered species, but we're still
38 regulated heavily on that. There is a de-listing
39 process. There is a de-listing process to de-list
40 endangered species once they become listed on the
41 Endangered Species Act. So now they're considering
42 placing seals, polar bears on threatened status,
43 walrus, the loons are back and forth. So practically
44 all of our resources -- oh, you have the Beluga
45 Commission, too. So the Belugas are now being
46 considered. So all this endangered species listing is
47 happening without consultation of the tribes, the
48 stakeholders who depend on these natural, renewable
49 resources. So we are not getting any consultation. We
50

1 are not being advised when these listings are going to
2 happen.

3
4 We're joining with State-run municipal
5 governments and State-chartered regional or
6 corporations that pay these attorneys to represent
7 their organization, for paying for it for help ICAS
8 fight these de-listing, or removing them from the
9 endangered species listing in the first place, so we
10 don't get stuck with having to count all these animals
11 for the rest of our lifetime. So we're fighting them
12 with the Borough, with ASRC, and it's not working. I
13 mean, the way they approach the fighting of these in
14 court is they go to their client, the Borough or ASRC
15 who pays their bills, because we just provide our name
16 to fight these cases in court, ICAS.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Doreen.

19
20 MS. LAMPE: I'm almost done. I'm just
21 like winding up.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Okay.

24
25 MS. LAMPE: So this endangered species
26 listing act is impacting our tribal members. It's
27 impacting our communities, it's impacting our borough
28 governments, and it's impacting our regional
29 corporations with having to fight these in court. So I
30 would like to see this organization -- I know it has
31 some type of mission to manage all these animals that
32 you report on, you count them, you conduct their
33 biological health and so forth. But I would like to
34 see a component added in regards to the hunters, the
35 hunters that depend on them and how to protect the
36 hunters continued access.

37
38 So the AFN had a historical moment last
39 year where the Glennallen region, the AHTNA, State of
40 Alaska, they signed a historic MOA for the moose
41 harvest in their area. And it's going to that to us if
42 we start taking action now.

43
44 You guys have mentioned the fish are
45 changing. In Bethel they became criminals for fishing.
46 In Bethel, in Alaska. Whoever thought you would be
47 sent to jail or sent to court to go fishing.

48
49 So I do hope that this body, this
50

1 organization takes into consideration protecting the
2 hunters access and ability to harvest our continued
3 natural resources, and look forward to hearing more
4 from you, and seeing all your reports that you have
5 provided on the tables back there.

6
7 I would like to know who's your
8 Wainwright member? I seen the names of everybody
9 except for Wainwright. I don't know who that is.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah,
12 quyaugnukpuk, Doreen. You bring a lot of insight and
13 good concerns.

14
15 Our membership is kind of fragmented
16 right now. Bob Shears used to be the primary member
17 from Wainwright. At one point I think Enoch was a
18 member. And some of them, you know, get tired, and Bob
19 moved from Wainwright to Barrow, but he remains a
20 Council member. And OSM Staff has always said that
21 even if it's -- a seat is a seat as long as you're from
22 the North Slope. But we always advocate to try to make
23 sure that we try to get membership from each community
24 so that there is a wider perspective from the
25 communities to bring to the table for OSM and others
26 and land managers, to bring village concerns.

27
28 So that's -- and I wasn't going to cut
29 you off. I just wanted to recognize that it was lunch
30 time, and that if you wish to continue, I was going to
31 ask if you could come back after lunch and finish. But
32 it sounds like you were going to be -- I think some of
33 us have lunchtime aches going on.

34
35 MS. LAMPE: All right. No. Thank you
36 for the opportunity. I appreciate that. And I don't
37 know if you guys comment on any of these Federal
38 regulations where they request for comments on
39 endangered species listing, but I would encourage you
40 guys to do so, because once they become listed, it's
41 really costly and difficult to remove them from the
42 listing. And even though they have a disclaimer that
43 we haven't seen the real full effects put in place
44 where they say Natives are exempt from Endangered
45 Species Act, it bites us in the head every time.
46 Ernest Nageak here today testified briefly to that
47 effect, and it does impact a young hunter's future and
48 desire to continue to go hunting. I know my son got
49 cited once, and he didn't go duck hunting for two

50

1 years. So it does impact our young hunters. It
2 discourages them. So I hope you guys voice your
3 concerns when they have endangered species listings
4 comment periods open.

5
6 Quyaagnukpuk.

7
8 You guys have a big day of it.

9
10 You go.

11
12 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. I
13 would like have a recess for lunch. And what time
14 would you guys like to return. Do you guys want to be
15 back 1:15, 1:30, 1:00 o'clock.

16
17 MR. KAYOTUK: 1:30.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: We're going to
20 recess until 1:30. And so bit it, right. We'll see
21 you at 1:30.

22
23 (Off record)

24
25 (On record)

26
27 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I'm going to ask
28 question to our coordinator. Now that we have five
29 folks on line, do we need to do a roll call to
30 establish quorum, or do we just say we have a quorum,
31 but it seems like we need to establish a quorum.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 Yes, it would be good to do a roll call. And we can
35 welcome Esther Hugo who has joined us this afternoon,
36 and touch base and make sure we still have Rosemary on
37 line, and that she's present for voting on the action
38 items.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And
41 I'm going to defer to Secretary Lee from Kaktovik to
42 help us get our quorum established this afternoon.
43 Lee.

44
45 MR. KAYOTUK: (In Inupiaq) Thank you.
46 I'd like to do a roll call at this time. Seat A, 2011,
47 2017, Gordon R. Brower, Barrow.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Here.

50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 2, 2011,2019, Robert
2 B. Shears, Barrow.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Robert Shears is
5 excused for the afternoon.

6
7 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 3, 2016, 2018,
8 Esther S. Hugo, Anaktuvuk Pass.

9
10 MS. HUGO: Here.

11
12 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 4, 2015, 2019, Wanda
13 T. Kippi, Atqasuk.

14
15 MS. KIPPI: Here.

16
17 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 5, 2017, vacant.
18 Seat 6, 2017, vacant. Seat 7, 2015, 2019, Steve A.
19 Oomituk, Point Hope.

20
21 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Steve Oomituk is
22 excused for today and will join us tomorrow.

23
24 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 8, 2015, vacant.
25 Seat 9, 2006, 2018, Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik. Present.

26
27 Seat 10, 2009, 2018, Rosemary
28 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow/Nuiqsut.

29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Present.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Lee.
33 And, Madame Coordinator, I believe we have a quorum.

34
35 MS. PATTON: We do have quorum now, so
36 the Council can take up action items.

37
38 And I just want to touch base on a
39 couple things in terms of timing and agenda. One thing
40 is there's been a little bit of a snafu with the
41 calendar for this meeting space. And so our meeting
42 got scheduled over the top for this evening. So we'll
43 unfortunately have to conclude today's meeting at 4:00
44 so we can clean up for that meeting this evening. And
45 then we can resume first thing tomorrow morning, and
46 we've got, as we usually do have, the meeting venue
47 until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow night if so needed. So
48 that it is a little bit of a time constraint for today.

49
50

1 We did add Marcy Okada for the Gates of
2 the Arctic National Park update to day. And I just
3 wanted to touch base with the Council in terms of
4 timing since we are ending up with a little bit of a
5 shorter day today, if you would like to take up the
6 caribou updates information, Board of Game updates, and
7 Council and deliberation and action on any Federal
8 subsistence wildlife proposals for tomorrow morning
9 when we'll have ample time to spend on that.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Madame
12 Coordinator, yeah, thank you for the explanation, and,
13 welcome, Marcy. We were expecting you to arrive.

14

15 And for those that haven't introduced
16 themselves from this morning, if you're new this
17 afternoon, if you can come up to the mic and introduce
18 yourself and who you're representing, or if you're
19 general public.

20

21 MR. KAYOTUK: Two at a time.

22

23 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Don't come up all
24 at once now.

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 MR. MATHEWS: Vince Mathews, refuge
29 subsistence coordinator with Arctic, Kanuti, and Yukon
30 Flats. And I have had a whole bunch of dental work, so
31 at times I'll be talking a little funny, because I
32 don't have all my teeth. Just so you know. Anyways,
33 it's good to be back. It's good to -- I met Esther on
34 the plane, and it's really good to see some new members
35 and continuing members on the Council.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Vince.
38 Right? You said your name was Vince?

39

40 MR. MATHEWS: Yes.

41

42 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right, Vince.
43 Anybody else that needs to introduce themself this
44 afternoon.

45

46 MS. OKADA: Hi. Good afternoon. My
47 name is Marcy Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator
48 for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
2 Anybody else.

3
4 MR. BRUNING: Mr. Chairman and members
5 of the Council. My name is Darren Bruning. I'm with
6 Alaska Department of Fish and Game from Region 3, the
7 Interior and Eastern Arctic, and I'm stationed in
8 Fairbanks.

9
10 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Darren
11 from ADF&G. Be waiting to hear from you guys.

12
13 MR. PERSON: Good afternoon. My name
14 is Brian Person. I'm a wildlife biologist with the
15 North Slope Borough, with Department of Wildlife
16 Management. Good to see you all.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Brian.
19 Good to see you as well. Anybody else.

20
21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: We also have
22 people on line, Gordon.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. Those that
25 are on line, if you could -- if you haven't introduced
26 yourself from this morning, and you're new for this
27 afternoon, please introduce yourself, please.

28
29 MS. BEHE: Hello, this is Carolina Behe
30 with the Inuit Circumpolar Council in Alaska.

31
32 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right,
33 Carolina, glad you're with us.

34
35 MR. LIND: Good afternoon. This is
36 Orville Lind, the Office of Subsistence Management
37 Native liaison.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
40 Orville.

41
42 MR. SUMMERS: Good afternoon. This is
43 Clarence Summers with the National Park Service in
44 Anchorage.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Can you repeat
47 your first name? I didn't quite catch that.

48
49 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Clarence. Thank
2 you. Anybody else on line that hasn't introduced
3 themselves.

4
5 MS. HENRY: Native Village of Point Lay
6 is on line.

7
8 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right, Native
9 Village of Point Lay. Thank you for calling in. And
10 who might I ask is on line with Native Village of Point
11 Lay.

12
13 MS. HENRY: I'm Lapeda Henry (ph).

14
15 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Good
16 afternoon, Lapeda.

17
18 MS. HENRY: Good afternoon.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Who
21 else on line.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right.
26 Madame Coordinator, I guess we're going to try to
27 finish off our public and tribal comments.

28
29 We had Ernest Nageak, he gave his
30 presentation. He needed to be up front, and so we
31 altered the agenda to accommodate his needs. We had
32 from the public Roy Nageak as a local hunter addressed
33 the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council. And we had
34 executive director of ICAS, Doreen Lampe, also address
35 the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council.

36
37 This is an opportunity to provide an
38 update or some concerns or issues as general public or
39 as tribal comments on non-agenda items. So if you're a
40 tribal entity or a public participant, you have an
41 opportunity to address the Regional Subsistence
42 Advisory Council.

43
44 Yeah, those that are on line, Lapeda,
45 Point Lay, Point Hope, I think that earlier was maybe
46 Chester, if you have any concerns that the Regional
47 Subsistence Advisory Council need to hear, it's an
48 opportunity to provide those concerns from your
49 community.

50

1 (No comments)

2
3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: One other thing
4 from the communities, I think we have three vacant
5 slots and we really want to get representation from all
6 the communities, and we advocate that the Regional
7 Subsistence Advisory Council be regional. That means
8 we should have membership from Point Hope, Point Lay,
9 Wainwright, Kaktovik, Atkasuk, which there's quite a
10 few of us here, but a couple a couple of villages I
11 think we don't have represented yet, so there's three
12 open seats. And I'm pretty the Secretary of Interior
13 has applications already.

14
15 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
16 Yes, indeed the application process for this year just
17 recently closed, and so now they're starting the
18 interviews, and ultimately the applications go to the
19 Federal Subsistence Board for nomination, and then to
20 the Secretary of the Interior. So it's a one-year long
21 process from application to appointment by the
22 Secretary of the Interior. So new Council members will
23 be appointed typically in December, the first week of
24 December by the Secretary of the Interior. So those
25 vacancies will remain unfortunately until December when
26 new Council members are appointed. But we are still
27 reaching out to and seeking participation and
28 applications. As Doreen noted this morning, we don't
29 have a representative from Wainwright and we don't have
30 a representative from Point Lay on the Council. So any
31 input and connections to help reach out to those
32 communities and be of support in applicants from those
33 regions would be very helpful.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Madame
36 Coordinator.

37
38 And I'm going to ask my (in Inupiaq),
39 Esther, if you want to do a report from your community.
40 Earlier we went through Council member reports on
41 issues, hunting, subsistence, what their community's
42 experiencing. A lot of the Council members here
43 already introduced themselves and provided some input
44 as to what their community's experiencing in terms of
45 subsistence-related issues, problems, something that we
46 need to address or concerns. And you were not here
47 earlier, so I think I'll extend that to Anaktuvuk.

48
49 MS. HUGO: Good afternoon. Thank you.

50

1 I finally made it in. I'm happy to be here.

2

3 There's not much activity going on at
4 home. Our caribou are up probably in the mountains
5 right now. There's a lot of wolves. We just had a
6 wolf right by the air strip the day before I left.
7 He's pretty hungry and skinny.

8

9 My son-in-law got caribou not too long
10 ago, maybe two weeks, but they have to go really up
11 north and look, you know. It's not close by. And
12 weather conditions are cold, 30 below.

13

14 We have same issues and concerns is the
15 caribou. Yes, the caribou came in falltime, but they
16 came so fast and a lot of us didn't catch what we
17 wanted, I mean, to make us go through this winter. We
18 just got one caribou, and believe me, I tried to
19 conserve it for a long time, and couldn't do it. And
20 we got some reindeer that is being sold at the store,
21 and they were so surprised, I went down there and I got
22 me -- it cost pretty much, too, just to get a little.
23 And I said, we're eating reindeer bought from Fairbanks
24 I believe, or wherever they do that process of
25 reindeer.

26

27 But the issue of caribou is there.
28 We're hurting bad, especially the elders and the
29 families without hunters.

30

31 And not much trapping. I didn't hear
32 any trapping at home. Just that issue on caribou
33 falltime. Still concerns. It's been that way since I
34 joined the North Slope Borough wildlife. Still on the
35 same issue. But hopefully pretty soon we'll be able to
36 work something out. That's our main diet that we eat
37 at home. I see a lot of hurt families there. Most of
38 them unemployed, and it's pretty hard to get a lot of
39 chicken or steaks or hotdogs just to -- besides, they
40 don't last as long as the caribou.

41

42 And that's about it, I think.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
47 Anaktuvuk Pass, Esther. I did have a question. Some
48 time ago the community of Anaktuvuk was developing some
49 sort of caribou association, and has something

50

1 developed? And I think they were going to make a
2 resolution to do something.

3
4 MS. HUGO: Well, you must be talking
5 about the UCAN (ph). Our person that we had chosen
6 haven't been active, or we haven't gotten together as
7 the committee, so it's still on process. And I told
8 the mayor, and the tribe that we need to start sitting
9 in, you know -- we need to get this going, because
10 we've been sitting on it for about a couple years now.
11 I know all the bylaws and everything are there, but the
12 person we chose is not as active as we thought he would
13 have been. So I told them we really need to get that
14 going.

15
16 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq) for
17 the update.

18
19 Before we move on, is there any other
20 public and tribal comments on non-agenda items.

21
22 MS. HENRY: Point Lay.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, Point
25 Lay.

26
27 MS. HENRY: This is Lapeda Henry from
28 Point Lay. I would like to speak on my own public
29 behalf as a hunter.

30
31 I heard some comments, because we had a
32 North Slope Borough wildlife meeting yesterday that had
33 told us about these regulations that are supposedly
34 coming to our area. We heard some concern from the
35 community about implementation of registration permit,
36 and getting a license. We didn't think that was fair
37 to our community and our village. I don't feel that I
38 should have to go out there and get a piece of paper to
39 buy my own food that's just right out here, that's been
40 for free for me to catch whenever I want.

41
42 And I just want to make a comment out
43 there that when September 11 happened, we had nothing,
44 but only -- at most we only had Native food to eat.
45 That's all we had. We had no planes coming in and out.
46 We had no groceries coming in and out, and nobody in
47 the State Department was concerned for us, nobody from
48 the U.S. Government was concerned for us, and yet we
49 were not -- we didn't have no food. We went down to

50

1 one can of peas in our store, and yet we are still
2 here, because we had our Native food. And thank the
3 Lord that we have our Native food here today.

4
5 But I just want to make comment that I
6 don't think this is right, and that we should stand up
7 and try to go against this as much as possible, because
8 everything just is coming up this way, and we're being
9 bombarded left and right with nothing but oil and gas,
10 and our animals decreasing.

11
12 And also I don't think that the big
13 game hunters should have any rights to hunt any caribou
14 if we're in a decline. It should automatically stop,
15 and that the U.S. Fish and Game should automatically
16 close that off if that's something that's happening.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq)
21 Those are substantial comments, and in line with a lot
22 of people's thinking, that, you know, registration
23 permitting for subsistence should be the last resort,
24 not a midstream resort. I think when we're talking
25 about our communities that subsist. Out of a community
26 of 280 people, there's probably maybe 60 jobs, maybe
27 less than that in the community. The rest of the
28 people depend on each other to harvest, and that's our
29 backyard is -- like that's our store.

30
31 MS. HENRY: I also have an elder here,
32 Fred Tukroot that would like to make a comment.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. Fred.

35
36 MR. TUKROOT: Yeah. My name is Fred
37 Tukroot, and I'm an elder.

38
39 I've watched this fish and game
40 wildlife since I was born, and I've been here since
41 1949, born and raised in Point Lay. But nowadays they
42 don't have to send us to school for education and stuff
43 like that. I was pretty much educated on how I was
44 supposed to regulate our hunting laws and bylaws,
45 because that's what we get educated for. I don't think
46 we're dum-dums out here. I think we're doing a real
47 good job at what we do as Natives. You should feel
48 proud of yourselves. Quyaugnukpuk.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Fred.
2 That's some good words to live by.

3
4 Anybody else on line that needs to make
5 some comment.

6
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This is
8 Rosemary. I really understand what is being said.
9 Esther really catches my heartstring with discussion.
10 When you're in the villages, you don't have
11 (indiscernible) that have so many resources to go to
12 fill the cupboard. And we depend on our food from --
13 on those waters. The discussion that is going to impact
14 our people, many of them have learned a lot through the
15 generations of the importance of trying to register and
16 to regulate it is a very important discussion. I know
17 that we're going to get into the topics as the
18 discussion goes forward. But the lifestyle and safety
19 of our people is very important. And that's what
20 Esther and Lapeda are bringing in. When you don't have
21 anywhere to go, and it's so cold out, the animals won't
22 winter a long time. We still have the same houses in
23 the village that have the needs. We share and we share
24 and we share. At some level not enough. It's really
25 hard to try to continue to respond to their needs when
26 the only door that opens to hear them are the community
27 health aide, and other offices are not in the village
28 to hear the desperation from the hardship. And our
29 health aides open the door over and over trying to find
30 an answer to questions that don't have solutions. When
31 the food banks that we have in our area don't have food
32 to share with our families, there are other places to
33 go to, and it's our tradition and culture that care.
34 These families over generations in spite of resources
35 that are words on papers that do not bring actual bites
36 of food to our tummies.

37
38 I really appreciate you ladies for
39 coming out and for the elder of Point Lay. These are
40 strong words that need to be heard as we discuss this
41 topic, and I really appreciate you taking the time to
42 say them.

43
44 Thank you.

45
46 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq),
47 Rosemary. Always eloquent in your delivery of good
48 things to hear.

49
50

1 And we're under Item 9, public and
2 tribal comments. And I'm going to do last call before
3 we move on to the next agenda item. But be reminded we
4 have another meeting tomorrow, and each day we will
5 provide an opportunity for public and tribal comments.
6 So it's not -- it doesn't end this -- when this tribal
7 comment section ends, and public participation. We'll
8 revisit that tomorrow as we continue our meeting
9 tomorrow as well.

10
11 Any other public and tribal comments.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Madame
16 Coordinator, I believe we're ready to go to Item 10,
17 old business, and we had rearranged such that Marcy
18 Okada from National Park Service would be present and
19 she's here and got off the plane. And we scheduled you
20 to give you a little bit lead time, knowing that you
21 probably might have to catch an evening flight or
22 something. I don't know. I don't know why Madame
23 Coordinator let you pass everybody else.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Marcy, you're up.

28
29 MS. OKADA: Good afternoon, Council
30 members. Mr. Chair. My name is Marcy Okada. I'm the
31 subsistence coordinator Gates of the Arctic National
32 Park and Preserve.

33
34 And I have an update, and it's on Page
35 35 of your meeting booklet. It's the update I would
36 have shared at your October meeting last year, but I
37 also have some supplemental information that Eva is
38 passing out right now. So I'll just go ahead and go
39 through the update pretty quickly, but if anybody has
40 any questions as I move along, feel free to ask.

41
42 There was a research study that was
43 done looking at data from GPS-collared caribou, caribou
44 from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the Teshekpuk
45 Herd, showing that they were delayed during their
46 autumn migrations an average of 30 days by the Red Dog
47 Mine Road. That's the road that's in the NANA region.
48 Individuals from both herds encounter the road
49 primarily during autumn migration, and the Park Service
50

1 and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists
2 captured and GPS-collared adult female caribou from
3 both herds. Delayed caribou eventually sped up after
4 crossing the road, perhaps to make up ground they lost
5 while they were delayed. Results from this study
6 suggests, however, that even a single road can alter
7 movement behavior for some individuals. And so there's
8 information on that particular research study that was
9 written up as a journal article.

10

11 We also did a study on bears in
12 relation to a proposed corridor to the Ambler mining
13 district. So in 2015 the Park Service and U.S.
14 Geological Survey deployed more GPS collars on grizzly
15 bears. The fieldwork component of this project is
16 winding down, and the collars are scheduled to drop off
17 this July. And once that happens, data analysis will
18 begin. The grizzly bears were collared in order to
19 collect information on movements, denning
20 characteristics, diets, and health of these animals
21 prior to future development in this region.

22

23 Moving along to Dall sheep, last July,
24 so July of 2016, the National Park Service surveyed the
25 Anaktuvuk and Itkillik areas of the northeastern parts
26 of Gates of the Arctic. Survey results indicate that
27 total and adult sheep remain low, but relatively stable
28 in the Itkillik area, but numbers were markedly lower
29 in the area around Anaktuvuk Pass compared with survey
30 results done -- survey results in 2015. This follows
31 the big decline that was observed in these areas in
32 2013 and 2014. Surveys were not conducted in 2016 in
33 the southern portion of Gates, but results from the
34 2014 survey across the entire park and preserve
35 indicated there were 25 percent fewer sheep when you
36 compare it to 2010.

37

38 The Park Service is considering some
39 ecological studies on sheep and their habitat in the
40 northeastern portion of Gates of the Arctic, and they
41 will be working with Arctic Refuge, BLM, and the Alaska
42 Department of Fish and Game and also local communities
43 in the area. Park Service Staff will also be working
44 with hunters in all of our resident zone communities
45 for Gates of the Arctic in order to collect harvest
46 reporting information.

47

48 I guess at this time we have our sheep
49 ecologist, Kumi Rattenbury on line, and I guess the
50

1 question we would like to pose to the RAC is if there's
2 any specific biological questions they have in regards
3 to sheep that they would like to see researched a
4 little bit more.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: So, Marcy, thank
7 you. Are there any concerns about Marcy's report on
8 the various issues regarding caribou, bears, Dall
9 sheep, and the report that she just presented. Was
10 that somebody on line that wanted to have a question.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Well, I have a
15 question. Maybe it was last year or previous year,
16 there was an emergency action on sheep to close off for
17 the preservation due to a drastic decline in the
18 availability of sheep in I forgot what unit. I'm not
19 sure it affected National Park Service or not, and is
20 this in line with some of the concerns regarding sheep,
21 and can you elaborate a little bit about that.

22
23 MS. OKADA: I think it was -- I want to
24 say it was 2015 there was large drastic declines in
25 Unit 23, and so sheep hunting was closed in that unit.
26 There's a lot of Park Service lands and State lands in
27 Unit 23, but there was also an area that was made --
28 because in Unit 26 the closure also was called to have
29 a closure in Unit 26A, and it was meant to be any area
30 west of Howard Pass. But with that emergency closure,
31 it ended up being all of Unit 26A, which was a big
32 confusion.

33
34 But in regards to Gates of the Arctic,
35 we've kept -- we have our western portion of the park
36 that's within Unit 23, and that remains open to the
37 subsistence hunters in the communities of Ambler,
38 Shungnak, and Kobuk. And then also we have kept I
39 guess the same harvest regulation for the community of
40 Anaktuvuk Pass. We haven't changed anything.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Just a follow up
43 question, if I could indulge myself, because there's --
44 you know, it's alarming when you can make a broad
45 statement that there was large confusion of all of Unit
46 26 when the intent was to regulate a portion. Not
47 saying that all of Unit 26 has sheep, but I think
48 undoubtedly there would be other areas on Unit 26 that
49 could have been open that were not affected by the

50

1 closure. I mean, the overlapping regulatory bodies
2 that really need to coordinate and work together and
3 not silo themselves to developing their own independent
4 regulatory edict, really need to work together to come
5 with a uniform approach so that this confusion issue,
6 you may have unnecessarily restricted subsistence user
7 access to somebody or something like that. And
8 sometimes I myself get mixed up on who the law is
9 applying to. Is it the subsistence user, to the sport
10 guides? And those kind of things really should be
11 cleared up. So when you just put a blanket statement
12 out there, is it for everybody, or are you supposed to
13 use the sustained yield principle and have a tier
14 approach like ANILCA is asking you to do. The
15 sustained yield where there's levels of closure before
16 you close anything off to the subsistence user. And
17 those to me are concerns.

18

19 Anybody else have questions.

20

21 MS. ROBINSON: This is Hilary Robinson
22 calling in from Western Arctic National Parklands for
23 the National Park Service. And I just wanted to follow
24 up with what Marcy said.

25

26 Like she said the closure she was
27 talking about in 2015 in Unit 26A was an error, and it
28 has been fixed and it will not persist. What is
29 happening now is that Unit 26A west of Howard Pass and
30 the Etivluk River and the DeLong Mountains is closed
31 under both State and Federal regulation. However, the
32 area of 26A east of the Etivluk River remains open
33 under State and Federal regulation. So the State and
34 the Federal agencies are coordinating on that.

35

36 Also, in 2016 the Federal Subsistence
37 Board adopted new regulations for Unit 23 and 26A which
38 included delegation of authority to the Western Arctic
39 National Parklands superintendent Maija Katak Lukin
40 from Kotzebue for the 26A or DeLong Mountains hunt. So
41 if there were -- if we were to see a population rebound
42 where there was a harvestable surplus, there would be
43 the flexibility for the superintendent to allow harvest
44 there. But as of now, the survey results show that
45 there's insufficient recovery to support that.

46

47 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And I
48 do remember us in supporting some of that language for
49 the Park Service a couple years ago I think now.

50

1 But when you say west it's closed, and
2 who is it closed to? Is it closed to everybody or was
3 there a tiered approach or was there such a decline
4 that the closure was needed to do for the preservation
5 of what remaining animals existed.

6
7 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you for your
8 question. I'm going to let Kumi Rattenbury, the sheep
9 ecologist, respond to that question.

10
11 MS. RATTENBURY: Mr. Chair and members
12 of the Council. This is Kumi Rattenbury with the Park
13 Service in Fairbanks. I work for the Arctic, Noatak,
14 and we have been doing sheep surveys on the Noatak
15 National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic, which
16 include the Unit 23, 26A West, 26A East, 24B, 26B, the
17 very southwest corner, which is Gates of the Arctic,
18 and a little bit of 24A. So we have been doing surveys
19 in northeastern Gates of the Arctic and also in the
20 Western Baird Mountains which is near Kotzebue every
21 year since this decline, you know, was apparent in
22 2013, and then also we had a survey last year in the
23 central DeLong Mountains and also did all of Noatak in
24 2014. So as a consequence of the 2014 survey which was
25 when, you know, we went on the Western Baird Mountains,
26 and went from 607 adult sheep down to only about 150
27 adult sheep currently, and it will be similar, been
28 declining in the mountains north of the Noatak River.
29 At that time both the State and Federal hunts, all of
30 them have been closed. So there's no open sheep
31 hunting at all in Unit 23, except for in the
32 (indiscernible) parts Upper Noatak River Valley, and
33 that's, like Marcy said, has been opened to the
34 communities that have sheep hunting -- that can hunt
35 sheep in that part of Gates of the Arctic Park. So 26A
36 West, like Hilary said, is closed, 23, and the park is
37 closed completely to everybody, and that's because the
38 order of sheep is only like a couple hundred on either
39 side of the Noatak River, (indiscernible) there's been
40 a decline in the early 1990s that would also kind of
41 was closed for several years. We're continuing to
42 monitor that with annual aerial surveys. And that's
43 just for Gates of the Arctic.

44
45 There was also a large decline, but
46 they're part of a larger population of sheep right
47 across Central Brooks Range. And Marcy and I have been
48 meeting with people in the community of Anaktuvuk Pass
49 to get kind of community harvest reporting numbers, and
50

1 also we've asked people to voluntarily reduce sheep
2 harvest and particularly to not harvest ewes. And
3 there has not been an official closure there for the
4 Federal hunt, but there are -- or, you know, when the
5 26A East was closed, that was actually in 2014, that
6 was only on the State hunt. The Federal hunt stayed
7 open, but like I said, we've just been trying for the
8 community to reduce harvest in that part, in the
9 central park, Unit 26A East.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Well, I mean,
12 that's a lot of fast talk, you know. And it would have
13 been.....

14

15 MS. RATTENBURY: Sorry.

16

17 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. It would
18 have been great if you were able to be present and use
19 a pointer or something like that to show some of the
20 questions that are related to this. And I think we
21 should strive for, you know, those that are going to
22 talk about the resources that the people depend on,
23 and, you know, we just don't have fast talk. You come
24 down and do a presentation and show the maps, and slow
25 down a little bit and be able to -- because there's --
26 you're going like 100 miles an hour in your
27 explanation. It's hard to keep pace with that.

28

29 But some of the concerns that we raised
30 over time about how did we get there, when you've got
31 absolutely no harvestable surplus from a population
32 that was healthy, and you've suddenly got only 100
33 animals left. That seems to me that there's a problem
34 with issuing permits, or the guides are not being
35 managed properly, and it leads to all kinds of
36 different types of questions as to how can a population
37 like that, other than being all sick all at the same
38 time, or some sickness affected them, to affect a whole
39 range of their habitat and affect a whole population
40 like that to close off emergency, everybody, and not
41 even the sustained yield principle applied, because it
42 suddenly became an emergency. It seems to me that when
43 you're looking at a population, you strive for the
44 maximum growth for the population, and then you
45 allocate those resources. And then when it starts to
46 decline, this is the first to go. You reach a
47 threshold and all the guides go. You reach another
48 threshold, then the urban hunters go. Then you reach
49 another threshold, then it's limited to rural

50

1 subsistence use. Those are the types -- I think those
2 are the laws are in place, and it's just alarming how
3 you go to the drastic action, and I can only lead to
4 some failure in methodology to allocate these resources
5 correctly. And that's -- unless you have a great
6 explanation for that.

7
8 MS. RATTENBURY: Mr. Chair. Sorry. If
9 I may, I apologize for speaking fast. I'll try to slow
10 down. And I also apologize for not being present there
11 with all of you. It would be great meet all of you.

12
13 So the best way to explain this is
14 that, you know, we had a couple of very severe weather
15 events, in particularly in the spring of 2013. It was
16 very cold in May during the time that lambs are born.
17 And we actually saw very low ram numbers in multiple
18 places, including across the Brooks Range, two areas in
19 Canada, the Alaska Range, including Denali National
20 Park, and in a couple places of the Wrangell Mountains,
21 also in Yukon-Charley River. So Dall sheep range from
22 -- you know, they're in Yukon Territory, they're in the
23 Northwest Territories, and pretty much in all mountain
24 ranges in Alaska. And in multiple areas they had just
25 very low lamb numbers. Additionally, in the northern
26 most areas, there was high adult mortality during those
27 winters. So there's severe cold during that one winter,
28 icing events the following winter. So it was very much
29 an environmental cause for this recent decline.

30
31 And as far as hunts in Unit 23 and 26A
32 West, in the DeLong Mountains and in the Baird
33 Mountains, so both north and south of the Noatak River,
34 those hunts were already regulated by the State and by
35 the Federal system as far as there was a quota in both
36 areas that was sustainable, and there were also
37 registration permits both for Federal hunts and State
38 hunts. There was also a drawing hunt that had a
39 limited number that were allowed into that so as part
40 of that. And that would have been to non-residents, so
41 none -- people from outside of the State. And Fish and
42 Game actually closed that hunt; they didn't issue any
43 drawing permits before we ended up doing emergency
44 closure on the State. So the State closed their hunts,
45 the registration hunt, you know, that's open to --
46 first they closed the drawing hunt open to anybody from
47 outside of Alaska, then they closed the resident
48 hunting, and then the Feds closed the subsistence. But
49 because, you know, this was -- it basically happened

50

1 during one winter, this decline, like all those
2 closures came down at the same time.

3
4 So hopefully that helps explain it, but
5 I'm happy to take additional questions, and also would
6 be happy to speak with you all in person at your next
7 meeting about this.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. That
10 was a good explanation. I think those are the types of
11 things we want to hear is how you got to that type of
12 conclusion. It was environmental degenerated, and the
13 biologists had taken samples, and saw a lot of die-off
14 due to harsh winter conditions. I think those things
15 should be noted. It's real easy to start to assume
16 something when you're not hearing the whole story. So
17 thank you.

18
19 All right. Any other questions from
20 the Council on the report from Marcy while her
21 biologist is on line. Anaktuvuk.

22
23 MS. HUGO: Yeah. Kumi, I missed you
24 when you were up last week. How did that go about.

25
26 MS. RATTENBURY: Hi, Esther. It was a
27 great trip. We were able to collect some sheep pellets
28 and some yellow snow samples from the Upper Anaktuvuk
29 River on a couple different days, southeast and
30 Buckner, which was really nice, and were able to get
31 some snow depth measurements in that area, and then
32 also went down to the Publituk area, down the John
33 River and picked up some samples from there as well.
34 So I will submit those to the lab for some genetics
35 work, and then also to look at diet. From the pellets
36 you can get an idea what they're eating at this time of
37 year, and then also the quality of that forage. And
38 you can also get some ideas for the health of the sheep
39 by looking at some hormones that are also shed with the
40 pellets. So we're hoping to get a better idea of some
41 of these factors that affect sheep and the effect on
42 adult survival in the wintertime, you know, as far as
43 affecting their health getting through the winter,
44 since the timing of the quality of what they're eating
45 isn't as good as it is in the summertime. But this is
46 the time when they might be nutritionally stressed, and
47 that's true for a lot of other animals in the north.
48 So we wanted to get an idea for that as one potential
49 factor that could be affecting sheep. And I'll keep a
50

1 look on that long term.

2

3 But we'll also be sampling in the Upper
4 Iktillik River Valley, which is the next drainage east
5 of Anaktuvuk. And then in another year we're hoping to
6 do something similar in the Western Bairds Mountains
7 north of Kotzebue and east of the Village of Noatak for
8 that population of sheep.

9

10 MS. HUGO: Thank you. And there's no
11 sheep that was collared? You don't collar sheep, do
12 you?

13

14 MS. RATTENBURY: No, we don't have any
15 collared sheep at this time. We've been talking with
16 Brad Wendling, he's the State sheep biologist in
17 northern Alaska, currently about some potential
18 projects in the future, to collar some rams at
19 different ages in some areas. Or at least east of
20 Anaktuvuk Pass in the preserve where there's some sport
21 hunting, because we're interested to know what some
22 younger rams are doing as far as the movement,
23 survival, and kind of what they're going at different
24 times of the year. And then also interested in doing
25 some disease screening with Fish and Game.

26

27 MS. HUGO: Thank you.

28

29 MS. RATTENBURY: Thank you, Esther.

30

31 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Any other
32 questions for Marcy Okada on her report.

33

34 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I think it
35 will be good to -- when you're doing Dall sheep, I
36 think you should detail in more specific -- like for
37 health-wise, you know, I think being surveyed and
38 studies should be in the -- like if you go in the
39 ecological studies like that, I think, you know, it
40 should come down to right down to the health-wise of
41 the sheep population to bring down what's causing the
42 decline of -- millimeters (ph) and things like and
43 studies, and like opening and closing would be a way to
44 go to do some kind of studies like this to look into
45 other than just during the survey and mention the
46 health-wise for these sheep of what's really in them.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Lee.
2 I think that was in the form of advice to be a little
3 bit more detail and a little more information about the
4 sheep itself.

5
6 MS. RATTENBURY: Yeah. Thank you. I
7 think also, you know, the State, Arctic Refuge, and the
8 BLM biologists, we're all looking to work together on
9 some joint projects in the Brooks Range in the next --
10 starting up in the next year or two, or a couple years,
11 just to get a little bit more research done.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Very good. Any
14 other questions from the Council on Marcy's report.

15
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon, this is
17 Rosemary.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: go ahead,
20 Rosemary.

21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. These are
23 really important discussions. I just want to put a few
24 jobs in the environments. It's really important as
25 we're looking at this process that we try to interact
26 as best we can with those that are wanting to do
27 research, and what researcher's being involved, and
28 trying to work together to gather information as best
29 as possible and to increase the interactions. I'm
30 really worried about when low numbers and monitoring in
31 ways that there would be processed as to how the few
32 remaining numbers that we do have. But I also know
33 that identifying the issues around these discussions
34 are very important, so the input everybody is giving is
35 very important in this discussion. Watching the numbers
36 is part of the process of identifying what's really
37 happening, but also making sure that we do have numbers
38 for folks to continue to have resources into the
39 future. I really appreciate that we look in various
40 areas as well as the areas that are important to each
41 of our various villages in these discussions. It's a
42 very dear and important resource. There's also
43 biological benefits that are important at those times
44 in our lives, and this time of year it's very important
45 to the health of our people. Our people don't eat it
46 as they used to, but as you know that benefits (fading
47 a bit as well as echoing) factors that happen with
48 eating this type of food, and making sure that we
49 protect them, and that always come back to the
50

1 importance of the food in times when we don't have
2 other resources to harvest. It's also very important
3 to this discussion, the understanding of how the food
4 contributes to the health of our overall eating this
5 (indiscernible). And (indiscernible) bearing the
6 burden to the food (indiscernible) discussion as we
7 look at it. Elders have talked to me about the
8 (indiscernible) come out of, because they want no
9 modern medicine, just (indiscernible). There are times
10 when (indiscernible) that's available.

11

12 So thank you.

13

14 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
15 Rosemary.

16

17 MS. RATTENBURY: Thank you.

18

19 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. Maybe
20 I can, before we move, I did have a question on --
21 since it's closed and when the time comes to re-
22 establish the hunt, and I'd like to see the historical
23 population data on the sheep, what the historical high
24 is, and the reason why there's a quota, and if that's
25 based on the harvestable surplus, and the methodology
26 used to determine the outside world will be able to
27 harvest, these guides, and develop a system to where
28 we're not saying that there's 500 sheep now, now let's
29 open it up when we can -- you can do much better than
30 that. We shouldn't be managing herds at a low number
31 and say it's harvestable just because they can mate and
32 make five new ones in a given year. And determining
33 that's a reasonable rate of return and sustainable. I
34 really don't think so. I think you need to have, you
35 know, like two or 3,000 established. And then a
36 subsistence portion of that.

37

38 And I'm always saying the Federal
39 subsistence mechanism through ANILCA is the right way
40 to go. It recognizes rural subsistence needs. The
41 State model is a defunct, busted up, messed up way of
42 allocating resources, because they do not recognize
43 rural subsistence priority. It is a personal use issue
44 developed. In 1994 the State refused to have a rural
45 subsistence priority, and there was a split of
46 management between the Federal and the State on lands.
47 And that's something the State has to grapple with, and
48 that's always a big problem for the rural subsistence
49 use, because the State manages it for all of its

50

1 residents. If you've got sheep in these areas where
2 rural residents need to hunt for resources, guess what,
3 the State says Fairbanks has a right to it, Anchorage
4 has a right to it, Juneau has a right to it, and
5 Montana has a right to it. And that's -- to me, that
6 really hurts the State when you need to provide food
7 security issues for communities in the rural areas.

8
9 So that's one thing I was just -- I can
10 give a lecture on that all the time, and there should
11 be a mechanism how you reestablish and certain
12 thresholds, and meet with RACs and get their opinion as
13 to how best to proceed. I think they're that important
14 in these days, major declining resources like caribou.
15 We had 400,000 -- 490,000 Western Arctic Herd. We're
16 dealing with 200,000, about less than half. And all
17 these resources are getting to threshold conservation
18 management. And it's just alarming for our
19 communities.

20
21 With that, I did have one other
22 question about the Red Dog Mine Road, why you're
23 deciding to bring that up today. It seems to me
24 there's a little paper, Abler Mining District
25 industrial access project, kind of be like it's a
26 coincidence. And a long time ago we needed the data
27 from the Red Dog Mine Road, because we were hearing
28 issues and concerns about crossing probability on
29 roads, and we were not able to access that information,
30 maybe because it was being interpreted, it was being
31 studied. And is it in the form that it can be used by
32 multiple agencies now. It seems to suggest crossing
33 probabilities issues from the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd to
34 the Western Arctic Herd on the Red Dog Mine Road, and
35 has issues and concerns that we need to collect that
36 type of information for potential roads that might
37 impact the Central Arctic Herd, Teshekpuk Herd up in
38 the Arctic. And I'm glad to see that there's some
39 language here about it, and it's very useful
40 information for planners that need to have access to
41 studies and conclusions on impacts.

42
43 Marcy.

44
45 MS. OKADA: What was the main question,
46 Mr. Chair. If there's.....

47
48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: The Red Dog road
49 information on caribou crossing, it seems there's a
50

1 little write-up here about the Western Arctic Herd and
2 the Teshekpuk Herd were delayed during autumn on an
3 average of 30 days. And it seems like somebody's been
4 studying the information on radio-collared information
5 with GPS collared. And the period of time 2004 to
6 2012, 2009 to 2012.

7
8 MS. OKADA: So a research study was
9 done using collared data -- or data that was coming
10 from radio-collared caribou. And it was written up in
11 a journal article. It was a joint study with Park
12 Service and ADF&G. And it was sort of a timely study
13 considering that the Ambler Mining Road is being
14 proposed. And so I think that's when they gathered all
15 the GPS data to just write up a report with looking at
16 the effects of roads on migration.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. I think
19 it's important. Thank you, Marcy. It just seems like
20 it's very selective I guess. Because we had a need for
21 this information on issues from Nuiqsut when roads were
22 being developed, and crossing probability, delays of
23 major movements of, you know, 200,000 animals in their
24 movement. And there are these types of concerns, that
25 we had requested information, and somebody write it up
26 so that it could be used for other projects, the
27 potential ramifications of building those kind of
28 roads.

29
30 MS. OKADA: Speaking of the Ambler
31 Mining District industrial access project, Rosemary had
32 requested that Gates of the Arctic give an update on
33 this projects. And so Eva handed out.....

34
35 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Turn your mic on.

36
37 MS. OKADA: Eva handed out I guess our
38 most recent update, which I'll just quickly go through.
39 I don't think Rosemary has a copy, so I'll just go
40 ahead and read it.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

45
46 MS. OKADA: The Alaska Industrial
47 Development and Export Authority, AIDEA, filed an
48 application for a road right-of-way permit across Gates
49 of the Arctic National Preserve in accordance with
50

1 ANILCA, section 2014. On July 29th, 2016, the National
 2 Park Service notified AIDEA the information in their
 3 application was sufficient, and the National Park
 4 Service would proceed with the permitting process.
 5 Although the Ambler Mining District industrial access
 6 project is for a road from the Dalton Highway to the
 7 mining district, the National Park Service permitting
 8 process will only consider the portion of the project
 9 which crosses the Kobuk River Unit of Gates of the
 10 Arctic National Preserve.

11
 12 The permit application proposed two
 13 alternatives for consideration, a northern route and a
 14 southern route across the preserve. Either section is
 15 about 20 to 22 miles long. The National Park Service
 16 is now starting to prepare an environmental and
 17 economic analysis, otherwise known as the EEA, which
 18 will help decide which route the National Park Service
 19 will recommend for the right-of-way.

20
 21 The Bureau of Land Management is the
 22 lead agency in preparation of an environmental impact
 23 statement, EIS, which will evaluate impacts of the
 24 entire length of the road. The EIS process will
 25 include public scoping meetings, and the Park Service
 26 will consider information gathered during that process.

27
 28 The National Park Service will schedule
 29 village consultation meetings for the environmental and
 30 economic analysis that we need to conduct in the near
 31 future.

32
 33 For more information, please contact
 34 our superintendent of Gates of the Arctic, Greg
 35 Dudgeon.

36
 37 And I've also attached a Federal
 38 Register notice. It basically was put into the Federal
 39 Register in order to extend the completion date for the
 40 environmental and economic analysis. So the date for
 41 the completion of the draft EEA is extended until March
 42 29th, 2019, and the date for completion of the final
 43 EEA is extended to December 30th, 2019. And this is so
 44 that it would be timed with BLM's EIS due date also.

45
 46 Are there any questions.

47
 48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Any questions
 49 from the Regional Advisory Council from the North
 50

1 Slope.
 2
 3 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: When you take the
 4 discussion into the context that we're looking at some
 5 of these issues before us, it's really important that
 6 we look at the various variables that are contributing
 7 to some of those discussions. That the north to south
 8 roads of the Dalton Highway and how it came into the
 9 Arctic with the process of already been damage,
 10 development and then the presentation of that
 11 development as it increased into the west. Now you
 12 have the additional discussions of the activities with
 13 the Red Dog Mine as well as now future discussions with
 14 changing more, Department of Transportation development
 15 with the Ambler Road. All of them have separate types
 16 of impacts with their geological location, but their
 17 impacts are similar with the reality of the overlay of
 18 lands and roads into caribou migration routes over a
 19 very lengthy swath of their traditional use area. The
 20 importance of activities into the Arctic with all of
 21 these various levels of change are greatly impacting
 22 our animals and our subsistence and traditional use
 23 activities.

24
 25 I want more information that's
 26 presented to help us break down into presentations in
 27 various levels of communication that will support the
 28 reality that changes are affecting subsistence. And
 29 hunters come and talk about how difficult it is to try
 30 to hunt in these different areas, and we're having
 31 layers of information brought before us, but the
 32 complexity of the continuous rapid change in
 33 biologically important area of renewal is affecting
 34 many different species, and we're very concerned about
 35 all of the discussions.

36
 37 So thank you for giving that update. I
 38 know I haven't been around close to receive
 39 information, and dealing with some of my issues, I
 40 couldn't delve into the layers of information that I've
 41 been getting through email, but getting an overview
 42 like this is very important, because we have a lot of
 43 concerns about the number of the animals that we ave.
 44 But for me, it's all about the life, health and safety
 45 of our people who are going to try to continue to
 46 harvest in our harsh environment with the rapid changes
 47 to our climate and the risk to life, health, and
 48 safety, and whether or not they'll return to our
 49 villages, which harvest or not, or bringing their
 50

1 bodies home. They're important discussions that must
2 happen, because it's affecting our daily lives out in
3 our lands and waters. And I really appreciate the
4 information, because I know we're greatly concerned.
5 But I also have great concerns for all of the various
6 hunters that are going out to try to harvest with all
7 the complexity of words and layers. But it's about
8 feeding our families in a very harsh and restrictive
9 environment, that depends on how the animals that roam
10 about have given us to feed our families and to the
11 generations to come.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
16 Rosemary.

17
18 I just wanted to point out as well,
19 when there is something affecting a region outside of
20 our region, we try to find out how that region's
21 Regional Advisory Council has expressed their opinion,
22 and we try not to front our opinion against theirs, and
23 a lot of times, you know, we try to remain respectful
24 of another region's advisory council, and hope that we
25 can hear from the leadership in the NANA region
26 concerning this.

27
28 And I'm glad to hear about it now. It
29 gives me some insight as to -- to learn more about it.
30 It seems like it's going to be a fast pace, by December
31 2019, to get a final rule on that. And I think it's
32 important to stay engaged on such matters.

33
34 Thank you. Any other questions to
35 Marcy.

36
37 (No comments)

38
39 MS. OKADA: Lastly, the government-to-
40 government consultation on the Ambler Road, we decided
41 to send out initial government-to-government
42 consultation letters to all tribes that harvest from
43 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. So consultation
44 initially will be through a letter to all those tribes,
45 tribal governments.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
48 And we look forward to having that consultation.

49
50

1 I do have a small concern that the
 2 little tiny bit of information regarding crossing
 3 probability and delay of migration issues, there should
 4 be a little bit more extensive review as to what the
 5 cause of that. Was it just because it was the road, or
 6 was it the traffic and the dust that it produced. It
 7 might be that the road was during a very busy period of
 8 time where they're needing to load up the ships with
 9 that lead and zinc, and very active and providing non-
 10 stop trucking. Those kind of questions, there should
 11 be detail in this. All it says here is there was a
 12 delay, because the road was there. It leads you to
 13 other questions about what was the underlying cause of
 14 why the crossing probability was delayed that much.

15
 16 And we've had those kind of issues
 17 develop on the North Slope Borough rezoning, issues of
 18 projects. We incorporated mitigation measures such as
 19 during peak calving and migration periods, convoying
 20 would have to occur, not individual trucks going non-
 21 stop back and forth, unlimited, but, you know, put them
 22 together and say, we're going together, get one load to
 23 the ship one time, and then come back, instead of this
 24 non-stop.

25
 26 So the Borough has tried to do
 27 different things to limit impacts to caribou on roads
 28 that had a potential to have the same kind of impact
 29 that the Red Dog Mine is described to have here in this
 30 little blurb. But it fails to describe what the
 31 underlying causes are, and I think that really needs to
 32 be fleshed out, instead of making a broad statement
 33 like that.

34
 35 Thank you.

36
 37 MS. ROBINSON: Mr. Chair. This is
 38 Hilary Robinson, chief of resources for Western Arctic
 39 National Parklands for the Park Service.

40
 41 And I'm curious, since you were talking
 42 about wildlife issues on NPS, National Park Service,
 43 and adjacent lands, I thought it might be worth taking
 44 a few minutes to update the Council on some muskox work
 45 and bear work that is in and adjacent to Unit 26A. Is
 46 that something the RAC would like to hear now, or would
 47 like to hear under agency reports tomorrow.

48
 49 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yes, let's do
 50

1 that -- and I'm going to yield to the Council. I think
2 there's going to be an opportunity to provide that type
3 of information on tomorrow's meeting, and we'll have
4 more of the Council present. I think Steve Oomituk
5 will be able to call in at that point, and gain some of
6 the important dialogue that he may bring into the
7 discussion.

8
9 And I appreciate, Marcy, you know, we
10 put you up in front of the line, and tried to get your
11 stuff out of the way, but for that additional
12 information on muskox and other things like that, I
13 think we should -- there's going to be ample time in
14 tomorrow's session to accommodate that.

15
16 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. Great. Thank
17 you, Mr. Chair.

18
19 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Would the Council
20 agree with that, or you want to hear the muskox
21 stories.

22
23 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I think we
24 should follow along onto our agencies reports, to
25 follow that with the agency reports.

26
27 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. Okay,
28 Marcy, you pointed one finger here. Okay. Go ahead.

29
30 MS. OKADA: Just one final statement.
31 So within the report that's cited for caribou and the
32 delayed migration, there is more specific information
33 that explains what those causes could have been that
34 caused the delay in the migration. So the details are
35 in the larger report, not necessarily in this paragraph
36 that I gave an update on.

37
38 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I think that's
39 good to know. And is it in the material that's
40 provided in here, or is it in a report somewhere else,
41 we don't have privy to it now?

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
44 If I may, so we had actually -- this report had come
45 out in 2016, and so we had copies for the Council in
46 the 2016 meetings. Unfortunately we didn't bring
47 copies for this meeting as well, but I'll make sure
48 that that report gets mailed out to all the Council
49 members so that you have it in hand.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right, Madame
2 Coordinator. I just want to remind you of something.
3 I think we're all real busy. I know Esther is
4 sometimes the mayor, and I know Wanda is actively
5 hunting probably and killing things, and Lee is
6 probably in Point Thompson and doing things. We're
7 very busy, but having detailed reports that talk to us
8 so that we can provide feedback, because I might be
9 reading a rezone application, comprehensive plan, and
10 that type of other day-to-day business things that I
11 might not actually get to the material I'm expected to
12 digest. And it might get overlooked. As simple as
13 that. So it's important to provide -- if you're going
14 to provide -- you think you're going to provide a
15 little bit, and then we've got to think about, really,
16 it's the road, and maybe it was the trucks on the road.
17 So I think it's important to try to provide not a
18 little bit, but all of it, and maybe talk about.

19
20 Here's one thing that we talked about
21 for the longest time was the population decline, and
22 what could have contributed to that. And one of the
23 possibilities that a drastic population decline
24 occurred when the caribou were turned back from the Red
25 Dog Mine Road, they went all the way back almost to
26 Point Hope, went around, and then tried to come around.
27 And time had caught up to them, and they hadn't
28 actually gotten around the Brooks Range. And I think
29 two or three of the radio-collared animals quit moving,
30 and they were considered to have -- you know, the
31 mortality had caught up to these. They had died. When
32 one collar in a herd of 200,000 animals, or more,
33 represents 5,000 or more animals, and you have three of
34 the radio-collared ones die, does that represent 12,000
35 animals died, because they had to turn all the way
36 around back on the north side of the Brooks Range when
37 they already expected to cross for the winter to the
38 other side, toward the Seward Pen area, and they got
39 caught up. That was one analogy that was given about
40 the consequences of turning back a major migration when
41 they need to go over the Brooks Range to their
42 wintering grounds. And, mind you, with a lot of
43 calves.

44
45 And those were some of the things that
46 I've heard the biologists say. The radio collar,
47 they're a percentage of the herd. It's a
48 representative of the herd. So if one of those radio-
49 collared animals died, it could have represented a
50

1 percentage of that herd. When two of them died, a
2 larger percentage. And so that was some of the
3 dialogue in where did all the animals go, when we're
4 thinking, hey, there's 30,000 animals missing; what
5 happened to them. Did we shoot them all. Or did ADF&G
6 take them somewhere. But, you know, that's a
7 representative of the herd. So that kind of dialogue
8 needs to be included in this.

9
10 If you're talking about road impacts,
11 the crossing probability, including the ones that were
12 turned back, and you didn't even mention in here, maybe
13 it's in the larger summary, the die-off of that year
14 that was represented with those, with the animals being
15 turned back. And these are not my words, these are
16 your biologist that said these things. And that
17 shouldn't be hidden, but it should be analyzed so that
18 people like me are not going to assume the worse.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Thank you, Council members.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. That
26 was old business, and we've concluded with that I
27 believe. Madame Coordinator, I think we're under new
28 business, and if you could run the gamut of our new
29 business.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Sure. Mr. Chair and
32 Council. And there was one other item under old
33 business, which was the draft MOU with the State.
34 Stewart. And at the wish of the Council, the draft MOU
35 with the State, which is simply an update on the status
36 of were that is at. It also was part of the OSM
37 update. So we can cover that now or we can cover that
38 with the summary of the OSM.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Was that Alaska
41 Native relations.

42
43 MS. PATTON: No. As the Council may
44 recall, there's been an MOU with the State of Alaska
45 and the Federal Subsistence Program and Board to come
46 up with essentially just a working pathway to work
47 together. And the Councils had provided feedback and
48 recommendations on that at the fall meeting. And so
49 this is simply an update on where that is at right now.

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. It
2 just seems like you didn't add it when you added Marcy
3 Okada on there. But what's the wish of the Council.
4 Do you guys want to hear an update of the MOU with the
5 State and the Feds. Or do you guys want to put them at
6 the back of the bus.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 MS. PATTON: Yeah. Mr. Chair and
11 Council. We did -- because it is just a brief update,
12 we had kind of lumped it with other OSM updates, and so
13 that would be simple to do when we have the OSM updates
14 under agency reports. We can combine those all
15 together if that's the wish of the Council.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Madame
18 Coordinator.

19
20 What's the wish of Council. Do you
21 guys want to hear the update on the MOU? I think it
22 might be important. And then we could see how they're
23 trying to cooperate, or if they're trying to make
24 Federal law out of State law, and get alarmed or
25 something.

26
27 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I think to
28 follow along on that MOU update would be -- which is
29 brief, would be important to hear, I think.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MS. PATTON: Sure. Did you want to
34 hear it now or.....

35
36 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: (In Inupiaq) Let
37 them do it.

38
39 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. Members of
40 the Council. My name is Steward Cogswell, and I'm the
41 fisheries division chief for the Office of Subsistence
42 Management.

43
44 I have a brief statement, a written
45 statement, here from our office, and it's just very
46 quick. And if there's any questions that I don't have
47 answers, I'll take them down and probably get them for
48 you before the end of the Meeting. So I'll read this
49 to you now.

50

1 There are a few new developments on the
2 revisions to the memorandum of understanding between
3 the Federal Subsistence Board and the State of Alaska.
4 As you recall, the draft MOU was presented to the
5 Councils during the fall 2016 meeting cycle, and the
6 Councils were provided opportunity for input. Those
7 comments have been recorded. Additionally, the State
8 of Alaska has provided its comments. Additionally, the
9 various State fish and game advisory committees have
10 provided their input. The working group, consisting of
11 State and Federal employees working on the revisions to
12 the MOU, will be meeting to discuss incorporating all
13 those comments.

14
15 Once those comments are integrated, a
16 new revision will be prepared that incorporates
17 comments from all the stakeholders, and works out
18 language agreements between the State and Federal
19 participants. The revision will be presented to the
20 Board for approval. The time on when it is ready for
21 the Board will determine whether the Councils see the
22 MOU before Board approval.

23
24 So everything's kind of -- it's in
25 process right now. They have comments from the State,
26 from the advisory committees, and from the Regional
27 Advisory Councils and they're putting those all
28 together right now. So that's sort of the status where
29 we're at. So there's not much of an update, but that's
30 exactly where we're at right now

31
32 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Any questions to
33 -- what was your name again?

34
35 MR. COGSWELL: Stewart.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Any questions to
38 Stewart on the MOU update between -- is it OSM and
39 ADF&G?

40
41 MR. COGSWELL: It's between the Federal
42 Subsistence Board and the State.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. I have a
45 question. It seems like you said, it's not much to
46 report other than you're collecting comments and things
47 like that. Before it's signed, when do we see the
48 proposed language, and what are you -- what is the
49 intent behind the MOU. Is it to align and streamline
50

1 regulatory process between jurisdictional boundaries?
2 Is that part of the intent so that State regulations on
3 State land can be more aligned with Federal
4 regulations, or vice versa?

5
6 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. I think it
7 is more along the lines of just an agreement to work
8 together. It doesn't get into specifics about, you
9 know, we're going to do this on this, or work on this.
10 It's just a general agreement on how to work together,
11 you know, and how to address certain issues, or how
12 issues would be addressed. It's kind of a blanket-type
13 agreement to work together on different issues. It
14 does not get into specifics on how to address
15 individual issues.

16
17 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And just to
18 follow up here, will we have an opportunity before the
19 signature, maybe -- how is that going to work? Will it
20 come to the Council to look at, or is it going to be
21 maybe the Chair and the Vice Chair to take a look at?
22 What do you envision as its vetting process.

23
24 MR. COGSWELL: This prepared statement
25 was prepared by our regulatory division, and it says
26 the timing on when it is ready for the Board will
27 determine whether the Councils see the MOU again before
28 approval.

29
30 What I will do is right now during a
31 break or something, I will call back to our office, the
32 regulatory division, and find out exactly where they're
33 at with that, and I'll give you an update for the
34 timing, what exactly the timing is, and if there's a
35 plan for the Council to see it before it goes to the
36 Board for signing. So that's what it says here. I'll
37 make sure that -- it may to back to Councils, it may
38 not, but I'll get that -- I'll call regulatory division
39 and get that answer for you before the meeting's over.

40
41 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. I
42 think it's important that we know what we deliberated
43 on and provided comments on, and then ultimately the
44 language you're proposing under the MOU. And if it's
45 substantial, because we do have concerns. When we're
46 starting to see declining caribou, the State willing to
47 go out of their way to develop new regulatory -- to do
48 something, and the Borough Fish and Game Management
49 committee, I could remember saying let's do this before
50

1 the State does it. And have an opportunity to shape
2 those regulations, locally home-grown regulations and
3 propose something, because we're often too -- sometimes
4 blind sided or even tagged down to something through an
5 MOU that maybe we shouldn't have, like the promoting of
6 registration and hunting licenses to do subsistence
7 activities when there's other mechanisms that we could
8 use before we do something like that, to make a more
9 conservative approach to management. So I think it's
10 important to let us at the Council level take a look at
11 that as a vetting process.

12
13 MR. R. NAGEAK: Just a quick question.
14 Is there a copy of the MOU that is available for the
15 public.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
18 don't have copies with us right now. I can try to make
19 copies -- and this was actually the earlier draft, so
20 the Council, all the Councils at the fall 2016 meeting
21 were reviewing what was the draft MOU at the time, and
22 making recommendations for, you know, any concerns,
23 questions, additions they would like to see.

24
25 And I guess I can also point out that
26 these are long processes with the Council meeting,
27 making recommendations, and coming back. There is a
28 brief summary of the Council's discussion and
29 recommendations on the MOU in the Council meeting
30 minutes, and that's on Page 16 in your books where the
31 revision of the memorandum of understanding with the
32 State of Alaska is there.

33
34 So what we can do, if you're interested
35 in the draft MOU that came before the Councils in the
36 fall, is provide you a copy of that. And now what's
37 being worked on is the Board reviewed the Council's
38 recommendations on that MOU and then the regulatory
39 Staff along with the State of Alaska are working on
40 incorporating the feedback and edits. So there isn't
41 an updated draft yet, and that's why there is a brief
42 update today unfortunately. But I can -- we have a
43 little printer if I can get it working, I can provide
44 that draft MOU that was provided to all the Councils at
45 the fall meeting for tomorrow morning.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Sounds very good.
48 I'm pretty sure there's been some amendments to it and
49 changes from the comments and it would be nice to take
50

1 a look at that.

2

3 MR. COGSWELL: Mr. Chair. I'll try --
4 when I talk to our regulatory division, I'll try to
5 print out a summary of the general changes the best I
6 can at this point. So I'll get back to you guys as
7 soon as I can.

8

9 Thank you.

10

11 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Very good. I
12 think in the spirit of cooperation and transparency, I
13 think it's warranted, so we should be looking at that.

14

15 Madame Coordinator, next order of
16 business.

17

18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
19 While we're on the subject of meeting minutes, we had
20 deferred that this morning, because that was an action
21 item by the Council. And we do have quorum now. And
22 this might be an nice opportunity to review the
23 minutes, see if there is additions or edits or changes.

24

25

26 And, of course, I'd like to welcome our
27 new Council members, Wanda Kippi and Esther Hugo. And
28 so these were the minutes of the fall 2016 meeting, and
29 then the Council reviews those at their following
30 meeting, takes a look to see if they're complete and
31 accurate, if there's any further edits or
32 recommendations, and then either make some
33 recommendations to edit or approve the minutes. So it
34 will be new information for you, but a good way to get
35 a sense of what the Council had covered at the fall
36 meeting, and it does address the MOU in there, and
37 particularly the Council's feedback and recommendations
38 at that time.

39

40 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Madame
41 Coordinator. And we did discuss earlier this morning
42 that we would postpone the minutes until we get a
43 quorum. Now that we have a quorum, I think it's an
44 opportune time to entertain the minutes.

45

46 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
47 And the meeting minutes begin on Page 8 in your meeting
48 books.

49

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Eva, is this the
2 meeting that we held in Anaktuvuk Pass?

3
4 MS. PATTON: Hi, Rosemary. This is the
5 fall 2016 meeting that was held in Barrow.

6
7 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. I just wanted
8 to verify which meeting it is.

9
10 MS. PATTON: Yeah. October 31st and
11 November 1st held in Barrow here, and Gordon had helped
12 to Chair that meeting as well.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. Madame
15 Chair, I think we would need a motion from the Council
16 to entertain the minutes, and then take time to look
17 through them, and then act on them. So I think it's an
18 appropriate time to look at the October 31 and November
19 1st, 2016 meeting minutes. And we'd need to act on
20 that by a motion.

21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to approve
23 the minutes as to for discussion.

24
25 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There's a motion
26 on the floor to adopt October 31 and November 1st, 2016
27 minutes.

28
29 MR. KAYOTUK: Second it.

30
31 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: It's been
32 seconded for discussion. I think we could have a
33 couple minutes to review and see if there's any
34 discussion that develops. I've got a question on the
35 minutes. I don't spell my brother's name as Lois, and
36 if you guys can change his name back to Lewis.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
39 Lewis, L-E-W-I-S?

40
41 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I think so.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Thank you. And, Mr. Chair
44 and Council, and especially for Esther, former Council
45 member James Nageak of Anaktuvuk Pass, I called him the
46 professor. He would provide all the spelling
47 corrections and correct Inupiaq spelling for names and
48 place names.

49
50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, and
2 somebody's going to have to take up that torch to do
3 the spell checks and what not.

4
5 I see on another page it's Lois again,
6 and he made his public testimony. Lewis.

7
8 I see in the minutes we had some
9 dialogue with the State under revision to memorandum of
10 understanding. And just from looking at some of the
11 things what were involved with, there's a member of the
12 Regional Subsistence Advisory Council that's selected
13 as a member to the Subsistence Resource Commission on
14 either Gates of the Arctic or something like that. And
15 did -- with James stepping down and retiring, did that
16 leave a void right there that we need to fill? And
17 it's usually a representative of the RAC that
18 participates subsistence activities in the national
19 parklands.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
22 Chair. And we have Marcy Okada here, and now that we
23 have a new Council member appointed from Anaktuvuk
24 Pass, that seat that James Nageak had recently held is
25 vacant, and so we were hoping at this meeting that we
26 would be able to address that. We can today while
27 Marcy's here, and have a nomination by the Council for
28 a representative to be appointed to the Gates of the
29 Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission. And Marcy
30 could provide a little bit more background on the
31 Subsistence Resource Commission and it's role. But
32 that is a formal part of the Regional Advisory Council
33 in the interaction with the parks, so that there's a
34 representative from each Council on the SRC, and those
35 communications.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right.
38 You're almost giving me information overload now. I
39 ask because, you know, I try to speed read through some
40 of this stuff, and I just pointed out Subsistence
41 Resource Commission, and we need to provide a
42 recommendation, and I'm not suggesting that we do that
43 now, because we're under the minutes, and we need to
44 adopt these minutes and get them past us. But just
45 looking at some of that information, it appears that
46 we're going to need to nominate a user of the national
47 park as a Regional Subsistence Advisory Council member
48 to that commission. So I just wanted to point that
49 out.

50

1 Any discussion. Any further discussion
2 on the minutes.

3
4 (No comments)

5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I don't hear any
7 further discussion on the minutes. And we have a
8 motion on floor that was seconded for discussion. And
9 what's the wish of the Commission.

10
11 MS. KIPPI: Question.

12
13 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: The question been
14 called for to adopt the October 31/November 1, 2016
15 minutes. All those -- oh, yeah. All those adopting
16 the minutes with the suggested changes and typos that
17 were noted signify by saying aye.

18
19 IN UNISON: Aye

20
21 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All those opposed
22 same sign.

23
24 (No negative votes)

25
26 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Hearing none, the
27 minutes have passed.

28
29 Madame Coordinator, next agenda item.

30
31 MS. PATTON: Okay. Mr. Chair and
32 Council. As we had noted earlier, a little bit of
33 flexibility to try to accommodate schedules. And
34 indeed addressing the SRC appointment was under agency
35 reports. And since Marcy is here now, if the Council
36 would wish to address that, Marcy would be able to
37 provide some better background, especially for Esther
38 on that process.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right, Madame
41 Coordinator. It's time to be real flexible as agreed
42 earlier, so we're going to ask Marcy to talk about --
43 is it the Subsistence Resource Commission for the Gates
44 of the Arctic, and we need to nominate a sitting RAC
45 member that has subsistence uses that do occur in the
46 Gates of the Arctic land, the parklands. Marcy.

47
48 MS. OKADA: So for the record my name
49 is Marcy Okada. I'm the subsistence coordinator for
50

1 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

2
3 And, yes, in the past we've had -- we
4 actually have three RAC appointed members to our SRC,
5 or our Subsistence Resource Commission. One is
6 appointed by the North Slope RAC, one is appointed by
7 the Western Interior RAC, and one is appointed by the
8 Northwest Arctic RAC. And so currently our North Slope
9 RAC appointment is open, and there's a vacant seat,
10 which James Nageak has filled in the past. And Sam
11 Kunaknana from Nuiqsut was the interim RAC appointee,
12 but unfortunately he was never able to make it to a
13 Gates of the Arctic SRC meeting.

14
15 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Marcy, I've just
16 got a question. We know by default Anaktuvuk is right
17 there. I mean, they're practically living in the park
18 here. And are there any other communities that have
19 use of the parklands other than Anaktuvuk? It was said
20 at one time the reason why we had Sam Kunaknana at the
21 time from Nuiqsut is those hunters occasionally
22 frequented the parklands.

23
24 MS. OKADA: So in total we have nine
25 seats on our Subsistence Resource Commission. Three
26 are State of Alaska governor appointed. Three are
27 Secretary of Interior appointed. And then three are
28 RAC appointments. And so we currently keep two seats
29 available for Anaktuvuk Pass, because they do utilize
30 Park Service lands. And for the Secretary of Interior
31 appointment, it is currently in process to have an
32 Anaktuvuk Pass resident appointed via that venue. The
33 application was put in before the transition period
34 happened in January, but unfortunately it had not been
35 processed under the old administration, and so it's
36 currently being processed under the new Secretary of
37 Interior appointment process.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And I've got a
40 question. Let's just say we nominated our Anaktuvuk
41 representative. What is to be, not knowing who the
42 other representative, and we nominate Esther Hugo, and
43 the -- who is it -- is it the Interior, Department of
44 Interior actually nominates one Anaktuvuk resident.
45 What if we're nominating one and the same person.

46
47 MS. OKADA: I don't want to currently
48 give names on who's application is in process for the
49 Secretary of Interior appointments. We actually have
50

1 two names that we put in. One would be the primary and
2 one -- the other individual would be the alternate.
3 And so there is no overlap with Esther being appointed
4 as a RAC member.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And if I may, one
7 other question was we know Anaktuvuk is -- they're
8 there. I mean, they're there. I mean, is there any
9 other community that -- would they have to state
10 themselves, like Point Hope, Atqasuk or Nuiqsut, that
11 they use parklands themselves and determine if they're
12 eligible to be on the Subsistence Resource Commission
13 of the National Park Service?

14
15 MS. OKADA: So currently we have 11
16 resident zone communities for Gates of the Arctic, and
17 we tend to select applicants who are from those
18 communities. But in addition to that, governor-
19 appointed representatives don't necessarily have to be
20 from resident zone communities. We have two
21 individuals who happen to not be from resident zone
22 communities that are governor appointed. But, yes, we
23 do, and then we also have a governor appointee who has
24 a 13.44 permit to use Gates of the Arctic, because his
25 family has had a long-time homestead just south of the
26 park, and they did utilize resources within the park.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. I
29 mean, the question just can get really complicated I
30 guess. I was hoping you would say, yeah, Point Hope
31 uses those lands and Wainwright uses those lands.
32 That's how come Sam was nominated before. And I was
33 hoping you would just say that and not go all the way
34 around with a real complicated type of answer.

35
36 MS. OKADA: So the reason why Sam
37 Kunaknana was appointed was he is from Nuiqsut, which
38 is a resident zone community of Gates of the Arctic.
39 The two resident zone communities within the North
40 Slope Borough are Anaktuvuk Pass and Nuiqsut.

41
42 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Very good. Okay.
43 What's the wish of the Council. We need to nominate
44 one of our Regional Subsistence Advisory Council that
45 has a lot of business in the National Park Service
46 parklands. So we need to make nomination. I suggest
47 that we nominate Esther Hugo. She is a RAC member and
48 very well-qualified to serve in the Subsistence
49 Resource Commission for the National Park Service. We
50

1 need to do that by motion. But that's just my
2 recommendation.

3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This is
5 Rosemary. I support Esther in representation. It's
6 very important to have people who are living the lands
7 and waters that are affected by the discussions of the
8 National Park Service use in order to have
9 communication between the (indiscernible -- fading in
10 and out) or impacts that we (indiscernible) park.
11 These are from other people who are not making the
12 (indiscernible) and not completely understand the
13 complexity of what we have to bring to allow our issues
14 and discussions to be heard at the appropriate level,
15 that they need to be heard. I also support Sam
16 Kunaknana in his efforts that have been there. I know
17 that the complexity of trying to participate, it's not
18 always something that all of the layers of where we are
19 ask to participate allow us to get to provide the
20 discussions that are necessary. So I appreciate Esther
21 coming up and supporting her in this discussion. The
22 discussion has been very effective when working between
23 the community message and Anaktuvuk in providing the
24 layers of information to both communities. And I know
25 that Esther will continue to try to make sure that we
26 truly are effective.

27
28 Thank you.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you,
31 Rosemary.

32
33 There's a motion on the floor that we
34 select Esther Hugo as the Subsistence Resource
35 Commission representative from the Regional Subsistence
36 Advisory Council, and that motion is on the floor.

37
38 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

39
40 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: The motion has
41 been seconded. Any discussion.

42
43 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I believe
44 that it would be appropriate to have like a person,
45 too, from Nuiqsut to follow up on what the SRC do since
46 it's -- since Sam was really on their team, but, you
47 know, it's good to have someone from up in that area,
48 too, to support each other's decisions that's been
49 making on this.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: While on the
4 discussion, I appreciate those concerns there, Lee,
5 from Kaktovik. I think Sam has since resigned as he's
6 moved out of the North Slope, and had expressed that.
7 And James Nageak was the last representative from
8 Anaktuvuk on the Regional Subsistence Advisory Council
9 and held the position or the Subsistence Resource
10 Commission member from the RAC. And I think if we need
11 to have an alternate there, we'd need to get advice
12 from Marcy as to if there is a need to do something
13 like that.

14
15 So I think the motion that's on the
16 floor is we're selecting Esther Hugo as a
17 representative from the North Slope Regional Advisory
18 Council to sit on the Subsistence Resource Commission
19 for the National Park Service. It's been seconded.
20 We're under discussion.

21
22 Any other discussion.

23
24 MS. OKADA: I guess my question is to
25 Esther whether she would want to be appointed to the
26 Subsistence Resource Commission.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Esther, we're
29 under discussion. Are you willing to take up the task
30 where James left off and to be on the Subsistence
31 Resource Commission for National Park Service.

32
33 MS. HUGO: I guess I can give it a try.
34 I've got to learn a lot and, you know, I can accept
35 that.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. It sounds
38 like we have a willing candidate, and the former
39 Subsistence Resource Commission that retired, they live
40 in the same town. I'm pretty sure she'd be able to go
41 get advice from James. (In Inupiaq). Yeah. So, yes,
42 I think under discussion she's willing to give it a
43 try.

44
45 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon, this
46 Rosemary. (Indiscernible)

47
48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. Rosemary,
49 something's happened to your phone. You sound almost
50

1 like a little chipmunk right now. And maybe you need
2 to get closer to the mic.
3
4 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Can you hear me now?
5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, go ahead.
7
8 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Okay. Yeah, Esther,
9 I'll help you in any way. I've getting back to
10 (indiscernible), and I'll go (indiscernible -- fades in
11 and out) what help you can get as far as
12 (indiscernible).
13
14 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. Thank you,
15 Rosemary. It sounded like you're in support, and then
16 to maybe have continued dialogue with Marcy whether or
17 not we need an alternate or something like that, but it
18 became completely garbled at the end. I couldn't make
19 the conversation out.
20
21 Any other discussion.
22
23 (No comments)
24
25 MS. KIPPI: Question.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Question has been
28 called for. All those approving Esther Hugo as the
29 North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
30 representative on the Subsistence Resource Commission
31 on the National Park Service signify by saying aye.
32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.
34
35 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: We may have lost
36 Rosemary, but I think that's one, two, three, four
37 ayes, and I'm pretty sure Rosemary said aye, but I'm
38 not going to say that. She needs to say aye for
39 herself.
40
41 All those opposed signify by saying no.
42
43 (No negative votes)
44
45 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Hearing none, we
46 have a representative on the Subsistence Resource
47 Commission.
48
49 Is that you, Rosemary?
50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. Can you hear
2 me know? We're picking up real strong winds down here.
3 I may not (indiscernible) too much then. I'm fine.

4
5 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. We
6 were just voting. We just needed you to say aye if you
7 support Esther Hugo.

8
9 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Aye.

10
11 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. We
12 have unanimous here that Esther Hugo is now the North
13 Slope Regional Advisory Council representative on the
14 Subsistence Resource Commission on the National Park
15 Service. Congratulations, Esther.

16
17 (Applause)

18
19 MS. OKADA: And I'll work with Esther
20 on sharing SRC information and bringing you up to
21 speed.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Comes the other
24 question that Lee posed. Do we need an alternate, or
25 is that -- there's other representatives that the
26 Department of Interior Secretary will appoint another
27 from the community.

28
29 MS. OKADA: In regards to an Anaktuvuk
30 Pass representative, that's in process. And two
31 applications have been submitted, so both will be
32 vetted and processed.

33
34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: So we're done
35 with what we just accomplished.

36
37 MS. OKADA: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right.
40 Madame Coordinator, next order of business.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
43 Now we are on to new business. And we do have under
44 new business (A) a wildlife closure review. And Tom
45 Evans will present that information for the Council.
46 And you can find the wildlife closure review briefing
47 on Page 21 of your meeting books.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Did we want to
50

1 take like a five-minute, but we're going to wrap up in
2 20 minutes, right? We've got to be closed at 4:00
3 o'clock?

4
5 MS. PATTON: Yeah.

6
7 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And we start at
8 9:00 a.m. tomorrow?

9
10 MS. PATTON: And we start again at 9:00
11 a.m. and we do have the building as we usually do all
12 the way until 9:00 p.m. tomorrow night if needed.

13
14 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. Since
15 we're so close, I think we should -- we've got only 20
16 minutes, we should let Tom, and keep him awake by
17 letting him do his report. And I apologize if I went
18 on a rant a little earlier about you nodding off and
19 stuff like that. You know, we've -- you've traveled a
20 long ways to go to sleep all right, but we don't want
21 to -- you know, unless we all got to take a nap or
22 something. All right, Tom.

23
24 MR. EVANS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair
25 and members of the Council. I'm a little bit hoarse.
26 I have a cold, so just bear with me.

27
28 I'm going to give you a brief overview
29 of the closure review process and then go through the
30 closure review. I think this will be pretty straight
31 forward. As Eva said, the wildlife closure that we're
32 considering is on Page 22 of the RAC meeting book.

33
34 OSM reviews wildlife closures every
35 three years to determine if the justification for the
36 closure is still consistent with the Federal
37 Subsistence Board closure policy. Section 804 and 815
38 of ANILCA allows the Federal Subsistence Board to
39 restrict or close the taking of fish and wildlife by
40 subsistence or non-subsistence users on Federal public
41 lands when necessary for the conservation of healthy
42 fish and wildlife populations, or to continue
43 subsistence uses of such populations. Recognizing that
44 the distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife
45 populations fluctuate, and along with subsistence use
46 patterns, the Board decides in 2007 to conduct closure
47 reviews every three years or earlier if new information
48 becomes available that would potentially allow the
49 closure to be rescinded.

50

1 Councils are asked to consider the OSM
 2 preliminary closure recommendation, share their view on
 3 the issue and make a recommendation to the Board.
 4 Input from the Councils is critical to the development
 5 of the regulatory proposals related -- needed to adjust
 6 -- needed to address adjustments to the regulations.
 7 After the Council reviews the closure review, they have
 8 three options which should be given in the form of an
 9 action item. Maintain the status quo, modify, or
 10 rescind.

11
 12 If the Council recommends to modify or
 13 rescind the closure, then they should submit a
 14 proposal, a separate action item at this time.
 15 Councils can work with OSM to help draft that proposal
 16 if it's needed.

17
 18 Okay. Now going with the closure
 19 itself. The closure deals with muskox. Hunting on
 20 Federal public lands in Unit 26C are closed to the
 21 hunting of muskox, except by rural residents from the
 22 Village of Kaktovik. Permits are issued to the Village
 23 of Kaktovik, will not exceed three percent of the
 24 number of muskoxen counted in Unit 26C during pre-
 25 calving census.

26
 27 The closure was last reviewed in 2012.
 28 The muskoxen population in Unit 26C were below the
 29 three percent threshold level required to issue Federal
 30 registration permits from 2003 to 2007, and from 2009
 31 to 2015.

32
 33 The State has not had an open season
 34 for muskoxen in Unit 26C since regulatory year 1992/92.
 35

36
 37 From 1987 to 1998 the muskox population
 38 in Unit 26C has remained fairly stable with an average
 39 population of about 331, but in 2003 the population
 40 declined to 29. The decline was caused by low calf
 41 survival, increased adult mortality, and migration both
 42 to the east and west from Unit 26C out of 26C. Causes
 43 of the decline include a variety of factors, which
 44 could include weather, predation, primarily brown
 45 bears, quality and quantity of winter forage, and
 46 disease. In 2008 the population was 44, but in general
 47 from 2003 to 2015, the population has remained at very
 48 low numbers, approaching zero for most of that time.
 49 Currently there are no mixed groups living year around
 50

1 in Unit 26C. And no muskox have been harvested in Unit
2 26C since 2009.

3
4 So OSM's preliminary recommendation is
5 to maintain the status quo for WCR15-25.

6
7 Any questions.

8
9 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, I was
10 trying to follow along, but I couldn't tell where you
11 were, so you're under closure review, 2012, WCR12-26,
12 justification of regional closure. The muskox
13 population below management objectives, and additional
14 harvest would be incompatible with conservation and
15 healthy populations in Unit 26C.

16
17 And is that where you left off is on
18 Page 23?

19
20 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I do actually do a
21 summary of my talking points before, but, yeah, that's
22 the closure review we're talking about.

23
24 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And this is all
25 Unit 26C from it looks like the Canning River going
26 east?

27
28 MR. EVANS: It's all 26C, yeah.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Uh-huh. Is that
31 the line right there or is it shaded in this color
32 that's 26C? I'm just trying to see where there's.....

33
34 MR. EVANS: Yeah

35
36 ACTING CHAIR BROWER:26, 26A,
37 26B, and 26C. Which lines differentiate where the cut
38 offs are?

39
40 MR. EVANS: So it would be the pink
41 area in your -- no, it would be the area that's on
42 dotted line.

43
44 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: The black dotted
45 line?

46
47 MR. EVANS: It's red in these
48 regulations. Are you looking at State or Federal
49 regulations?

50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: No, I'm just
2 looking at this map right here.
3
4 MR. EVANS: Oh, he's got a different
5 map than I've got, so I don't have that map.
6
7 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: So we're in your
8 Regional Advisory Council regulation handbook, harvest
9 of wildlife.
10
11 MR. EVANS: Yeah. So, okay, on the big
12 map it would be the black line.
13
14 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. And you
15 are on which page of the handbook?
16
17 MR. EVANS: 22.
18
19 MS. PATTON: I'm sorry. In the
20 regulations book, it's on Page 127. And your big place
21 mat map is the exact same map that's in your
22 regulations book. It's just a larger size, and the
23 coloration is just a little bit different.
24
25 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Okay. That's the
26 line that's bordering the Canning River going to the
27 east as Unit 26C, and that's the extent of these
28 closures on that side?
29
30 MR. EVANS: Correct.
31
32 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And just out of
33 curiosity here, Unit 26B, is there a section of Federal
34 land on Unit 26B, and then there's a majority of State
35 land?
36
37 MR. EVANS: Correct. On 26B it's
38 mostly state land with a little bit of overlap with the
39 refuge in the lower right-hand corner of 26B.
40
41 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Being that the
42 regulatory process for closure is in Unit 26C, what's
43 the disposition of Unit 26B for muskox, is it closed?
44
45 MS. PETRIVELLI: There's no season.
46 It's on Page 131.
47
48 MR. EVANS: Uh-huh. Correct. It's no
49 Federal open season.
50

1 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Is there a State
2 open season? No? And one of the things that you
3 mentioned was the movement of -- mortality, low calf
4 production, and outward migration. Do you have an
5 estimate of population Slope-wide in different units,
6 or are you concentrating your efforts in the ANWR
7 areas?

8
9 MR. EVANS: So, yes, I could get that
10 for you, but I don't have it at hand, because we're
11 focusing just on 26C. The closure's only for 26C, so
12 that's the focus of the analysis right now, but, yeah,
13 we do have numbers. There's populations over in the
14 Seward Pen that are doing fairly well. When the muskox
15 were introduced to.....

16
17 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I mean, if you
18 could focus population estimates, what's in our
19 jurisdiction? I know there's populations in, you know,
20 Nunivak Island, and, you know, where there's hunts that
21 go on over there. I just want to see what -- because
22 in our area, Ikpikpuk, I see a lot of muskox up there,
23 you know, and that's Unit 26 proper, you know.

24
25 MS. KIPPI: Yes. And once in a while
26 they go all the way to the Kuskokwim.

27
28 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: But do you know
29 the population and why there's no season. Is it just
30 because it's just a sporadic population, it's too hard
31 to get an estimate, or it's just too vast of an area to
32 establish population in these different units?

33
34 MR. EVANS: No, it's not that hard to
35 do. It's because the population's low.

36
37 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: I don't have --
38 any other questions on muskox in Unit 26C.

39
40 (No comments)

41
42 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And just for
43 clarity, these are not action items at this point?

44
45 MR. EVANS: Yes, this is an action
46 item, so you have to vote whether to accident the
47 status quo, rescind it, or modify it.

48
49 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Any other
50

1 discussion. This is an action item, and the
2 recommendation of OSM.
3
4 MR. EVANS: Yes, that's OSM's
5 recommendation.
6
7 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.
8
9 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead, Lee.
10
11 MR. KAYOTUK: So if there's a closure
12 like this, and then so all of a sudden the muskox
13 population popped up within a year, we'll be able to
14 open that unit up for a hunt?
15
16 MR. EVANS: So if the muskox population
17 increased, you know, there is a population of muskox
18 that's spend primarily most of their time in Canada
19 right now. If that population came over and sent a lot
20 of time in Unit 26C and looked like it resided there,
21 and there's enough evidence to suggest that it might be
22 capable of sustaining a hunt, then we could consider
23 that at that time.
24
25 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.
26
27 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah, Tom, I'm
28 trying to see where your recommendation is. I know
29 you're recommending either status quo.....
30
31 MR. EVANS: We recommended the status
32 quo, correct.
33
34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And status quo
35 meaning no muskox hunts until further notice.
36
37 MR. EVANS: Correct.
38
39 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: And what was the
40 population? It was drastically declined down to three
41 or something?
42
43 MR. EVANS: Yeah. It's somewhere
44 around three. Somewheres -- yeah, I mean every year
45 they have a few there, sometimes it's zero, sometimes
46 it's three, sometimes it's four. But it's really low.
47
48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: What are you
49 going to do if the wolves kill them all? Can we just
50

1 go kill them all and then we don't have to make any
2 more laws about it? There's only three of them left.

3
4 MR. R. NAGEAK: I go tell my wolf.

5
6 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: But there's only
7 three muskox left. They move, all of them moved to
8 Ikpikpuk, because they're over there. I see them all
9 the time.

10
11 What's the wish of the Council. This
12 is an action item. We need to make a motion to
13 recommend status quo or change in regulation to harvest
14 those three. What do you guys want to do.

15
16 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

17
18 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Go ahead,
19 Kaktovik, Lee.

20
21 MR. KAYOTUK: I think it would be -- if
22 we went for a closure, would be hopefully the
23 population will go come back up. Who knows. But, you
24 know, it's just between the boundaries that, you know,
25 maybe one day the muskox will come over and reside back
26 to Alaska. But other than that, I know when we travel
27 like 150 miles, we could spot nothing but nothing for
28 muskox. And it's more towards the demarcation area to
29 Canada where the population is kind of high, very high
30 in that area past the border, but, you know, it's past
31 the border, and you can't really do that.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you, Lee.
36 Just for clarification, I think it's a recommendation
37 from Kaktovik, and they're in this area, and it is
38 their land I would say. They recommend status quo,
39 which is keep the hunt closed, and that's the current
40 condition it is in, until such time the rebound of the
41 muskox occurs.

42
43 What is your name again?

44
45 MR. TWITCHELL: Hollis Twitchell.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Hollis, go ahead.

48
49 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm the assistant

50

1 manager for Arctic Refuge, and also one of their
2 pilots, so I get involved on these surveys, both for
3 muskox and for moose, caribou, et cetera, sheep.

4
5 I just wanted to refer you over to on
6 Page 42 of your booklet, which is part of Arctic
7 Refuge's reports out, and then on the very bottom we
8 have a brief paragraph that talks about muskox surveys.
9 And although we didn't do a muskox survey in 2016,
10 there was a small group of about 18 to 20 observed
11 along the lower Kongakut River in the summer of 2015,
12 and a group of six, including a radio-collared muskox
13 was seen by Canadian biologists just west of the
14 international border in 2016. However, these groups
15 are thought to be found more usually in Canada. No
16 visitors or Fish and Wildlife Staff reported observing
17 muskox in this summer.

18
19 I travel a lot in that country, and I
20 confirm what Lee had just identified to you, that there
21 are muskox on the Yukon Territories, Canada side of the
22 border. We see them occasionally come over in the
23 summer as described in 2015. I saw that group there
24 that summer, and I looked for them the rest of the
25 summer, and they had returned over to the Canadian
26 side, because they were not to be found on the Alaska
27 side. So they do move back and forth across the
28 border.

29
30 Last spring, in April, I flew the moose
31 surveys all along the north side of the Brooks Range,
32 and I was asked to go look for that small group of six,
33 and one of them, the radio-collared, that had crossed
34 over to the Alaska side, which was reported by the
35 Canadian Fish and Wildlife Branch. I flew down the
36 Kongakut River drainage all the way down to its mouth
37 in the Beaufort Sea, all the way over to Demarcation
38 Bay, all the way over to Canada, the Alaska/Canadian
39 boundary, flew up that boundary all the way to the
40 Fortallus (ph) or the Brooks Range, and then westward
41 back over towards the Kaktovik area. And I saw no sign
42 of that group, small group of caribou [sic]. Clearly
43 they came over, but then by April they were no longer
44 seen on the coastal plain.

45
46 So there is that egression back and
47 forth periodically, but in terms of muskox, there
48 aren't any that are staying on the Alaska side on a
49 year around basis. So we're sort of in this

50

1 transitional muskox moving back and forth and confirms
2 exactly what Lee was saying.

3
4 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. I think
5 these are important dialogue. I think we have the same
6 concern surfaced about moose, and the concern that
7 these were a resident population moose. And some of
8 the area biologists had just concluded some dialogue
9 about the moose being transient. They come from the
10 south, and being able to come and hang out in the north
11 for a while and then they go, and sometimes they don't
12 come back. But periodically they come back and it
13 seems to me that we might have the same kind of
14 situation. Even if the community harvested these. And
15 there's already evidence that you're seeing through
16 radio-collared data, that because you're looking out
17 for them, there's Canadian guys are looking at them
18 over there, and they report them to you as they go
19 crossing the border, you better check for passports and
20 go check them out. They don't have the right of entry.

21
22 So it seems like there's that transient
23 nature of these animals that we're trying to regulate,
24 when it should be an opportunistic hunt, because they
25 finally come over. And it seems to me over the course
26 of the 15 years I've been on this RAC, or more, or
27 greater, we've been arguing whether or not they're
28 resident or not. They fluctuate. They go. They come
29 back. They go back to Canada. They go over the Brooks
30 Range, they come back. And yet we still have a serious
31 limitation on harvesting them. And I think even if we
32 harvested them that the transient nature that is being
33 described, they will come again. And I don't know the
34 population in Canada, if it's in the thousands or in
35 the 50s or only if there's 20 of them over there. But
36 wherever the larger population that they move from
37 should be considered their status. If there's 20,000
38 of them in the Canadian side, then the harvestable
39 surplus should be calculated from the Canadian side and
40 extrapolated over to the Alaska side. And if it's well
41 within means of harvesting, we should be able to
42 harvest five of them, or something like that.

43
44 I think it's such a -- it's difficult
45 to manage something that's been described, even you're
46 describing, because you fly and do the survey, and
47 you're describing a transient animal that comes in and
48 out.

49
50

1 MR. TWITCHELL: I do concur with you.
2 You know, the muskox were translocated onto Arctic
3 Refuge and for a number of years -- and did stay on
4 Arctic Refuge lands for a number of years. Over time
5 we saw that population naturally shift both to the west
6 and to the east. So while we had populations that
7 easily met the target numbers to allow harvest
8 opportunities, that changed over time as there was
9 movement off of Arctic refuge lands back to Canada, and
10 farther to the west along the Dalton Highway corridor.
11 So currently we really have at best maybe one or two
12 muskox that are sending any time year around on Arctic
13 Refuge's coastal plain. And that's quite a long ways
14 from the desired of amount before we could have a
15 harvest, which is actually described on Page 26 of your
16 book.

17
18 So at this point, you know, from a
19 conservative standpoint, we're going to want to uphold
20 the closure, because we just don't see an inherent
21 population staying on Arctic Refuge lands. So I guess
22 our recommendation along with the Federal program's is
23 to go ahead and sustain the closure until we see an in-
24 migration in which the population comes onto Arctic
25 Refuge's lands and more or less stay there in terms of
26 the resident population. So just from a conservative
27 standpoint, we would recommend to stay with the closure
28 at this point.

29
30 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Thank you. And
31 that's good information, Hollis, but, you know, we all
32 got different opinions. And it just seems to me when
33 you just said there's probably only two now, not three,
34 and as muskox in this area. And what if they're both
35 male, and they can't have any babies. How are you
36 going to grow the population with two males.

37
38 And the other thing is, when I'm at my
39 cabin, and I come across muskox in the winter, I come
40 across them, their tails are stripped, no fur. It look
41 like wolves been hanging on the tails and trying to get
42 them down. So you're dealing with aggressive predators
43 that go after these muskox, even the big bulls, and I
44 don't -- there needs to be some other mechanism. If
45 you're going to try to regulate them in an area where
46 they're just moving in and out, it seems to be
47 impossible regulatory, other than they should just be
48 there for viewing, like they're visitors.

49
50

1 That's the kind of concerns that were
2 raised about the moose. There was area biologists that
3 concur that they were transient in nature. Even if
4 they all died, and all the moose ate them all -- or the
5 wolves ate them all, that there would be some more that
6 come down from the south for the moose, because they
7 like to take a little hike and come on over, and
8 somebody decided to call them resident moose.

9
10 Anyway, that's just my philosophy, and
11 I think there's some merit to that that's backed up by
12 area biologists in their study of the animal on where
13 it's coming from. And we shouldn't try to regulate
14 those that are just transient and they're visitors. It
15 should be an opportunity when we get an opportunity.

16
17 And I see your point as well where
18 you're hoping they'll stay and become permanent
19 residents, build a cabin or something, and they don't
20 want to go, and they all multiply in numbers to where
21 you'll have a sustained yield principle developed
22 sometime in about 100 years I think, that we'll be able
23 to harvest one.

24
25 MR. TWITCHELL: I guess I take a take a
26 lot of guidance from the elders that spoke here about
27 the need to conserve, that we need to make certain that
28 there's an inherent population there that can sustain
29 and can grow. And so I'm really reluctant to know that
30 there is such a limited amount of muskox in this
31 particular region. And I think we need to give them
32 the respect and give them the same sort of traditional
33 knowledge and guidance that we should allow them to
34 inherently grow. And we need to be careful with this
35 population, because it is quite low.

36
37 So I understand your concerns and I
38 appreciate that very much, but I think our mandates as
39 an agency is to listen to the elders and do the
40 conservation that's appropriate to ensure that these
41 populations are going to be there for these children or
42 the next generation. So I would really urge you to go
43 ahead and stay with this closure at this time.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Just one other
48 question. To what level -- I know back in the 60s or
49 50s they were transplanted either from Greenland or

50

1 from Victoria Island or somewhere to the United States,
2 because there was little documentaries about that event
3 way back when, when the entire North Slope region and
4 maybe entire Alaska was devoid of muskox. They have
5 been extinct in our region. And if you're trying to
6 bring them back, you're really struggling to bring them
7 back because of predators, large predators like grizzly
8 bears, wolves, and other things. It seems to me that
9 you need to continue that effort, what you have begun
10 and never finished I think if you want to have a larger
11 population. But you put them in a place where there
12 are a lot of predators. I've seen how muskox act.
13 They will stop and be in front of a grizzly bear as if
14 they can face off with it. And the same thing with
15 wolves. They don't -- for that matter, human being.
16 They like to stand their ground, and a lot of times to
17 their own detriment.

18

19 Anyway.

20

21 But there is a motion on the floor I
22 think to have status quo, meaning let's continue the
23 conservative measure of not allowing any subsistence
24 hunts and to maintain a closure on the muskox for Unit
25 26C.

26

27 MR. KAYOTUK: I second it.

28

29 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: There's a second
30 for discussion. Any other discussion on status quo for
31 muskox in Unit 26C. Any other discussion.

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MS. KIPPI: Question.

36

37 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: The question has
38 been called for. All those in favor of maintaining
39 status quo for muskox in Unit 26 signify by saying aye.

40

41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42

43 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All those opposed
44 say no.

45

46 (No negative votes)

47

48 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: The ayes have it.
49 We will maintain status quo for muskox in Unit 26C.

50

1 That's the recommendation from the North Slope Regional
2 Advisory Council.

3
4 Being that it's 4:00 o'clock, Madame
5 Coordinator, what's your recommendation.
6

7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
8 can recess for the day. I know some of our Council
9 members had a very long journey to get here. Again
10 welcome to Wanda and Esther. And we can reconvene
11 tomorrow, if you want to join us. 8:30 we'll have more
12 coffee and pastries in the morning, and a little time
13 to visit, and we'll reconvene the meeting at nine.
14

15 As the Council had discussed earlier,
16 we had suggested to take up the all for wildlife
17 proposals first thing in the morning, and we would get
18 caribou updates in advance of the Council deliberating
19 any Federal subsistence wildlife proposals. We'll also
20 have updates on actions that Board of Game took that
21 will help.
22

23 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: Yeah. Eva, did
24 you say Steve will be in person, or is he going to
25 teleconference tomorrow?
26

27 MS. PATTON: Steve will be
28 teleconferencing tomorrow. He'll be in Anchorage. He
29 won't be able to make it all the way up here, but he'll
30 be able to call by teleconference to participate for
31 the entire meeting tomorrow. So that will be great for
32 Steve to be able to hear those updates as well.
33

34 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. All
35 those that want to recess until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow
36 signify by saying aye.
37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.
39

40 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All those
41 opposed, you can stay here.
42

43 (Laughter)
44

45 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right. We're
46 at recess until 9:00 o'clock tomorrow.
47

48 If you're visiting, be reminded polar
49 bears are roaming around, we're not kidding around.
50

1 The ice packed down there, and there have been reports
2 of polar bears trying to eat somebody's skin boat by
3 their house. But if you're a polar bear enthusiast,
4 get in the car and you might see one, you know.

5
6 MS. PATTON: Council. Yes, so if you
7 want to take your meeting books with you, or anything
8 that you'd like to read tonight, take that with you.
9 Otherwise I'll carefully pack up your materials and put
10 it back tomorrow morning for you. And we.....

11
12 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: We can leave it
13 here, too, right, if we don't want to read.

14
15 MS. PATTON: And actually I do have a
16 handout to send with you tonight. We have an overview
17 on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, which is a nice
18 refresher on where the herd's status is from the fall
19 meeting that the Council received. So I'll send that
20 back with you. We do have truck, we can give Council
21 members a ride back to the hotel if you want a ride.

22
23 ACTING CHAIR BROWER: All right.

24
25 We're recessed until tomorrow.

26
27 (Off record)

28
29 (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 through ____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 31st day of October at Barrow, 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 25th day of March 2017.

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