

NORTH SLOPE SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME I

North Slope Borough Assembly Chambers
Utqiagvik, Alaska
August 22, 2018
9:00 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gordon Brower, Chairman
Rosemary Ahtuanguak
Esther Hugo
Wanda Kippi
Fredrick Neakok
Steve Oomittuk
Robert Shears

Regional Council Coordinator - Eva Patton

Recorded and transcribed by:

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

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Utqiagvik, Alaska - 8/22/2018)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'll call the meeting to order, I think. Is there any other Council members that we're expecting to be in person?

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. This is everyone that was able to travel to Utqiagvik today. Jerry Sikvayugak is going to join us by teleconference as well, but we can start the meeting and I'll text him to check in and see where he's at.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Before we call to order I'm going to ask one of us to do an invocation. I guess I'll do it.

MR. SHEARS: Yours are the best.

(Laughter)

(Invocation)

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm going to call the meeting to order. It is 9:04 or 9:05 a.m. Madame Coordinator, if we can do the roll call. That would probably be the Secretary. If we can establish that, I think we would get underway.

MS. KIPPI: Good morning. Okay. Gordon Brower, Chair.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Wanda.

MS. KIPPI: Robert Shears.

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

MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi. Atqasuk here. Steve Oomittuk, Point Hope.

MR. OOMITTUK: Here.

MS. KIPPI: Good morning, Steve.

1 Fredrick Neakok.
2
3 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning. Good
4 morning. I'm here.
5
6 MS. KIPPI: Jerry Sikvayugak, Anaktuvuk
7 Pass.
8
9 (No response)
10
11 MS. KIPPI: Absent. Esther Hugo,
12 Anaktuvuk Pass.
13
14 MS. HUGO: Good morning. I'm here.
15
16 MS. KIPPI: Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik.
17
18 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
19 Lee Kayotuk is in the oil spill response training. He
20 may be able to join us at the end of the day if there's
21 an opportunity for him. He's not able to call in
22 today.
23
24 Thank you.
25
26 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.
27
28 Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak, Nuiqsut.
29
30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Present.
31
32 MS. KIPPI: Mr. Chair, we have a
33 quorum.
34
35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
36 Secretary. Now that we've established a quorum it's
37 appropriate to do welcome and introductions. Maybe
38 we'll start with those that are online. State your
39 name and your affiliation and welcome.
40
41 MR. SUMMERS: Good morning. This is
42 Clarence Summers with the National Park Service in the
43 Anchorage office.
44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
46 Clarence.
47
48 MS. DAMBERG: Good morning. This is
49 Carol Damberg with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in
50

1 the Anchorage office.

2

3

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Carol.

4

5

6

MR. KUTCHIN: Good morning. This is
Jobe Chakuchin. I'm with the National Park Service in
Anchorage at the Regional Office.

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Joe.

10

11

12

MR. BURCH: Hello. This is Mark Burch
with the Department of Fish and Game.

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Mark.

16

17

18

MR. MATHEWS: This is Vince Mathews
with Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

19

20

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Mitch.

21

22

MR. MATHEWS: Good morning, Gordon.

23

24

25

26

MR. PERSON: Good morning. This is
Brian Person with the North Slope Borough Department of
Wildlife Management in the Barrow office. Morning,
Gordon.

27

28

29

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Brian.
We're over here, you know.

30

31

(Laughter)

32

33

34

MR. PERSON: I know. I've got stuff
I'm kind of working on on the side. Good morning.

35

36

37

MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon,
Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks.

38

39

40

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that Brendan or
Brenton?

41

42

43

MR. SCANLON: Brendan Scanlon, fish
biologist, Department of Fish and Game.

44

45

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning.

46

47

48

MR. SHARP: Good morning. This is Dan
Sharp with Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning, Dan.

2

3 MR. STONE: Good morning. This is
4 Jarred Stone with the Office of Subsistence Management.

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning. I
7 think I heard Jarred, right?

8

9 MR. STONE: Yes.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. I think
12 that would be the folks that are online. I think Steve
13 is online and we have Rosemary online. Maybe those
14 that are present in person before we go to the
15 Council's introductions.

16

17 MR. OKADA: Good morning. Marcy Okada,
18 Subsistence Coordinator, Gates of the Arctic National
19 Park and Preserve.

20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Marcy.

22

23 MR. LEAVITT: Joseph Leavitt, Native
24 Village of Barrow, Wildlife Director.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Joe.

27

28 MR. VOSBURGH: Morning. Tim Vosburgh,
29 Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks office, the Arctic
30 District.

31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Tim.

33

34 MS. HYER: Good morning. It's always
35 so good to be with the Barrow Regional Advisory
36 Council. My name is Karen Hyer and I'm the fisheries
37 biologist with the Office of Subsistence Management
38 and I'll be working with you with the FRMP today. So
39 good to see you all.

40

41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Karen. Our
42 heart is with you because we love fishing around here.

43

44 MR. REAM: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
45 members of the Council. My name is Joshua Ream. My
46 Tlingit name is Xixch'i Toowoo. I'm your
47 anthropologist for the North Slope. I also serve the
48 Northwest Arctic and the Seward Peninsula.

49

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Joshua.
4
5 MS. DAGGETT: Good morning. My name is
6 Carmen Daggett. I'm the area biologist for the North
7 Slope and my Inupiaq name is Siganiuq.
8
9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You said Carmen?
10
11 MS. DAGGETT: Yes.
12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And your Inupiaq
14 name?
15
16 MS. DAGGETT: Siganiuq.
17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Siganiuq, the
19 sunshine?
20
21 MS. DAGGETT: Uh-huh (affirmative).
22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, okay.
24
25 (Laughter)
26
27 MR. PERRY: Good morning. My name is
28 Phillip Perry. I work with Fish and Game. I'm down in
29 Bethel.
30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
32 Phillip.
33
34 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. I'm Pat
35 Petrivelli with BIA from Anchorage.
36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Morning, Pat. I see
38 we have one additional guest, Van Edwardson. Good
39 morning.
40
41 MR. EDWARDSON: Good morning.
42
43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that I'm going
44 to go to the Council. Maybe we'll start from our right
45 and work towards our left.
46
47 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
48 Robert Shears representing Utqiagvik and Wainwright in
49 the absence of having a Wainwright representative here.
50

1 I hope we can overcome that obstacle that's been in
2 front of us for four years now, Eva.

3
4 Yes, I understand. People are very
5 busy in the villages. It's so difficult to put aside
6 time to attend to functions such as these when real
7 life, day-to-day concerns of food, shelter and
8 transportation and energy costs confront everybody out
9 there in the villages relating to subsistence. Having
10 lived a subsistence lifestyle for many years in
11 Wainwright, I understand there's probably no job more
12 demanding on your pocketbook and your physical
13 well-being than absolutely subsisting. There's a lot
14 more to it than just hunting and harvesting.

15
16 Glad to be here. I just came back from
17 a three-week vacation. My first day back in Utqiagvik,
18 so I'm still a little rummy, but I'll try to focus on
19 the message at hand today and try to help resolve
20 whatever issues may confront us.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob.

25
26 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning. My name is
27 Fredrick Neakok. Most everybody else knows me by
28 Kunniag. I'm new to the Regional Advisory Council.
29 I'll be learning as we go. Good morning, everyone.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: (In Inupiaq).
32 Introduce myself, Gordon Brower. I live in Barrow,
33 Utqiagvik, and I represent Barrow in my own capacity.
34 So with that I'll move it on to the next person.

35
36 MS. KIPPI: Good morning. My name is
37 Wanda Kippi. I live in Atqasuk and I want to thank you
38 all for being here today. Quyanaqpak.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda.

41
42 MS. HUGO: Good morning. My name is
43 Esther Hugo and I'm from Anaktuvuk Pass. I'm happy to
44 be here regardless of all the travel. It's good to
45 come back and see all the faces that I've been seeing a
46 couple years. Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.
49 So I'm going to go to the Council members online.

50

1 Maybe Tikigaq.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning. My name
4 is Steve Oomittuk from Point Hope. Tikigaq. Good to
5 hear a lot of people online and a lot of different
6 agencies. Looking forward to this meeting and giving
7 my report for subsistence for this year.

8

9 Good morning to all.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Quyanaq, Steve, and
12 good morning. We'll go to Nuiqsut.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Good morning.
15 Rosemary from Nuiqsut.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Good morning,
18 Rosemary. Somebody else just chimed in. If they could
19 be recognized.

20

21 (No response)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: If not, I'm going to
24 go to item 5, review and adoption of the agenda.
25 What's the wish of the Council.

26

27 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Motion to
28 approve the agenda.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
31 the floor from Robert Shears to adopt the agenda.

32

33 MR. OOMITTUK: Second.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
36 do have.....

37

38 MR. OOMITTUK: Second from Point Hope.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded for
41 discussion.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve. Mr.
44 Chair and Council. So we do have a couple updates on
45 the agenda. Then we would also like to talk strategy
46 in terms of getting action items done. We were just
47 recently informed of a North Slope Borough Assembly
48 meeting taking place tomorrow and we do have two
49 Council members that serve on the Assembly that are

50

1 required to be there.

2

3 I understand you and Bob may also have
4 time that you get pulled for that meeting too, so we'd
5 like to strategize so that we're able to accomplish all
6 of the action items today in the event we may lose
7 quorum tomorrow.

8

9 Key things on the agenda is review and
10 approve meeting minutes. We have Fisheries Resource
11 Monitoring Program priority information needs in terms
12 of the Council's feedback for what issues specific to
13 subsistence fisheries research should be addressed in
14 the region for that program and that is an action item
15 for your recommendations.

16

17 We also have identify issues for the
18 fiscal year 2018 annual report. So we'll have the
19 report reply from the Board for the Council and that
20 was just approved at the Board's work session, so you
21 have that reply from last year's report in front of you
22 and the Council may want time to review that tonight,
23 but we'll identify new issues to bring before the
24 Board.

25

26 Then identify meeting times for next
27 year. One of the things too in terms of the agency
28 reports is there is currently an EIS scoping period at
29 this time for the Willow Project. If the Council
30 wishes, the Council may make recommendations on that.
31 It would require a formal recommendation from the
32 Council to do so. If there was time for the BLM report
33 if the Council wanted to provide any recommendations
34 there, that would be an action item.

35

36 So those are the key things that we
37 want to ensure that the Council is able to address
38 today. Then just a couple updates on the agenda in
39 terms of the detail of who we'll have presenting. So we
40 do have one of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring
41 Program fisheries biologists Randy Brown, who has done
42 a lot of the subsistence research on the North Slope.
43 He'll be here in person tomorrow to present on final
44 reports for some of his projects, both whitefish and
45 Dolly Varden char.

46

47 Alaska Department of Fish and Game we
48 have Carmen Daggett who is going to provide an update
49 on both the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou Herds.

50

1 And we do have a report from Beth Lenart and Jason
2 Caikoski will be on teleconference for Central Arctic
3 and Porcupine Caribou Herd updates tomorrow.
4

5 Then we will have Kyle Joly from the
6 National Park Service. There was a particular interest
7 to get more information on the Park Service caribou
8 research. He'll be on teleconference tomorrow morning.
9 For Kyle, he had a time limit that he'd have to present
10 by 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon.
11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, just jumping in
13 with all that information. On the special Assembly
14 meeting, I don't expect it to take more than an hour or
15 two maybe. I'm not calling the meeting or anything,
16 but on a special meeting I don't think it will be an
17 all day thing. I'm eager to run and jump and hop and
18 get right back to what I'm doing here. So I'll try to
19 be here the remainder of the day.
20

21 As far as the information that you
22 provided on action items, I would like to have a
23 suggestion in what order -- you just named off a whole
24 bunch of stuff, but the ones that require a quorum to
25 be present to carry out that action item, if we can
26 propose a spot that might expedite those that need a
27 quorum. I think doing that will give the Council
28 members a better idea to amend the agenda.
29

30 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
31 Most of the action items actually fall in order on the
32 agenda, so we would be taking them up first thing.
33 It's always good to have Council member reports so the
34 Council has that opportunity to check in with each
35 other and the Chair's report. We would provide the
36 805(c) report, which is the Federal Subsistence Board's
37 actions so the Council is aware of what new regulations
38 are coming. Then we get into the action items in terms
39 of the annual report topics and then the FRMP program.
40

41 So those action items all kind of
42 follow right along with the current agenda. The only
43 difference would be, because the Council has an
44 opportunity to participate in a scoping comment period,
45 if the Council wished to take action. The BLM update,
46 if we could add that after we're through with item
47 10(c) on the agenda, identifying 2018 annual reports.
48 If there's time to add that BLM agency report today,
49 that would be the only agenda change.
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So a proposal to add
2 an item (e) BLM update on the Willow?
3

4 MS. PATTON: Correct. And there may be
5 other BLM updates too that if the Council wanted to
6 make formal recommendations we would need quorum for
7 that.
8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
10 Coordinator. What's the wish of the Council. There's
11 a request to add an item (e) for a BLM update onto item
12 10.
13

14 MR. OOMITTUK: Mo moved, Mr. Chair.
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Motion on the floor
17 to amend the agenda to add under 10 item (e) BLM update
18 for Willow and other BLM activities.
19

20 MR. SHEARS: I second the amendment.
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a second on
23 the amendment to the agenda. Any discussion.
24

25 (No discussion)
26

27 MR. OOMITTUK: Question called for.
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
30 called for to amend the agenda to include item (e) for
31 section 10 of the agenda. Signify by saying aye.
32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.
34

35 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Back to the main
36 motion. The amendment has passed.
37

38 MR. SHEARS: Call for the question.
39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
41 called for on the main motion to adopt the agenda as
42 amended. Signify by saying aye.
43

44 IN UNISON: Aye.
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The agenda is
47 amended. We'll move to item 6, review and approve
48 previous minutes.
49
50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 You'll find your meeting minutes on Page 4 of your
3 meeting book and that is the February 14-15 winter 2018
4 Council meeting minutes. In addition, the Council did
5 hold a follow up teleconference meeting on June 8th to
6 address further discussion and updates from BLM. Those
7 June 8th teleconference meeting minutes are also
8 inserted in your meeting book behind the winter meeting
9 minutes.

10
11 So key things are my name spellings and
12 Inupiaq place names.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Madame
15 Coordinator. What's the wish of the Council.

16
17 MS. PATTON: And any other edits,
18 additions that the Council sees would need to be added
19 or changed.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. OOMITTUK: Make a motion to approve
24 the minutes.

25
26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
27 the floor to approve the minutes.

28
29 MR. SHEARS: Second

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded for
32 discussion.

33
34 MS. HUGO: Question.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been
37 called for to approve the minutes. All those in favor
38 signify by saying aye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those opposed say
43 nay.

44
45 (No opposing votes)

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: The ayes have it.
48 The minutes are approved. Go down to item 7, Council
49 member's report. We'll start off with those online.

50

1 We'll go to Tikigaq.

2

3 MR. OOMITTUK: Good morning. Can
4 everybody hear me okay?

5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Loud and clear.

7

8 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Good
9 morning. It's been a good year so far. Things were
10 kind of early. Spring came early and left early. The
11 first time we had no ice by May. May 15 all the ice
12 was gone, you know. We got seven whales. Not very
13 many belugas there. They got some oogruks and seals.
14 But the ice left so early, but the oogruks were still
15 around even though the ice wasn't there. The north
16 shore ice was gone. Usually our ice from the north
17 sticks around for a long time, but it was gone before
18 the ice on the south side.

19

20 We always celebrated the born of the
21 ice. When we would catch a whale, we'd put the whale
22 tail portion, the agirruk, in the ice cellars and cover
23 it up with whale blubber. You know, the traditional
24 ice covers that we have on the west side towards the
25 point are eroding away. Erosion is getting pretty bad
26 on the north side and taking away a lot of our
27 traditional, you know, storage. Sigluaq, the ice
28 cellars where we store the food. You know, how we age
29 it to a certain taste that has been passed from
30 generation to generation.

31

32 You know, we celebrate the born of the
33 ice, what they call qinu. When the first slush ice
34 connects to the land, that's the born of the ice. We
35 celebrate by pulling out the whale's tail which it's
36 fermented, you know. If you catch over five whales,
37 you have yours in October, but your first five whales
38 you have to pull it out when the ice was born. It's a
39 delicacy. Usually we have it in October and it lasts
40 two years. This last year we had it right before
41 Thanksgiving in November, middle part of November.

42

43 It seems like it's getting later and
44 later that the ice is forming. We've seen a lot of
45 thin ice. This year we had a lot of thick ice on the
46 south side. A lot of our winds are -- you know, the
47 wind patterns, we noticed in the last few years we're
48 getting a lot of east winds, southeast winds, south
49 winds. The majority of our winds are coming from the

50

1 south or the east and not so much from the north. We
2 finally got some north wind recently.

3
4 We got a lot of caribou coming later.
5 You know, we can get the caribou first of July. We're
6 seeing them in the end of July, which they're a little
7 fatter. Some things are coming early and some things
8 are getting late. Our caribou were pretty fat. Nice
9 and fat caribou. A lot of bulls.

10
11 We got a lot of berries. A lot of
12 salmonberries. A lot of fish. They've been catching a
13 lot of salmon. Even some kings. A lot of char, trout.
14 Fishing this year -- you know, we fish on the south
15 side or the north side. They're coming through in June
16 and going up north. They're not so big, but later on
17 in July, August is usually when we get a lot of char,
18 but we started getting them late July. Late August we
19 usually get a lot of char coming back, but they were
20 coming back already the first week of August. We
21 changed the net around, you know, how we scoop them,
22 how we fish in the ocean up on the land.

23
24 We've seen a lot of change in patterns.
25 When you grew up watching the weather and hunting with
26 your parents or grandparents time after time from
27 generation to generation and you see the changes. In
28 the last 15, 20 years there's been a lot of changes.
29 We've been watching, you know. Sometimes the pattern
30 isn't always the same. You know, we've seen bigger
31 snowflakes. I mean some of these snowflakes that we
32 had were -- we've never seen such big snowflakes coming
33 down sometimes.

34
35 The rain, when it pours it pours, you
36 know. The hot and cold weather. The food source has
37 been very good for us this year although it's a short
38 time period. We have to get what we can when we can
39 get it so we have our food supply for the winter.

40
41 Sorry about that, my alarm went off.
42 Is everybody still on, still on the air here? It
43 sounds so quiet.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: You're loud and clear
46 there, Steve.

47
48 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. Yeah. Okay.
49 Right now they're still fishing. They're still getting

50

1 chars and some of these chars are pretty good size.
2 King salmon. They're getting kings and silvers. You
3 name it. Our weather has been staying nice, but we're
4 so grateful that our animals are still around. I seen
5 a post of a sea lion near Barrow. We see killer whales
6 around, but it seems like they're more steady. You
7 know, they're in abundance. Gray whales going by.
8

9
10 There's a lot of concerns of all the
11 activiies in the ocean. The ships going by. Big
12 ships, small ships, cruise ships and there's a lot of
13 people concerned about the opening of the Northwest
14 Passage and not knowing who's coming and going within
15 our waters and what they're doing. We want to know
16 what people are doing. You know, we have people that
17 are adventurers that come through and stop in Point
18 Hope. Only personal small boats or ships. A lot of
19 people concerned with all the traffic coming through
20 and not knowing who they are.

21
22 We feel that we need some sort of
23 communication where we can know who's out in our ocean
24 especially when we're subsistence hunting in the area.
25 The ocean is our main source of food and we want to
26 make sure ships out there are not polluting our ocean
27 with their -- you know, we know they have to go to the
28 bathroom somewhere and what they discard. You know,
29 you always hear about ships, cruise ships dumping their
30 black water or whatever they call that in the ocean.

31
32 Our ocean is so delicate. It's not
33 very deep out there. Our ice is retreating further.
34 But we just have a lot of concerns of all the traffic.
35 You know, you don't see the Coast Guard out there very
36 often. They started having helicopters out of
37 Kotzebue. We would like to know the researches. You
38 know, we see Fish and Game out there. They say, oh,
39 that's a Fish and Game vessel. Maybe they're doing
40 studies and seeing what kind of fish are in the area
41 and maybe more up north. Like I said, the ocean is
42 taking longer to freeze. The warmer water is coming up
43 this way, you know.

44
45 Other than that we had a good year. We
46 have a lot of concerns with our way of life and the
47 changes to the climate. When you live up north all your
48 life, you know, and when you've lived with your
49 grandparents and hunted with them and what they talked
50 about, you know, what they passed from generation to

1 generation.

2

3

4 We've always lived the cycle of life
5 where the animals that come to us, that fed us, clothed
6 us, sheltered us. You know, they're our identity as a
7 people and we're very concerned with our ocean, our way
8 of life. We want to continue. We want our future
9 generation. You know, we, as Inupiaq people of the
10 north, have been there for thousands of years and we're
11 not leaving anywhere, but the animals are the ones that
12 made us survive.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

We want to make sure that they're
protected and the research. We thank all the different
agencies that are online and we hope that some of these
concerns can be answered, especially with the vessels.
We know that there's Fish and Game out there. We have
no jurisdiction after three miles. You know, we're in
Federal waters.

Like I've always said, the ocean is our
garden, our way of life. We want to make sure animals
are protected so we can continue our way of life.

Thank you.

That's my report from Point Hope.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa. Quyanaq.
Steve from Tikigaaq always providing a deep insight in
your area. Thank you very much.

With that I'm going to go to Nuiqsut
for Nuiqsut's report. Rosemary.

MS. AHTUANARUAK: We've had a different
year this year. Definitely colder summer, more normal.
As we go out on the lands we definitely saw some
concerns with the amount of birds that need successful
nesting. There weren't as many hatching, walking
about after they hatched. There weren't as many pairs
with hatchlings. So we're worried about what that
means into the future.

We've had to go out doing caribou
hunting. We did have some come through, but it's also
been very difficult with the changes around us. The
animals don't stay in the areas like they used to and
allow us the times of access. If you get out when

1 they're there, you might get a few, but if you don't
2 get out while they're there, they move on. We're not
3 getting them.
4

5 It was disappointing to hear during the
6 anniversary that they had to request people to provide
7 traditional foods. It wasn't as readily available as
8 it has been and that's concerning when we're having
9 events like this and people aren't willing to bring out
10 as we need.
11

12 We've had one person that got a moose,
13 but it wasn't the right harvest, so we've done quite a
14 bit of vegetation in the local community to try to make
15 sure that our hunters are hunting the right animal and
16 making sure that we allow for the new generation.
17

18 Berries. Many hunters out, but not
19 much success. We've got people that have done quite a
20 bit of fishing this year. Some of the families have
21 gone out that had various layers of success, but not as
22 many as the others when we've had people go out on the
23 main Coville. Not as many people got their aanaakliq.
24 There were more salmon this year and then they pulled
25 out before we got there when the aanaakliq coming in
26 after the salmon. So I'm hoping that our numbers are
27 okay, but we did not see as many fish with mold this
28 year, so that was a good thing. We're hoping that
29 things get good into the fall.
30

31 We haven't heard of anyone getting any
32 oogruk this year. I'm hoping that changes. I know
33 that we've gotten some shares from Barrow, which is
34 helping our families for the summer that really depend
35 on that oil for supplementing the food.
36

37 Thank you, everyone.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa. Quyanagpak,
40 Rosemary. With that I'm going to go to Anaktuvuk Pass.
41 Esther.
42

43 MS. HUGO: Good morning. It's been a
44 wet and cold July and August. It's been peace and
45 quiet without all the Super Cubs and sport hunters
46 coming. That's a big relief for us. There's been a
47 lot of bear sightings. They're pretty hungry. Just
48 before I came there was a bear in the village again.
49 We're very concerned because we've got children that
50

1 play out all night or most of the day. I mean you
2 know. Those kids that just stay up and walk around the
3 village in summertime.
4

5 There's been some caribou coming here
6 and there finally and they're pretty healthy.
7 Everybody was pretty happy that there was some coming a
8 couple weeks ago from the area down south. Our
9 young people are getting to go out there and hunt for
10 our elders or for those that don't have ATVs to travel,
11 which is very helpful. We just need to show them how
12 to pilak properly and care for the meat and not waste.
13 I don't think they waste. We just need to show them
14 how to prepare -- I mean take the meat home.
15

16 As to the meetings, I was in the
17 teleconference with the Board of Game and I was pretty
18 upset when they rejected the WP18-57. I guess we
19 should put it in wording in the future that it should
20 just be in the Anaktuvuk Pass area, not including the
21 Unit 24 or the 26B because we're in 26A.
22

23 I guess when I read it it included
24 those areas and all I wanted was that area for our
25 home. Nowhere else. Just that valley and caribou
26 coming from the north. That's pretty hard to get it
27 approved because all the hikers, hunters, skiers they
28 all go through our land and it's very hard for us just
29 to get what we want to protect our way of life and our
30 main diet. There's something wrong with this picture
31 definitely.
32

33 If there's hikers, sport hunters,
34 skiers, if they can come to our land, why can't we just
35 ask for something that we want just for a period of
36 August and September when the caribou starts to migrate
37 and we're waiting patiently, waiting for them.
38

39 That's my concern, yet I've been here
40 for two years and this is my second reject on the
41 proposal. There's got to be something else that needs
42 to be done about this. Of course we've been waiting
43 for 40 years to resolve this issue. Tutu is very
44 important. As your whales and your sea mammals.
45

46 Of course we struggle. We're going to
47 have to see what happens this fall, a couple weeks from
48 now. We don't know if they're coming. Maybe the sport
49 hunters are already in the Dalton Highway getting their
50

1 share and we're waiting patiently for our tutu to come
2 so we can survive the winter. I think we need to
3 revisit the proposal and just eliminate the 24A and the
4 26B and just concentrate on our unit, our village, our
5 community.

6
7 Our berries are growing slow. Our
8 uppiks and probably just ripening right now, but we
9 have to travel a long ways north, which is okay.
10 There's a lot of things going on at home. Like I
11 mentioned about the proposal, we've been waiting for
12 our cleanup for our EMS that burned down this new year.
13 They said after Mother's Day and Mother's Day has come
14 to us and it's still sitting. There's debris from the
15 strong winds from the south, the particles. I'm going,
16 gee, there's something really wrong with this too
17 besides our subsistence.

18
19 We've got patience. We had patience
20 through all our years, my grandfather's, waiting for
21 caribou. Gosh, that's our way of life and our
22 survival. There's something else that needs to be done
23 otherwise -- maybe there's even where we can do some
24 legal action finally. I mean we've been waiting so
25 long.

26
27 Why don't we do something about it as a
28 community. I discuss this lots with our mayor. It's a
29 problem that was never solved for years and years and
30 I'm getting older. How about if it's never resolved
31 when I'm gone. What will happen to my children and my
32 grandkids. What we asked for it was never given or
33 done.

34
35 I know we had a lot of support, Gordon,
36 but that wasn't good enough. You've got to do better
37 than that to help us out because it's going to be a
38 long winter again. Otherwise we've been good.

39
40 So peaceful without the sport hunters
41 or their Piper Cubs coming. That's a good feeling
42 after so many years of that. Everything has been slow
43 and cold and wet and we're still going to have patience
44 for our caribou. We'll see what happens. Otherwise
45 maybe in the future we need to do -- we just have to do
46 it, legal action or something. We need to think of
47 something.

48
49 Like I said, if all the hikers,
50

1 hunters, skiers, if they can walk through our lands,
2 why aren't we being helped. I mean they have every
3 right to come and our issues aren't even met. It's not
4 even resolved.

5

6

That's all I got.

7

8

Thank you.

9

10

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther.

11

Thank you from Anaktuvuk Pass. Those are very
12 important things to pass on and things to work on and
13 recharge ourselves. Quyanaqpak.

14

15

We'll go to Atqasuk, Wanda.

16

17

MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Good morning.

18

My name is Wanda Kippi. I represent Atqasuk. This
19 year there was a bear in the area in June. It went off
20 towards the west or southwest. Geese hunting was
21 pretty good. Everybody did some good geese hunting.
22 The caribou finally came in July. They started
23 catching a few there end of July. There's a lot of
24 caribou around now. They're coming. I see a couple
25 herds. I've seen a lot of young bucks with the
26 females. It was good to see them all over.

27

28

Our springtime was slow. It melted
29 slowly and we still had some snow in July along the
30 banks of the river all the way through end of July I
31 saw the last snow on the bank of the river.

32

33

The fish in our area they're catching
34 aanaakliq. They're catching more silvers. There's a
35 lot of chum and seeing more of them, the chum and the
36 silvers.

37

38

I saw something in October/November of
39 last year, just end of October, outside my cabin. I
40 was going to go turn my generator off in the dark. I
41 carry a flashlight and flashing around the cabin and to
42 my right there was eyes. Quite a ways I could see
43 them. There were two glowing eyes. One was red and
44 one was -- a set of red and a set of green. Like the
45 regular green ones you see, like the fox and stuff.
46 But they were -- it was no tutu, it was no fox. A set
47 of red and a set of the glowing green.

48

49

That's the first I've ever seen it that

50

1 way. I went to the generator how many times to go turn
2 it off. I keep having to go look again. I keep seeing
3 them. It never moved. So I went back in the cabin.
4 Turned the generator off, went back in the cabin and
5 what the heck did I just see. They didn't move until --
6 they never did move. I even go look through the
7 window. Couldn't see them. Couldn't see them it was
8 too dark. That was interesting.
9

10 That's about all I have. Thank you
11 from Atqasuk. Quyanaq.
12

13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa, Wanda.
14 Quyanaq. Interesting. Makes me think.
15

16 MS. KIPPI: Yeah, what did I see?
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: People seeing things.
19

20 MS. KIPPI: I was out there all by
21 myself too the whole month. Practically the whole
22 month of September -- or October. Went home November
23 1st from the cabin.
24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's very
26 interesting. We'll go to Fredrick, Kunniq, from
27 Barrow.
28

29 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning. My name is
30 Fredrick Neakok. I live here in the Barrow area. I've
31 lived here most of my life.
32

33 This year, our family, we kind of had a
34 late start this spring with our whaling season. With
35 that we also had a late geese hunting season. We were
36 able to stay out at our cabin a little bit longer than
37 usual with the big snow year that we had. Along with
38 the snow year, you know, a lot of the people who go egg
39 hunting had to wait a little bit longer due to the snow
40 melt.
41

42 Didn't get to do very much seal
43 hunting. I haven't gone out. We've gotten a few
44 caribou here. My son and his hunting buddy Bradley,
45 they went out by boat. They were successful.
46

47 I went out another day with my dad. We
48 got a few and on another day I went out with some of my
49 other buddies and we got a handful of caribou just 10
50

1 miles outside of Barrow.

2

3 With some of the traditional knowledge
4 that I have, our caribou are on a 80 to 100 year cycle.
5 Right now we have the caribou here. They're following
6 their food source. Back in my dad's day when they
7 traveled by dog team they'd have to go 80 to 100 miles
8 up by dog team and be out for two weeks. So the
9 caribou do follow their food. So we have them here
10 now. Eventually they're going to go back down to the
11 base of the Brooks Range to where their food has grown
12 again.

13

14 I believe we've had a good year with
15 people setting off their nets, getting some fish.
16 Other people getting caribou within the area. I
17 believe we're going to have a late fall possibly.
18 Other than that I think the people in the Barrow area
19 have done fairly well.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa, Kunniaq.
24 Quyanaq. It sounds like a pretty good report. With
25 that I'm going to go to Bob Shears representing
26 Ulguniq.

27

28 MR. SHEARS: Good morning. I
29 completely agree with you, Fredrick. This has been
30 kind of an unusual year for Utqiagvik late season.
31 Wainwright however did not. Had a very normal season.
32 It was right on schedule. The mosquito hatch was June
33 15. The ice broke out and people were able to go
34 upriver by July 1st. They had very good seal hunting,
35 very good waterfowl hunting season this spring.

36

37 Typically July is a pretty quiet time.
38 Not a lot of subsistence activity. Much more than just
39 setting some nets for salmon, which is not a big
40 subsistence priority for the community, but they did
41 fairly well with salmon, what netting they did do for
42 salmon. The fishing season will really kick off here
43 by Labor Day and continue for the next two months where
44 they'll get cisco and grayling.

45

46 There's a lot of tutu upriver. They're
47 moving pretty quick though for the middle of August.
48 They usually broke it up and scattered and grazing
49 slowly and not showing any migratory trend, but now

50

1 they're picking up speed. They're hitting the river
2 hard to cross. They're gathering. It looks like it
3 could be a non-typical early migration that's taking
4 place down there with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
5 that they're seeing in the region.

6
7 The rainfall was typical. Nothing
8 really unusual about the subsistence activities there
9 this summer. What has been more effective on
10 subsistence there is the general economy of the
11 community.

12
13 As you're all aware, the nation is in a
14 state of growth now. There's a lot of inflation going
15 on. Low unemployment. Fuel prices are coming back up.
16 In a community like Wainwright where there's not a good
17 strong economy they're feeling that inflation. There's
18 not a lot economic activity there. So subsistence
19 activities have naturally become more localized and
20 economized in action themselves.

21
22 People are struggling to maintain their
23 equipment and make it go one more year. There's not a
24 lot of capital procurement going on. Nobody is buying
25 new snowmachines, new boats, new motors, new four-
26 wheelers, new rifles. We're just trying to make what
27 equipment we've got work and go another year and try to
28 wait this recession out because activity will always
29 resume again.

30
31 In that case, those people who can
32 subsist down there are sharing heavily with others who
33 can't. There's a lot of subsistence sharing activity
34 going on. The community is strong, not complaining.
35 Praise the Lord, everything is well.

36
37 That's all.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. It's
40 good to hear from all the communities and provide some
41 of the feedback to some of the biologists online and
42 those that need to garner the information to use in
43 something else. It's always good to hear from our
44 representatives.

45
46 With that I'm going to chime in as well
47 as a resident of Barrow. You know, when I re-up my
48 participation in the Subsistence Regional Advisory
49 Council, there's a set of questions that we're always

50

1 asked about various different things. Where you're at,
2 what do you do, subsistence, what level of subsistence,
3 you know, other activities, sport hunting and other
4 things that go on to be able to say these things and
5 provide that feedback.

6
7 It's important for all of us and I
8 think all of us had those same questions when we're
9 interviewed by the Interior as a nominee to get on the
10 Federal Subsistence Advisory Council and we have a
11 responsibility to have a wide range of views and
12 opinions and experiences to bring to the group.

13
14 So with that, it was important to hear
15 what went on in July. The ICC was held in Barrow. I
16 took particular interest to listen to some of the
17 issues and concerns throughout the Inuit Nations from
18 Greenland to Canada to Alaska to Russia. One of the
19 things that I found very particularly interesting and I
20 think we've experienced it quite a bit is food security
21 issues.

22
23 Are the animals and the resources going
24 to be able to provide and sustain for our communities
25 well into the future and how can we intervene in a way
26 that makes a difference for the rural communities that
27 depend on food security like caribou and fish.

28
29 Some of the concerns and issues that I
30 see that we've been trying to express for the longest
31 time are the very issues of food security and balancing
32 what seems to be an insurmountable task to have the
33 Federal government and have the State government, who
34 have constitutional requirements about management of
35 fish and game.

36
37 I know the State has an impasse that I
38 think come to a head in 1990s that they wouldn't be
39 able to have a rural subsistence priority and they
40 manage the caribou and other resources for everybody.
41 They manage the caribou and other resources saying if
42 it's on State land, it belongs to all the people and
43 we're going to manage it to its decline until nobody
44 can have it.

45
46 That's what I see and that's what we've
47 been trying to impress, that there needs to be a
48 mechanism -- and there is, but the State really doesn't
49 like to go into the other tier levels of management,

50

1 especially the concerns out of Anaktuvuk Pass where you
2 could have time area closures from July to October.
3 Just like the whale management system, you could have a
4 period of closure because the caribou is anticipated
5 and it is their vital resource, the dependence on that
6 resource.

7
8 There's a preponderance of the evidence
9 that the community is highly dependent on caribou. The
10 unwillingness to recognize these things and to manage
11 in a way that the village has to fend for themselves to
12 me has always been alarming.

13
14 What I saw in ICC was to develop a food
15 security system network. I don't know how it will
16 work, but I think it was very interesting to listen to
17 about developing mechanisms through the international
18 arena, maybe through the U.N., about the need for the
19 indigenous people's rights to subsist and have the food
20 security on their lands. That, to me, was a very
21 interesting thing to listen to those kind of things.

22
23 I think it's so important because
24 during the Federal Board of Game meeting it almost came
25 to a head just like how ICC is proposing to tackle food
26 security issues because another tribal entity has made
27 good headway to have game management at their
28 fingertips through an MOU with the Interior Department
29 I think through the Interior Secretary authorizing the
30 creation of local management with a tribal entity
31 somewhere in Alaska.

32
33 I think it was either Aetna or one of
34 those tribal members, their tribal consortium, being
35 able to secure the ability to manage resources for
36 themselves outside of the State and Federal I believe
37 so the local people have a preference and things like
38 that. I'm not exactly sure how it works, but it was
39 interesting to see that happen. It shed some light on
40 probably what we need to look at in the future.

41
42 So those kinds of things I find
43 particularly interesting and they should be expressed
44 here because that is a serious issue. When we have
45 biologists over the last 20 years looking at from a
46 peak population to about less than 50 percent of the
47 Western Arctic Herd, the Teshekpuk Herd and others.
48 Granted there's some good information that we might be
49 on an upward trend, but still the 50 percent mark

50

1 haven't been met. Those kind of issues that would be
2 alarming for us to making sure the villages have a
3 preference to these resources and recognize that. So
4 those are some of the things that I thought was
5 interesting.

6
7 The other thing about the guides. As a
8 land manager myself, we are seeing the concerns from
9 the communities and from other land managers and we've
10 conducted enforcement actions to where now we're
11 looking at where these people are putting their spike
12 camps and we're finding that they're not telling the
13 truth about where they go. In some cases, 75 miles off
14 of their required area to be in and not disclosing
15 where they are, including trespassing on other lands,
16 like SRC lands and stuff like that.

17
18 We're finding that to be the truth. So
19 those kind of issues we're making good efforts for
20 those guides and operators to monitor them much better.
21 Where they're not supposed to be and where they should
22 be. I would caution those land managers to look at
23 this issue.

24
25 If you're strapped to be on the field,
26 I think this enforcement is requiring those operators,
27 when we find them to be in violation of things, oh, by
28 the way, you've got to pay for our ticket for our
29 inspectors to go to your base camp and then make your
30 planes available to bring our inspectors to the spike
31 camps where these activities are going to occur and get
32 the true township range and sections locations so we
33 can inspect before and after their activities. So I
34 think those are very important things and it may be
35 helping to decline the bothersome Piper Cubs and things
36 like that that is routinely reported. Those are just
37 some of the things that I know of that's going on.

38
39 Other things, and it might become an
40 interesting thing for the Council if they want to
41 provide any comments, because the Borough with the
42 villages in their comprehensive planning efforts have
43 expressed a need for some time the ability to connect
44 to the hub, to the Haul Road, things like that, so the
45 North Slope Borough has endeavored to look at these old
46 studies at the request of the villages like Anaktuvuk,
47 the city council passed a resolution about eight or ten
48 years ago to see the feasibility of connecting
49 Anaktuvuk to the Haul Road seasonally.

50

1 Barrow did the same thing about 10
2 years ago. The Native village and the city of Barrow
3 at the time said we need to find out what's the
4 feasibility of connecting Barrow to Prudhoe Bay to
5 reduce the cost of living and things like that and
6 provide a different way of accessing and connectivity
7 for communities.

8
9 Atqasuk has expressed their wish to
10 connect to Barrow seasonally as well. So all of these
11 things I think are important to shed some light on
12 because they're happening and permits are going to be
13 requesting comments from BLM, from DNR on some of these
14 activities because even the Borough has to go through a
15 permitting process.

16
17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: What part are we
18 exactly on? I thought we were doing comments from the
19 -- about our subsistence. Are we into a discussion
20 about various changes to community planning? What
21 topic are we discussing now?

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're on Council
24 member report. I'm not doing a Chair's. I'm being one
25 of the guys here. So I just want to make sure you guys
26 are well aware of these things. They're important. I
27 thought because we had other activities at the Federal
28 Board of Game and looking at other things that would
29 not be reported to us. That Aetna one I thought was an
30 important one because they got an MOU with the Interior
31 Department to do game management independently of ADF&G
32 and others, I think.

33
34 That's my understanding, so I think
35 it's good information to bring forward as a Council
36 member report. And like many others here, you know, I
37 think hunting was good. I try to outfit my own kids
38 and my son to do a lot of the hunting for me. Whaling
39 to me was fantastic. There was a lot of opportunity.
40 We didn't harvest one, but there were some times I said
41 throw it, boy. You know, when it's right, it's right.
42 It was interesting to have a good whaling season.

43
44 Trail cutting was pretty intense. We
45 made a lot of trails. In fact, you could get lost on
46 the trail system out there. There were so many
47 different trails. Anyway, I think that was important.

48
49 My son has been going out with his
50

1 buddies, you know, and getting on other boats too.
2 They sometimes work together and they've gotten some
3 seals and we're blessed to have some caribou. I'm eager
4 to do subsistence myself as well.

5

6 With that I'm going to conclude from
7 the Council members' report with that. I apologize if
8 I get long-winded. Sometimes I think it gets boring
9 too, I think.

10

11 With that, Eva, Madame Coordinator,
12 under the reports, so where are we?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
15 Thank you. I think, Gordon, you kind of combined your
16 Council member report and the Chair's report. Thank
17 you for that. Actually what we have next on the agenda
18 is the 805(c) report, which is the report from the
19 Federal Subsistence Board to the Regional Advisory
20 Council, so called the 805(c) report because it is in
21 section VIII of ANILCA in terms of the Board's response
22 to the Council. You'll find that on Page 18 of your
23 meeting books.

24

25 That outlines the actions that the
26 Board took, both the Board's actions that were in
27 support of the Council's recommendations, adopting the
28 Council's recommendations on wildlife proposals, and
29 also where the Board different from the Council's
30 recommendation and what was their justification in not
31 adopting the Council's recommendation.

32

33 As you'll recall, Gordon was there at
34 the wildlife cycle. The Federal Subsistence Board
35 meeting meets in the springtime, so they met in April.
36 So this is the first opportunity the Council has met to
37 hear a formal report of the Board's actions at that
38 time.

39

40 I should highlight that typically the
41 new wildlife regulations go into effect on July 1st.
42 As we had reported to the Council, there's been a delay
43 in the Federal Register notice. So while the Board did
44 support some pretty key regulatory changes for the
45 region, such as the permitting requirement for caribou,
46 the Federal Register notice has not been published yet,
47 so these new regulations are not yet in effect. So
48 you'll notice you've got the old wildlife regulations
49 in the regulations book, so those still remain in

50

1 effect until that Federal Register notice.

2

3 The Board just met recently for a work
4 session and we did get an update from the special
5 assistant to the Secretary. Those new regulations have
6 to go to DC and then get approved and published there.
7 So perhaps sometime in September. Just a notice for
8 the Council that while the Board did pass these
9 regulations they have not yet been published.

10

11 As Council member Esther Hugo had
12 noted, the Federal Subsistence Board did not support
13 the Council's proposal WP18-57. You'll find on Page 20
14 of your meeting book the summary, reasoning and
15 justification for why the Federal Subsistence Board did
16 not adopt that proposal.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Any
19 questions from the Council.

20

21 MS. PATTON: I'll note just one quick
22 update. The Board listens very carefully to all the
23 Regional Advisory Councils, so there's recommendations,
24 for example, on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
25 There's four different Regional Advisory Councils that
26 are making recommendations on that herd. Many other
27 recommendations were fairly unified across the range of
28 the WACH, so there are some cases where the Board will
29 adopt a proposal with an amendment to come to a
30 compromise or consensus between all the Councils.

31

32 The Board typically on average
33 approximately 90 percent of the Regional Advisory
34 Council recommendations are adopted by the Board. In
35 this particular wildlife regulatory cycle, 46 out of 52
36 proposals were adopted by the Board in concurrence with
37 the Council recommendation.

38

39 Again, this Council did recommend
40 supporting a wildlife registration permit for hunting
41 caribou throughout Unit 26A and Unit 23 for the Council
42 region here and that regulation is currently in effect
43 under the State regulations. Again, that will change
44 on the Federal side once the Federal Register notice
45 hits.

46

47 So one of the things we wanted to talk
48 with the Council about at this meeting is outreach and
49 getting those communications out so people are aware of

50

1 those regulatory changes. Again, I'll come back to the
2 Council if there's any questions on the report from the
3 Board.
4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any questions on the
6 report and feedback from the Federal Subsistence Chair
7 letter, Anthony Christianson.
8

9 (No comment)
10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't know the time
12 when we were there. There was a lot of information
13 provided to the Federal Subsistence Board. There was
14 support, but the vote itself was off by one, I think.
15 Just one vote and it would have overturned the issues
16 around the closure. Maybe I agree with a lot of what
17 Council woman from Anaktuvuk Pass Hugo said, if we
18 approached this in a different way.
19

20 Issues around Anaktuvuk and the
21 availability of subsistence resources where they're
22 normally found and not to impede those migration by
23 other competing users in the way that it's managed
24 because it's primarily State land north of Anaktuvuk
25 Pass. It's just not guides in the area.
26

27 There are, according to other land
28 managers such as Erik Kenning, SRC lands, a lot of
29 personal aircraft that make their way up north and try
30 to land and use these private airports that are owned
31 by SRC and they continue to have to wave them off and
32 fend them off from private property.
33

34 In one case there was a documentary by
35 Savage Arms illegally being made on private lands that
36 was recognized on TV as, hey, how did they get the
37 wherewithal to go on Native private lands and do a
38 hunt. It turned out it was an illegal activity going
39 on. So there's a lot of things like that.
40

41 Anyway, I know there's a controlled use
42 area to the north of Anaktuvuk Pass at either side.
43 That should be looked at more. I thought we had made
44 efforts to strengthen that to provide the same
45 protections around the Noatak controlled use area to
46 mirror those kind of restrictions.
47

48 It would be prudent probably to get an
49 update on that controlled use area and what's going on
50

1 with it. I do know there's some guides to the north of
2 that. We're right now checking into whether or not
3 those are illegal camps or not because they might not
4 be consistent with their permitting.

5

6 Any questions that might surface from
7 the Council members.

8

9 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears.

12

13 MR. SHEARS: In regards to the Board's
14 report in regards to Wildlife Proposal 18-57, it was
15 rejected considering the closure of non-Federally
16 qualified users for caribou hunting in 26A, B and C.
17 I'd like to draw the Advisory Council's attention to
18 one sentence in the report that I think is very
19 important to bear in mind when we craft regulations in
20 the future.

21

22 On Page 20 of the Federal Subsistence
23 Board 805(c) report, I'd like you to note the very last
24 sentence on the page: Closing the Federal lands now
25 will not produce a desired conservation effect and will
26 likely increase user conflicts on the State lands that
27 will remain open by shifting users to those lands.

28

29 Closing the Federal areas will not
30 decrease hunting. It will just increase the hunting
31 pressure on the State lands. This Council really has
32 very little control over. I think that was probably
33 the key fact why our proposal failed.

34

35 We cannot craft regulation without
36 collaboration with the State of Alaska. A memorandum
37 of agreement with the State of Alaska ADF&G is
38 necessary for us to continue to be effective.

39

40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. I
41 think those are important points because there's always
42 this roadblock that's set up it seems like when you
43 have Federal land and State land. Our efforts in the
44 past to align regulations so that one set of
45 regulations do not change just because you hop over the
46 line.

47

48 I thought we had a process to where we
49 develop alignment and work, but sometimes I think it

50

1 has been counterproductive for us. In a way maybe more
2 detrimental to have done that. I mean we were fearful
3 of the State imposing much more harsher regulations
4 that would be out of our control and we opted to try to
5 develop more traditional regulations that we already
6 accomplish.

7
8 Like we don't hunt the bulls during a
9 certain period of time because they're in their rut
10 season and develop those as conservation measures
11 because we were already conserving those resources. We
12 do our best and I think we put our best foot forward to
13 try to do some of these things.

14
15 Anyway, I certainly agree with you that
16 there needs to be a way of working better with the
17 State, but at the same time we've got to be very
18 careful because of the inadequacy of recognizing a
19 rural subsistence priority exists at the State level.

20
21 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. The Federal
22 Subsistence Board has a level of membership that leans
23 to the State's interest. I don't think the Federal
24 Subsistence Board as a whole cumulatively represents --
25 puts Federal lands first and foremost. Federal
26 management first and foremost from what I've witnessed
27 in observation of their performance. They've got an
28 even balance of State interests along with Federal
29 interests. Perhaps we should take a look at our
30 representation there. We really lost strong leadership
31 on the Federal Subsistence Board in recent years.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. Any
34 other questions from any other Council members.

35
36 MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther from
39 Anaktuvuk.

40
41 MS. HUGO: I just wanted to say that
42 even though that land north of us belongs to the State
43 of Alaska, they haven't set foot or haven't camped or
44 hunted in those lands and they're making all these
45 regulations. It's just in a piece of paper that they
46 own that land. It's our land no matter what. That's
47 where our grandparents roamed and it's just in a piece
48 of paper that it belongs to the State.

49
50

1 I wish -- you know. It's just sad,
2 period. That's all. We're nuna. We roamed. They
3 roamed around there, the whole area where the State say
4 they owned it. That's our land. That's what I'm going
5 to keep saying. That land belongs to us and we've got
6 so many rules. Hey, you can't go beyond here.

7
8 I know we're in National Park Service,
9 but that is ours. That belonged to us. Just a piece
10 of paper it says State land. That's our home. That's
11 where we hunted. That's where we will always be.
12 Every time I go meeting they say State land, but to me,
13 little ol' me, I'm going to say to all of you that
14 that's my land, that's our land.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Esther. I
19 think those are heart-filled comments.

20
21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I just wanted to
24 thank Esther. Nuiqsut, Rosemary.

25
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, I agree. I'm
27 very concerned that we put our efforts forward to try
28 to put in regulations that recognize our way of hunting
29 and we get the support with our
30 process and then we get the backlash from the State
31 process. Our process is trying to protect our way of
32 life on these lands and on these waters and trying to
33 give us a hope that our future generations are going to
34 continue.

35
36 We've had testimony from our members
37 that have shared their concerns of our ability to
38 continue to harvest with the changes in the increased
39 conflicts that are happening on our lands and waters
40 and we really have to push back on this. We can't just
41 take it as an acceptance. This is an important
42 discussion that went through multiple meetings and
43 multiple communities, that garnished the support of
44 trying to put additional protections into this area to
45 give our future generations hope of harvesting.

46
47 We didn't take these discussions
48 lightly. We knew that our families were already having
49 hardships with harvesting with the changes in the

50

1 populations and that there were going to be families
2 that did not have caribou on their table to eat. These
3 are not recommendations that we put forward lightly.
4 We worked very extensively over a long period of time
5 to come up with these recommendations.

6
7 If this isn't an acceptable
8 recommendation because of the conflict through the
9 State side, then what are the recommendations that are
10 going to be approved as being acceptable for us to
11 have hope, to try to protect our way of life on these
12 Federal designations, in this seat at the table where
13 we are supposed to be recognizing and participating in
14 this process?

15
16 Esther, I thank you very much for your
17 efforts and concern. Bob, I appreciate you bringing up
18 the highlight of that sentence. But it's our process
19 that we have put forward, a long, lengthy discussion
20 and engagement to try to give hopes of protecting our
21 way of life.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
26 I think it's important to express these concerns in
27 these ways as stern as we can I would think because
28 it's important that we represent a lot of people. We
29 represent the North Slope as a whole. We don't take
30 this very lightly and we want to make sure -- you know,
31 we're trying to do our best to make sure that the rural
32 subsistence issues and the priorities on subsistence
33 and harvesting, the uninterrupted harvesting, the
34 conflicts, that we don't pass them on to future
35 generations and develop these relationships with the
36 managers to where it's important even for the State to
37 make sure food security issues and subsistence are
38 afforded the communities that depend on these
39 resources.

40
41 I don't know what the State policies
42 are, but North Slope Borough policies within the
43 Borough itself says it's prohibited to impede or
44 deflect subsistence resources from where they're
45 normally found and expected to be harvested. Those are
46 policies in this homeland by its own government and
47 management schemes should reflect some of those things
48 and digest those kind of policies.

49
50

1 If the Federal government has a rural
2 subsistence priority, it should mesh very well with
3 local policies that are here on the North Slope and the
4 State ADF&G needs to look at these policies and develop
5 management schemes that reflect those because State
6 statutes says you must abide and conform to the local
7 laws and ordinances. The zoning regulations that are
8 in place. That's Alaska statutes.
9

10 DNR and DOT, ADF&G are all divisions of
11 the State and we need to impress upon, work with the
12 local governments to make sure your management scheme
13 is not trampling over the policies that are intended to
14 provide subsistence resources for all of our
15 communities.
16

17 Our policies are not just for State
18 land, they're not just for Federal land, not just
19 private lands, it's for all within the North Slope
20 Borough unless the President or Interior Secretary or
21 the Governor says don't abide by local laws and zoning
22 ordinances, which I don't think they've said any of
23 that. I just wanted to make sure I expressed that.
24

25 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair, if I could.
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Fredrick.
28

29 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning. In my years
30 of work in and out of Prudhoe, Deadhorse and being able
31 to drive up and down the James Dalton Highway, I've
32 seen many, many people with campers, trucks, trailers
33 on every offshoot of the road. You know, they're out
34 there camping, hunting. I know it's by bow and arrow
35 only, but there's also those who either go to the east
36 or to the west of the Brooks Range who fly in and out
37 of Fairbanks, Coldfoot or wherever else. Maybe even
38 out of Deadhorse.
39

40 You know, they're not only just hunting
41 the caribou. They're also hunting the Dall sheep, the
42 bears and whatever big game that we have, you know, up
43 and down the North Slope and in different areas along
44 the Brooks Range as well.
45

46 I don't know who manages these people,
47 but as I was flying in yesterday I sat next to some
48 very opinionated European Americans. You know,
49 everybody has a title in this country. Native
50

1 Americans, Alaska Natives, African Americans. I tend
2 to call these people European Americans and they were
3 very opinionated.
4

5 I seen them with all their camp gear,
6 but I did not see them carrying out any of their meat.
7 They said they had a very successful hunt and all they
8 had was their gear. They flew out on Alaska Airlines.
9 I don't know what they do with their catch, but I've
10 come across them over the years working in Deadhorse
11 and driving up and down the Haul Road this time of the
12 year.
13

14 Thank you.
15

16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fredrick.
17 That's part of the dilemma. We don't know to what
18 level the enforcement that goes on on the Haul Road
19 from those that are the authority. ADF&G and Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, they have the primacy through Alaska
21 Constitution to manage the wildlife and manage for the
22 interests of the entire state. They don't manage it
23 for the interest of rural residents.
24

25 But there is a simple case to be made.
26 Even in times of plenty when the animals are plenty
27 enough and they're managed liberally in an area where
28 the resource by a preponderance of the evidence that
29 the communities dependent on these resources that you
30 could deplete those resources from where they're
31 normally expected and found for subsistence activities.
32 You can deplete them from that area by deflecting them
33 and moving them out of the path of villages.
34

35 I mean we've already been able to
36 express that in a way to provide mitigation funds for a
37 community such as Nuiqsut because the deflection issues
38 and the policies that exist for the communities to be
39 afforded these resources. Even when a liberal
40 management scheme is in place, the ability of man
41 themselves to deplete the resource from an area by
42 deflection that has happened and we've acted on that
43 locally before.
44

45 The State needs to look at these
46 things. Quite frankly, there should be in the State
47 lands north of Anaktuvuk a tier hunt. What is it, a
48 Tier 4, when it gets down to depletion status? That it
49 should be for subsistence only in an area and do that
50

1 subsistence only from July to October until the village
2 has been able to accomplish its subsistence activities
3 for that resource and then it's back to open. Things
4 like that, time area closures that need to be though
5 about.

6

7

Any other questions on the report.

8

9

MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. This is
10 Point Hope here. There's a lot of good concerns. I
11 think we need to find a better way. Like we said, you
12 now, we need to know who's coming and going within the
13 borough, you know, within our lands, the private lands,
14 corporation lands, Federal lands, Alaska Fish and Game
15 or Bureau of Land Management. What kind of
16 regulations?

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

You know, these sport hunters that come
in and then -- you know, like you stated earlier we've
seen on TV where sport hunters are coming in and they
go on private lands. How can we better regulate that?
We're so spread out. You know, we're over 90,000
square miles. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, all
they manage.

Do they know what kind of air traffic
comes into the Borough especially during hunting season
for caribou or moose or sheep? They just mentioned is
there permits that these sport hunters have to get to
fly into the area? Are they regulated, you know, air
space? Are people monitoring the planes and everything
in the area especially out of Fairbanks coming in? We
know they watch the Haul Road, but I think we need to
look more.

You know, we only have, what, one
office, the Fish and Game in Point Hope that regulates
the whole North Slope. Who all monitors who comes and
goes, you know, especially during the hunting season?
You said deflecting the regular migration routes. And
then that's why we closed out Unit 23 to sport hunters
on Federal lands. You saw a big impact when the
caribou started coming back into their normal migration
routes.

For so many years these sport hunters
or nonresidents would be flying in and be dropped off
in the migration routes of the Western Arctic Caribou
and we saw the deflection where they were routed other

1 ways and not going to their natural places where they
2 originally migrate to. You know, always letting those
3 first animals come through so that the migration can
4 continue and the animals will keep coming.

5
6 Do we have people in the audience that
7 is going to be answering all these concerns we have
8 with sport hunters illegally hunting on private lands
9 or Federal lands? You know, State agencies they've got
10 more traffic into the State. How do they know? Can we
11 see a report on actual numbers of nonresident people
12 coming into State lands within the Borough?

13
14 During the hunting season whether it's
15 moose, sheep, caribou do they have actual numbers? Do
16 they know how many planes are coming and going if
17 they're monitoring? The Arctic National Wildlife
18 Refuge, do they know if anybody is going in there? How
19 do they monitor all this? We're such a big area.

20
21 You know, the Haul Road was supposed to
22 be not used by -- you know, other people weren't
23 supposed to go through there. Now you see the proposal
24 for this Ambler Road and it's going to be only for the
25 businesses and not personal use and that's what they
26 said about the Haul Road and the hunting issues that
27 came along. That road's been there 40 years now. We
28 see so much traffic.

29
30 Is there going to be people to answer
31 all these concerns that are being brought out that are
32 with us today?

33
34 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead, Eva.

37
38 MS. PATTON: Hi, Steve. Yes, we're
39 going to have a number of agency reports tomorrow
40 primarily that will be able to address some of those
41 questions. We have updates from Gates of the Arctic
42 National Park. Also Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
43 and the caribou reports. So in the past we've had
44 reports in terms of permits for caribou, you know,
45 who's hunting where and then also permitted activities
46 on Refuge lands and Park Service lands.

47
48 So we will have those updates tomorrow
49 from agency reports. As you noted for Unit 23, that was

1 the closure specific to that Squirrel River and Noatak
2 area was passed by the Board as recommended by numerous
3 Councils. New regulations have not gone into effect
4 yet, but the Board just took action at their work
5 session to ensure that there was essentially a
6 delegation of authority letter for those land managers
7 so they can enact those targeted closures at this time
8 since it is the hunt season.
9

10 For this Council, as we move forward, I
11 know the Council had expressed interest in kind of
12 looking at that more targeted closure option, something
13 that would be more specific to Anaktuvuk Pass and on
14 the Federal lands. So the winter 2019 meeting will be
15 the call for Federal subsistence wildlife proposals, so
16 this Council can start working on those proposals.
17

18 At this time we have Josh Ream who is
19 the anthropologist. He was the analyst on the
20 Council's Proposal 57. Of course wildlife biologist
21 Tom Evans and myself. So we have the opportunity in
22 the interim between now and the next meeting to work on
23 a more specific proposal that might target things a
24 little more closely for Anaktuvuk Pass, similar to
25 Noatak area and Unit 23.
26

27 Thank you.
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.
30

31 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. You know, on
32 the Federal Subsistence Board is it the U.S. Fish and
33 Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National
34 Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, these are the
35 Federal Subsistence Board agencies. Are there names
36 that come with those? Who all -- I know Gordon attends
37 the Federal Subsistence Advisory Council.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, when we go to
40 the Federal Subsistence Board, I think it's the Chairs
41 of the Regional Councils and if we got specific
42 proposals on there, we're allowed to elaborate as much
43 as you can and take up as much time as you can to
44 advocate for your position. I certainly did that.
45

46 (Laughter)
47

48 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Thank you.....
49
50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: I know the proposal of
2 Anaktuvuk Pass, you know, was missed by one vote. I
3 just was wondering, you know, the Federal Subsistence
4 Board, how many people does it consist of and where
5 they're from on this Federal Subsistence and the ones
6 that rejected 26A and 26B.
7

8 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. To
9 respond to Steve's question about the membership of the
10 Board. So it is all the Federal land management
11 agencies. Essentially the director of each Federal
12 land management agency. It is part of their duty to
13 serve on the Federal Subsistence Board. So you're
14 correct, it's BLM, Park Service, National Wildlife
15 Refuge, Bureau of Indian Affairs as well. While we
16 don't have the Forest Service up in this region, Forest
17 Service also serves on the Council. There's some large
18 areas of the state where that's the primary Federal
19 land. Then we also have public members of the Council.
20
21

22 As we get into the Council's annual
23 report reply, one of the questions the Council had to
24 the Board was about the Secretarial review. That was
25 one of the recommendations of a Secretarial review from
26 a number of years back to have public membership serve
27 on the Board that are rural subsistence residents
28 themselves and can help inform the Federal Subsistence
29 Board process through their direct knowledge.
30

31 Currently the Chair of the Board is
32 Anthony Christianson and he was a public member before.
33 He is from Hydaburg and also a long-time tribal
34 president and active in his community. He served as a
35 public member and then was elected as the Chair when
36 Tim Towarak retired. We have two other public members,
37 Charlie Brower of Barrow, of Utqiagvik, and Rhonda
38 Pitka, who was just nominated to serve in Tony's place
39 when Tony took the chairmanship. So we have three
40 rural representatives on the Board as well and they are
41 all voting members and making recommendations on these
42 proposals.
43

44 Thank you.
45

46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Rosemary.
49
50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think a big part
2 of the discussion that's not being said here is that
3 the priority of the decision to look at the
4 conservation for who, when. We put this proposal in to
5 try to protect our communities and our subsistence.
6 That was the priority. But when you're assessing it at
7 a State level where you're looking at multiple users,
8 the sacrifice for our conservation is being a decision
9 that's made. These are very concerning issues when
10 we're trying to protect our regional subsistence
11 harvest.

12
13 So I really have to push back on some
14 of the discussion. I hope that we are able to come
15 forward with something that the Board sees as being
16 protective of conservation and it's a different point
17 of view in decision-making criteria that is allowing
18 the bypass of all efforts to protect our way of life.

19
20 Thank you.

21
22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
23 I think we agree with that. Steve, I hope some of your
24 questions were answered about the Federal Subsistence
25 Board and I believe the agency reports that are coming
26 up we'll be able to pummel them with some of these
27 questions as well, I think.

28
29 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other questions
32 on the report.

33
34 (No comments)

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Having none, I would
37 go to Item 8, public and tribal comments on non-agenda
38 items. That's available each morning, public and/or
39 tribal comments that are not on the agenda. You're
40 welcome to come and make comments. I know we have some
41 tribal representatives here. We've got Joe, Native
42 Village of Barrow. You're welcome to address the
43 Council on any other items you may have of concern that
44 are non-agenda items. Joe Leavitt.

45
46 MR. LEAVITT: Good morning to all the
47 board members and welcome to Barrow again. The one big
48 concern that came up recently was the sea lion coming
49 up here. We want to make sure that it doesn't get our
50

1 oogruk sick or spread parasites. It's just maybe we
2 got to have a precaution and see what the sea lions are
3 going to do. That kind of came up as are the sea lions
4 going to take over the North Slope.

5
6 Remember about 30 years ago the pilot
7 whales started showing up and now they're over here.
8 Were those the pilot whales or minke whales that we see
9 all the time over here, pilot whales. Yeah, we're
10 still seeing those. There's been just like a
11 precaution, you know. Are the sea lions going to take
12 over up here?

13
14 Everything seems to be moving further
15 up with the ocean being so -- there's a lot of water
16 and all the animals seem to be moving up. There was a
17 concern about the sea lions and see what they're going
18 to do. That's not the first time they've seen a sea
19 lion up here.

20
21 There was a report -- somebody
22 mentioned -- one of the elders mentioned that a sea
23 lion was taken a long time ago and I don't even
24 remember when that was. When people went to go get the
25 sea lion they thought they could eat it, but it turned
26 out it was still in the rut. When it first came out
27 there was people concerned that animal was actually
28 sick and they wanted to go kill it or get it out of
29 misery, but turned out, according to Kay Sheffield,
30 that animal had just gotten out of the rookery and
31 that's why it was all scarred up and all beat up.

32
33 I guess when they go into the rookery,
34 the bulls they don't eat anything until they get out of
35 the rookery and that's why it was in such bad shape.
36 There was just some concerns about the seal lion that
37 came up here. You know, something to watch. Maybe a
38 lot more animals are going to do that.

39
40 Another big thing that kind of scares
41 me is the big die-off of all the birds down in Bristol
42 Bay. The big bird die-off down there. To me that's a
43 real concern. Sooner or later maybe it's going to hit
44 our area. Maybe we get more ice free. Even people
45 down in Savoonga whaling they were ice free all year
46 and I felt so sorry for those people there. They don't
47 have any ice to do even their spring hunts.

48
49 So that's some of the changes that are
50

1 happening that we should take precaution of. That's
2 the only two I can think of right now. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Joe, I had a question
5 for you. I think those are important things to
6 document. I saw some of the photographs. I didn't go
7 and see the sea lion myself, but it's pretty impressive
8 to see something like that and the change where it's
9 trying to locate itself. It's kind of unusual for us
10 to see something like that.

11
12 The other thing I wanted to mention,
13 you had made some time with me and discussed on your
14 caribou hunt with some other guys you had seen these
15 very abnormal tracks and I think it's important because
16 other people have expressed the same thing now. I
17 thought maybe you could be able to talk a little bit
18 about that. I thought it was very interesting. I
19 don't know what it was, but it's only up to speculation
20 at this point. It's a hunter report though.

21
22 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. I'll just talk
23 about it briefly. We were out maybe 10 days ago we
24 were out on the rivers. When we were still on the
25 berries, we decided to go check on some berries that
26 were walking distance away and we actually saw a
27 footprint that's about 16 inches long and the thing had
28 three toes and its got a heel and I tried to make it
29 look -- it just did two steps on the mud. I tried to
30 look at it and see how the caribou could make that and
31 there was no way the caribou could make that track. We
32 don't know what it was, but something is roaming around
33 out there. And one track I would have not thought
34 anything about it, but there was two tracks. And the
35 stride -- there was one animal and the stride for
36 whatever it was walking around was three regular
37 footsteps away. So you've got a left foot and a right
38 foot and then the mud -- there's no more mud after
39 that. We did take a picture of it. There's a picture
40 going around Barrow. It turns out that there's a lot
41 of stories that people never tell. You know, there are
42 stories out there that people have seen something out
43 there. I don't know what it was, but it's got three
44 toes. Being a wolf hunter, you know, I used to be a
45 wolf hunter and I used to track wolves even in the
46 blowing snow. When I'm tracking wolves, I would know
47 one shot that I'm getting close to the animals even on
48 a little bit of blowing snow. I start seeing the claws
49 on the wolf footprint and I know I'm getting closer.

50

1 So when I saw the footprint, when I could see the three
2 toe prints in the front, I thought they were fairly
3 fresh tracks. I don't know what it was. People want to
4 call it whatever they want. I haven't given it a name
5 yet, so whatever it is it's out there walking around.
6 It turns out that people up here have seen something or
7 seen the tracks. There's a lot of stories going around
8 now that people have seen something out there. I don't
9 know what it is, but it's out there roaming around.

10

11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It doesn't look like
12 a bear track to me.

13

14 MR. LEAVITT: No, no, no. It's not a
15 bear track. It's got no claws. It's got three toes in
16 the front and the heel looks like a human heel. You
17 know how your heel tapers back towards the end. Right
18 there I could tell that's a heel and that animal looked
19 like it was walking upright with that one stride, three
20 human steps away. So that was something we saw this
21 summer and it was actually photographed by -- one of
22 the kids brought a Smartphone so they could play their
23 game, but turns out he was smart enough to bring a
24 camera.

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Aarigaa. Quyanag,
27 Joe. I thought it was worth a mention amongst the
28 other stuff like the sea lion and things like that.
29 Aarigaa.

30

31 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. Thank you. Good
32 morning.

33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other public and
35 tribal comments since we're on that, on non-agenda
36 items. And it will be available each morning, tomorrow
37 as well. So we heard from Native Village of Barrow
38 wildlife director Joe Leavitt.

39

40 Also I'd just like to welcome Charlie
41 Maasak Brower. He's one of the members on the Federal
42 Subsistence Board. I'm glad he's able to join us this
43 morning and he's welcome to provide any non-agenda
44 comments as tribal or from the public before we move
45 on.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other public and

50

1 tribal comments that are non-agenda related.

2

3 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair, if I could.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead there,
6 Kunniag.

7

8 MR. NEAKOK: Good morning. Again, non-
9 agenda items. The last couple with all the geese that
10 have come up every fall I've noticed a golden eagle
11 following them and hunting them as well in the Barrow
12 area. I've seen it last year. I've seen it early this
13 spring and we'll probably see it again this fall, a
14 golden eagle.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Fredrick.
19 I'm going to move down to item 9, old business.

20

21 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Could we have
22 a brief break?

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a request for
25 a quick break. Do you want to take five, ten minutes?
26 Which one? Ten minutes?

27

28 MS. HUGO: Ten minutes.

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay, 10 minute
31 break.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We're back from our
38 break. On to item 9, old business. Under old
39 business, review of FY2017 annual report reply from the
40 Federal Subsistence Board supplemental. Eva, if you
41 could elaborate a little bit.

42

43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
44 This report reply from the Board was supplemental
45 because they just met for their summer work session in
46 August and approved the reply. So this is in reply to
47 the Council's 2017 annual report. It is here on your
48 desk in front of you, this big packet, some enclosures
49 providing information that the Council had requested.

50

1 If you'll recall, in the Council's
2 report from last year there were a number of topics of
3 concern and interest. The reply is quite lengthy and
4 detailed, so it would be nice to just briefly review
5 today and if the Council has an opportunity, since
6 you're just getting this now, it's also been emailed to
7 the folks who have email and a hard copy in the mail.

8
9 So for the folks that are on
10 teleconference with us you do have a hard copy coming
11 to you in the mail. If you have email, that should be
12 there for you as well. We can briefly review it today
13 and if the Council has an opportunity to review it this
14 evening, we can discuss any further feedback or
15 questions that you have.

16
17 Again, the primary topics were Unit 23
18 working group, questions about that and deflection of
19 caribou and user conflicts. Role of the Regional
20 Advisory Council in making recommendations to the
21 Board. Understanding customary and traditional hunting
22 practices, community harvest and potential effects of
23 registration permit requirement. The Anaktuvuk Pass
24 caribou, interest in research and preventing deflection
25 of the caribou and user conflicts. And documentation
26 in recognition of the shifts that occur within
27 subsistence resources. As well as concerns about the
28 Umiat military waste site and contaminants on the
29 Colville River. Loss of sea ice in the Beaufort and
30 Chukchi Sea and importance to subsistence.

31
32 So some of these issues are topics that
33 the Federal Subsistence Board can address directly and
34 others are outside of their realm of authority, but the
35 program and the Board works to get information to the
36 Council and relay issues of concern to other agencies.
37 There's a number of enclosures that provide more
38 detailed information in terms of the Secretarial review
39 process and also updates on the Umiat weigh site.

40
41 Again, since the Council is just
42 getting this now, as the Council wishes, if you want to
43 have time to review it, we can come back tomorrow and
44 discuss any further points or questions that you have
45 for the Board in the reply. It is quite detailed and a
46 fair amount of information there.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
49 Looking at the reply it's a pretty extensive reply. I

50

1 see a lot of the stuff that we had concerns on I think
2 it might take some time to digest that. Maybe we can
3 bring that up maybe tomorrow to comment more
4 extensively on it if we wanted to, but I think that
5 brief overview provides some information as to the
6 reply.

7
8 I'm glad that the reply is there. I
9 see some of our topics of concern. We take about six
10 months or greater sometimes to get back and we've got
11 to try to refresh and have pretty good recall of what
12 we expressed that time and sometimes you've you've got
13 to fish it out what we've actually expressed and wanted
14 to know more about.

15
16 Any more questions to Eva on the reply
17 from the Federal Subsistence Board in the supplemental.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
20 Just to point out too, the format is we include in the
21 italics the Council member's report. So for each
22 section the italic section is what you had submitted to
23 the Board in terms of your request and then the Board's
24 response follows. So I know these are long processes.
25 We start on kind of a year-long cycle. So that will
26 help refresh Council members in terms of your specifics
27 of the request to the Board and then the Board's reply.

28
29
30 Again, because the reply is quite
31 detailed and you're just getting this today since they
32 just finalized this report, we can have further
33 discussion tomorrow for any questions and additional
34 input that the Council would like to provide.

35
36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Any other
37 discussions on old business.

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Let's
42 go down to Item 10, new business.

43
44 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. This is
45 Steve.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.

48
49 MR. OOMITTUK: I overlooked -- I know I
50

1 wasn't there for the last meeting. I know we discussed
2 in the past, you know, this is old business, but
3 formation of a North Slope Borough RAC wildlife working
4 group. I know that the Council made a motion
5 unanimously to form it so that we can work with
6 particular Councils and have dialogue with the RAC
7 regions in the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
8 so we could better understand each other's regions and
9 discuss conservation measures across the range of the
10 herd.

11

12 Is there any update on that? Eva, can
13 you have the formation of the North Slope Borough RAC
14 wildlife working group that was passed unanimously by
15 this Council?

16

17 MS. PATTON: Yes. Thank you, Steve,
18 and Mr. Chair and Council members. Thank you for
19 bringing that up, Steve. Absolutely correct. This
20 Council had voted to form a working group, which means
21 the Council can meet informally off the record in
22 between meetings to work on issues of interest to the
23 Council and develop some strategies and bring that back
24 to the Council for approval at the following meeting.

25

26 So this Council and other Councils
27 within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
28 were all very interested to have the opportunity to
29 talk with each other in terms of strategizing on
30 conservation approaches throughout the range of the
31 Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

32

33 This winter meeting, so most Councils
34 will be meeting February/March of 2019, so starting
35 this fall and through the winter meeting will be the
36 call for Federal subsistence wildlife regulatory
37 proposals. We're on an every year cycle. We're going
38 to be addressing fisheries at this fall meeting and
39 then the call for wildlife proposals will be initiated
40 again later this fall and Councils will again be making
41 recommendations.

42

43 Most likely we are because most of the
44 Councils are going to be meeting later this fall, we've
45 been trying to figure out good times for all four
46 Councils within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou
47 Herd to meet by teleconference and discuss some of what
48 you're seeing. Kind of ideas and recommendations for
49 either regulatory proposal changes, strategies to work

50

1 together throughout the other regions.

2

3

4 So we haven't held a teleconference
5 yet. Likely this fall would be the best opportunity.
6 I know folks have been out busy with subsistence all
7 summer long. What might be helpful is if you all have
8 an idea of when might be good timing for you in your
9 region and then we'll strategize with the other three
10 Council working groups as well to try to come up with a
11 date that would work for everybody for that first
12 working group teleconference meeting.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think, Steve, you
bring out some good points in refreshing us. I had
forgotten about that myself. In developing the working
group, does that mean that the entire Councils would be
the working group and that working group becomes a
number of probably 50 people or 40 people? If we're
going to approach it that way or is it how we do the
subsistence resource group where we elect members of
the Councils to be on that group to discuss the issues
that we're seeing before any regulatory response or
proposals are proposed so that they have a better keen
understanding of each other so when a proposal comes
out that we're pretty much maybe on the same page or
something?

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
Yeah, I think the idea that most of the Councils had
was it would be an opportunity to share between regions
because often the Council meetings are offset and so
it's not possible for one Council to participate in
another Council's meeting. We're wanting to have that
opportunity to just have communications across the
regions that are all working to try to address the
Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

So some Councils had specific Council
members that were essentially interested and nominated
to serve in that capacity, so in most cases it wasn't
the entire Council, but if there's interest and the
entire Council wants to participate, there's not any
hard and fast rule. So it's flexible.

I can't remember the total number of
folks on the other Councils that were interested in
participating. If you'd like to revisit that and see
each Council member's availability and interest we
could kind of just reset that at this point so that we

1 know who's interested and might be available a little
2 later this fall to talk with the other Council groups.

3

4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva, on
5 that. I think it might be -- you kind of caught me off
6 guard on that one. Does anybody have an opinion on
7 what Eva is talking about in trying to get a working
8 group from the North Slope with other Council members
9 within the range of the Western Arctic Herd just to
10 talk about the issues?

11

12

(No comments)

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. We know
it's there.

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. Just to let
you know I am on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
Working Group for Point Hope and we have a meeting
coming up on December 12 and 13, I think. It meets
annually, once a year, which all the regions from the
whole state get together.

23

24

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
don't know if we're talking about that working group or
an alternative.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
Correct. They are two different things. Steve is
right. He serves on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
Working Group. What we're talking about here is just
an informal working group of the Regional Advisory
Councils as an opportunity to share information between
the Councils.

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

As many of you remember, there was a
lot of effort across each region and Council to come up
with some regulatory recommendations that would help
with the conservation efforts. So I think the idea was
that if everybody is trying to work towards something
similar, if there was an opportunity in advance of
submitting regulatory proposals, to come up with
strategies that might work across all the Council
regions. So this would be specific to just the
Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council process.

47

48

49

50

Steve is correct, he serves on the
Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. Wanda, I
believe, are you still an alternate? Uh-huh. Wanda

1 has been called in to participate in the working group
2 meetings as well. Esther, are you still an alternate
3 on the.....
4

5 MS. KIPPI: Uh-huh (affirmative).
6

7 MS. PATTON: So we have several Council
8 members that participate in the long-standing formal
9 caribou working group. What we're talking about is just
10 an informal opportunity for the Councils.
11

12 What would be helpful is if Council
13 members here have an interest in our informal RAC
14 working group to share information and strategies with
15 the other RAC representatives as well if you're
16 interested in that. It would be by teleconference.
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think just a matter
19 of polling and setting a date. It's a lot of
20 coordination. Is it Seward Pen area?
21

22 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
23 Correct. Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic and
24 Western Interior Regional Advisory Council are all also
25 within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and
26 had participated in making regulatory recommendations
27 for that herd.
28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Yeah, I
30 think a matter of polling and I think we could easily
31 accomplish that by emails and things like that.
32

33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
34 would be helpful just to have -- if you want to just
35 say, yeah, I'd be interested, that would be helpful for
36 me to know and just a general timeframe when things are
37 less crazy busy for folks.
38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would be available
40 and I'm interested probably around October 15 or 20.
41 Give us time to do some of our subsistence activities.
42

43 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair, if I could.
44

45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, go ahead,
46 Fredrick.
47

48 MR. NEAKOK: The group that Steve and
49 the other members are on, if I could, Mr. Oliver
50

1 Peetook is a part of that group and he represents the
2 Barrow and the Wainwright area. Thank you.

3

4 MS. KIPPI: So do I. I'm the alternate
5 for him.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So are we
8 on to -- ready to go onto new business?

9

10 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Eva, this is
11 Rosemary. I'd also like to be on the working group.
12 Thank you.

13

14 MS. PATTON: Great. Thank you,
15 Rosemary.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. All
18 right. Are we ready for Item 10?

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: I would too, thank you.

21

22 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Steve.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Item 10, new
25 business. Item (a) is Fisheries Resource Monitoring
26 Program priority information needs. That sounds like it
27 would be Karen and Josh. You guys got the floor.

28

29 MS. HYER: Mr. Chair and Council
30 members. I have an update on our fisheries regulatory
31 cycle and then I have an update on our 2018 Fisheries
32 Resource Monitoring Program and then we're going to
33 continue on with our 2020 priority information needs.

34

35 We're in the middle of our fisheries
36 regulatory cycle and there are no proposals for the
37 North Slope, so that's a pretty easy bullet point here.
38 I just wanted to let you know that at the January 2019
39 meeting the Board will be discussing the proposals that
40 have been submitted to OSM. That's just an update.

41

42 The next thing is in May we finalized
43 our 2018 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan. We use
44 the term plan to talk about the whole group of projects
45 as they come together and as they're funded. There
46 were three projects that were funded in this region.
47 The first one that was funded that's directly in the
48 North Slope's area is a study of arctic grayling on the
49 Colville River as it relates to the Nuiqsut subsistence

50

1 fishery.

2

3

4 That was an issue that Rosemary brought
5 up some time ago and the Council has discussed at
6 length. That project is due to go into the water next
7 summer, but they're still working on connecting with
8 the villages and the local people. There was no data
9 collection this summer. The first possible data
10 collection will be next summer.

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

The next thing that was funded was a genetic diversity of Dolly Varden on the Kobuk River and they actually did go to the Kobuk this year and collect samples. They're working on developing a baseline for the western Dolly Varden stocks and they've started the data analysis, so we'll have more to report with that later.

Then the other one that was funded for this region was down in the Seward Peninsula. Unalakleet River chinook salmon assessment/escapement. That's been an ongoing project down there and they are continuing to collect information with the hope of developing some escapement goals for that river. That's been funded for the next four years.

The funding for these projects started in 2018 and the first possible field season for them was this summer and they will continue for four years. The Kobuk River project was only one year sample project, so that one will be wrapped up.

Before we start talking about 2020 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, I just kind of want to go over the whole process because I know we have some new Council members. I just want to remind everybody that in 2020 we will request proposals for research and monitoring projects. That request will come out in January, early next year.

Those requests will be driven by what we develop today for this region, the priority information needs. Those needs inform investigators about what we consider the important projects and data gaps. So that's what we're going to work on today.

The NOFO, notice of funding opportunity, that will go out, proposals will be submitted and we have no control over the proposals

1 that are submitted. Those come from investigators. So
2 we might have a really important issue, but no proposal
3 will come in for that issue. So that's sometimes why
4 priority information needs will stay on the list for a
5 long period of time because we simply don't get good
6 quality proposals.

7
8 So the proposals will come in and then
9 they're reviewed by our Technical Review Committee and
10 that committee reviews the proposals for their
11 technical merit and they judge the proposals on that.
12 They're the only body that sees the full proposal.
13 Once they've evaluated the proposals on their technical
14 and scientific merit, they come back out for comment by
15 the Regional Advisory Councils and then the Interagency
16 Staff Committee.

17
18 The Technical Review Committee, the
19 Regional Advisory Councils and the Interagency Staff
20 Committee is evaluated by the Board and the Board is
21 the one that makes the final recommendation for
22 funding. OSM is the final decision based on budgets
23 and they're the ones that approve it because it comes
24 out of OSM's budget.

25
26 So that's the general process and it's
27 a very long process and it takes about two years and
28 that's why we just finished one round and we're about
29 ready to start another round.

30
31 So we're going to talk about the
32 priority information needs for this region and this
33 region has a working group that met and discussed some
34 of the issues that they thought were relevant. In
35 addition to that, we contacted fisheries managers and
36 land managers in the area and asked them for their
37 input. So we have a couple working documents and Josh
38 and I are going to work together and work through these
39 with you.

40
41 I just wanted to point out you have
42 this document right here that starts out with the North
43 Slope priority information needs and then you have
44 another document, the draft priority information needs,
45 and then you have a third, a map. So if you can bring
46 those out of your pile, those are what we're going to
47 be working with.

48
49 MS. DAMBERG: Hello, this is Carol

50

1 Damberg out in Anchorage. I was curious, are those
2 documents available on the website?

3

4 MS. HYER: No, Carol, they're not
5 because they're draft documents that we're just using
6 as the launching point from our working group
7 discussion. So they're just for purposes of starting
8 the discussion. They're not formal documents.

9

10 MS. DAMBERG: Okay. Thank you.

11

12 MS. HYER: So this first document here
13 has a list of what has actually been funded in the
14 region historically and that is actually, Carol, on our
15 website. But those are just the projects that are
16 funded currently or have been funded in the past. This
17 is only the North Slope area. You'll see the last one
18 is the 18.100. That was funded during the 2018 cycle.

19

20 This map here is two-sided. The first
21 side is just the past projects, so it gives you a
22 little bit of a spatial idea about where projects have
23 been funded. So you can see where the areas of
24 concentration were and kind of where the gap areas are.
25 The other side is the recent projects that are ongoing.

26

27 So some projects have come to a close
28 and then some projects were either funded in 2016 so
29 those are ongoing. In addition, it would be the new
30 2018 project. This is just to kind of provide you with
31 a spatial idea of where we've been working and where
32 we've done our research.

33

34 If you look here at this document that
35 says draft priority information needs, this is where
36 we're going to start the discussion. These are what
37 the working group has identified as kind of a starting
38 point. I'm going to go ahead and go through this list
39 very quickly and then we can go back and talk about
40 them one at a time.

41

42 As I said before, this list is what
43 will drive the investigators. One thing to consider is
44 how much you want on the list and what is -- I know
45 these are all important, but what is more timely. If
46 there are things here that are important that maybe
47 aren't very timely, you might want to remove them from
48 the list so you produce a list that really does focus
49 the investigators or if you consider them all of equal

50

1 importance, then you could consider leaving them all
2 on.

3
4 I just want to reiterate when we put
5 this list out, we can't guarantee who is going to
6 develop a project for it. So the longer the list, the
7 investigators have more opportunity of things to choose
8 from. So it could be there's something that's highly
9 timely that they may not choose because the list is so
10 long and they may choose something else.

11
12 So I'll go ahead and read through these
13 and then we can start our discussion. The first one is
14 changes in fish species composition, abundance and
15 harvest patterns in Point Hope, Alaska.

16
17 The second one is document the nature
18 and the frequency of unusual and concerning
19 environmental phenomenon concerning fisheries such as
20 Saprolegnia fungus on broad whitefish in the Colville
21 River drainage.

22
23 The third one is understanding fishery
24 accessibility in Anaktuvuk Pass. Includes distance to
25 fisheries resources, climate consideration, regulatory
26 changes and available knowledge and access to a variety
27 of gear types.

28
29 The fourth one is description of
30 temporal changes in subsistence harvest patterns and
31 resource availability of broad whitefish in Lake --
32 Gordon, would you pronounce that for me.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tusikvoak.

35
36 MS. HYER: Thank you. The next one is
37 identify major spawning locations of broad whitefish
38 and humpback whitefish in the central and western North
39 Slope.

40
41 The next one is determine the age and
42 structure and primary ages at first migration to sea of
43 mature Dolly Varden in the eastern North Slope Rivers.

44
45 The last one is develop a long-term,
46 cost-effective approach to evaluate sustainability of
47 subsistence harvest of lake trout in the Lakes Schrader
48 and Peters.

49
50

1 So this is a draft list to just start
2 the discussion. I would defer to the Chairman and the
3 Council. If you want to go one by one or you just want
4 to open the floor or if you want to ask us questions or
5 how you want to proceed.
6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. Thank
8 you, Karen. I think some of those lists I do recall
9 them and we talked about them one time or another. I'm
10 going to defer to the Council. If they just want to
11 pull something out that strikes them. It's an
12 important thing now, right, as to prioritize in what
13 order? I don't know if we need to put it in order what
14 important fisheries studies that we should promote from
15 the Council level. If I'm mistaken, let me know.
16

17 Josh.
18

19 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
20 the record, this is Joshua Ream. I just have a few
21 points that I wanted to make sure that you keep in
22 mind. Karen already mentioned them. One is the
23 priority. So we're not really ranking these, but we do
24 want to limit the list to those that are most important
25 to make sure that we get applications that address
26 those needs specifically.
27

28 If you look at your maps, you'll see a
29 small map of Alaska down in the corner. The black line
30 in the north represents the northern region for the
31 purposes of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.
32 So your priorities that you develop here will be
33 combined with the priorities that are established for
34 the Northwest Arctic Council as well as the Seward
35 Peninsula Council. So there will be quite a few once
36 they get combined with those. So that's another reason
37 that you want to tailor exactly what you want to see
38 done.
39

40 That doesn't mean that anything you
41 remove from the list or come up with now isn't
42 important. It can be addressed in the future perhaps
43 or by another funding mechanism maybe. It could also
44 go into your annual report as a concern that you have.
45 So those are things to keep in mind.
46

47 When you look at these maps as well,
48 you'll notice the blue crosshatching and that
49 represents Federal public lands. So I would just keep
50

1 in mind that there needs to be a nexus to Federal
2 public lands where these research projects take place.

3
4 There's also a few topics that aren't
5 funded through the FRMP program. Those include habitat
6 protection, mitigation, restoration and enhancement,
7 hatchery propagation, restoration, enhancement and
8 supplementation and contaminant assessment, evaluation
9 and monitoring. So perhaps more than a few. We can
10 work through those with you.

11
12 We always hope that when these topics
13 are important that our researchers can find partners
14 that do study those types of things and can do this
15 type of work together so they do address issues that
16 are outside of the purview of the Fisheries Resource
17 Monitoring Program.

18
19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Josh, I've got a
20 question already. Looking at the little Alaska map
21 that goes Seward Pen, Northwest Arctic and the North
22 Slope. So when we prioritize just the ones we feel are
23 the most important to the Slope among the many other
24 topics there or even new ones and we rank them, they're
25 still going to compete with the Seward Pen's
26 priorities, the Northwest Arctic priorities and so we
27 should be real frugal as to which ones are very
28 important or even combining some.

29
30 I could imagine the Colville River fish
31 mold Saprolegnia issues and combining the issues around
32 the other whitefish issues, like at Tusikvouk, that
33 fishermen have said the catch rates have drastically
34 declined in the Tusikvouk Lake and what's wrong with
35 that fish over there, but they're the same species. It
36 seems to me that it might be an opportunity to put
37 things together so that they rank higher. I'm not sure
38 if that makes sense or anything.

39
40 Also some of the concerns about why the
41 Ikpikpuk River fish don't have the mold and why the
42 Colville River fish have the mold or it's subsiding.
43 Maybe it's a habitat study. The changes in the
44 Colville seems to me there's a real big broad whitefish
45 spawning area in the Ikpikpuk River area that is not
46 having the same issues maybe. Evaluating that habitat
47 against what's going on in the Colville would become
48 part of that study. I don't know. I'm trying to put 2
49 and 2 together and trying to rank some of these things.

50

1 On top of that, the recent finds in the
2 Colville River delta in the Smith Bay area leads me to
3 think we might develop these issues in the future if
4 the level of oil and gas infrastructure if there's some
5 connection to be made there, it would be the right time
6 to do that study before that type of infrastructure is
7 seen in a very productive whitefish area that has
8 currently no symptoms. Just thinking out of the box.
9

10 At the same time it's 12 noon. A lot
11 of us have like three dogs and a cat and stuff that
12 might be hungry that we need to go feed. Anyway,
13 what's the wish of the Council. Do you guys want to
14 take a lunch break?
15

16 MR. SHEARS: Could we just pause this
17 discussion on this subject and then come back to Karen
18 when we reconvene after lunch. Let me think about
19 this.
20

21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Karen.
22

23 MS. HYER: Can I just say something
24 really quick. I'm not against breaking for lunch, but
25 I want you to think about this at lunch. We can easily
26 combine things and I think that's a good idea and we
27 can put something general and then we can put
28 specifics, like for example, and we can list areas
29 you're concerned with.
30

31 One thing I do when people contact me
32 about this list is I refer them to the transcripts. I
33 think that is one of the best records of what this
34 Council wants. So if there are issues, please, when we
35 discuss them, make sure you bring them up so they're on
36 the record. So when people call me and they ask me
37 questions about this, I can say go back to the
38 transcript and start there and then contact these
39 people after that.
40

41 So when Gordon makes comments like he
42 just did, I find that very valuable to pass on to the
43 investigators because some of them will see it
44 generally and they'll call me and ask me for
45 information because Josh and I are sometimes the first
46 point of contact. But when we can capture your words
47 on the transcripts that's extremely valuable because
48 then I am not paraphrasing for you.
49

50

1 Anyway, I would encourage you as we
2 discuss this this afternoon if you have concerns,
3 please put them on the record because I point people to
4 it. That's all I had. You can think about that while
5 you feed your three cats and a dog. I'm sorry, that
6 was three dogs and a cat, right?

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That's correct, but
9 our cat acts like a dog.

10

11 (Laughter)

12

13 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. This is
14 Point Hope. I agree with Gordon, you know, and these
15 projects are -- you know, when we prioritize things and
16 there's things in the same area, we could combine them
17 at the same time. Everything is important to us. It's
18 in a different region for me, but I would agree with
19 whatever the people in that area decide what priorities
20 best fit their area.

21

22 I know we've still got another half day
23 until 5:00 and we've got tomorrow. Are we going to
24 break for lunch or was that a suggestion? We still
25 have a lot of topics to go through and they're very
26 important.

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: I agree for a lunch
31 break and come back at 1:00.

32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. I think
34 we're about ready to break for lunch. Josh, did you
35 want to address just before we go to lunch something?

36

37 MR. REAM: Yes, Mr. Chair. Just real
38 quickly. While you're thinking about these items over
39 lunch, think about balancing your specificity on the
40 projects. One of the problems that we see when we get
41 too specific is we don't end up having applicants for
42 those topics, but you want to be specific enough that
43 the work is being done in your region.

44

45 So if you just said life history of
46 Grayling, they might apply to do the work in the whole
47 northern region, it could be on the Seward Peninsula,
48 it could be in Northwest Arctic. So if you wanted it
49 near Point Hope or Point Lay, you might say western

50

1 portion of the North Slope. So just keep those things
2 in mind.

3

4

Thank you.

5

6

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Or productive issues
7 of broad whitefish in Tusikvoak Lake or something like
8 that. All right. We'll take a recess for lunch and
9 reconvene at 1:10. We're in recess.

10

11

(Off record)

12

13

(On record)

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
16 we should go ahead and reconvene. It's nearly 1:20.
17 I'm going to go ahead and call the meeting back to
18 order. It's 1:20 in the afternoon. We're going to
19 continue with the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program
20 priority information needs. One of the things we have
21 been tasked to do is to prioritize the draft priority
22 information needs. Take a look at that. If there's
23 anything new to add to that and we need to advise Karen
24 and Joshua what are priorities for Fisheries Resource
25 Monitoring should be for funding.

26

27

Is that pretty close to what we need to
28 do?

29

30

(No comments)

31

32

CHAIRMAN BROWER: So what's the wish of
33 the Council? We've got a draft priority information
34 needs. I'm just going to go down the bullets here.

35

36

Changes in fish species composition,
37 abundance and harvest patterns in Point Hope, Alaska.
38 See how we want to rank that. Another bullet is
39 document the nature and the frequency of unusual and
40 concerning environmental phenomenon concerning
41 fisheries such as Saprolegnia fungus on broad whitefish
42 in the Colville River drainage.

43

44

Another bullet understanding fishery
45 accessibility in Anaktuvuk Pass. Includes distance to
46 fisheries resources, climatic considerations,
47 regulatory changes and available knowledge and access
48 to a variety of gear types. That's one other bullet.

49

50

1 Another bullet is description of
2 temporal changes in subsistence harvest patterns and
3 resource availability of broad whitefish in Lake
4 Tusikvoak.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: Where is that?

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Tusikvoak?

9

10 MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

11

12 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's that lake right
13 next to Sungovoak. It's on Federal land. The concern
14 was raised over a period of several years that I've
15 heard, including myself, the catch rates have
16 drastically declined. The other concern that I've seen
17 over time is some fishermen have had nets stuck in the
18 ice that they couldn't take off and I don't know if
19 that's a continuing problem or even killing fish if
20 those nets were never recovered and I don't know how
21 many of those types have happened. I know we try to
22 take nets out when they get stuck in the ice as winter
23 sets in. That's one of those things at Tusikvoak Lake.

24

25 Another bullet is identify major
26 spawning locations of broad whitefish and humpback
27 whitefish in the central and western North Slope. I
28 think this was based on concerns about broad whitefish
29 is a major subsistence resource on the Slope. And to
30 identify other areas such as Sagavanirktok. There's
31 some indications that Sagavanirktok River is a major
32 spawning area for broad whitefish and where the origins
33 of those fish are, whether they're connected to other
34 fisheries that have broad whitefish.

35

36 So being that some of the broad
37 whitefish areas are in distress, that this would be a
38 way to identify continued subsistence uses. There's
39 some subsistence history about the use of Sagavanirktok
40 before the oil industry took over that area and made it
41 into an industrial river. I like to say that because
42 that is one of the most industrialized rivers on the
43 Slope is Sagavanirktok.

44

45 Another bullet is.....

46

47 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair, I have a
48 question.

49

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Sure. Go ahead
2 there, Steve.

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, I'm just
5 wondering, you know, I know the Borough has been doing
6 some studies especially with the fish in different
7 areas. Craig George with Wildlife, North Slope
8 Borough, was just up here last month. I was just told
9 there was like 15 different species in our lagoon. I
10 don't know if these agencies that are doing some of
11 these studies are working with the Borough so that they
12 don't overlap.

13
14 The Borough is also doing studies on
15 what kind of species are in that area. Are these
16 agencies working -- or Fish and Game working with the
17 Borough to see what -- you know, because you're asking
18 us to prioritize these programs and some might already
19 be ongoing or already being studied by the Borough. I
20 don't know how closely they're working with the
21 Borough.

22
23 I know they're going to the North Slope
24 Borough Advisory Council, but have they worked --
25 because I know North Slope Borough people are in the
26 audience, Wildlife. I don't know if they can elaborate
27 on what's going on on the Slope already with different
28 species in the area.

29
30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
31 don't know if Craig George is on or Robert or Brian,
32 but maybe Karen or Josh you can elaborate a little bit
33 whether or not this prioritizing for us, what are the
34 concerns from the RAC for one thing, and if there are
35 other ongoing studies.

36
37 Because a study is born and the ability
38 to create synergies with somebody that's already doing
39 something in that neighborhood so that there is no
40 duplication of effort and that there is -- maybe it
41 promotes collaboration and additional information that
42 may have been garnered by other agencies like the
43 Borough. Maybe that is part of the concern here is the
44 overlap and what our prioritizing would do here.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
49 members. When we put out the notice of funding

50

1 opportunity, that is our call. We say we have money
2 and we want proposals, we state very specifically in
3 there that we don't fund proposals that overlap. So if
4 the work is being done by somebody else, then it needs
5 to be finished by somebody else.

6
7 We do though create an opportunity for
8 people to partner with each other and those are some of
9 our strongest proposals when they either comment as a
10 partnership or they say we're doing this component and
11 they're doing that component and this is how the
12 information with dovetail in the end.

13
14 So we don't encourage overlap, but we
15 do encourage partnerships and that opportunity is out
16 there and we do have investigators who will bring money
17 from outside resources and will make their projects
18 much stronger. So I wanted to point that out.

19
20 The other thing I wanted to point out
21 as you go through that is there are two types of
22 resource projects we do fund. One is called harvest
23 monitoring and traditional ecological knowledge and
24 that is the one that addresses traditional ecological
25 knowledge, subsistence fisheries including quantitative
26 and qualitative harvests and description of assessments
27 and use patterns and things like that.

28
29 Then in addition we have our stock
30 status and trends, which is more enumeration type
31 projects. So often one organization might do one part,
32 like do the harvest monitoring, the TMK, and somebody
33 else might do the stock status and trends and they'll
34 dovetail those kinds of projects together too and
35 they're often very competitive because they are able to
36 cover a wider scope in the research.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I hope that helps,
39 Steve. I think trying to prioritize or bring to light
40 studies that might be important to each region is
41 important though.

42
43 MR. OOMITTUK: You know, we're such a
44 wide area from the east coast to the west coast and
45 prioritizing what is more important, we feel that
46 everything is important. We all want to prioritize
47 what's in our area, but what is the most urgency. How
48 should we prioritize these things when the people on
49 the
50

1 east side of the Borough, you know, it's important for
2 them too to find out what's going on and also on the
3 west side.

4
5 It's hard to prioritize when -- you
6 know, yeah, we want to see these projects filled, but I
7 live way over on the west side and I feel everything is
8 important here too. I know that people on the east
9 side it's a priority. Putting this in front of us and
10 we all feel it's all important and we want these
11 projects to go forward and the funds are there. What
12 is the most urgency of these projects that are coming
13 before us?

14
15 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
16 think it's important to -- let's try and do an example.
17 Wanting to know what the migration habits are of a
18 certain species versus a perceived threat to a major
19 subsistence resource, a noticeable decline in
20 harvesting a major subsistence resource, I think that
21 would rank a little bit higher than wanting to know
22 where they're going to spawn.

23
24 If you look at trying to rank some of
25 these things if there are noticeable either distresses
26 or sicknesses that are appearing in a major resource,
27 that it might be localized but it's also consumed
28 widely and traded widely, it might be an important
29 thing for all of the communities because it's traded
30 widely and shared widely.

31
32 So that's, to me, I think some little
33 bit of insight as to my own opinion that I would try to
34 rank what might be something that we want to compete
35 with Seward Peninsula, Northwest Arctic and the North
36 Slope to try to give it more weight in a myriad of
37 other requests for Fisheries Resource Monitoring.

38
39 I hope that helps.

40
41 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, thank you. I would
42 go along with that.

43
44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
45 there was one last bullet I wanted to make sure we're
46 looking at the same sheet of paper. Determine the age,
47 structure and primary ages at first migration to sea of
48 mature Dolly Varden in the eastern North Slope Rivers.

49
50

1 The last bullet is develop a long-term,
2 cost-effective approach to evaluate sustainability of
3 subsistence harvest of lake trout in the Lakes Schrader
4 and Peters.

5
6 Anyway, I think those are some of the
7 things on top of -- additional ideas and concerns that
8 may surface that we may not even know of. Maybe
9 there's something extraordinary that some communities
10 have expressed a big need that needs to be immediately
11 heard for Fisheries Resource Monitoring.

12
13 Also the ability for us to strengthen
14 one of the proposals by maybe combining two of maybe --
15 because it's in the same species category and it has a
16 concern in several areas on the Slope and it ranks high
17 because it's a widely distributed subsistence resource
18 either through trading and harvesting.

19
20 So I kind of think in my opinion that
21 we should do something about broad whitefish. There's
22 mold issues, there's drastic declines in other lakes
23 that are being reported by subsistence users and then
24 the industrial development that we might see in the
25 future in a known area of major subsistence broad
26 whitefish spawning areas in the Ikpikpuk.

27
28 While there is no infrastructure it
29 might be a case study in itself because that would just
30 about set the baseline of information where there is no
31 current known problems to exist for the spawning area
32 and we don't see the fish mold in that area currently.
33 It might be a great baseline information gathering to
34 study for future impacts.

35
36 So those are the three I thought we
37 could think about and maybe put those three together as
38 a concern warranting -- meriting more attention and
39 ranking with the other three areas to compete for
40 money.

41
42 Anyway, I would like to see what the
43 Council wants to do and provide feedback to the
44 fisheries monitoring folks. Council.

45
46 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears. Go
49 ahead, Wainwright.

50

1 MR. SHEARS: Joshua, Karen, good
2 afternoon. As always, one of my favorite subjects with
3 you. It's so good to have you here before us today on
4 this subject.

5
6 How can I explain my concern concisely.
7 Probably not. I'm going to have to provide some depth
8 of explanation to share my concern about the fishery of
9 the Inaru River. The Inaru hasn't seen a lot of
10 subsistence fishing in recent years. Wanda perhaps you
11 could confirm with me, but back in the '50s and the
12 '60s before people were really becoming habitated in
13 the community in Barrow, you'll see that there were a
14 lot of subsistence camps on the Inaru River.

15
16 The Inaru River is a great place where
17 you can thrive if you can go in there by dog team
18 before breakup and raise your family there until after
19 freeze-up. It provides waterfowl in the spring, fish
20 in the summer and caribou in the fall and you can come
21 back to Barrow a rich family and spend the winter here
22 bringing your food in. But it's very difficult to
23 access in the summer even today.

24
25 One of the key features about the Inaru
26 is its broad whitefish population in the summertime
27 about early August. Now it doesn't help if you can get
28 12 gunnysacks full of whitefish in early August if
29 they're going to rot on you before you can get them
30 home, so nobody fishes it.

31
32 My concern relates to my recent travels
33 to Point Lay. I've been flying from Barrow to Point
34 Lay and back quite often now. It's a subject of my
35 work. That flight path takes you right over the
36 headwater lakes of the Inaru River. Like Tuvak and
37 Itinik are deep water lakes identified in NPR-A
38 environmental impact assessment studies as being
39 potential sources for ice roads. Those are real big
40 lakes. They're huge. They have a large surface area
41 that oxygenates that water to its deep depths, which
42 allows an overwinter population of fish to stay there.

43
44
45 I've fished it in the winter, both
46 lakes, with jig without success. People had told me
47 that the people who fish those lakes in the winter
48 typically do it with ice nets, but I've never had the
49 opportunity to stay out there and reside on those nets

1 in the winter and monitor nets, so I don't understand
2 their population of fish.

3
4 There was a well-studied fishery there
5 a long time ago and I don't think any of us have really
6 given it any recent attention. My concern now is that
7 when I'm flying over these lakes I'm seeing what I'm
8 seeing typical on a lot of lakes of the North Slope is
9 that with greater permafrost thawing depths the
10 drainages from these lakes are getting deeper and these
11 lakes are draining. I've seen a dramatic reduction in
12 surface area on Lake Itinik specifically.

13
14 I'm more concerned about Tuvak Lake,
15 which is a fairly high elevation lake and a very deep
16 lake with steep sides. It wouldn't really indicate a
17 surface -- you know, that it was getting shallower if
18 it was draining more until all of a sudden one day you
19 fly over it and it's empty, but it has the potential to
20 empty.

21
22 The fishery there, the concern there is
23 about the whitefish population, how well is it doing,
24 and that's more of a question mark more than it is a
25 concern. Nobody, not even us, have paid close
26 attention to it in recent decades and it's very close
27 to home. It may be indicative of a broader, more
28 systemic problem if there is a problem there. It
29 should be pretty easy to get in there by helicopter in
30 the summer and do a fishery population study and be
31 able to compare that against old baseline data from the
32 '40s and '50s when it was well studied.

33
34 So that's just an idea for a proposal.
35 I don't know if anybody here shares it with me, but
36 it's kind of on my mind and something that's been
37 eating at me lately.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. I
40 think that's some of the types of concerns that we've
41 kind of heard from local hunters about Tusikvouk Lake
42 because it does have some outlet and very small little
43 streams that come out of it. I can't speculate to try
44 to say what exactly the underlying cause of some of
45 these things are, but I do know the concerns come from
46 the subsistence users themselves. I would share that
47 concern about -- you know, because broad whitefish is a
48 widely consumed fish and it's been a source of trading
49 like Arctic cisco. Interesting.

50

1 Any other feedback.

2

3 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fredrick.

6

7 MR. NEAKOK: Good afternoon. Fredrick
8 Neakok. A little bit of a history. My grandparents
9 once.....

10

11 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This is
12 Rosemary.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have Fredrick
15 responding on something real quick, then we'll go to
16 somebody online that's requesting.

17

18 MR. NEAKOK: Good afternoon. A little
19 bit of a history lesson. Once the military came up
20 here they brought many track vehicles. My grandfather
21 was fortunate enough to have a large sled. In the
22 spring they would take many families up with their skin
23 boats, drop them off along the way out along the
24 Kuahroo, Kugaaruk, Topagoruk Rivers and those people
25 who stayed up all year round, they'd hunt, they'd fish
26 at their camps, a lot of these camps had ice cellars or
27 temporary ice cellars that they used to preserve their
28 catch throughout the summer. As they'd come back in
29 the fall for the kids to come back to school, they'd
30 come back with a boat load of goodies.

31

32 For an example we have a camp over
33 there at Sungovoak at the south end of the lake. We
34 used to be able to go by boat along the Kuahroo, the
35 Inaru, and make it all the way up to Sungovoak through
36 the Itkillik River and that river would feed our lake
37 with fish. But as long as the lake was ice covered the
38 fish would remain in the little creek until the lake
39 was free of ice.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Was that you,
44 Rosemary? You wanted to provide comment.

45

46 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. We've had some
47 good discussions here and prioritizing is important.
48 We've talked about the fish and it takes a number of
49 years to get the proposals if we ever get our questions

50

1 answered. Depending on others to respond to our
2 information needs can be difficult. Others want to do
3 many different things, but making sure that we find a
4 way to get some of our answers is very important.
5

6 The process for our fishing and
7 everything is continuing to be important and the
8 changes that we've had with these questions only
9 continue. The process of trying to understand what's
10 happening with these changes. We've had a tremendous
11 amount of concerns and changes.
12

13 We had a lot of discussion last year
14 during this process about fish that were stranded with
15 the rapid change in water levels and we had a lot of
16 people talk about the rapid change that we had this
17 year especially around the earthquakes and some of the
18 tributaries that were happening. We all talked about
19 the importance of how some of these lakes are eroding
20 and those migration patterns and the factors that are
21 affecting that.
22

23 We've brought in a lot of concern
24 around our freshwater lake source and the rapid erosion
25 that is happening on the Nigliq Channel for that
26 source. I'm trying to get some understanding because
27 of the reality that many of our other freshwater
28 sources have already been tapped by industry and
29 concerning for us to go back and consider reusing.
30

31 These issues are so very important to
32 us, but I also brought out a lot of concern about how
33 we are changing and some of our areas are not getting
34 the adequacy of our subsistence needs and whether or
35 not our people are getting the opportunity to replace
36 their nutrition needs of our subsistence sources with
37 other resources and whether or not any of these
38 resources that are being put out there as far as
39 mitigating measures or other factors within State and
40 Federal systems to help people with nutritional needs
41 are coming out to our communities.
42

43 Those kinds of things are really
44 important. If people aren't eating our traditional
45 foods, what are they eating? Are they eating? That's
46 an important question that we really need to look at as
47 we go through and we look at some of these important
48 subsistence changes.
49

50

1 For me, the broad whitefish is still a
2 very important issue, but I also understand the
3 importance of the studies that are being proposed on
4 the Point Hope side. And it is difficult to divide the
5 priorities of these issues and come up with what's
6 best. It takes decades to get this process. If we
7 work and get what we can with the Point Hope side and
8 hopes that we get something in the future on the west
9 side, on the east side. Those are things that we
10 really need to decide how we can get through this.

11

12 We've got a lot of change that's being
13 proposed between us and Barrow and us and the other
14 villages. We don't fully understand what we have. But
15 also if the studies are being done just to allow
16 projects to be developed, that's not a study that we
17 can go forward with some of these important issues that
18 we have because it's not looking at the importance of
19 sustaining our lives and future. Those kind of issues
20 are the divide and conquer process that is being put
21 forward with multiple administrations.

22

23 Thank you.

24

25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
26 I think that was pretty insightful. I wouldn't begin
27 to try to minimize any other concerns from any region
28 on the Slope.

29

30 With that, Atqasuk, Wanda.

31

32 MS. KIPPI: Thank you. Wanda Kippi
33 from Atqasuk. I just recently went to a meeting not
34 too long ago in Atqasuk and they're looking for rock,
35 gravel for our town, and they're looking at right where
36 we camp, our hunting grounds, right where we put our
37 net and ice fish. They're going to go look for rock
38 around there. If it's possible for enough rock -- if
39 they find enough rock, they're going to blast that area
40 and take the rock and bring it to town. That's if
41 there's enough rock there.

42

43 But it's going to change our fishing
44 lifestyle at our camping grounds if they approve of
45 that. That's through the North Slope Borough. The
46 North Slope Borough had approved for them to go do some
47 survey over there to see if there is enough rock for
48 our town. That's right at Ekalgruak, right where we
49 put our nets in where we ice fish.

50

1 I'm really concerned about that because
2 that's where we always go to our camp where we hunt and
3 fish, berry pick. It's going to be so much of a change
4 if they dig or blast that rock. It's going to change
5 the fish from coming and going or something. Something
6 with the fish. It's going to change it.

7
8 Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Wanda. I
11 think that's important things to note and take heed and
12 make sure that when those things are coming around to
13 make sure our voices and opinions are heard loud and
14 clear.

15
16 In categorizing, I've attempted to --
17 in between dialogue here, I've thought of putting
18 bullet No. 2, document the nature and the frequency of
19 unusual and concerning environmental phenomenon
20 concerning fisheries such as Saprolegnia fungus on
21 broad whitefish in the Colville River drainage, and
22 rank it with the fourth bullet down, description of
23 temporal changes in subsistence harvest patterns and
24 resource availability of broad whitefish in Lake
25 Tusikvoak, because they're about the same species.

26
27 I'm not too sure. Maybe we're seeing a
28 trend occurring about the stress of broad whitefish in
29 general in the region based on maybe some climatic
30 issues. I don't know. I'm just speculating at this
31 point. But I think trying to get those two together on
32 top of what we now fear that the Ikpikpuk River Delta
33 area at Smith Bay -- beings that they announced this
34 six billion barrel oil find will be a source of
35 contention for development in the same way as the
36 Colville Delta is experiencing development.

37
38 The Ikpikpuk River Delta has not seen
39 signs of stress yet. Because I fish there quite a bit.
40 I fish on the Ikpikpuk River and the fish are pretty
41 healthy in these areas and haven't seen the types of
42 concerns raised on the Colville River yet. I don't
43 know if there's an underlying factor. There's no
44 development on the Ikpikpuk right now. It seems to be
45 a good candidate for baseline information gathering.

46
47 I would like to suggest to the group
48 that we rank this sufficiently enough to compete for
49 funding with Seward Peninsula and Northwest Arctic's

1 proposals.

2

3

That's my suggestion.

4

5

6

MR. SHEARS: So move. Yeah, Mr. Chair,
I agree with you....

7

8

9

MR. OOMITTUK: Is that in the form of a
motion?

10

11

12

MR. SHEARS: So I support that.

13

14

15

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. I would say
that in the form of a motion as Tikigaq would like it.

16

17

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

18

19

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Esther.

20

21

MS. HUGO: Where is Ikpikpuk?

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ikpikpuk is from that
-- there's Teshekpuk Lake. Right next to it is Smith
Bay and then the next bay is Admiralty Bay. So
Ikpikpuk drains right near Teshekpuk and then goes up
that way. Also Y's to the Chipp River and the Chipp
River drains to the Admiralty Bay. They're just about
one and the same river. So it's a pretty wide
distribution pattern if you look at that perspective
because Ikpikpuk drains into Smith Bay and Admiralty
Bay.

33

34

35

MR. NEAKOK: Does anyone have a laser
pointer that we can use on the map?

36

37

38

MS. PATTON: We might have one back
here. I'll see.

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, if we had a
laser pointer, I would show you all of those
connections real easy. Ikpikpuk is a pretty -- you
know, it's a good-sized river. It's about 150 miles
total in air miles. It reaches just about on the banks
of the Knifeblade Ridge, which Knifeblade Ridge is
Colville River on the other side and Ikpikpuk on the
other side. Then just on the other side of Colville
River would be Killik River. They're all pretty much
right there in that central area.

1 MS. PATTON: It needs some batteries in
2 the laser pointer.

3
4 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, that's a
5 suggestion. Tikigaq asked if that was in the form of a
6 motion. Go ahead.

7
8 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, that's what I was
9 going to -- so moved, Mr. Chair.

10
11 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman. I have one
12 point of clarity and then we are going to need a motion
13 eventually for whatever the Council wants to do with
14 the priority information needs. I heard a couple
15 things and I just want to clarify because I heard
16 combine 1 and 2 at one point and then I also heard
17 bullet No. 2 and bullet No. 4 combined and I think
18 those can be very easily combined. I think that's a
19 great idea.

20
21 I also heard combining the bullet about
22 the spawning within there too because it has broad
23 whitefish. So I'm just asking for some clarity. Do
24 you want that combined also into the overall priority
25 information need?

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would yield to the
28 Council. Yeah, that bullet -- I forgot there's another
29 one. Identify major spawning locations of broad
30 whitefish and humpback whitefish in the central and
31 western North Slope. One of the concerns that was
32 raised is should the fisheries collapse in areas where
33 major subsistence activities are occurring and it's a
34 major subsistence resource.

35
36 There's a neighboring drainage, but
37 it's in the industrial area that is known for spawning
38 whitefish and that's the Sagavanirktok River. We don't
39 even know what the stress level is because Alyeska puts
40 rock weirs everywhere to protect the pipeline. The
41 pipeline itself is in some of that drainage. But we
42 know it's a subsistence resource because I've gotten
43 whitefish from there before myself when I was working
44 in Prudhoe.

45
46 So I think doing that, combining those
47 three, would be important and be a strong candidate, I
48 think, to compete for funding.

49
50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, this is Point Hope.
2 She mentioned that she had one more priority that she
3 wanted to mention before we put this into a priority
4 vote. Did you have one more?
5

6 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Steve, I think we
7 added the one more. It's the fifth bullet that I
8 failed to mention on the priority information needs.
9 Making one priority candidate out of bullet No. 2, No.
10 4 and No. 5 because they're of the same species.
11

12 (Pause)
13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Don't speak all at
15 once.
16

17 (Laughter)
18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But, you know,
20 there's some other stuff here we want to try to
21 prioritize as well.
22

23 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.
24

25 (Pause)
26

27 MR. SHEARS: Thank you, Karen, for
28 providing this language to help us.
29

30 MR. OOMITTUK: Are we still online?
31

32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I think
33 there's some drafters here drafting some things here.
34 So we're still online there, Steve.
35

36 MR. OOMITTUK: Okay. I was just
37 wondering. Like I said, I would support how you
38 prioritize things and putting things together. I know
39 she reads a motion, but I thought she said she had one
40 more listing that she needs before we put this in a
41 motion. Is that what I heard a little bit ago?
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. I'm going to
44 refer to Karen here real quick.
45

46 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
47 Council members. You actually answered -- all my
48 questions were answered, so everything I had a question
49 about has been addressed, but thank you for checking.
50

1 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears,
4 Wainwright.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: Before I make this as a
7 motion, allow me to share it with you again. It's kind
8 of a rewrite. Combining items 2 and 4 in regards to
9 the whitefish fisheries at Tusikvoak. So combining 2
10 and 4 we would be requesting a study of environmental
11 phenomena concerning whitefish fisheries and temporal
12 changes in its availability at Lake Tusikvoak.

13

14 Does that sound like what we're saying?
15 Are we specifically limiting it to just that lake or
16 the broader region like we were talking about to
17 encompass the Smith Bay concern, development concern?

18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Shears, I
20 think there's already an expressed concern for multiple
21 fishermen for Tusikvoak there's something wrong here in
22 the fisheries.

23

24 MR. SHEARS: Keep it focused then?

25

26 CHAIRMAN BROWER: But if we combine
27 that along with the baseline information for Smith Bay
28 on the broad whitefish and what's going on as a
29 baseline information and the Colville River fish mold
30 issues that have surfaced over the past four or five
31 years now, I think we'd capture some proposer to carry
32 it out and say, hey, there's this other lake that have
33 broad whitefish, we better check it at the same time
34 we're checking the one that's been known to have
35 received several concerns about abundance in that fish.

36

37 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Gotcha. All right.
38 Mr. Chair, Council members. I'd like to make a motion
39 for a priority of studying fisheries. Would the
40 Council consider this motion as a priority? Our
41 priority is whitefish. Requesting a study of the
42 environmental phenomena concerning whitefish fisheries
43 and temporal changes in its subsistence availability at
44 Lake Tusikvoak and compare it to baseline data already
45 known for the Colville River and Smith Bay drainage.

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's a motion on
48 the floor.

49

50

1 MS. KIPPI: Second the motion.

2

3 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, he wanted to
4 describe it first for discussion purposes, I think,
5 before he made that motion.

6

7 MR. SHEARS: No, that's a motion.

8

9 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It's a motion on the
10 floor. It's been seconded.

11

12 MS. KIPPI: Second.

13

14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Seconded by Atqasuk,
15 Wanda. It's been seconded and up for discussion.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: I proffered this motion
18 because I strongly feel that the whitefish fishery is
19 poorly understood how it is adapting to recent climatic
20 changes, changes in subsistence patterns that we've
21 seen over the past four or five decades and with
22 increased industrial use of its environment and to be
23 including the off-taking of freshwater from lakes
24 intensively during the winter for ice-roading in the
25 industrial areas around Colville and will soon be
26 building in Harrison Bay.

27

28 So that area is an area that has shown
29 continuous subsistence activity uninterrupted, unlike
30 the Inaru which I described earlier, which is an
31 interrupted -- almost like a conservation district now.
32 The area like Tusikovuk, Colville River, the Smith Bay
33 drainage, that is the area we've been using, we're
34 continuing to use and we need to continue using, but
35 there's a lot of stress on it.

36

37 I believe that would be the number one
38 priority of this Council for a fishery study to
39 maintain a finger on the pulse of the health of that
40 fishery.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. Any
43 other dialogue while we're in discussion.

44

45 (No comments)

46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I would just add that
48 I think it's an important fishery on the Slope. It's
49 widely used for subsistence trading. I mean I often

50

1 trade with folks in Nuiqsut that have Arctic cisco.
2 I've used it for trading to get skins for my boat and
3 also it's widely, widely shared. A lot of people use
4 this resource on the Slope.

5
6 They fish for it, they plan to go fish
7 for it, and it's widely distributed during subsistence
8 events like Nalukataq and things like that,
9 supplemental food for the day. There's just not enough
10 I could say about the importance of these subsistence
11 resources especially when we're starting to notice some
12 distress and concerns from subsistence users.

13
14 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. One thing that
15 goes unstated in my motion is how I have carefully not
16 stated what environmental phenomena consists of.
17 Karen, you had suggested in your draft language an
18 example such as Saprolegnia fungus. That's important,
19 yes, but it's not the only environmental concern. Also
20 oxygen content, dissolved carbons, other microbial
21 activities, microbe contents of the water,
22 contamination from industrial fallout. For example,
23 mercury. Those are environmental phenomena.

24
25 Then, like I mentioned earlier, another
26 environmental phenomena is carefully monitoring the
27 surface area of the lakes to see if there's changes in
28 the volume of content in these environments. Caribou
29 existed in two-dimensional planar environment on a
30 surface, but fish exist in a volume, a
31 three-dimensional area.

32
33 I'd really like to understand in
34 regards to global warming and what we're seeing a lot
35 of on the Slope now is if the volume of these fisheries
36 is remaining the same or if it's decreasing.

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. Any
39 other discussion on the motion.

40
41 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'm not sure if your
42 wording has gotten anything to help us with some of the
43 discussion in if there is changes. I know in our
44 community with the amount of fish mold that we saw the
45 last couple years people were worried about harvesting
46 and whether or not they're consuming and if they're not
47 consuming, if they're replacing it. So I just wanted
48 to get some clarification on that.

49
50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
2 I think being recorded and I think that's an important
3 aspect of it, is the level of consumption and perceived
4 issues with the fish and their willingness to go
5 continue to fish that might be a concern as well.
6

7 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. To
8 respond to Rosemary as well. We had talked a little
9 bit about this earlier in terms of the two tracks, both
10 the harvest monitoring and traditional knowledge and
11 then the biological studies also. In the Council's
12 discussion here that changing of subsistence harvest
13 patterns has come up over and over again.
14

15 So, Rosemary, these priorities that the
16 Council is discussing now too can be approached by
17 either of those research tracks. So if getting at some
18 of the concerns of the communities can be that
19 documentation of those changing subsistence harvest
20 patterns and what's driving that.
21

22 Also, as Gordon has noted, the feedback
23 from subsistence fishers that is informing these
24 research priorities. Whatever you decide in terms of
25 your priority to be looked at can be addressed both
26 through the traditional knowledge and harvest
27 monitoring and the biological studies.
28

29 Thank you.
30

31 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Any
32 other discussion.
33

34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: That's great.
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Rosemary.
37

38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Also adding in we've
39 had so much change that has happened. We've had some
40 of our people that have gone through a lot of legal
41 issues and are having troubles in those categories in
42 reaction to some of the changes that we're having.
43

44 But if there's any effort to gather
45 some of that information with our various systems such
46 as mental health and police department statistics, that
47 information also is very important to contribute to
48 some of the social changes that we're facing in our
49 areas with the changes to our lands and waters and the
50

1 difficulty of subsistence and feeding our families.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.

6

Any other discussions on the motion.

7

8

(No comments)

9

10

MR. OOMITTUK: Call for the question.

11

12

CHAIRMAN BROWER: The question has been called for for the motion that was created by Bob by combining several bullets here to target the concerns about the broad whitefish.

16

17

Since the question has been called for, all those that approve signify by saying aye.

19

20

IN UNISON: Aye.

21

22

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All those that don't approve signify by saying no.

24

25

(No opposing votes)

26

27

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Ayes have it. We have a first priority of broad whitefish in the motion that was just carried out. Any other prioritization that we should do? Do we want to rank something number two? We need some proposals.

32

33

MS. HUGO: Mr. Chair.

34

35

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Anaktuvuk, Esther.

36

37

MS. HUGO: Was there any concerns or anybody about the iqalukpik or the sulukpaugaq?

39

40

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Esther, there is a -- the iqalukpik would be the Arctic char. I haven't heard too much about concerns raised about the char. I know it tastes really good. At one point I thought there were some concerns out of Point Hope about the abundance of the grayling, the sulukpaugaq.

46

47

We would have to hear from Point Hope what their concerns are. There's one, the first bullet, changes in fish species composition, abundance

50

1 and harvest patterns in Point Hope, but it doesn't say
2 which species, but the changes in species.

3
4 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope. You
5 know, the grayling has been in abundance the last
6 couple years more so than the river trout. Although a
7 study was just done by the North Slope Borough in our
8 area inlet and they did find 15 different species of
9 fish. Point Hope, we only subsist on the grayling, the
10 river trout, the char that come through. Now we see
11 more and more salmon. Those are the main fish that
12 come from the ocean.

13
14 We don't normally do much lake fishing.
15 There are some lakes that are drying up, but we're
16 between two oceans and most of our subsistence is
17 between a river and the ocean and the land. Our fish
18 mainly come from the ocean and the river. The concerns
19 are good.

20
21 We love the grayling, the sulukpaugaq,
22 but the last two years the river is overgrown with the
23 grayling, outnumbering all the other species,
24 especially river trout. But we get a lot of char and
25 that's what we're catching right now. There for a
26 while there was a lot of shortage in char, but this
27 year and the size of them -- you know, they're pretty
28 good size. Some are over three feet in length, about
29 the size of your leg. But they are some big char. They
30 need to come back.

31
32 Everything seems like a little early.
33 We're a good 15, 20 days early on some of the species.
34 It almost feels like we're going to have an early
35 winter. The animal seems to know when it's time to
36 head back south. The ducks are already flying back
37 out. We had an early summer and it looks like we're
38 going to have an early winter. I was taught the
39 animals know the seasons. When it's time to go south,
40 it's time to go south. But the food source, like I
41 said, it's in abundance for the second time this year,
42 not just in the ocean but the land.

43
44 You know, our healthcare issues that
45 were brought up, the sickness of the animals, like I
46 said, we need to prioritize because this is what we put
47 into our bodies and we want to ensure that what's
48 causing this mold in the fish, you know. We rely on a
49 lot of these fish. We don't get much whitefish here,
50

1 but, like you said, we do a lot of trading. It goes
2 all around. We all have our own subsistence priorities
3 in our areas of what we subsist on.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. So
8 I know we just made a motion on the first priority, but
9 that actually prioritized one, two, three bullets and
10 it substantially reduced our need to prioritize some
11 others. So I think that was great. It was about the
12 same species.

13

14 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Gordon, do we need a
15 motion to get that prioritized second?

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, I think getting
18 a motion for a number two priority would be -- that's
19 what we're looking for.

20

21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Can you repeat the
22 bullets that are included for this.

23

24 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Rosemary, I think we
25 did that with Bob's motion. He drafted language that
26 kind of swallowed up bullet number 2, 4 and 5. Then
27 with the caveat that the proposer would have access to
28 some of the dialogue to gain more insight as to what
29 the Council was deliberating on.

30

31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just want to make
32 sure that we get the chance to look at the discussion
33 that Steve is putting forward. I know it's outside of
34 the first prioritization, but I want it to stay within
35 the second prioritization.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
40 It would be appropriate if somebody, one of the
41 regions, if there was a second priority. There's still
42 changes in fish species composition, abundance and
43 harvest patterns in Point Hope. That's one category.
44 Another is understanding fishery accessibility in
45 Anaktuvuk Pass. Includes distance to fisheries
46 resources, climatic considerations, regulatory changes
47 and available knowledge and access to a variety of gear
48 types. That's another bullet that's on the list.

49

50

1 Then another bullet was determine the
2 age and structure and primary ages at first migration
3 to the sea of mature Dolly Varden in the eastern North
4 Slope Rivers. The last bullet is develop a long-term,
5 cost-effective approach to evaluate sustainability of
6 subsistence harvest of lake trout in the Lakes Schrader
7 and Peters.
8

9 I don't really recall that dialogue in
10 the past and where that one came from, but we do
11 opportunistically harvest from lakes when we want to.
12 We know where the lake trouts are and we just know they
13 exist. When we want to try that fish, we go over there
14 and go get it. Done that more than once. Not very
15 many people do that. Most people do from the coast and
16 a lot from the rivers. Lake trout is almost like a top
17 secret area sometimes.
18

19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If
20 I may, just to add. This draft list that you have
21 before you are some of the points that were brought
22 forward by the Council members that participated in the
23 working group discussion prior to this meeting and also
24 ongoing concerns that were carried forward from before.
25

26 The Council is welcome -- the Council
27 is here today and we've heard also a couple other
28 suggestions from Council member Shears and Wanda Kippi.
29 So the Council is welcome to include those
30 recommendations and the discussion in the
31 prioritization as well.
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Very good. So we're
34 on the discussion here of fisheries priorities. I
35 think we accomplished one that put several of them
36 together and that would be our way of saying let's let
37 this one compete with Seward Peninsula and with the
38 Northwest Arctic Borough fisheries studies and see
39 where we get with that as our top priority from the
40 North Slope.
41

42 How is that? Is that pretty good?
43

44 MR. SHEARS: Tavra.
45

46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Thank
47 you, Karen. It appears that we prioritized into a --
48 put a multiple of them into one and connecting the dots
49 there.
50

1 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
2 Council members. That was a very helpful discussion.

3
4 I do have one other item that I want to
5 talk about and then I'm done, but I wanted to circle
6 back around and talk about one other program. You
7 don't have this in your package, but there are some out
8 on the table. It doesn't really have much information
9 in it except it has my contact information.

10
11 We also have another program where we
12 fund positions within rural nonprofit organizations so
13 they can be tribes, Native nonprofit or other rural
14 organizations. We provide funding for either a
15 biologist or a social scientist or an educator within
16 those organizations and the intent of the program is to
17 build capacity within the organization so they can
18 participate more fully in the Federal Subsistence
19 Management Program.

20
21 So it's called the Fisheries for
22 Resource Monitoring and we're going to have a notice of
23 funding coming out in about another month to six weeks.
24 We're working on the notice of funding right now. But
25 we want you to carry that information back to your
26 communities and we'd also be interested in talking to
27 you about anybody or any organization you think would
28 be a good candidate so we can make sure we get the
29 information to them.

30
31 Competing for this is a competitive
32 program, but it's a little bit broader than fisheries.
33 People are allowed to work on fisheries issues,
34 wildlife issues and other subsistence issues. It's
35 more encompassing of the whole subsistence because
36 subsistence just isn't fish. It's a different pot of
37 money and we only have a call once every four years.

38
39 So I just wanted to make you aware of
40 that. If you have any other questions, I can answer
41 them, but I'd be happy to either discuss on the record
42 or off the record anybody you think should be notified
43 and then I can certainly contact those organizations
44 directly and talk to them in more detail. But we've
45 not ever had a partner up here in the north and it
46 would be a great opportunity to have one.

47
48 So, anyway, that's the only other thing
49 I had. Josh, do you have anything else to add?

50

1 MR. REAM: Only that our partners
2 frequently do compete for the FRMP projects and they
3 tend to be pretty successful because they are partners
4 and so they bring in a variety of people and
5 stakeholder groups to work on those projects and build
6 their own capacity. So if you can think of anybody
7 that you'd like to suggest to us today, we'd be happy
8 to get in touch with them.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Josh and
11 Karen. Before I let you two go, is there any questions
12 on this notice of funding opportunity for the Partners
13 for Fisheries Monitoring Program? I certainly think
14 it's important and I could probably think about like
15 maybe Native Village of Barrow with their Wildlife
16 Department to fund a biologist for them to work with
17 with some of the local fishermen that have concerns
18 about that.
19

20 How long -- you said it's once every
21 four years. Does that mean funding -- if one of the
22 tribes were to land the funding, it would fund a
23 position for four years?
24

25 MS. HYER: Yes. Mr. Chair and Council
26 members. It would fund a position for four years.
27 Because you have to have some sort of longevity to
28 actually recruit for that position. Many of our
29 partners are successful at coming back and acquiring
30 funding for more years and we have some partners that
31 have been funded for many, many years now.
32

33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Lastly, it being
34 competitive, are there more than one candidate that is
35 successful or are you just looking for one candidate
36 amongst many people that would win an award?
37

38 MS. HYER: So we have, by area, right
39 now we have two on the Kuskokwim and we have two in
40 Southcentral. So oftentimes there is more than one
41 candidate in a region. It has to do with what they
42 propose as projects and who they represent and how good
43 of a proposal they write, but certainly the more people
44 that apply the better the selection pool is for the
45 committee.
46

47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. Just as an
48 example let say the Native Village of Point Hope, the
49 Native Village of Barrow, the Native Village of
50

1 Nuiqsut, all of them submitted proposals.
2 Theoretically, could all three of them land a proposal
3 and every one of those get their biologist to work with
4 -- fund a biologist for them?
5

6 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
7 members. Yes, in theory. It's not restricted by
8 region at all. It is simply competitive. So whoever
9 has the best proposals are the ones who are funded.

10
11 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Understood. Any
12 other questions to Karen and Joshua on the Partners for
13 Fisheries Monitoring notice of funding opportunity.
14

15 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair.
16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Steve.
18

19 MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope.
20 What about if ICAS was to apply? You know, because
21 they represent all these villages. Inupiat Community
22 of the Arctic Slope, they're a nonprofit organization.
23 That would be for all villages on the North Slope.
24

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Steve. Yes,
26 ICAS would be eligible. So any Native nonprofit or
27 tribe can apply for this grant. Ilisagvik College is
28 another example because they are a tribal college.
29 They would also be eligible. But, yes, many of the
30 successful applicants in other regions are multi-tribal
31 Native nonprofits that represent the region and ICAS is
32 considered a tribe and tribal organization.
33

34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. My
35 concern was there are some villages that have pulled
36 out of ICAS. I think Point Hope is one of those.
37 Barrow is one of those. I think there is one other
38 that may have pulled out of ICAS and opted to go
39 independent on their tribal fundings. But ICAS would
40 still be a good vehicle for all those others that might
41 seek to be wanting to be represented regionally.
42

43 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman and Council
44 members. I also want to clarify it's rural and Native
45 nonprofit, so ANILCA is not restricted just to Alaska
46 Natives and neither is this call.
47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. Any other
49 questions for Karen and Josh under the Partners for
50

1 Fisheries Monitoring notice of funding opportunity.

2

3

(No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Hearing none. Thank
6 you very much. Josh, go ahead.

7

8 MR. REAM: I just wanted to put in a
9 quick plug for anthropology and remind you that it's
10 not just for biologists. It could also be an
11 anthropologist.

12

13 MS. HYER: Did I not say that?

14

15 MR. REAM: You did, but I wanted to
16 repeat it. Thank you.

17

18 MR. SHEARS: I knew that we were
19 overlooking you and you'd feel it.

20

21 (Laughter)

22

23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: An anthropologist is
24 a person that studies the origin of man or something?

25

26 (Laughter)

27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you very much.
29 We really enjoyed your presentation and giving us the
30 task to prioritize. Thank you so much. You guys are
31 blessed by God.

32

33 All right. Let's go down the agenda.
34 We have Item 11, agency reports. I just want to remind
35 everybody time limit is 15 minutes or less.

36

37 MS. PATTON: Before that we've got one
38 more. Mr. Chair and Council. We do have Item (c),
39 identify issues for your fiscal year 2018 annual
40 report.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Oh, yeah. And then
43 Item (e). We added an Item (e).

44

45 MS. PATTON: And then Item (e) we'll
46 have BLM up next after this.

47

48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. Let's do
49 that. Identify issues of FY 2018 annual report. Who

50

1 is doing that?

2

3 MS. PATTON: That would be me. You'll
4 find the overview of the annual report on Page 26 of
5 your meeting books. Again, we just briefly talked
6 about your annual report reply. So again we're here at
7 this time of year when the Council identified issues of
8 interest and concern, whether you want to bring
9 concerns to the attention of the Federal Subsistence
10 Board, whether it's requesting information or highlight
11 research needs in the region.

12

13 Again, this is governed under ANILCA
14 and that's why they call it the 805(c) report and the
15 Board's reply. So the Board is tasked by the Secretary
16 of the Interior to respond to the Council's concerns.
17 It's an opportunity also, in addition to the Board, to
18 address the directors of each of the Department of
19 Interior agencies, all the Federal agencies and land
20 managers. The Board is required to discuss and to
21 reply to each issue.

22

23 As we've discussed in the past, you can
24 work outside of the purview of the Board if there are
25 issues that are related to subsistence in the region
26 not directly under the Board's authority. They will
27 still attempt to respond and reply and make connections
28 with the agencies.

29

30 But your strongest message to the Board
31 are the topics that they are able to address. The
32 content of the annual report is related to fish and
33 wildlife management, but outside of the realm of the
34 actual regulatory proposals. So addressing broader
35 issues.

36

37 The things that they often seek to hear
38 from you to help inform subsistence management is
39 identification of current and anticipated subsistence
40 uses of fish and wildlife populations within the
41 region. An evaluation of current and anticipated
42 subsistence needs for fish and wildlife populations
43 from the public lands within the region. Recommended
44 strategy for the management of fish and wildlife
45 populations within the region to accommodate such
46 subsistence uses and needs related to the public lands.
47 And recommendations concerning policies, standards,
48 guidelines, and regulations to implement the strategy.

49

50

1 So those are key things that the Board
2 does have direct jurisdiction over and the annual
3 report is an excellent way to get those interests and
4 concerns across.

5
6 I would add too that we've discussed a
7 number of things here the Council was interested in
8 bringing awareness to in terms of changes and
9 subsistence fisheries. While maybe it didn't make the
10 list in terms of what you want to have prioritized for
11 funding right now, the annual report is still a good
12 way to bring awareness to those issues so it's on the
13 radar and you're able to get the great detail that
14 you've discussed here articulated to the management
15 agencies.

16
17 As well as directing letters to
18 particular agencies. For example, other agencies such
19 as USGS that may be able to address those research
20 concerns even if it's not the purview of this program.

21
22 I did want to note too we had some
23 discussion at the winter meeting. Rosemary
24 Ahtuanguaruak had a request at that time in terms of
25 bringing a new annual report topic regarding the
26 accidental kill of several muskox on the Dalton Highway
27 and a real interest in finding a mechanism if that were
28 to happen again in the future how local rural
29 communities would be able to perhaps utilize those
30 resources.

31
32 We did do some looking into that and
33 that would actually be under the purview of State
34 Troopers. In that case, if the Council wants to pursue
35 that more so than adding that to the annual report
36 would be a letter addressed to the State agency that
37 would be able to address that.

38
39 Again, those key things you'll see in
40 the middle there in terms of Federal subsistence fish
41 and wildlife on Federal lands and any policy or
42 management issues. Those are the key things the Board
43 can respond to directly.

44
45 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Mr. Shears.

48
49 MR. SHEARS: It occurs to me that this
50

1 is an opportunity to elevate our concern about aviation
2 resources, use of the air spaces over the wildlife and
3 the subsistence activities on the North Slope.

4
5 You know, the Department of the
6 Interior has no real teeth, no real authority to
7 regulate air traffic other than when it's being used to
8 do research and conducting their own activities or to
9 regulate hunting activities conducted by aircraft. We
10 have never been able to get a voice higher than the
11 Secretary of the Interior to voice our concern.
12 Really, this needs to go to the Secretary of Commerce
13 who leads the Federal Aviation Administration.

14
15 The Secretary of Commerce needs to hear
16 from Secretary Zinke that we have this concern and that
17 the Interior Department unanimously share the concern
18 that aviation assets are harassing animals and
19 subsistence activities on the North Slope. We've been
20 voicing it for years and we cannot reach the elevation
21 where somebody can do something about it.

22
23 The policies for aviation asset use is
24 already adopted by BLM and North Slope Borough and
25 others for conductive research and to regulate aviation
26 uses for hunting activities are very good. You know,
27 maintaining that glide pass, that aircraft maintain a
28 minimum elevation of 1,500 feet and to within
29 one-quarter mile of a landing space. So that sets your
30 glide pass.

31
32 Aircraft that are up here operating
33 outside of our regulations, and there are many of them,
34 only have to maintain a minimum elevation of 500 feet
35 mandated by the FAA and they don't have to throttle
36 their noise or their prop speed. Many times we're
37 always getting reports from subsistence users out there
38 about low flying aircraft cruising the animals. How do
39 we get this concern higher or beyond the Department of
40 the Interior?

41
42 It's a policy concern. I'd make a
43 recommendation, but I don't know how to word this, Eva.
44 If you could somehow craft language into our annual
45 report to again emphasize that this is not a forgotten
46 concern and it continues to this day.

47
48 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Bob. I
49 think many of us share the same sentiment about the
50

1 aircraft. You know, we've learned to work with the
2 industry. About 80 percent or greater of the
3 infraction-type concerns that we're hearing are Federal
4 agencies conducting research, researchers and many of
5 the concerns about what BLM is doing, what Fish and
6 Wildlife Service is doing, what ADF&G is doing and USGS
7 in particular will not give the weight of the local
8 government the wherewithal.

9
10 They seem to want to operate under a
11 supremacy clause that they feel they're exempt, granted
12 to them either by the President or something. But our
13 own local laws and Alaska statutes require even State
14 comply with local zoning in the land use activities.
15 The studies that the other activities that require
16 airborne assets to be deployed other than general
17 transportation in nature, those are the types that
18 we're very alarmed at.

19
20 There needs to be development of sound
21 policy guiding ADF&G, guiding U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service and others, USGS, to work and coordinate with
23 the local government or develop some protocols that
24 would facilitate the recognition of subsistence
25 activities and not to impede, harass or deter by the
26 use of aircraft from their studies.

27
28 Sometimes I think they have an
29 ownership mentality. Those guys are trying to kill my
30 study or something to that effect because those are the
31 resources that they're studying and have a protection
32 mentality. I've seen it myself. I've taken
33 photographs of aircraft low flying, making wide turns
34 and coming back making other passes.

35
36 I've really observed these types of
37 activities among many other people that have provided
38 testimony and concerns about how research and the use
39 by other governments that are not conforming to local
40 laws. We have worked very effectively with industry
41 operators. I would say that much.

42
43 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair, if I could.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fredrick.

46
47 MR. NEAKOK: Yes. You know, we're
48 talking about the concern of flying an aircraft in the
49 area. One thing I'd like to bring up is the

50

1 individuals who fly up and get dropped off and being
2 able to hunt the same day, I'm pretty sure there's a
3 regulation as to flying in and waiting a day before
4 actually being able to go out and do your hunt. Who
5 regulates the sportsman or the other camps that invite
6 other people to come in to do their hunting and they're
7 flying in and out of their camps? Is that another
8 issue we can also bring up as well?
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, Fredrick. I
11 think there is existing law prohibiting those kind of
12 activities. I think ADF&G and also the State Troopers
13 that need to be made aware when somebody witnesses that
14 or there's a way to convey that. They're always saying
15 it's valid so they can go out there and investigate
16 that. It's already being part of processes, but I
17 think it's important to restate some of that stuff
18 though. I think there's a mechanism already in place
19 for something like that.
20

21 Thank you, Eva. Any other feedback to
22 Eva on what we were talking about here. That was
23 identify issues for FYI 2018 annual report.
24

25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to make a
26 comment.
27

28 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Rosemary.
29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, we discussed
31 extensively the importance of our concerns around
32 caribou and the impacts that are happening between the
33 two entities of Nuiqsut and Anaktuvuk and the big
34 concern that we have coming with the changes that are
35 being proposed with the Willow Project and future
36 developments will come with future leasing activities.
37

38 We've tried multiple ways to try to
39 create ways to try to protect our lives and our
40 subsistence, but with the regulatory process that has
41 changed all of the rules on making recommendations on
42 protecting our way of life being changed we haven't
43 been able to put protections in place that give us hope
44 that we're going to continue being able to subsist with
45 the changes that may happen with the south side.
46

47 We've had a tremendous amount of change
48 that has happened to the east of us. There's changes
49 to the north of us. There's changes to the west of us.
50

1 This south side is so vital to the importance and
2 sustainability of our community and is not well
3 addressed in some of the communications that came out
4 of our process.

5
6 I am begging for assistance and
7 communications to help us come up with a plan that
8 discusses how the development may be done in a
9 staggered way to have hopes that our village will
10 continue to have subsistence into the future.

11
12 Thank you very much.

13
14 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Rosemary.
15 That's another area, is developing the proper protocols
16 and communication network that really works so that
17 we're not blindsided all the time. I feel that way a
18 lot of times. So thank you, Rosemary.

19
20 Any other things to bring to the
21 attention of Madame Coordinator, Eva.

22
23 (No comments)

24
25 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I see this letter
26 that was drafted June 21, 2018 to myself, Gordon
27 Brower, from Sarah LaMarr, Assistant Arctic District
28 Manager. On the cc list it says Gordon Brower, Jr.

29
30 MR. SHEARS: Not anymore.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: My son. There is a
33 Gordon Brower, but he doesn't like to be called junior.
34 Actually his name is the II on his birth certificate.
35 So there's actually no junior and there's actually no
36 senior. I'm just Gordon Brower.

37
38 Anyway, I just thought I'd pass that
39 along. There is another Gordon Brower in the internet
40 somewhere I've seen.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. It
43 looks like Council members are thinking too. We do
44 have an opportunity -- this is where we first bring up
45 the annual report topics. So we do have an opportunity
46 as the Council is going through today and tomorrow if
47 there are additional issues that you would like to add
48 to your annual report. We also keep track through the
49 meeting of what some of the key issues are that are

50

1 coming up that have not yet been addressed for the
2 Council.
3

4 I'll just add too for Fredrick, we'll
5 have updates from ADF&G. Gordon is correct in terms of
6 the laws in terms of same day hunts, so they may have
7 some recommendations to report if you see a concern
8 there.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva.
11 Josh.

12
13 MR. REAM: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14
15 MR. OOMITTUK: Mr. Chair. I've got a
16 question. I've got a concern.
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Let me get Josh real
19 quick and then I'll go to you, Steve.
20

21 MR. OOMITTUK: All right.
22

23 MR. REAM: Just quickly. I wanted to
24 mention that our office has really been striving to
25 reach out to other entities to help respond to each of
26 the points in your annual reports meaningfully.
27 Especially when we don't have purview or the Federal
28 Subsistence Board doesn't have purview such as with
29 marine mammals or migratory birds.
30

31 I'd encourage you to maybe think about
32 some of the topics that were brought up during the
33 public and tribal comment period this morning, if you
34 wanted us to reach out perhaps to Marine Mammals to see
35 what they know about expanding range of sea lions or
36 what that could mean for your known population of seals
37 or disease transfer or the arrival of things like the
38 golden eagle. So keep those things in mind when the
39 public comes to the table too.
40

41 Thank you.
42

43 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Joshua,
44 for reminding us of that. So you've already been told,
45 so make those connections.
46

47 All right. Steve, you had something to
48 bring up.
49

50

1 MR. OOMITTUK: Yeah. You know, in the
2 last few years we noticed more and more traffic within
3 our waters and not knowing whose vessel or what they're
4 doing out there. At times, there's some vessels that
5 sit out on our south shore for days at a time and we
6 have no contact. Not even knowing who they are, you
7 know.

8
9 I've talked about this in the past when
10 Shell was doing all this exploration out there they had
11 comm centers within all our villages along the
12 coastline and we monitored the traffic of who comes and
13 goes, their latitude, direction, what ship. We didn't
14 ask them what they were doing, but we just wanted to
15 know.

16
17 If we were out subsistence hunting,
18 especially fall whaling, if we're out there in that
19 area, they would stay away from that area or, you know,
20 when they were doing their seismic testing or if there
21 was any sort of emergency that any vessels in the
22 neighborhood would be able to respond to an emergency
23 out in the ocean.

24
25 I don't know if there's any funding or
26 anything that we can do to bring back these comm
27 centers so that we can monitor who's coming and going
28 within our territory. I know we don't have
29 jurisdiction other than three miles. After that it's
30 Federal waters. Our main store is the ocean. We want
31 to make sure it's protected. I know we don't have
32 jurisdiction out there.

33
34 We've brought that up several times. I
35 don't know if there's any sort of funding where we can
36 monitor who's coming and going within our waters to
37 make sure they're not -- if there's any sort of
38 disaster that we can respond in a timely manner because
39 our resources that we depend on in the ocean are very
40 delicate. One oil spill or barges come up with fuel,
41 you know, and our storms keep getting bigger and
42 bigger. The waves are rougher and rougher, especially
43 that northwest wind.

44
45 These are concerns that some of the
46 people came out with, that what's going to happen if we
47 have a major oil spill with these barges. Our
48 communities are getting bigger. They're bringing --
49 our tank farms are -- you know, they're having to make
50

1 them bigger because we can't keep up with the diesel
2 that is needed to keep our houses warm during the
3 wintertime or the power plants or the schools. The
4 last few years we just about ran out of diesel. They
5 just barely made it to Point Hope in time to have fuel
6 for the communities, especially diesel, the kind of
7 fuel we depend on.

8
9 I just wanted to bring out the ocean,
10 like I've always said, it's our garden and we want to
11 make sure it's protected with all that traffic that
12 goes through. And responding to something in a timely
13 manner saves things. I would like to know -- you know,
14 we always wonder who's out there with those ships.

15
16 We've seen different ships. We're
17 seeing white ship, we're seeing cruise ships, we're
18 seeing -- we just want to make sure that nobody's doing
19 anything illegal out there. It's international waters
20 and you're always seeing different fisheries coming up
21 further south. The Japanese -- they took a Japanese
22 boat not too long ago with a whole bunch of fish
23 further south coming into the waters.

24
25 I know we don't have jurisdiction out
26 there. We're a subsistence advisory. I'm always told
27 we have to go to another agency or another source that
28 takes care. You know, we're considered the North Slope
29 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council and the Arctic is
30 our main food supply.

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
33 think Josh had mentioned that if there's some way that
34 they can connect the dots to pass those concerns on,
35 they will. I think it would be prudent to direct some
36 of that to the Arctic Marine Waterway Safety Committee
37 that was recently formed where they track offshore
38 vessels and create buffers within Alaska now, I think,
39 for like the beluga whale exclusionary area or the
40 bowhead whale deferral areas in the Waterway Safety
41 Committee Program.

42
43 To my understanding, Alaska Eskimo
44 Whaling Commission was working with that group and had
45 presented during the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission
46 mini convention last February. So there is in the
47 works these kinds of things that you're describing to
48 make sure there's somebody monitoring these things.

49
50

1 Quite frankly, it is part of us because we're
2 Federal and Federal jurisdiction out to 200 miles or
3 something to that effect. It's important to express
4 those concerns and pass them on. So there are things
5 in the works that I know of with the Arctic Marine
6 Waterway Safety Committee that is developing some
7 protocols.
8

9 It might be important for Alaska Eskimo
10 Whaling Commission to visit each whaling community and
11 discuss that as well and maybe revive some of the
12 stations in each community that Shell had. It was
13 pretty similar to that to my understanding.
14

15 So thank you, Steve.
16

17 I don't think this is going on deaf
18 ears and willing to convey those types of things.
19

20 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.
21

22 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Eva.
23

24 MS. PATTON: If I may respond to Steve
25 as well. I apologize, Steve. The reply from the
26 Federal Subsistence Board from the Council's annual
27 report it just got finalized on the 17th of August, so
28 there is a copy coming in the mail to you. That was
29 one of the topics in the Council's annual report last
30 year and the Board did reply in detail on a number of
31 initiatives.
32

33 As Gordon has mentioned, the Arctic
34 Waterways Safety Committee and they have broad
35 representation from subsistence groups in the region as
36 well. They have been working on both research and
37 monitoring.
38

39 The Coast Guard has actually been very
40 active in recent years both in this region and
41 throughout the coastal waters down into the Y-K Delta
42 region connecting with local communities and trying to
43 address spill response in particular for increased
44 shipping and other marine traffic.
45

46 The Alaska Native Tribal Health
47 Consortium also has an observing network program that
48 they have that's connected to some of these issues and
49 concerns with the marine environment.
50

1 What we can do while the Federal
2 subsistence program doesn't have direct jurisdiction
3 over those marine waters, we can -- if it's of interest
4 to the Council, invite the Coast Guard or invite the
5 Arctic Waterways Safety Committee to discuss these
6 issues with the Council and help get information out
7 into the communities of these types of options. Like
8 you say, a way to monitor what shipping is going on and
9 what initiatives are being taken to help protect
10 subsistence resources.

11
12 If the Council wishes, we can make an
13 invitation to folks who would be able to address that
14 question better than our program can directly. But it
15 is in your annual report and we can get more material
16 to you as well, Steve.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right, Eva. It
21 sounds like you've got a mission. This is the second
22 time it's come up in the Regional Advisory Council and
23 more than many times I think in many other forums. The
24 Arctic Waterways Safety Committee was formed because of
25 many of the concerns that are raised by Tikigaq, Steve
26 Oomittuk. I would certainly think that it would be
27 appropriate now to get those groups in front here and
28 make some presentations so that there's more
29 information about these things to the communities.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 MR. NEAKOK: Mr. Chair, if I could.

34
35 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fredrick.

38
39 MR. NEAKOK: Good afternoon, Steve.
40 Fredrick Neakok here. A lot of these vessels that are
41 traveling in our waterways they have this book called
42 The Coast Pilot. Say if there's a storm coming and if
43 they want to wait out the storm, they will wait out on
44 the lee side of the storm in a protected area. This
45 book talks about a lot of safe areas along our
46 coastline.

47
48 Another issue you brought up is if an
49 incident should arise, maybe we can incorporate with
50

1 the police department, fire police, search and rescue
2 and other organizations getting all together and
3 starting trading with the Incident Command System. Get
4 everybody trained in the common language within the
5 Incident Command System. You know, getting a command
6 staff and a general staff going for whatever incidents
7 should arise. Getting people trained up and the
8 Incident Command System would be a good thing.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.

13

14 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. A question for
15 Eva.

16

17 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead.

18

19 MR. SHEARS: In the report -- Steve, do
20 you have the -- oh, it just mailed out. Steve probably
21 hasn't got this document, Eva. Okay. All right. It
22 does mention in here that Kawerak Incorporated was
23 awarded funds from the Oak Foundation, the Pew
24 Charitable Trust, to address potential impacts related
25 to increased Arctic marine shipping on subsistence
26 resources and the environment within the region.

27

28 Kawerak's Marine Program is established
29 to advocate for us on our concerns and it offers us an
30 opportunity at our next Council meeting to get more
31 information on this program. There's no information
32 here. I'm curious. Are you guys? Because it doesn't
33 give me much to go on here, but it says that they
34 advocate for us. Is this a tool that could perhaps
35 satisfy mine and Steve's concerns and the rest of us?

36

37 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Go ahead, Eva.

40

41 MS. PATTON: They do advocate for those
42 marine areas. Kawerak, of course, is Northwest Arctic
43 Region, but it's still addressing very similar common
44 issues that this Council and the communities in this
45 region have. I think the topics and the issues that
46 they're bringing forward and trying to get addressed
47 really apply to this whole region.

48

49 Again, Kawerak themselves is a

50

1 Northwest Arctic Native nonprofit, but the issues are
2 very similar. It's arisen out of the opening of the
3 Northwest Passage area. While they don't advocate for
4 this Council or this region directly, they are
5 advocating on behalf of their subsistence communities
6 in their region and the issues overlap.

7
8 I'd be happy to contact them and get
9 some more information.....

10

11 MR. SHEARS: More information, please.

12

13 MS. PATTON:for the Council as
14 well.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: Yes.

17

18 MS. PATTON: You bet. Thank you.

19

20 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I just
21 wanted to make sure that we're prepared. Once that
22 Northwest Passage is opened up to commercial people and
23 the industry, we're going to see a lot more traffic
24 coming into Arctic waters because of the shortcut. I
25 want to make sure that we're prepared for things like
26 this so we have a say-so of our way of life to make
27 sure that the next generation continues especially with
28 the traffic that's going to come through especially
29 when the Northwest Passage opens up. It is a shortcut
30 for industry and commercial. They don't have to go
31 through the Panama Canal to get to the Pacific Ocean.
32 They can come straight across. It's going to be a
33 shortcut. It's going to save them money. I just want
34 to ensure that before that time comes that we have
35 things in place that protect us.

36

37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve.

38

39 MR. OOMITTUK: Especially dumping black
40 water in the ocean and anything like that.

41

42 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Steve. I
43 think they're very important stuff. I had a chance to
44 take a look at the Waterway Safety Committee and the
45 amount of traffic that comes through the northern sea
46 route and also through the Northwest Passage. You'd be
47 amazed. I mean it's literally hundreds already that
48 traverse -- what you see offshore is a fraction of
49 those that might stop. So Waterway Safety Committee is

50

1 dealing with this head on and working with the Coast
2 Guard and making these buffers enforceable so that the
3 Coast Guard can be more active in the area.
4

5 To say the least, the amount of traffic
6 that goes through the Arctic already is astounding. I
7 mean it is literally hundreds and hundreds of vessels
8 traversing through the Northwest Passage and the
9 northern sea route. Just from my own eyes from seeing
10 what was a presentation at the time. Those things are
11 already going on and I think that's what makes the
12 United States a little more leery about the need to
13 provide a more forward presence in the Arctic.
14

15 Thank you, Steve.
16

17 MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you.
18

19 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Any other discussions
20 for Eva on identifying issues for FY2018 annual report.
21 Again, it will be available tomorrow if there's things
22 we haven't thought of and we suddenly had an epiphany
23 tonight or something that you want to discuss.
24

25 (No comments)
26

27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: With that, hearing
28 none, I think we'll go to Item (e) to BLM and their
29 update on Willow and other items.
30

31 MR. SHEARS: Okay. Can I have a quick
32 break, Mr. Chair.
33

34 MS. KIPPI: Good idea.
35

36 CHAIRMAN BROWER: There's been a
37 request for a quick break. We'll take a seven-minute
38 break.
39

40 (Off record)
41

42 (On record)
43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think everybody is
45 here. We're going to go ahead and get started. Seven
46 minutes have elapsed, so let's get with the show.
47

48 MR. VOSBURGH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
49 and Council for the opportunity to present the Arctic
50

1 District Office update on 2017-2018 permitting
2 activities.

3
4 Let's go to the next slide. The first
5 permitting project I'll talk about is the Coastal Plain
6 Environmental Assessment. This is an application to
7 conduct seismic 3D dimensional winter seismic
8 activities on the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National
9 Wildlife Refuge for a two-year period.

10
11 The proposed seismic exploration would
12 begin this winter 2018 and '19. If not finished the
13 one year, the companies could reapply for a new permit
14 the following year to complete the project. SAE as the
15 applicant would reapply for an authorization for the
16 second year and provide BLM with a project-specific map
17 of their plans. An environmental assessment is
18 currently underway for this project. It's expected to
19 be available in September, so pretty soon.

20
21 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I've got a question.
22 I think when you're describing the seismic, I think
23 it's important to put the name and the face in front of
24 that instead of just saying there's going to be
25 seismic. I think it's important. It's kind of unusual
26 to see these kinds of names, for me anyway, on a
27 seismic permit. I've really not seen this level of
28 names on this kind of application, so I think it's
29 important to note those.

30
31 MR. VOSBURGH: Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN BROWER: So who is it?

34
35 MR. VOSBURGH: I'm not familiar with
36 all the applicants. I do know that SAE, SA
37 Exploration, Incorporated is the primary applicant on
38 this project.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: It looks like SAE is
41 the primary applicant for ASRC and Kaktovik Inupiaq
42 Corporation. It looks like they're very interested in
43 exploring their own lands.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 MR. VOSBURGH: Go to the next slide,
48 please. Another project the BLM is currently working
49 on is undertaking a Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing

50

1 EIS to implement the leasing program pursuant to the
2 Tax Act including the requirement to hold not fewer
3 than two area-wide lease sales. The first lease sale
4 will be within four years of the date the Tax Act was
5 enacted.

6
7 A second lease sale will be within
8 seven years after the enactment. Each sale will offer
9 at least 400,000 acres and will include areas that have
10 the highest potential for petroleum development. The
11 Secretary shall authorize up to 2,000 acres of surface
12 development within the Coastal Plain.

13
14 BLM is continuing its efforts toward
15 development of an EIS for the Coastal Plain leasing
16 program. Following conclusion of the scoping period,
17 June 19th a scoping report was prepared to capture the
18 issues to consider for analysis in the EIS identified
19 by all the parties. Over 700,000 comments were
20 received. The scoping report is available online at
21 blm.gov/alaska web page.

22
23 BLM is in the process of developing a
24 draft EIS and is continuing government-to-government
25 consultations with tribes, the ANCSA consultations and
26 corporations and anticipates a draft EIS will be
27 released this fall.

28
29 MR. SHEARS: Bob Shears. More than
30 700,000 comments received. When the Assistant
31 Secretary of the Interior came to Barrow in February or
32 March and indicated that it was going out for public
33 comment, made a statement that the residents of the
34 North Slope comments -- and acknowledged that in other
35 EIS's or other assessments or NEPA comment periods
36 relating to the ANWR were deluged with robo comments
37 from special interest groups sponsored online. That
38 drowned out the voice of the Arctic, the voice of the
39 people that live in the Arctic.

40
41 Of these 700,000 comments received how
42 many of them are relevant comments by residents of the
43 North Slope? That would be my question. I wouldn't
44 expect you to be able to answer it offhand, but it's
45 something that.....

46
47 MR. VOSBURGH: Yeah, I don't know the
48 answer.

49
50

1 MR. SHEARS: It's something that I --
2 you know, when I see a statement like that, 700,000
3 comments received, anything regarding the Arctic
4 National Wildlife Refuge I have to take it with a grain
5 of salt because most of them are fluff, robo comments
6 sponsored by special interest groups that are proffered
7 by their constituency by pushing button.

8
9 MR. VOSBURGH: The answer to that
10 question perhaps is available. I'm not sure. It seems
11 to me we'd have access to the number of comments that
12 were, you know, just kind of duplicate type comments.

13
14 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

15
16 CHAIRMAN BROWER: This is Gordon
17 Brower. Just along the same line. It seems to me
18 there was some directive from -- I don't know if it's
19 the Secretary of Interior giving weight to the
20 residents of the Arctic that live in the region itself
21 would be given priority and additional deference to
22 their comments versus those that may -- because I don't
23 think there's 700,000 people on the North Slope much
24 less in Alaska.

25
26 To be able to have those voices breathe
27 and come out of such a deluge of numbers of comments
28 for those that are living in the impact zone and have a
29 residency status, I think there was additional weight
30 to be granted for those types of comments. I just
31 wanted to make sure that in our commenting and
32 responding to your PowerPoint that we express those.

33
34 MR. VOSBURGH: The GMT1 ROD was signed
35 in 2015 and was the first major development within the
36 NPR-A on BLM-managed lands. Construction began during
37 winter of 2016 and '17. Seven and a half miles of
38 gravel road, 11.8 acre gravel pad are currently
39 completed. GMT1 will have up to 33 wells drilled on it
40 when it's fully drilled. Construction will continue
41 this season. Focus on installation of pipeline on pad
42 facilities. The first production from GMT1 is
43 anticipated this fall, fourth quarter of 2018.

44
45 BLM is in the process of producing the
46 final supplemental environmental impact statement for
47 GMT2, Greater Mooses Tooth 2 development project. The
48 project would include a drill pad on Federally managed
49 Kuukpik Corporation selected but not yet conveyed

50

1 lands. Approximately 16 miles southwest of Nuiqsut and
2 pipelines in a roaded alternative, the road connecting
3 GMT2 and GMT1. GMT2 project was formerly known as CD7
4 and was included in the 2004 Alpine Satellite
5 Development Plan EIS.

6
7 The GMT2 draft SEIS was published this
8 spring in March and the public comment period closed in
9 May. BLM is currently in the process of receiving
10 approval to publish the final SEIS and expects that in
11 early September sometime. The Record of Decision
12 authorizing the development is planned for October.

13
14 The next project is one I think we
15 might talk a little bit more about with Eva. The
16 proposed project includes -- it's the Willow Prospect
17 Master Development Plan. The project includes
18 construction, operation, maintenance of a central
19 processing facility, infrastructure pad, up to five
20 drill pads and up to 50 wells on each pad, access, in-
21 field roads and airstrip pipelines and gravel mine.

22
23 BLM initiated a Master Development Plan
24 EIS similar in scope to the Alpine Satellite
25 Development Plan in 2004 to evaluate development of the
26 Willow oil prospect. The notice of intent was
27 published in the Federal Register on August 7th and
28 this date is the start of a 30-day scoping period for
29 the EIS.

30
31 The BLM is holding scoping meetings in
32 a number of communities on the Slope and also in
33 Fairbanks and Anchorage. The meetings started this
34 week and will continue through next week. If people
35 want the exact dates for those, I can provide those.

36
37 The formal process for this project
38 that started on August 7th includes scheduled public
39 meetings to ensure maximum participation. BLM stresses
40 the importance of early comments on this project to be
41 most beneficial to the BLM if they're provided earlier
42 in the process, but comments can be accepted any time
43 during the development of the EIS.

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I'm looking at the
46 map that's provided. There's a -- I don't know if
47 that's an island or if that's a staging area or an ice
48 pad. These dotted lines, are those ice roads? It
49 seems to me there's -- I could see some infield roads

1 and the different color type arterials that go all the
2 way to Harrison Bay with a dot at the end of that.

3
4 MR. VOSBURGH: I apologize for this
5 map. It's not real clear exactly what is referred to
6 specific to this project. Some of the blue lines on
7 there aren't part of the Willow Project. The dark
8 dotted lines are the proposed action. One of the other
9 lighter colored dotted lines, the one to the west, is
10 an alternative route that's being considered in the
11 EIS.

12
13 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I just
14 wanted to mention that.

15
16 MS. DAGGETT: Can I elaborate a little?

17
18 MR. VOSBURGH: Yeah.

19
20 MS. DAGGETT: I'm Carmen Daggett and I
21 attended the scoping meeting on Monday that was here.
22 They described that dot that's out in the ocean as a
23 gravel pad that they would have to build and that the
24 blue dotted lines were the ice road that they were
25 going to use to transport gravel out to do that. That
26 was what I was told on Monday.

27
28 MR. VOSBURGH: Yeah, I apologize. My
29 earlier comment was in error. That's correct. That
30 line that runs north/south from the coast is part of
31 the project and it's an ice road to move equipment to
32 onsite.

33
34 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. What was
35 your name again, ma'am?

36
37 MS. DAGGETT: Carmen Daggett.

38
39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Carmen. It's
40 important for somebody that's presenting on behalf of
41 the BLM to be accurate because.....

42
43 MR. VOSBURGH: Yes. I apologize for
44 that.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER:to say that's
47 altogether a different project and saying that is two
48 different things. I mean I would have not known that
49 and disseminate that kind of information that was

50

1 already false would be detrimental I would think to
2 other people's integrity.

3

4 MR. VOSBURGH: If an excuse is in
5 order, I got it confused with another trail project
6 that the BLM is working on. So I apologize again for
7 that.

8

9 Eva, could you mention the comment
10 forms associated with this project.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Yes. Through the Chair.
13 Again, as was noted, the scoping comment period is open
14 right now. So if the Council wanted to make any
15 recommendations, I'm going to grab those. Essentially
16 some of the key questions that they're soliciting for
17 feedback. Let me get those out to the Council here.
18 Just a minute, please.

19

20 So these were the comment forms that
21 are provided through BLM. Again, if the Council wanted
22 to make any recommendations, then that would require a
23 discussion on the record and then a formal motion to
24 draft a letter with any points that the Council wanted
25 to make, but there are some questions they're
26 soliciting on this handout. There is a map on the back
27 too. I'm sorry. I should have got these out to you
28 sooner.

29

30 MR. VOSBURGH: Maybe we'll go on to the
31 next slide. This is just a summary of last winter's
32 activities on NPR-A. Primarily this shows the CPAI of
33 wells that were drilled. Five in the Willow
34 development area and one in Stony Hill. It also shows
35 Uganik's PA or Wolf Creek wells that were plugged and
36 abandoned this past winter.

37

38 In addition to what isn't shown on the
39 map is a project that was conducted, a seismic project
40 a little bit south and west of Nuiqsut. Only a portion
41 of that seismic project was on BLM managed lands. Most
42 of it was to the east of the Colville River.

43

44 This is just a map of the wells that
45 were plugged this past winter, the five wells. Kind of
46 south and west of Inigok in the foothills of the Brooks
47 Range.

48

49 This project from the BLM Arctic Office

50

1 permitted the Arctic Slope community winter access
2 trail in the fall of 2017. It also includes the BLM's
3 Yukon Office currently evaluating a proposed community
4 winter access snow trail route to Anaktuvuk Pass with
5 that environmental assessment that's currently
6 underway.

7
8 The project involves annual winter
9 construction of improved snow trails for use by local
10 residents along historically established rologon trails
11 between Utqiagvik and Atqasuk, Wainwright, Nuiqsut and
12 Drill Site 2P and the Anaktuvuk Pass and the Dalton
13 Highway. The project focuses on maintaining existing
14 trails and managing public safety. The term of the
15 permit granted is 2017 for five years. So that will
16 expire in the winter of 2022-23.

17
18 The project is known as the North Slope
19 Borough Community Winter Access Trails and it's
20 expected to demonstrate the Borough's capability to
21 provide winter overland access to North Slope Borough
22 communities located adjacent to or within confines of
23 the Federal NPR-A.

24
25 The Borough is coordinating
26 establishment and development of the winter access
27 trails. Eskimos, Incorporated is serving as the North
28 Slope Borough prime contractor for the winter trails
29 and responsible for subcontractors conducting work on
30 the trails.

31
32 Okay, next one. The ASTAC fiber optic
33 line in preparation for submitting a right-of-way
34 application to the BLM for a broadband internet system
35 within a fiber optic cable corridor. The ASTAC
36 completed a winter survey of the route. The winter
37 survey was conducted by snowmachine to investigate the
38 70-mile plan cable route between Utqiagvik and Atqasuk.

39
40 The proposed route follows the gas
41 field pipeline to a southern terminus and then
42 continues south toward Atqasuk, paralleling at commonly
43 used winter travel corridor. The route was selected as
44 it follows or parallels the two villages winter trail,
45 utilizes existing infrastructure, avoids conflicts with
46 eider nesting areas, camps, cabins, cultural resources
47 and minimizes large stream crossings.

48
49 This preferred route was based on

50

1 ASTAC's technical parameters with input from regulatory
2 agencies. ASTAC is setting a half-mile corridor
3 covering approximately 33 miles to account for minor
4 deviations. For the right-of-way there are three major
5 river crossings that require additional analysis to
6 determine the type of method used to cross the major
7 rivers.

8
9 BLM will prepare an environmental
10 assessment of the proposed cable installation and seeks
11 preliminary input from stakeholders on river crossing
12 methods. ASTAC proposes to suspend the cable over the
13 rivers and BLM may consider analyzing an alternative
14 scenario, which would include burying the cables under
15 the rivers.

16
17 MS. KIPPI: Wanda Kippi from Atgasuk.
18 I had gone to this meeting and after the meeting there
19 was people talking to me about the fiber optic going
20 through the rivers -- on the rivers. I wonder how are
21 they going to -- they mentioned a couple things about
22 doing it over with poles and across the river and then
23 some mention about the fiber optic going under to the
24 bottom.

25
26 Maybe that might be the best option
27 because if there's one over it might -- over time that
28 weather, that wind and blowing snow, it's going to come
29 apart if they don't take care of that fiber optic if
30 it's above in the air.

31
32 MR. VOSBURGH: Yeah. That's a concern.

33
34 MS. KIPPI: Because we got high winds
35 too. We get high winds. There was some other ones. I
36 can't remember what I recall from other concerned
37 members of the community. That's interesting how
38 they're going to try and do this. I heard they did it
39 under water down further south, somewhere down that
40 way.

41
42 MR. VOSBURGH: Wherever the river
43 crossings will be they'll use a borer to bore under the
44 rivers and string it through that.

45
46 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.

47
48 MR. VOSBURGH: Next slide. This slide
49 is just kind of a reference slide for discussing BLM's

50

1 permitting activity spreadsheet. It can be accessed
2 online at that website, the NPR-A SAP website.

3

4 This is my final slide just for
5 informational purposes if people are looking for
6 specific information on projects, activities.

7

8 MS. KIPPI: On the fiber optic from
9 Barrow to Atqasuk, about the cable that's going to go,
10 that's going to do that, with the cable that they're
11 going to use, if it freezes will it break? That was
12 one of the concerns if it got stumbled over or driven
13 over or something. Will it break if they drive over it
14 or something stomps on it when it's frozen?

15

16 MR. VOSBURGH: My understanding that a
17 majority of the cable route the cable will be laid on
18 the surface and there's no concern about the cable
19 being broken or anything from being run over. They're
20 pretty much indestructible.

21

22 MS. KIPPI: Even though if it's frozen,
23 if it freezes?

24

25 MR. VOSBURGH: Yeah.

26

27 MS. KIPPI: Okay. Thank you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just real quick.
30 There were some concerns about snowmachine strikes. I
31 know the thought that it's going to rest on the tundra
32 and nestle itself. To the extent that maybe the first
33 year while they're doing that they need to monitor it
34 because it may not nestle right away during its
35 installation while there's active subsistence going on.

36

37 The concern was -- like you said, it's
38 supposed to be indestructible and if one of the skis on
39 the snowmachine got caught on it while it hadn't
40 nestled in yet and causing a turnover on a potential --
41 because that's a highway. That area is a highway a lot
42 of young folks -- you know, they're going 30 miles an
43 hour sometimes.

44

45 MR. SHEARS: Old folks too.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I used to go 55 miles

50

1 an hour when I was young, but now I only do about 15.

2

3

(Laughter)

4

5

6

MR. VOSBURGH: Okay. Well, any more questions? If not, I'll thank the Chairman and Council for this opportunity.

7

8

9

CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. If you could provide for the Council -- so the first scoping meeting for that Willow EIS was here in Utqiagvik on Monday and I know all our Utqiagvik based Council members were out of town on Monday so weren't able to make that. There are scoping meetings coming up in Atqasuk and Nuiqsut. Could you let us know what those dates are and also other opportunities. I know sometimes they're teleconferenced, but I don't know if these are.

22

23

24

25

26

27

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. If we're done with the slides, I'm going to ask the Council to get back to their areas so that we can continue the meeting and see if there's any additional questions for BLM before we get him off the hook.

28

29

30

31

32

MR. OOMITTUK: This is Point Hope. I wish I was there to see all this. Getting cut off with static sometimes we lose contact. Do you have a presentation copy that's being sent out?

33

34

35

36

37

38

MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Hi, Steve. So BLM was working on compiling all these updates for you. I think I'll be able to get an electronic copy that I can print and mail to you. Similar for Rosemary.

39

40

41

42

43

44

MR. OOMITTUK: Thank you. I'm over here at the North Slope Borough Coordinator's Office. I don't know if you can scan them and get them to Kristi because she said she could print them out for me if you've got them available right now or tomorrow.

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. PATTON: At the moment I don't personally have access to email right now, but I got a nod from Tim. I think another member of our staff does have internet connection here so we could forward that on to Kristi Frankson to print out. I believe, Tim,

1 you're here tomorrow as well. We want to make sure we
2 had an opportunity to take this up if the Council
3 wanted to make any formal recommendations just in case
4 we lose quorum tomorrow. Gordon sounds hopeful we'll
5 still have many of the folks here. But Tim will still
6 be here, so if there's questions that come up that
7 you'd like to have addressed, we'll have more
8 opportunity for discussion tomorrow as well.

9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Eva. Any
11 other further questions for BLM before we let them off.
12 I have one quick question. Dave Yokel you said do all
13 of this stuff. So are you Dave's replacement person?

14

15 MR. VOSBURGH: Mr. Chairman, Council.
16 Yes, I am. I've been in the office now since March.

17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you. I just
19 wanted to -- you know, I worked with him a long time.
20 I do have a question and it's not related to this, but
21 it was some time ago that we had expressed concern with
22 BLM to work more closely with the local government as
23 well. One of the things that became an issue was back
24 in the '90s and early 2000s to mid 2000s BLM was
25 cleaning up Federal land.

26

27 I mean literally a different type of a
28 cleanup. It's more or less picking up paleontological
29 resources like mastodon tusks, mastodon bones, and
30 putting them all together in a big pile and shipping
31 them out with Hertz out of the Ikpikpuk area and those
32 kind of resources are traditionally used by local
33 indigenous groups for handicrafts and art.

34

35 From what I've seen in the past there
36 were -- I was told not to go in there, but I went in
37 the tents that were sheltering these things and they
38 were just packed wall to wall with tusks of mastodons
39 and things like that that BLM was taking out of here.
40 What their disposition were I don't know. We have even
41 local ordinances that you can't do that and the Federal
42 government taking those kinds of resources off of the
43 land like that. I know it's Federal government land,
44 but there are laws in place to protect those kinds of
45 things.

46

47 It was not something you need to
48 answer, but I just wanted to convey that. I think Mike
49 Kunz and those other groups that were doing these

50

1 things and that was reported to us in our inspections.
2 Those were some of the things we found out. Those are
3 the working relationship issues that we need to develop
4 with the local around here on why certain things like
5 that happen and out of the purview of the local
6 government.

7
8 MS. PATTON: One last question. I'm
9 sorry. Did I miss it, Tim? Were you able to find the
10 dates for the upcoming scoping meetings? Thank you.

11
12 MR. VOSBURGH: Mr. Chair and Council.
13 The dates -- the next planned scoping meeting is in
14 Fairbanks on the 22nd, today, and then Anchorage on the
15 23rd and then on the 27th in Atqasuk and Nuiqsut on the
16 28th and Anaktuvuk Pass on the 29th.

17
18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you.

19
20 MS. KIPPI: Is there a time on your
21 dates?

22
23 MS. DAGGETT: Do you want for Atqasuk?
24 For the Atqasuk meeting it is open house at 6:30,
25 presentation starts at 7:00 and public comments 7:30.

26
27 MS. KIPPI: Thank you.

28
29 CHAIRMAN BROWER: All right. I think
30 that concludes Item (e) on section 10. If there are no
31 further questions for BLM, I'm going to go down the
32 line and go to item 11, agency reports. There's a
33 little note here keep your reports time limit to 15
34 seconds.

35
36 (Laughter)

37
38 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Fifteen minutes,
39 unless approved in advance. So nobody's gotten
40 approval in advance, so you're limited to 15 minutes.
41 So tribal governments. Any agency reports from tribal
42 governments.

43
44 (No comments)

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We have Native
47 Village of Barrow shaking their head saying they don't
48 have a report to provide. Native organizations.

49
50

1 (No comments)

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

CHAIRMAN BROWER: We don't have a Native organization present. I'm going to go down to Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program. North Slope region projects reports. I think we did that. That was Karen Hyer and.....

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. That's actually reports from researchers that have been conducting FRMP projects in the region. Randy Brown has been conducting a couple different research projects up here both for whitefish and for Dolly Varden char. He's flying in this evening and will be available to present to the Council tomorrow.

In addition to that, our OSM anthropologist Joshua Ream had assisted Beth Mikow, who is the current Subsistence Division anthropologist for the North Slope region, and she's been working on a project on the Meade River. She wasn't able to attend in person, but I think Josh is prepared to provide some of those updates to share with the Council as well on the Meade River.

Maybe we can just check in terms of the Council strategy how you want to do that. Randy will be here tomorrow to be able to present if you want to hear the FRMP projects at the same time.

MR. SHEARS: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, it looks like there's some concurrence there. Maybe we'll do that when the person comes in and do them at the same time. That seems more efficient approaching that.

With that, let's go down to Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Steve, we're not going to go on a break, but the presenter needs about a minute to present. It looks like another PowerPoint.

MR. OOMITTUK: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BROWER: I don't know if you have a copy or if one was provided to you to follow along. I'm seeing some heads nodding no. Again, it would have been beneficial if you were here. We apologize you don't have a PowerPoint to follow along

1 the dialogue. So we're getting ready to watch the
2 show.

3

4 MR. OOMITTUK: All right. Thank you.

5

6 (Pause)

7

8 MS. DAGGETT: Good afternoon. My name
9 is Carmen Daggett and I work for Alaska Department of
10 Fish and Game and I'm your area biologist for the North
11 Slope. It's been a pleasure to listen to all of your
12 comments and your knowledge today. I look forward to
13 meeting with you much more in the future.

14

15 Today I'm going to be talking about the
16 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and what we've been working on
17 recently and try to put that in a little bit of
18 context. Next slide, please.

19

20 First I'm going to talk about the
21 current distribution, which I'm sure you're more
22 familiar with, but I just wanted to kind of lay it out.
23 Then we're going to talk about the most recent
24 population estimate. I'm going to talk a little bit
25 about short yearling surveys that we did this spring.
26 The parturition surveys that were worked on this
27 summer, the caribou collaring project that is ongoing
28 and then a little bit of information about the caribou
29 registration permit as requested.

30

31 You can kind of see the distribution of
32 the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd throughout the North Slope.
33 Obviously they also kind of intermix with the Western
34 Arctic Caribou Herd some and so you can see they kind
35 of extend further down the Seward Peninsula and a
36 little bit further south of that. Just for context
37 mostly.

38

39 Next slide. So I'm sure that most of
40 you are very familiar with the photo census. Basically
41 it's just a method that we evaluate the number of
42 caribou in the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. We start out by
43 doing radiotelemetry on the caribou during the summer
44 usually in July and then we wait until the insects get
45 really intense, causing the caribou to group up, and
46 then we photograph the caribou in those groups and use
47 those digital photos and our GIS to make mosaics of
48 those images and then count them on computers.

49

50

1 You can see on the image on the left
2 there's kind of a picture of what we would be looking
3 at when we're counting the caribou on the computer.
4 One of the final products that we'd use to evaluate
5 those numbers. If you look at the different color of
6 dots on that image, you can see we're marking them as
7 adults and calves in that picture. The picture on the
8 right is actually a picture from the Western Arctic
9 photo census that I took doing that in 2017. You can
10 see all the caribou coming down the gorge there.

11
12 So our most recent estimate was from
13 2017 for Teshekpuk Caribou. We had a minimum count of
14 56,255 and a Rivest estimate of 55,614. I'm guessing
15 that right now you're wondering why there's that
16 discrepancy between the estimate and the minimum count.
17 That is mostly due to the fact that there were a couple
18 of groups, actually 12 groups, that didn't have collars
19 in them, but were actually visually spotted by the
20 plane. Those groups were also photographed and
21 included in that minimum count, but they would not be
22 included in the Rivest estimate. So that's why the
23 minimum count number is larger.

24
25 Next slide, please. To put it in a
26 little bit of context, you can kind of see previous
27 years and the counts that were done using the old
28 method and then the 2017 that was done that was the
29 first year that we used the digital photography instead
30 of the black and white photograph method.

31
32 Last year the difference in numbers of
33 caribou seem to have increased some although it's
34 difficult to make comparison between those two because
35 of the different methods included. Moving forward it
36 will be interesting to see how 2017 numbers compare to
37 numbers in the future.

38
39 During the summer we also do
40 parturition surveys to look at the number of calves
41 that cows are having and also to look at indications of
42 them being pregnant. So they're done each summer and
43 we do radiotelemetry to find the cows that we have
44 collared. We're specifically looking at cows that are
45 three years and older because those are the cows that
46 are most likely to be pregnant and we observed them
47 over a period of a couple days looking for signs like
48 hard antlers, distended udders and presence of calves
49 as signs of being parturient. And during this time

50

1 period we also evaluate neonate body weights.

2

3

4 Next slide, please. So this map, if
5 you look at the blue dots, those are cow caribou this
6 year that had some signs of being parturient and the
7 purple dots are cows that had calves at heel. The
8 planes are where we landed while we were doing this
9 work and the one yellow triangle in the upper left-hand
10 side of Teshekpuk Lake was a bear that we saw. So just
11 some interesting kind of layout of where we saw those
12 cows.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

There were 55 in total that we observed that were three years and older, 92 or 93 almost presented or showed some signs of being pregnant and 47 percent of those had a calf following them around. That's kind of the information from that survey.

Stop me if you have questions along the way. Don't feel like you have to wait until the end. I know sometimes I have questions along the way and then I go like I'm going to forget that. So feel free to interrupt me if you like. I should have said that earlier.

There's a collaring project that we've been working on to try to maintain a certain number of caribou collars in the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. This year we collared 35 caribou, 20 female yearlings, 11 adult females that were recaptured that had been collared before and then four adult males that we collared.

During this time period we also take advantage of the fact that we have those caribou in hand and we do a variety of other things to try to make use of the fact that we have our hands on them. One of them we just started this year is a hoof exploratory study. We took scrapings from the females that were specifically adults and we were looking -- we were taking scrapings mostly to try to see if there's any ties between what we know about their pregnancies and the contents of their hooves. So that's something that we're working on right now. It's kind of in the exploratory stages.

MR. SHEARS: Is that like a nutritional study or nutritional health study?

1 MS. DAGGETT: I think they're looking
2 at a combination of maybe possibly hormones that are in
3 the hooves on top of other changes that you might see
4 throughout the growth of that hoof. Specifically the
5 females that we were looking at were ones that we
6 recaptured that we have some history already,
7 historical knowledge of how many calves those females
8 had and when.

9
10 During that time period we were also
11 collecting feces, hair and we were looking at body
12 condition of those animals that we had our hands on.
13 We were also doing nasal swabs, looking for different
14 diseases and we're also interested in looking at Movi.
15 Maybe you've heard about Movi in the news. It's been
16 out for a bit here, but if you have any questions about
17 that I can answer more about that.

18
19 We're also looking at jaw length,
20 girth, leg bone length and weight for yearlings only.
21 We weren't lifting those big males up trying to figure
22 out how much they weighed.

23
24 Next slide. So during this time period
25 both during the collaring project and also during the
26 short yearling surveys and during parturition surveys
27 we're looking at adult female mortality. Adult female
28 mortality, as I'm sure most of you know, is a really
29 important indicator to keep an eye on how the
30 population is doing.

31
32 Adult females are the best predictor of
33 population trend and they're obviously key in
34 introducing -- they're the engines of the population
35 where they can contribute calves coming in. So we keep
36 regular track of adult female mortality and this year
37 there was a 9 percent adult female mortality in collar
38 year 2017. That is compared to the long-term adult
39 female mortality of 15 percent. So this year they
40 actually were doing a little bit better than they
41 normally would, so that's good to know.

42
43 So you guys requested information about
44 the RC907 caribou registration permit, so I've been
45 working hard on this. I went to Wainwright on August
46 9th and I visited Wanda in Atqasuk on the 16th.

47
48 MS. KIPPI: While I was sewing.

49
50

1 MS. DAGGETT: While she was sewing.
2 Along with many others who were also sewing. And I
3 plan to travel to Anaktuvuk Pass soon here, Nuiqsut and
4 Point Lay in August or September. I hope to visit all
5 of the villages in the region. Obviously I'm residing
6 in Utqiagvik, so I'm here for people if they want to
7 come in and talk with me. I've been getting a lot of
8 phone calls actually in my office here. It's been
9 really good to meet people and I look forward to the
10 rest of those visits.

11
12 Next slide. So this is how many
13 permits have been or got distributed in 2017. I don't
14 know if you guys -- it's just kind of interesting to
15 note. I know that all of the villages had been visited
16 in 2017 as well by Letty Hughes, myself and Brian
17 Klimstra. Between all of us we made efforts to get out
18 to all of them. Actually I had gone to Point Hope too
19 in Unit 23 while I was working there as well in 2017.
20 That's just kind of some general information for you
21 guys.

22
23 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Just a question.

24
25 MS. DAGGETT: Sure.

26
27 CHAIRMAN BROWER: We heard earlier that
28 the permit registration process has not been.....

29
30 (Reporter moves microphone)

31
32 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I thought I was loud
33 enough that that thing was capturing me.

34
35 (Laughter)

36
37 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That it hasn't been
38 posted on the Federal Register yet on the Federal
39 public lands and the implementation for permit
40 registration by the State. Do you think that's the
41 disparity between what's going on? It looks like you
42 had, what, 17 from Barrow or something like that.

43
44 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah.

45
46 CHAIRMAN BROWER: And you really should
47 have 400, you know.

48
49 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah.

50

1 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Maybe the issue when
2 the Federal Register is out and that Federal public
3 lands is going to require you to have a -- be
4 registered for the permit itself. I wonder if that's
5 what's going to be the driver to say, hey, we really
6 need to get on board here, you know, that kind of
7 thing.

8

9

(Laughter)

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, I'm sure that it
would help. I think that in addition to having that
alignment that it's going to take some time to let
people know that this is going on and that this is
something that they need to think about. We're
definitely committed to working on that in the long
haul here. So that's definitely something -- that
outreach part of things is definitely something we're
working on.

Any other questions about the Teshekpuk
Herd?

(No comments)

MS. DAGGETT: So in 2017 the reporting
period would have ended July 15th and we're still
collecting reports from 2017. As I'm going to visit
all those villages that I was listing earlier I'm
talking with the hunters who got reports from 2017 and
trying to get their reports and calling them and
things. So we're definitely working closely with the
hunters that have gotten them already to get those
reports back so we can get some information from them.

We're still working on distributing
permits for 2018. If you're interested in getting a
caribou permit, I have some with me.

So I need to switch slide shows here
because I'm also giving the presentation for the
Western Arctic Caribou Herd. So give me a second.

(Pause)

MS. DAGGETT: So this is the
information about the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. As
a disclaimer, this is not an area I'm particularly
super familiar with although I'm probably a little bit

1 more familiar with this since I've come from Unit 23 up
2 here. So I do have some knowledge of this.

3
4 Next slide, please. So this is the
5 distribution of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd ranges.
6 If you're interested in the overlap between the two, I
7 have two large maps. One that shows the Teshekpuk
8 Caribou Herd and their ranges and then the Western
9 Arctic Caribou Herd. You can see that the Western
10 Arctic Caribou Herd encompasses a lot of the area at
11 some points that the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd does and
12 then extends as far south as Grayling all the way down
13 the coast.

14
15 Next slide, please. So just to kind of
16 give you some general information, the first thing I'm
17 going to talk about is some biological data and then
18 the 2017 census data and then the calf survival study
19 that's been worked on. I have helped with all those
20 things with my work from Kotzebue.

21
22 In 2016-2017, the adult female survival
23 average was 84 percent. In 2017, the yearling
24 recruitment was pretty high, 22 per 100 adults.
25 October 16 through June 17 the calf survival was pretty
26 high, about 90 percent. In 2017, calf production was
27 also high at 83 percent. I'd like to clarify and make
28 sure that you understand these are 2017 numbers and not
29 2018 numbers.

30
31 In September 2017, body condition was
32 high. Calf weights were 92 pounds. I think the
33 average for Teshekpuk caribou is around 90. The adult
34 body condition was there were none that were skinny,
35 but they only really looked at four of them. In
36 October of 2017 herd composition was 54 bulls per 100
37 cows, which is good and calves were 57 per 100 cows,
38 which is pretty high too. So those metrics from 2017
39 worked good.

40
41 I know that for the 2018 data that Alex
42 Hansen mentioned to me, he's the caribou biologist out
43 of the Kotzebue office that the adult female survival
44 wasn't as good as it was in 2017. So that's something
45 to keep in mind.

46
47 There were some concerns about how
48 harvest and overharvesting cows and making sure that
49 there were enough cows that were there to produce
50

1 calves as I mentioned before. There's been some notes
2 about annual variation of migration patterns and that
3 can influence how caribou are harvested. I'm sure
4 Esther is pretty familiar with that particular topic.
5

6 We need to work on tracking harvest in
7 order to manage effectively, which is what we're
8 working on with this RC907 permit. Without good data
9 managers err on the side of conservation. They tend to
10 be more conservative about the number of caribou that
11 can be taken versus having -- if you have a better idea
12 of how many are being harvested, you can manage a
13 little bit more liberally. So that's something to keep
14 in mind.
15

16 I've kind of already talked about this
17 a little bit, but the image on the bottom is a good
18 example of the difference between what we were counting
19 before on the left-hand side with the digital film
20 versus counting them with a computer on the right-hand
21 side. You can see how much more clear that is and how
22 much more accurate that might make somebody who's
23 trying to be effective at counting.
24

25 We can also get a wider operating range
26 with the new film system and you can photograph in
27 better light conditions that might have prevented us
28 from getting a good image before. So there's lot of
29 advantages to the new counting system that we used in
30 2017.
31

32 Next slide, please. So if you're
33 interested in getting more information about how the
34 old compared with the new as far as a few photo
35 censuses that we had in the past, 2017 versus 2016,
36 2013 and 2011, you can take a look at those just for
37 some data comparisons there. You can kind of see that
38 in 2017 that we found 26 groups with collars and each
39 group had about four collars and there were 13 groups
40 that had one or more collars in comparison to the other
41 years. Having them broken up into smaller groups makes
42 a difference in your ability to be able to find all of
43 them.
44

45 May I have the next slide, please. So
46 in 2017 the minimum count was greater than 239,055 and
47 they did not do a count in 2018. They tried to, but
48 weather conditions were not optimal for doing that.
49
50

1 MR. SHEARS: A lot of cloud cover.

2

3 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. I was watching the
4 weather pretty closely all summer and there was maybe
5 two days that might have worked this summer for that
6 and the staff that we needed to do it was unavailable
7 during that time period. So that's why the 2018 photo
8 census didn't happen for the Teshekpuk Herd. The
9 Rivest estimate was a little bit higher for the Western
10 Arctic Herd, 259,000 plus or minus 26, 79. Opposite
11 what happened in the Teshekpuk Herd.

12

13 Next slide, please. You can kind of
14 see that the Western Arctic Herd showed an increase in
15 the 2017 timeframe as well in comparison to the
16 previous years. I remember from discussions that even
17 though there's this new method that the amount of
18 difference between the previous year's count and that
19 year's count was so dramatic and there were many other
20 parameters that we were looking at too that we're all
21 agreeing with the fact that that population had
22 increased.

23

24 It would have been interesting to know
25 this year because I know some of those indicators had
26 changed some if that had agreed with a 2018 count, but
27 I guess we won't know until we get another count.

28

29 Next slide, please. We're looking at
30 across the bottom years obviously and then the number
31 of calves per hundred adults or number of short
32 yearlings. So the blue line is calf recruitment,
33 number of short yearlings per 100 adults and the red
34 line is adult cow mortality or the number of cows that
35 have died per 100 collared cows.

36

37 When we see the blue line increasing,
38 that's going to indicate the population is going to go
39 up. We've got more youngsters in the crowd. With
40 adult cow mortality going down, that's obviously more
41 of a problem. So keeping track of what those two
42 things are doing together kind of indicates what the
43 population trend is doing. So you can kind of see that
44 through time.

45

46 Next slide, please. So the calf
47 mortality study. There's 70 calves that were collared
48 between June 3rd and June 6th and they were targeting
49 ages 24 to 48 hours from birth and they were trying to

50

1 limit the amount of time of contact with less than 60
2 seconds to try to prevent calves from separating from
3 their moms. I guess eight additional collars were re-
4 deployed after some of those calves perished in the
5 early days of their lives. There were some predators
6 that were taking some calves and calves were dying for
7 various reasons during the beginning of the study, so
8 they were re-deployed.
9

10 The average weight was 6.6 kg. I
11 should have put that in pounds. I'll remember that for
12 next time. High is 9.5 kg and low is 3.5. They had a
13 total of 77, 70 that were put out initially and then 7
14 more were re-deployed.
15

16 Next slide, please. They kind of
17 characterized the different timeframes that mortality
18 was occurring. Breaking it down on calving ground
19 versus post calving in summer, fall and winter and then
20 spring. When this presentation was created 27 had
21 passed away; 67 percent of them, which were 18 calves,
22 perished on the calving grounds, 18 percent, which was
23 5, died after post-calving during the summer and then
24 15 percent perished, which was 4 animals that died
25 during the fall or winter. Obviously more vulnerable
26 when they're younger.
27

28 MR. SHEARS: If they can survive three
29 months, they just might live.
30

31 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, definitely seems
32 like they're more susceptible to mortality before that
33 time period for sure.
34

35 During that time period they concluded
36 that predation has been the leading cause of mortality.
37 Twenty of the 70 that were out there, 74 percent of
38 them, were due to predation. Thirteen by brown bears,
39 five by eagles, one by wolf and one by an unknown
40 predator. That's the conclusions that they came up
41 with from that mortality study.
42

43 There's a little bit more information
44 on the next slide. There were a few others that passed
45 away. Four percent drowned, which was one animal that
46 drowned in the Utukok. I remember Alex saying that.
47 Two of them were abandoned by their moms and then the
48 other ones were unknown. One was underneath the ice in
49 a creek and three had not been visited yet. So
50

1 survival to date was 65 percent.

2

3 In summary, the recent decline has kind
4 of stabilized or reversed by most recent data. There's
5 still good signs biologically that the Western Arctic
6 Caribou Herd is doing pretty good. The calf survival
7 study is on track and we're working on harvest data.

8

9 If you're interested in reading more
10 details, I brought the Western Arctic Caribou Trails
11 with me too. If you didn't get one of those in your
12 mailbox, everybody should have gotten one to all box
13 holders, but I brought copies with me too so you can
14 take one of those with you. There's actually some
15 really great information in there this time.

16

17 With that, do you have any other
18 questions?

19

20 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I do. This is
21 Gordon. Just a little concerned about the calves that
22 perished with the collar. Did any of those calves die
23 because of the collar?

24

25 MS. DAGGETT: Do you mean that it
26 physically caused them to die? Like having it on them
27 caused them to die or do you mean getting collared
28 caused them to do? Do you know what I mean?

29

30 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think you're not
31 going to kill them trying to put it on, but over the
32 course of that little animal wearing it I've heard some
33 concerns from other hunters where they harvested a
34 caribou where the collar was so tight on it that it had
35 worn away to the leather and the fur had come off.

36

37 MS. DAGGETT: Right.

38

39 CHAIRMAN BROWER: That may be -- I mean
40 those kind of issues. I'm just concerned because you're
41 dealing with very, very newborn almost calves. And to
42 suddenly give them something to carry around. I don't
43 know. It seems like there should be a less intrusive
44 way of doing those like what we do with bowhead whales
45 for six or eight months. I think some of those
46 satellite things on the caribou last -- I mean on the
47 whale last for a couple years now. They're very small.

48

49 MS. DAGGETT: Right. So the adult

50

1 collars versus the calf collars are actually quite
2 significantly different. The calf collars, the
3 receiver on them is about this big. It's pretty small.
4 I don't think that they're programmed to stay on them
5 for very long. As the calf grows, then they expand and
6 there's like an accordion sort of stretch that happens
7 on the collar as the calf grows and then eventually it
8 breaks and falls off.

9

10 Do you know exactly how long they stay
11 on, Phil?

12

13 MR. PERRY: We hope for about a year.

14

15 MS. DAGGETT: Okay. So they're
16 supposed to stay for the first year of their life and
17 then after that it comes off. So as far as the number
18 of calves that are dying as a result of being collared,
19 I believe there was two that could potentially be tied
20 to that in the study because they were noted as
21 abandonment. Two animals that their mom didn't stay
22 with them. That could be part of doing that work.

23

24 I believe when they were talking about doing
25 this study that the biologist was very honest about
26 that being a possibility of happening. Having 70
27 animals collared, 77 animals collared and having two of
28 them die from abandonment, that's only 7 percent of the
29 total group. Not that it's insignificant, but it's a
30 smaller proportion.

31

32 MS. PATTON: I'm just going to pipe in
33 real quick. For folks on teleconference, unless we've
34 got a Council member or someone trying to speak up, if
35 you could mute your phones. You can push *6 and that
36 works on a cell phone or regular phone. That will mute
37 the background noise so everyone can hear. Thank you.

38

39 MR. SHEARS: It looks like a VHF
40 frequency from that length of antenna.

41

42 MS. DAGGETT: Yes.

43

44 MR. SHEARS: It looks like it would
45 tickle the mother during feeding. I don't know if
46 that's a disturbance. Maybe 800 MHZ frequency would be
47 less intrusive.

48

49 MS. DAGGETT: I think that particular

50

1 collar -- I don't remember the antennas being that long
2 on the ones that I saw.

3

4 MR. SHEARS: Okay.

5

6 MS. DAGGETT: That one looks
7 particularly long to me.

8

9 MR. SHEARS: My question is the Western
10 Arctic Caribou Herd's working group meeting in
11 December. What information is forthcoming for
12 presentation at that meeting that we're not already
13 getting right here from you?

14

15 MS. DAGGETT: The 2018 data for sure.

16

17 MR. SHEARS: Will you have it by then?

18

19 MS. DAGGETT: I think that you're going
20 to get some of it. You're going to get probably more
21 calf survival information, calf mortality information
22 and you're probably also going to get more adult female
23 mortality information from 2018.

24

25 That being said, I'm not the one that's
26 giving the Western Arctic Caribou Herd presentation, so
27 for me to speak for Alex is a little bit presumptuous
28 maybe.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Is there predator studies
31 reports going to be presented concurrent to that
32 meeting? I know that's a big issue with the special
33 interest groups that would like to bring predator
34 hunting to the forefront, make it more permissible,
35 more socialized. Make it more available to sport
36 hunters.

37

38 There's always an agenda to increase
39 the harvest limits of wolves and bears because it
40 relates -- it was during the reduction of the herd when
41 we were observing the crash of the population. There
42 was a lot of people that were leveraging that to
43 increase pressure on predator hunting, harvesting of
44 predators.

45

46 MS. DAGGETT: Right.

47

48 MR. SHEARS: Very interesting that only
49 one of those mortalities could be accounted to wolves.

50

1 MS. DAGGETT: I think the time of year
2 that this data came out might have something to do with
3 that because I think they were still a bit further
4 north. I think that perhaps there might be more to
5 attribute to that later and that might be something
6 that you might get from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd
7 Working Group meeting.

8
9 I think when they're younger, they're
10 well out of the range of where most of the wolves would
11 be when they're up on the calving grounds and as they
12 get older and shift further south they're obviously
13 going to come into more areas where there may be more
14 wolves.

15
16 MR. SHEARS: In the wintertime is more
17 of a wolf hunting time.

18
19 MS. DAGGETT: They're more susceptible,
20 yeah. So it would be interesting to see how that
21 compares now versus then. I think Alex will probably
22 have more of that data for you in the future.

23
24 As far as your question about
25 liberalization of predator hunting regulations and
26 survey work and that sort of thing, I know that there's
27 been some push to liberalize predator regulations and
28 not just from guides either. I guess I have to speak
29 from my perspective of being in Unit 23 a little bit
30 more because I've spent more time there in recent years
31 than I have here, so I have a lot to learn here and I'm
32 hoping that you guys will teach me a lot in addition to
33 trying to be observant about what's happening on my own
34 as well. I know that there's a lot to learn and I'm
35 very aware of that.

36
37 In Unit 23 it seemed like that local
38 hunters were also very interested in being able to take
39 more predators and liberalizing predator regulations
40 and they did that in 23 actually. They increased the
41 bear limit from 1 to 2 for residents. I know that
42 they've also made more permits available for
43 nonresident hunters for brown bears as well.

44
45 Wolf limits are pretty liberal to start
46 with in both regions and I believe that you can
47 actually take one brown bear year round here in Unit
48 26A, which is actually different than it is in 23. In
49 23 you have a season still. It's a pretty liberal hunt

50

1 too, but if there were ever any changes you guys wanted
2 to make to those things I would be happy to help you
3 through any of that process if you were interested.
4

5 Any other questions.
6

7 MS. HUGO: This is Esther Hugo. Is
8 there a possibility or a way of getting -- instead of
9 that huge collar on the caribou? I mean, God, we've
10 got some geniuses and we've got little chips in our
11 cell phones, you know. It doesn't have to be this huge
12 collar around their neck. Maybe their ear or somewhere
13 in the caribou other than that collar.
14

15 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, that's a really
16 good question and I think there's always room for
17 improvement. Currently we have lots of collars out
18 throughout both the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk
19 Caribou Herd. To my understanding, they must be the
20 best that is available for what we have to work with
21 right now for the time period that we would like to
22 keep monitoring them.
23

24 In the future, maybe there will be
25 better options. I'm not aware of any particular ones
26 that would be as effective as the ones that we have
27 now, but that doesn't mean that there won't be or that
28 there aren't.
29

30 MS. HUGO: Do you guys ever check the
31 collared ones and check underneath their skin if they
32 got any, you know, meat, flesh or whatever?
33

34 MS. DAGGETT: Right. So the ones I
35 looked at this summer when we were pulling the collars
36 off of them all seemed like they were in good shape. I
37 didn't really see any signs of rub or wear on the
38 animals themselves. We really try to minimize that as
39 much as we can. I haven't seen any personally, but I'm
40 sure it exists to some degree. We care for the well
41 being of the animals too and we try to do a good job
42 with that to prevent some of that.
43

44 MS. HUGO: Gee, I hope so because it's
45 years and years that you've been using collars.
46

47 MS. DAGGETT: For sure.
48

49 MS. HUGO: There's got to be a devise
50

1 that can be so small. Oh, well, maybe in the future.
2 Thank you.

3
4 MS. DAGGETT: Quyanaqpak. Any others?

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MS. DAGGETT: Thank you for your time.

9
10 MR. LEAVITT: Joe Leavitt, for the
11 record, Native Village of Barrow. You mentioned that
12 the numbers looked good for the caribou in both herds.
13 Are they starting their upward climb again?

14
15 MS. DAGGETT: So it would appear that
16 that is true for both herds, yes.

17
18 MR. LEAVITT: So would that keep our
19 harvest levels at where they're at right now?

20
21 MS. DAGGETT: Right. So bag limits
22 haven't changed since you switched them last.

23
24 MR. LEAVITT: One thing you want to get
25 is more data on harvesting, right?

26
27 MS. DAGGETT: Right.

28
29 MR. LEAVITT: Are there more people
30 around Barrow that are getting harvest tickets permits?

31
32 MS. DAGGETT: So I would say there's
33 definitely a lot of room for improvement on that, but
34 we have them available and you can also get them
35 online.

36
37 MR. LEAVITT: When you get the harvest
38 permits, that's just to get numbers on what is being
39 taken, right?

40
41 MS. DAGGETT: Correct. And also where
42 they're being taken from.

43
44 MR. LEAVITT: Are you going to work on
45 maybe simplifying the permits, how they work? How are
46 you going to improve the permits?

47
48 MS. DAGGETT: So if you have particular
49 recommendations on how you think those permits could be
50

1 improved, I'd be interested in talking with you about
2 that. We have a structure that's set up right now
3 that's in the first stages of being used. We've only
4 really had it in for one full year, just slightly into
5 our second year. The new ones came out in July. So if
6 you have comments on those, I have a copy of those
7 permits with me and you can take a look at them and see
8 what you think might be a way that you could recommend
9 to improve it and we can talk about that.

10

11 MR. LEAVITT: I'm for the permit if
12 it's just going to be to tell us how many are being
13 taken, right. I'm for that. But probably got to
14 notify the public that the permits are needed for that
15 reason and that's for enforcement, you know. I would
16 want to see permits handed out and more people getting
17 them before they get penalties for that. I just don't
18 want to see penalties put on our people.

19

20 MS. DAGGETT: Absolutely.

21

22 MR. LEAVITT: Maybe some of them are
23 just ignoring them. Maybe there needs to be more --
24 maybe even a bigger talk show on the radio or
25 something.

26

27 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah, that's a great
28 idea, Joe. We can definitely work on doing something
29 like that. I've definitely been out of the office quite
30 a bit during the summer trying to do all the caribou
31 work, but I think that now that I've been able to be in
32 the office a little bit more that I might be able to
33 set something up like that. It would be great to have
34 someone like yourself go on the radio with me.

35

36 MR. LEAVITT: Even the Borough. We've
37 got to start working more together instead of being on
38 our own. That's what I want to do, is I want to start
39 working with all the other agencies. Maybe try to work
40 as one instead of being divided all the time. That
41 would be a real big plus for everybody if everybody
42 wasn't divided all the time.

43

44 MS. DAGGETT: Yeah. I agree with you

45

46 MR. LEAVITT: I think that's something
47 that needs more work and maybe I'll put a suggestion in
48 your suggestion box or something.

49

50

1 MS. DAGGETT: That would be great.

2

3 MR. LEAVITT: Okay. Thank you.

4

5 MS. DAGGETT: Good comments, Joe.

6 Thanks.

7

8 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Thank you, Carmen.

9

10 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
11 do have -- when I was talking with Jason Caikoski I
12 have his very brief summary. We weren't anticipating
13 we'd get to that until tomorrow, so I'm not sure if
14 either of you are familiar with Jason's schedule.

15

16 MS. DAGGETT: I'm not able to speak to
17 his availability really. I thought I was going to be
18 presenting tomorrow too. If he hasn't responded over
19 the phone, I'm assuming he's not there.

20

21 MR. PERSON: I'm sorry, somebody was
22 talking to me. Was there a question for me?

23

24 MS. PATTON: Hi, Jason.

25

26 MR. PERSON: This is Brian Person.

27

28 MS. PATTON: Are you on?

29

30 MR. PERSON: No, this is Brian Person.
31 Somebody was talking to me. Was somebody addressing
32 me?

33

34 MS. PATTON: No, sorry. We were
35 actually looking for Jason Caikoski. I don't think
36 he's online right now. But just to let the Council
37 know that we do have a Central Arctic and Porcupine
38 Caribou Herd report and we were anticipating that we'd
39 get to that tomorrow. I think Jason will be able to
40 join us tomorrow for that.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Well, it's 5:00
45 o'clock now and our scheduled time is until 5:00, I
46 think. We just finished up the ADF&G. I'm going to
47 ask what's the wish of the Council.

48

49 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Steve and I,

50

1 you, who else, has an obligation for a 9:00 a.m.
2 Assembly meeting tomorrow morning. Steve, how long do
3 you think that's going to take?
4

5 MR. OOMITTUK: It would be an hour,
6 hour and a half. If you need a quorum established, I
7 can call in and be on to set up a quorum if needs to
8 be.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: What's the wish of
11 the Council? Do you guys want to stay a little bit
12 extra? Considering Steve is going to be indisposed and
13 I'm possibly going to be indisposed for that and Bob.
14 Granted, it sounds like it's not going to be very long.
15 Maybe an hour, hour and a half.
16

17 Having said that, I have an eye
18 appointment at 9:00 on top of a meeting. So I'm going
19 to refer to the Council. What do you guys want to do?
20 Do you want to recess and try to reconvene? In order
21 to move forward tomorrow do we need to first establish
22 a quorum and then get going and then hand the Chair
23 over to the Vice Chair and continue the meeting?
24

25 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. That would be
26 helpful if you are available. You think you might et
27 pulled for a little bit. The Council doesn't require
28 quorum in order to hear informational updates and have
29 a full discussion. Just formal recommendations would
30 not be possible. As you noted, we covered the action
31 items with the exception of agency reports. We did
32 lose Rosemary during BLM discussion. There may be some
33 input she may want to have on that as well in terms of
34 any recommendations there.
35

36 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I really want
37 to hear from Marcy and Joe on Gates of the Arctic and
38 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I'd hate to miss
39 those agency reports. It doesn't look like there's a
40 lot of business left tomorrow. Could we convene at
41 11:00 a.m. and then finish the agenda from there by the
42 end of the day? Would that be enough time? Would all
43 you guys be okay with that?
44

45 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
46 just to follow up.....
47

48 MR. OOMITTUK: I would be okay with
49 that.
50

1 MS. PATTON: So we have two Fisheries
2 Resource Monitoring Program project updates and Randy
3 Brown will be here tomorrow. We have Jason Caikoski
4 with the Central Arctic Herd. He was going to be
5 available tomorrow. We have Gates of the Arctic
6 National Preserve. Both Marcy and Kyle Joly. He had
7 limited availability until 1:00 tomorrow. So those are
8 the agency reports that are remaining, so I think
9 there's ample time to cover tomorrow.

10
11 MR. SHEARS: Would 11:00 a.m. be an
12 appropriate start time to allow us to get those early
13 ones?

14
15 MS. PATTON: I think we could cover the
16 rest of those agency reports if we start at that time.
17 For those that are not aware of the later start time
18 I'll come in and get online so that anybody calling in
19 is able to get that update if that's what the Council
20 would like to do.

21
22 MR. SHEARS: What do you think, Steve?
23 Would 11:00 a.m. start up time be okay in the morning
24 for you?

25
26 MR. OOMITTUK: Yes, I would go with
27 that 11 a.m. and go through lunch and everything.

28
29 MR. SHEARS: Yeah, I think we'd go
30 through lunch. Gordon is coming back now. Hold on.

31
32 MS. PATTON: We did have Vince Mathews
33 online. Vince was going to be presenting for Arctic
34 National Wildlife Refuge as well.

35
36 MR. MATHEWS: Right. I also have an
37 update on the concerns on monitoring and law
38 enforcement on the Dalton Highway.

39
40 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Yeah, very important
41 topics it seems like.

42
43 MR. SHEARS: 11:00 a.m.?

44
45 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that would be
46 appropriate and I think we should be able to have a
47 full quorum at that time. If that's okay and it
48 doesn't hurt the public notice and stuff
49 like that.

50

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
2 Yeah, I think it would be very important to have a
3 quorum if we can. The agency reports and that
4 discussion is really important. Staff will man the
5 teleconference for those couple hours in the morning so
6 we can let the public know and also anybody that would
7 come here to let them know that we'll be reconvening at
8 11:00.
9

10 CHAIRMAN BROWER: I think that's
11 appropriate at this time. I think some of the stuff
12 we're wanting to hear is important and we still want to
13 participate. I would think that recessing until 11:00
14 a.m. would be in order if that's okay with the Council.
15

16 (Council nodding)
17

18 CHAIRMAN BROWER: Okay. We stand at
19 recess until 11:00 a.m. and the staff will man the
20 teleconference and making sure that people are aware
21 that the Council will reconvene at 11:00 a.m.
22

23 (Off record)
24

25 (PROCEEDINGS TO BE CONTINUED)
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through _____ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the NORTH SLOPE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME I taken electronically on the 22nd day of August 2018;

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 7th day of September 2018.

Salena A. Hile
Notary Public, State of Alaska
My Commission Expires:09/16/22