SOUTHEAST ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
VOLUME III

Central Council Tlingit and Haida's Vocational Training and Resource Center
Our Uncle's House
Juneau, Alaska
February 15, 2018
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michael Bangs, Chair
Michael Douville
Donald Hernandez
Albert Howard
Harvey Kitka
Cathy Needham - (Telephonic)
Patricia Phillips - (Telephonic)
Steve Reifenstuhl
Robert Schroeder
Raymond Sensmeier
John Yeager

Regional Council Coordinator, DeAnna Perry

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CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Good morning.

I'd like to get started. First of all, I'd like to see if we could have people that are on the phone identify themselves.

MS. OEHLERS: Good morning. This is Susan Oehlers, Forest Service, in Yakutat.

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, good morning, Susan.

Okay. I guess that is all we have on the phone for the moment. I think Cathy's going to call in in about an hour, so she'll be on line in an hour or so.

And we're going to lose Steve here today at 9:30; is that right?

MR. REIFENSTUHL: (Nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.

So anyway, I'd just like to touch base on our discussion last night. And I came up with an idea, after thinking about it, that maybe would be a good way to go about this is that I could work with Terry over the next few months and identify the streams that have freshwater fishing activities that are vulnerable to sockeye, maybe over-exploitation. Identify them and then identify the options that we have to try to protect them from the Council level. And then bring that back to the Council this fall and then present it to the Council as far -- you know, there's -- I think what Terry said, there's only a handful of streams that actually have any freshwater activities on them. And I think that it would be helpful to identify whether they're State land, Federal land. You know, kind of get an idea of what we have to work with and then go from there.
If that's suitable to the Council, I think that would be my idea of how to move forward.

Steve.

MR. REIFENSTUHL: Well, I agree with that. I spoke to Terry after the meeting adjourned yesterday and -- about that very thing. And I think that would be a good exercise, so I support that.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. If there's no opposition of.....

Yeah, Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Could you just tell us again, what's the -- what are the deadlines for submitting these proposals. Are we going to be able to get one in for the next cycle or.....

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, that's the issue. Is I'm not sure whether it has to go through the State or the Federal process. The State process won't happen for another three years and the Federal process is something that we could probably bring up. If we felt it was a conservation concern, we could bring it up out of cycle and put into next winter's Federal Board meeting.

So that's the only thing I can think of as far as time frame. And I'm just not sure what avenue to go. That's why I kind of wanted to work with Terry and identify them, figure out what the, you know, opportunities are for a fix.

So does that answer.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So anyone else have anything to add.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: If not, I'll just go ahead and purs.....

MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, this is Patty Phillips.
CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Hi, Patty.

Good morning.

MS. PHILLIPS: I dialed in. So will you share that list with us off and on? I mean that you're going to put together?

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Absolutely. And I would appreciate any streams or ideas from the Council members throughout the -- well, the next several months. If you do have a stream that's of concern to let Terry or I know and then we could look into that as well.

MS. PHILLIPS: Well, Mr. Chair, could I follow up? I mean for instance like Hoktaheen. I mean we have sockeye that go up to that lake, which is quite a few miles back there. But we have -- besides those of us who -- well, personal use under the State system, but subsistence under our terms in the -- you know, in the saltwater fishing zone.

So there's quite -- you know, what I've observed is sport charters come in there or even, you know, unguided recreational sport fishers come in there and, you know, they're like using treble hooks to snag fish. And, you know, to me that's like -- and it impacts -- you know, because I get the treble -- we get the treble hooks hung up in our nets or, you know, they get hung up in the fish. The fish get away. They get hung up in our nets.

I mean that's the sort of stuff that I see outside of the freshwater zones that's impacting subsistence harvest.

So I just wanted to mention that.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you for that, Patty.

You know, these are things we need to identify and see if there's some avenue we can go down to curb that.

MR. PAPPAS: Mr. Chair, George Pappas.
CHAIRMAN BANGS: Good morning, George.

MR. PAPPAS: Good morning, sir. Sorry I missed the introduction earlier.

When you're -- in doing this process you might want to consider a couple -- three things.

One, the deadline for Federal subsistence proposals for the fish cycle is coming up in March. I don't have the exact date.

And number two, in some areas of Alaska and probably a lot of even Southeast, you might have small bays that have multiple systems. Some of the fisheries may not have names, so if you're looking at maybe a suite of restrictions in an area because of concentration of hanging up or whatever, then you should consider bays. And, you know, so that would that include all the creeks within the bay. That's one option that's been in other areas.

And the other issue is what has been happening in areas where there's concerns about spawning grounds or areas where the fish mill or are very easily are susceptible to harvest. There are -- like an example in Unalakleet the waters are closer to fishing above X, under Federal and State regulation, so there can be a consideration of let's close the lower mile of this particular river for some reason and above it folks may fish for a coup -- or whatever. It's a different situation.

And the third thing -- I'm sorry -- is, you know, you might want to discuss amongst the RAC or consider amongst everybody that the other species, not only just sockeye, other concerns for other species.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Yeah. Because if you're introducing a new proposal you want to be inclusive enough to cover some issues so you're not restricted from -- or have to wait for another cycle to further clarify your proposal.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, George.
Any thoughts from the Council.

Steve.

MR. REIFENSTUHL: Well, a point I made yesterday. I think it would help inform the Council if we saw where all the lodges are and the numbers associated with those, where we can get that information.

I mean it -- as I mentioned, if it's a special use permit where it's located, then the Forest Service I'm pretty sure has numbers of clients. I think they have to report that.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah. Thank you, Steve.

Yeah. I'm just finding that the March deadline isn't going to work because there's just too much information that we don't have. But I think that if there was a big enough conservation concern that we could bring it up out of cycle. Or at least bring the information to the Federal Board next winter. Just -- or even in April if we came up with something before that.

But I just -- I think you're right. There's just a lot of things that we need to put in a row and gather that information before we can make any kind of drastic proposal.

So with that, I -- anybody else have anything on this subject.

MS. PHILLIPS: Chairman Bangs.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes, Patty.

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you. I have a question for Mr. Pappas.

So he's talked about, you know, the -- there's a proposal for fishing with the Federal system to be submitted by March. And he talked about how in other areas like in Western Alaska that -- I want some clarification.

So proposals could be submitted that
include the milling area of salmon prior to them going
up into the system? Is that what I understood?

MR. PAPPAS: Through the Chair. Patty.
George Pappas again.

While milling areas are -- such as
inside of a -- in a lagoon, you mean past the mouth of
the river in the freshwater there are areas where fish
hold and they're easy to target. Not the estuary and
-- or offshore or marine waters, but within the CSU boundaries.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

Thank you, George.

Okay. Any other discussion on this
topic.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Hearing none, I
think we'll work on trying to gather information and
bring that to the next meeting.

And if there's some proposal that Patty
or anyone else has about a specific area, they would
always submit it to the program. Send in a proposal
and then the RAC would review it when it comes before
us this fall.

So that's another option I guess.

So okay, with that said I think we'll
move to our -- try to clean up our annual report and
finalize that.

Bob.

MR. SCHROEDER: Are we off of fish
proposals then.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, unless you have
something to say on fish proposals.
MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah, Mike. We talked about doing a C&T proposal for fish in Southeast Alaska.

And Don, I don't know if you want to put that on the table.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Bob.

It is something that I had brought up, you know, at the start of the meeting that we might want to consider.

I don't know if the rest of the Council has given it some thought, but it is something we talked about in the past when we went about putting in proposals on the game side for changing the C&T and we put in that proposal on deer customary and traditional use designations.

And of course that hasn't been decided by the Board yet. It would have been nice to know how they felt about that one before we moved ahead with a fisheries proposal, but I think the time is now to put in a fisheries proposal if we want to do so.

Just, you know, as background, I kind of took some time and looked over a lot of these fisheries customary and traditional use determinations and I know we've discussed in the past how they can be somewhat confusing, hard to follow, a lot of areas to possibly simplify. It's kind of like our deer customary and traditional use designations. They were done kind of piecemeal over a period of time. Maybe not -- things that were done at one time might not have, you know, aligned very well what was done previously and -- I don't know. It might be a good time to just try and simply, make it more inclusive, eliminate some of the kind of inherent restrictions on users that have developed, you know, over time.

I think the idea -- the basic idea would be similar to what we did for the deer customary and traditional use is to just have a blanket customary and traditional use determination for fish that would be pretty much region wide. And I'll say region wide, but we may need to discuss some separation. I think as we did in the deer, Yakutat might have to have some different consideration just given the fact that they...
are a little bit more remote from the rest of the
Southeast districts.

We may also have to give some
consideration to our subsistence fishery on the Stikine
River because we do have transboundary agreements with
the Canadians on fisheries in that system.

I think if we have the time at this
meeting, it would be a good opportunity to at least
craft a proposal that would sort of broaden the
customary and traditional use determinations for fish.

So maybe with a little bit of
discussion we can come up with a draft proposal.

I guess I -- you know, I did take some
time to go through the C&T's and just to kind of point
out, you know, some of the things that came up.

There's a District 1 if you look in the
book. The only waters in District 1 that have a
customary and traditional use determination are
specific waters at Naha River, Roosevelt Lagoon, and
area adjacent to Hugh Smith Lake in District 1. And
that's only for the residents of Saxman. You know, for
some reason no other residents in District 1, like
Metlakatla is not included in that. I don't know how
that happened, you know, but that's kind of the way
it's in regulation.

We have areas like District 5 has kind
of a boundary line. It seems kind of arbitrary at
Point Berry to Boulder Point.

I looked at District 9. District 9 has
a very -- Districts 9A has a very specific customary
and traditional use for their residents of Kake and in
Kupreanof Island drainages that drain into Keku Strait
south of Point White and north of the Portage Bay boat
harbor.

You know, we have Port Alexander
residents that live in district 9A and 9B. They aren't
included in that customary and traditional use
designation for some reason.

So those are just some examples that I
found. And other Council members could probably find
other instances like that.

So I think it needs addressing. And seeing as how we kind of started down this road with the deer and we seem to get the okay from the experts on Staff in those realms of customary and traditional use determination that we are able to make broader determinations if we feel it's necessary.

So I'll maybe see if any other Council members have any thoughts on this.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Robert.

MR. SCHROEDER: I just -- follow up on this.

And thanks, Terry, for nudging me that -- awake here. It's still before 9:00 for me. But the C&T determinations that are on the books are found on page 77 and 78 in the Federal book. And those are for Southeast Alaska.

And then the Yakutat C&T determinations are found on -- I believe on page 72. And these come out of basically things that were adopted from State regulations. Various C&T determinations were made under the State system in the late '80s. Probably -- I was trying to figure out when this took place and I think it was around '87. It could have been '85 or '86. And at that time the idea was to only recognize very limited areas for subsistence use by specific communities. And then those determinations migrated over into mapping them onto districts. And then the Federal program picked this up.

And Don's noted some things that are just really pretty strange. I mean you can't figure out how these make sense at this time.

So I think our proposal should be as Don suggested, that we recognize the customary and traditional use of all fish species by all Southeast communities and Yakutat in all areas of Southeast.

And our justification for this when we get to that in deliberations I think would be very much like what we put in for deer. Where we noted first the history, which is that these are kind of legacy
determinations. These, I think, are 30 years old, so
that's pretty long ago.

And that they potentially cause people
some problems. Because what we noted with deer wasn't
that people were kind of randomly moving around in
Southeast to target species for subsistence uses, but
that part of the pattern of life in rural Alaska in
Southeast is that people go visit their friends, their
relatives, their wife's family, their husband's family
or they're off with school teams and visiting their
buddies some place and we noted that they might go out
and hunt deer and that it didn't seem to make -- serve
any purpose to say that no, because you're from Angoon
and you're visiting Hydaburg, your brother in Hydaburg
or your cousin or your wife's family, you can't hunt
deer down in Hydaburg under subsistence regs. We
didn't think that was reasonable.

So I think this would -- putting in a
proposal that said all fish species in all areas for
all rural residents. We could call it the Three All
Proposal. I think it would work really well.

Terry Suminski did bring up some things
that I think deserve a little bit more attention
because there could be other considerations that come
up that Don mentioned. And I think we shouldn't
attempt to do those on the fly right now, but to do
that when we would deliberate this proposal if we
submit it.

And since I was beating on --
mentioning things about our charter yesterday and how
we were now given new duties under our charter thanks
to the national administration, one of our new duties
is to identify regulations for repeal and replacement
or modification considering at minimum those
regulations that are undated -- outdated, unnecessary,
and ineffective. And those that create a serious
inconsistency or otherwise interfere with regulatory
reform initiatives in policies.

So even though we didn't even know this
was our task until we read through this, I think we
could step out in front of the pack of regional
councils and be among the first to implement this
national directive.
MR. SCHROEDER: So what I would like to do is very briefly put -- I think we can move through this. Of course there should be discussion, but let's just call this the Three Alls Proposal for fish. And we could leave it up to DeAnna Perry to work on the language on that and probably talk to -- circulated by whatever Council members volunteer for this to make sure we put in something that works real well.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert. So how would you like to proceed with this, Don?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Well, I think Mr. Schroeder kind of gave us a good starting point there. I guess in my comments I was kind of assuming that maybe we should consider some of these exclusions, for lack of a better word, to be considered, but that might be a little premature. Like I say, we should probably just put in a general proposal and let the Staff analyze it, come back to us with any suggestions they might have where they might see these, you know, problems that would arise in specific areas and then deliberate on those.

But like you say, we probably don't have to give too much prior consideration to those until we actually get an analysis. So, I guess, I'm, you know, looking at the C&T regulations in the book.

Bob, you kind of used the term all fish. And I don't quite understand why for some districts they say salmon, Dolly Varden, trout, smelt, and eulachons and in other districts they say all fish. So I guess if we're going to do a proposal, would we just leave it at all fish. I guess I'm thinking probably so.

So maybe I'll defer to Mr. Schroeder because I think he actually said the language best that would work for a proposal.

So maybe, Bob, if you want to reiterate
that with any other comments from the Council.

MR. SCHROEDER: I don't know if we have other Council comments.

And my proposal is real simple. It's the Three all Proposal.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Bob.

Mike and then Harvey.

MR. DOUVILLE: Yeah. We've had this discussion somewhat before. And I distinctly remember Patty saying that -- and I agree that what we have is unnecessarily restrictive in times of abundance. So this would -- a proposal like we're discussing would take care of it.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Harvey.

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And I agree with all that was said because all fish would include probably some of the other things that -- like halibut and stuff. And just that's gotten left off in a lot of places and all fish sounds good.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Anyone else.

Patty, did you have anything to add?

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I agree with what I've heard so far.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

So would drafting up this proposal -- could we do that fairly quickly. It sounds like we could do it quick and then maybe we could get DeAnna to put it up on the screen after it's drafted and take a look at it and then go forward with it.

Does that sound doable.
So it will take her a while to do that. And we could probably cover that even if it's after lunch, but have a proposal -- a general proposal drafted up. And if we could get together and do that, I think it would work.

And like you say, it's pretty simple language. And then we can fine tune it after the proposal is analyzed.

Okay. Any other discussion.

Albert.

MR. HOWARD: I have a question, Mr. Chair.

I'm wondering what the intent of the proposal is. Is it to allow -- as example if I go to Hoktaheen for three kings and I decide I want to fish sockeyes in that stream. Is that what this is.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Robert.

MR. SCHROEDER: The intent of the proposal would be to recognize subsistence uses as they are. As they exist in Southeast Alaska. And to take care of what I believe, and perhaps this Council believes, are unnecessary restrictions on subsistence uses by restricting -- by the very fine grained customary and traditional uses -- use determinations that are on the books.

In terms of what people can do, this would not change Federal fishing regulations. And so fishing in saltwater where there isn't Federal jurisdiction wouldn't change whatsoever. This would have absolutely no affect on this.

However, Albert, to take an example, if you went to somewhere in District 1, at the present time you could not fish under Federal regulations anywhere in District 1. Out of luck. You'd fish under sport regulations.

If this passed you would be on an equal footing with other rural residents to pursue any fishing that was allowed under Federal regulations.
CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

Does that answer your question, Albert?

MR. HOWARD: It seems like I'm the only guy that's probably -- doesn't exactly agree with this, and I have reasons.

Angoon fishes in certain water systems in the area and we know them pretty well. When to be there, where to fish, how to fish, and everything else and so on and so forth, but given the pressure we have coming from Juneau and Sitka now to fish the same systems we have been fishing forever by ourselves kind of makes you wonder if Albert decides he wants to fish in District 1, how is that going to be received. Given the tradition between the Haidas and the Tlingits, that I don't think they'll receive it very well.

But as far as the all fish goes, I'm sitting here thinking of my grandfather boiling bullheads. I don't know if everybody around this table would do all that. So when you say all fish, that comes to mind. I mean I've seen my grandfather eat things that I wouldn't even consider, but tried it out of respect for him. So when you look at the -- some of these don't have all fish because maybe someone down in Port Alexander won't eat a bullhead.

So, you know, these things are here for a reason. A lot of things are here for a reason. I'm looking at the map and 13C kind of -- I've definitely gone way back into 13C for many reasons. So that isn't even in our customary and traditional use area.

So that's my thoughts.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

I kind of like bullheads. I've eaten them before. They're not bad.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other discussion.

MR. KITKA: Saltwater catfish.
CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, I understand your concerns, Albert.

I think what brought this -- when we were discussing it for deer was the way we move around so fluently. And I think that's what brings it to the front is that we travel throughout Southeast and it's you visit your family in another town and you, you know, normally would want to participate in subsistence activities. And this just allows that for that to happen.

Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, I think if we're going to address this, I think maybe looking at the regulations I -- it seems to me if I see my uncles in Hoonah pulling a net -- and they're 70s and 80s now, my instinct is going to be to go grab and help. Because if I don't, they'd disown me anyway.

(Laughter)

MR. HOWARD: But I'm wondering if we're going to look at this that -- that I don't get penalized for doing it.

I mean I know if I grab that net and help them pull it to the beach, they're going to say I'm fishing without a permit. I mean that's another way we can look at it and see if that's something we can -- to me that regulation isn't consistent with customary and traditional uses where a nephew would naturally go help his uncle or grandparents or an elder for that matter, you know.

But I'll sit back and watch this and see what I think.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

And it's -- the point was made that, you know, if we put in this proposal and it's analyzed, then we can deliberate on it and fine tune it to how -- or any other problems that you can think of that may
change it or foresee a problem by the proposal. We'll
have time to do that, but I think we're under a
deadline to submit a proposal. So this might be the
time to come up with something that we can work with.

Harvey.

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Looking at these old regulations it
seems like they were handed down from the State. And
we just kind of got stuck with them because they just
adopted them.

And this was something that we decided
quite a long time ago that we needed to come back and
fix it. And our charter now lets us do it, so maybe
it's a good time to do it.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other discussion.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So I'll work with
DeAnna and just put it in a format to where it will
look as a proposal would look. And then maybe we could
get it up on the board right after lunch or sometime
this morning after a break and then decide what we want
to do with it.

Does that sound okay.

(Council nods affirmatively)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'm glad you brought
that up, Robert and Don.

We did talk about it earlier and I
thought maybe we would cover C&T later, but this is
probably the proper time. It was a fisheries proposal.

So thank you for that.

Okay. We did have some verbiage
changes done to our annual report. DeAnna did some
work on it. And you have the sheet in front of you
with a lot of yellow highlighted on it.

So if everybody would take a minute or
two to read that and then we'll have some discussion.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. DeAnna has some clarification here.

MS. PERRY: I just wanted to note that on your sheet number five is highlighted. And I actually meant to highlight number six. There is no language change in number five from the original annual report draft.

Number six, the Clean Water Act, contains the verbiage that Council Member Albert Howard offered yesterday.

So I just wanted to clarify that for you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I have a question for Albert.

I remember you saying something about eliminating the word cruise ships to encompass all waste water dumpage; is that -- do I remember that correctly?

MR. HOWARD: And we were going to give Steve credit for that, Mr. Chair.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

Okay. We'll figure out how to make that change.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Also, on number six, do we want to put the Council recognizes and agrees with the concerns that many Southeast communities have.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: If you want to add that, I -- let the rest of Council weigh in on it, but I think that sounds amenable.
Any discussion on adding the Council recognizes and agrees that the concern -- or agrees with the concerns that many communities in Southeast and their concerns with the impact of dumping waste water.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Could you read that phrase the way you're talking about changing it, Albert?

MR. HOWARD: The Council agrees -- the Council recognizes and agrees with the concerns that many communities in Southeast Alaska and their concerns with the impact dumping of waste water.

And if we're taking out cruise ships, I'm not sure how we would word that without cruise ships.

Maybe Steve has some words for us.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: We could say -- possibly say that the impact of dumping waste water in the inside passage every year. So that would encompass municipalities, ferries, whatever. It would -- mines, activities for development on land that dump into the waters.

So you would just eliminate the words cruise ships that come up the inside passage and just say the dumping of waste water.

Steve.

MR. REIFENSTUHL: What it's called in regulation would be all point source effluence.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So instead of saying waste water, just all point effluence.

Does that sound.....

Ray.

MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
I mentioned yesterday that I was kind of questioning why in addition to waste water that black water is not included. There's a larger amount of black water that's dumped than waste water.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Black water isn't waste water?

Steve.

MR. SENSMEIER: Black -- oh, I'm sorry.

MR. REIFENSTUHL: All point source would include black water, grey water.

MR. SENSMEIER: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

Ray.

MR. SENSMEIER: Just to clarify that, waste water is sinks, toilets, and showers. Black water is sewage.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So all points phrase would cover that, so we're good with that word. I think it would cover it.

Any other discussion on the change.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: DeAnna will probably-- oh, she's got it all fixed up for us.

Any discussion on the word that -- the words the DeAnna just put up on the board that changes our verbiage.

Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Maybe it could be discharge of DEC quality water into the environment. I think that's more understandable than -- because if I'm
someone from the interior looking at that, what is all
points.

I mean because DEC sets the standard on
the quality of water we can dump into the environment.
That's not necessarily the best standard we should be
going by. So if we ask where the impact -- because
they're the ones that allow the cruise ships to do what
you do -- and everyone else.

I mean that language I believe would be
-- the regular guy on the street can understand what
that means, whereas the other one is what does that
mean. I mean he understands what it means because he's
been in the system to understand what that means. I
don't know.

If anyone wants to argue that DEC
quality water is safe for the environment, I don't
agree with that at all. I've seen the effects of it.

So I think we can consider putting that
kind of language in there. All we're doing is asking
what -- if we can get assistance to see what that
quality of water is doing on the environment and our
food chain. And we're not asking for anything else.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes, Steve.

MR. REIFENSTUHL: I'm not hung up on
how you put it in there.

I have been asked this morning whether
I work for the cruise ships, so I would like to just
let everybody know I have never worked for the cruise
ship industry. I have fought against the cruise ships
in Sitka, on ADEC Commission on water quality standards
since the 1980s. And probably why I was included on
the science panel when we dealt with the most recent
update in ADEC regulations for cruise ships.

And that -- I checked last night. That
report is online. It was published in 2012, I believe.

So I guess the other point is that the
Clean Water Act which was mentioned in here is part of
course Federal law and then EPA is tasked with
implementing that. And what DEC does in Alaska is
simply -- about ten years ago got primacy. They had to
prove to EPA that they could -- they had the standards
and the people here in the State that could implement
Clean Water Act and EPA regulations.

They get checked on that all the time,
so ADEC is just working, you know, as a conduit for the
Clean Water Act.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, I -- the point
being that I -- the way I look at this, this Clean
Water Act that we're talking about is not a -- so much
an action item as to bring attention to we want to know
what the effects of whatever dumping is going on
regardless of whether it's a mine, a cruise ship, or
whatever. We want to know the effects on our
subsistence food and that's what I -- that's all it's
saying to me is we just want to know what the effects
are.

So whether you -- whatever words you
use for explaining the dump -- the dumpage is
irrelevant really. As long as you explain we just want
to know what stuff's going into the water that's affect
how it's affecting our subsistence food.

Am I wrong. I mean is -- that's all
we're looking for. And we're not trying to change
regulations. We're not trying to tell anyone that they
can't do this or can't do that. We're just trying to
find out how it's affecting our foods. That's my
point.

So the words up there are going to go
to the Federal Board and they're going to respond. And
I think that they would understand what we're talking
about because we're not pinpointing the cruise ship
industry. We're not pinpointing the mines. We're not
pinpointing any individual. We just want to know all
this stuff that goes into the water from human
activity, what -- how is it affecting our food source.

So Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

And, similar, I guess if the Federal
Board's going to look at this, I think they need to
have language that they understand.

Steve gave us his resume, so now I get it. And for the record, I'm not the one that asked him if he worked for the cruise industry. I implied it yesterday, but I'm not one who's going to sit back here and hold any punches. I say what's on my mind and get to the point because I'm getting older and don't have time to beat around the bush anymore.

But I think somewhere in here we need to say that we've exhausted every avenue trying to find answers and now we're asking you guys for help. Because I think with everyone around the table, I'm sure we -- some of us have exhausted every avenue trying to figure out the impacts this is going to have. And sometimes the doors get closed when you ask the wrong question it seems like.

So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

Don and then Ray.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Just one comment.

I think this is kind of a timely issue right now because I personally have no confidence whatsoever that the Environmental Protection Agency is going to be holding the State accountable for how they enforce Federal regulations in State waters.

So I just wanted to put that on the record.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

Ray.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Albert just mentioned that, you know, we don't have all the answers. I spoke with you yesterday about the process of perhaps allowing Guy Archibald, who's a scientist from SEACC and has been working on this issue for many, many years, and Gershon
Cohen of Haines, who has a PhD, and (Indiscernible) who has also worked on it for years.

I talked to Guy this morning. He's in Washington, D.C. right now meeting with an International Joint Commission on this issue. And on the mining issue the International Joint Commission had its first meeting in the United States a year and a half ago in Hawaii. It was attended by 190 nations, with leaders and representatives from those respective countries. And President Obama and Secretary John Kerry were there as well.

That's one meeting I missed because my son's movie premier was out on the exact same dates, but I've attended meetings with scientists and others and was -- we were instrumental with Gershon Cohen and Joe Geldorf, a lawyer from Juneau, in the cruise ship ballot initiative, which we gathered 25,000 signatures and it passed to implement a $50 head tax that would help fund studies and other things.

So I'm hoping that -- Guy said he would be more than happy to come and make presentation on Greens Creek on the TransTribal Boundary Mining Work Group and the cruise ship issue.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.

I agree with Don that this is a time sensitive thing and we should probably make sure that this is our annual report which will go before the Board here in another couple of months.

So is there any more discussion about the words -- wordage on the board for this item of Clean Water Act.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So if everybody's happy with it, we'll leave that and move on to other changes and additions.

The correspondence policy is listed on there now and we had lengthy discussions about the correspondence yesterday.
And do you have something, Robert?

MR. SCHROEDER: Yes, Mr. Chair. Just on the correspondence policy.

Since other people were handling the cruise ship or the waste water stuff I was using that time to look at the existing correspondence policy and what our annual report items says, particularly the bullet point two.

And I was trying to think of since, you know, we're getting really good support from OSM and I think we're all pretty much on the same page with what we want to do with the program, I was trying to figure out what the problem was. And I think the problem is in the words, in a timely manner.

And that's part of the existing correspondence policy point five. And I don't know. Like if somebody tells me that I need to get something done in a timely manner, I really don't know too much what that means. And one person's timely manner could be somebody else's serious procrastination.

(Laughter)

And so my suggestion is in light of our goal of having government work efficiently, here we have a clear performance measure there. And a clear performance measure is one that you can objectively evaluate. So in a timely manner is not -- doesn't lend itself to be a performance measure.

And I suggest we put in what was in an earlier version of the correspondence policy which I was involved in when Chairman Littlefield was working with us with OSM. And the earlier, not rarefied in writing policy was two or three days that you'd get a turnaround. Because as the correspondence policy says in point five, recognizing that such correspondence is the result of an official Council action and may be urgent, the ARD will respond -- and now these are the wiggle words -- in a timely manner.

And at one time it wasn't in a timely manner. It was -- this is just my recollection, three or four days or something like that.
So I think what we should do here is say that we want a turnaround in a week. Or let me put that one out there. Because that's completely reasonable. That says that OSM is doing its job of primarily providing Staff support to us and letting us know if we're just -- we erroneously state something or aren't aware of something that should be in our correspondence, but it does not allow the possibility of things going on for months and months or years and years before we send something out.

So my suggestion would be to firm up the point two there or substitute in, not to streamline, because this is just human beings that made this up. And if we give them an endless amount of time, they can simply put more layers of review in, which means that more time will go by. So I think my preference would be for bullet word two. To reword that and say that we want a one-week turnaround level.

And I actually think this could help OSM's job. Because at the present time the level of review for certain things may be such that something never will be sent, which is what we found with our -- some of our comments on TransBoundary River issues.

So that's what I have to say. If people -- we don't have to belabor this. We could -- if there's other support for that, we can just proceed. Otherwise, we can leave it as is.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Anyone else.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'm wondering if we could request that at least we get a response within a week. Whether it's done or you're saying that -- have it a time limit as far as a week, but.....

Robert.

MR. SCHROEDER: Well, I don't think we need to find out exactly how -- I don't care how the review process takes place within OSM. But having worked in government, if you give a government worker more time, then they can say well, I'd better have my
boss look at this. And then if there's even more time, that person says well, you know, I'd better have my boss look at it. But my boss isn't coming back from that trip to Washington, D.C. till two weeks from now.

And, you know, so the reason for a fixed time limit is that you avoid the possibility of somebody being ooh, this is like a little bit complicated here. I don't want it to stick on my fingers, so I'm going to have somebody else review it. And then we'll be in a situation where we're out at three years one more time.

And so that's my suggestion.

And, you know, I think that if anything, this Council has been excessively patient and tranquil on spending a whole lot of work on things and then being told well, you know, this isn't quite ready to go out. We can't quite do that. It's got to go through channels. And that I -- I've been re-reading ANILCA here, too, and it doesn't say that the Regional Councils can do this and this, but boy, if they get over in that territory it's got to go through channels and it could be years before they could say that it's snowing outside.

So in any case, I don't -- I think we're -- that this isn't -- this is done in a constructive spirit. That we want to be able to represent subsistence users in Southeast Alaska and be able to speak on things that are important.

And that doesn't include waiting three years to talk about whether or not TransBoundary Rivers or mining is kind of a dangerous thing. Duh.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

Anyone else on the Council.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I understand the point and, you know, maybe we could -- if they don't respond in a week we could have a shut down.

(Laughter)
MR. SCHROEDER: It would take away their funding.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other thoughts on changing the words to that bullet point. The second one on number eight, the correspondence policy.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Or leave it as it is for now.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: That message of discussion could be conveyed to the Federal Board at the time that we -- you know, or something like that.

Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. I have no problem with, you know, changing the wording in our document here to be more specific on the time. I don't have a problem with that.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah. I don't have a problem with it either.

Anyone else.

MR. DOUVILLE: I'm okay with changing it.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So Robert, why don't you write that bullet point like you would like to see it. Convey it to DeAnna and then we could look at it up on the board and move along.

Are there any other -- while we're waiting for that to transpire, is there anyone else.

Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This isn't something to add to the
annual report, but while we're talking about this correspondence policy and we still have OSM Staff here, I was wondering if I could ask one more question of maybe Mr. Peltola or Mr. Doolittle on policy.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Mr. Peltola.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. PELTOLA: Good morning, all.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you.

The policy states that the Council members acting on behalf of or as a representative of the Council may not through correspondence or any other means of communication attempt to persuade any elected or appointed political officials.

I think the Council has kind of taken that to mean that we cannot write any correspondence to elected officials. I guess my question is if our intent is to inform elected officials, was there any discussion in drafting this policy as to whether or not, you know, informing elected officials is kind of different from trying to persuade them?

MR. PELTOLA: Mr. Chair, if I may.

Along those lines, I wasn't around OSM when we created that, although there's a lot of similarities in what we do today and a lot of reasons why we have things within policy.

By addressing this statement as a government entity or also applicable to government employees, we have to abide by the Hatch Act. The Hatch Act stipulates that we cannot lobby Congressional delegation members specifically. My gut feeling is that that is why we have the verbiage in the policy as stated there.

And it would be a fine line when looked upon while trying to differentiate between information or trying to, you know, or perceived as going beyond informing.

Did that make sense?
MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. It does make sense. I was just wondering if that's, you know, something that you had considered. The difference between informing and persuading. So it sounds like you have considered that as a.....

MR. PELTOLA: We have. And there's a lot of things that are applicable to the program we would love to be able to have a direct line of communication with, but we're precluded from it because of the Hatch Act.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Thank you. I had not heard of the Hatch Act mentioned previously, so that's something else to consider.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Gene.

Any other discussion on this correspondence policy while we're on this issue. I think they've got the new words up.

Albert.

MR. HOWARD: That's almost a catch 22 policy, Mr. Chairman.

I mean it's the elected officials that changed the rules and regulations how we should be able to communicate with them that hey, what you're doing isn't consistent with ANILCA. I don't see how that's persuading them. I mean sometimes you have to remind, you know, people that there's laws in place that.....

I'll give you an example. We had a conversation with the Department of Transportation in Angoon and they didn't understand that there's a thing called the TERO Ordinance, where a tribe can put an ordinance in place if you don't hire so many tribal members on an airport project, that they have to pay a certain percentage to the tribe. I mean that's an example.

So when they're changing regulations that affect subsistence users, we should be allowed to send them a letter. I mean the thing that bothers me about this whole thing is we're all adults around the
table. They should trust us enough to -- that
somebody's going to say -- even Don might say hey, we
can't do that according to what we're bound by.

I mean there's enough of us to
proofread this during a meeting and send it out. We've
been entrusted with that. And if we do something
wrong, then they'll -- I'm sure they'll let us know.
But it seems like this type of policy comes into place
when someone else has done something wrong, but it
becomes a blanket policy for everyone.

I have full confidence in the fact that
there's enough of us around the table we can figure out
how to address something properly and send it out.

So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

John.

MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I agree with Mr. Howard's statement. I
think that's pretty much on point there.

But my other comment is that in light
of a few developments with correspondence between
whether it's OSM or the Board and the Council or the
Council Chair, we could put any kind of timeline in
there where we request a reply, but there's still those
layers that are going to hold up that time frame.

So one example is your address isn't on
letterhead anymore, so it's like there's a stop right
there where that's going to be held up. It's already
happened to us before. So I think no matter how
stringent we are on requesting timely response, I still
think there's too many filters in the way to actually
get -- it's like asking for second day to Alaska. It
never happens. It's always five or six days more.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

Albert.
MR. HOWARD: It's a question more than anything, Mr. Chairman.

How do we get your name and address back on the letterhead.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'm not really sure. I have mentioned it at the meetings in the past and asked OSM and expressed my displeasure in them doing it without asking me. And Cathy reiterated that. She had some correspondence that was lost for a few weeks. And then it was too late to respond by the time she got the letter.

So I don't know. I'd have to ask Gene or Mr. Doolittle as to how that could happen. I'm not sure.

MR. PELTOLA: And Mr. Chair, I'd like to reiterate that for the most part, the policy as established works for the program.

Although there have been times especially administrative in recent history where unfortunately -- and we have addressed that we have lost communications which have come in to OSM. We have tried to address that to ensure that it doesn't happen again.

As far as -- and what I'm about to say, I don't want to sound like a bureaucrat, but we are bound by certain things. And I am not positive -- although putting names and addresses could come into conflict with the guidance within -- we have within the Federal government about PPI, personal protective information. And one of those is individuals -- not necessarily names, but personal residences or addresses.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I'm curious as -- you know, it's never been an issue in the past for -- since the inception of the program and then all of a sudden it just changed. And that was what kind of threw me off.

And to see what had happened since then, it just seems like it's broken.

So yeah, Tom.
MR. DOOLITTLE: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Yeah. You know, and I think we can always readdress, you know, those questions and -- but on the other hand, what Gene said relative to private information has become more and more relevant and times in fact has caused actually a lot of litigation and expense to the government and angst for people. And especially when we look at everything from credit card theft to you name it and what we see in what I call this new world. I think that there is that extra care. So part of that is keep -- be cognizant that we're not in the world today that we were even 20 years ago.

On the other hand, too -- and I'm glad to look at the discussion on timeliness because that's always something. And one of the reason when we look at the tiers of effectiveness in communication and things that we can do within our boundaries, when a RAC is advising the Board on a certain issue, again many times the process -- the information will get to the Board and the Board will need more deliberation on that to be able to get the information to the Secretaries or the Board may make a decision, you know, that it wouldn't be forwarded. And, you know, which is seldom the case if it's been well-crafted and put together and under the bounds of law.

So what we want to keep in mind is that we have these tiers of communication up to the Board, to the Secretaries to be able to look at those things.

The requests of improved tracking, I said a little bit about that with the implementation of the new administrative plan one of the things that Gene first tasked me up -- I wasn't in OSM for a week and it was to work with mail logging, correspondence, and to -- everything from answering the phones and the what administrative jobs were. And we addressed that with the program supervisor in a direct way.

And essentially, you know, it seems to be strange to have to put that into a plan, but when you're, you know, running 40 people around and making sure that you're getting to anything -- and when Gene and I both found out that some correspondence had been, you know, sitting on a desk or had not been logged in. And we're accountable -- legally accountable for our
correspondence that comes in as part of the Federal program.

So every phone call that's relative to business, there's a phone log. Every email, there's a log that does that. For our mail there's a log. And so we know what comes in. And I can check it and say did we respond. And so the pressure is to make sure that we keep to our own protocols is always a healthy thing for us to do.

And we can't, you know, change if there was, you know, a ball dropped in this past year. On the other hand, when I saw the letter that came from both the governor and the elected delegates from Alaska, you know, relative to transboundary issues, obviously some of your previous letters were heard and they responded, which is really to applaud the comments of this Council.

So it might have been slower success at least for a response, but again I think what you're asking for is that it's consistent and that we don't see that ball dropped again. And so we're going to make sure, you know, as the one that runs the day to day operations that that job is better done and that new administrative plan is followed to the T.

And so hopefully we'll see this remedied.

MS. KENNER: Mr. Chair, this is Pippa Kenner, with OSM in Anchorage.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead, Pippa.

MS. KENNER: Thank you.

Since the first -- I agree with what's been said. And since the first day of your meeting I think many of us have been collecting information about this topic.

And I just wanted to add that it's the Federal Advisory Committee Act that your Council was chartered under. And so all correspondence with the Council is supposed to be in the administrative record to provide full transparency to the public of the actions of the Council. And because of our former
correspondence policy where mail was going directly to the Chair, we weren't able to keep the administrative record. And that makes our program vulnerable.

It's also part of the reason why some of this correspondence wasn't being answered in a timely fashion. That is it wasn't being immediately put into the administrative record where it was retrievable.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Pippa.

Gene.

MR. PELTOLA: And Mr. Chair, if I may.

I and OSM are very well aware that correspondence coming from our Regional Advisory Council are very significant and important to the program. We have observed that there are times when some projects coming in were not turned around in as much as a timely manner as we would have liked.

We have -- Tom and I and others have been working with Carl, our division lead for Council coordination, to try to come up with the most efficient mechanism dealing with correspondence to minimize our responsibility of turning those correspondence around, in addition to during our reviews I have been adamant since I came into this program that our edits that we provide in no way, shape or form -- or can be perceived as trying to change the message or the intent of the Council. And ensure that that message is still strong and forwarded on.

So we are aware of it.

The byproduct of our meeting cycles is that we have one Council coordinator assigned to two different regions. And as you're all aware, we have a fall round and we have a winter round of meetings. That is when the bulk of our correspondence coming from the Regional Advisory Councils come through. That's when they're initiated.

And I'm not saying that we don't have the capacity or the number -- right number of
individuals to keep up with it, but there's -- with
regard to correspondence specifically, there is a huge
workload associated to that.

Another thing that we used to -- if you
look at the program, another responsibility of our
Council coordinators is to turn around, you know,
travel vouchers. When I came up I brought everybody's,
you know, per diem checks, advanced payment. In order
to close out that process the Council coordinators go
back and do a travel voucher for each and every one of
you. And administratively we have one person that has
been assigned to the Council coordination division that
goes through and they are responsible for hundreds of
these vouchers.

And I'm not trying to make excuses, but
I'm also trying to expose you, the Regional Advisory
Council member, to the responsibilities of that
coordinator. And we do take the correspondence very
seriously and we do the best -- and we can do better,
but we're doing the best we can to ensure it's done in
a timely manner.

And I apologize because at times it's
not as quick as some of you would like or deserve.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

Albert and then Robert.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Thank you for the explanation. I think
if we had that explanation when you first originally
asked the question we would be a little further along.
So the thing in my mind now is is it possible to draft
a waiver for Chairman Bangs to sign that says you
understand all the implications of what they said, but
you still want your name on the letterhead.

I think what's important to remember is
someone from Petersburg sends a letter and/or receives
a letter and it only has as an example DeAnna's name on
it. They're going to be like well, who's this. Or if
it has Chairman Bang's name on it, they're going to be
like oh, we know Mike. Or we know Harvey. We know Ray
or Mr. Douville and Hernandez. But when you send a
letter that doesn't have anyone that's sitting on this
Council, that looks like you're just getting a letter from a bureaucrat.

(Laughter)

MR. DOOLITTLE: I had to actually admit that the other day.

(Laughter)

MR. HOWARD: And chances are those are probably going to get filed away on somebody's desk and never read.

So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

Robert, did you have something.

MR. SCHROEDER: Well, just a quickie.

There's a real political tone to this as well. Without discussing certain administrative acts that are going on, I'll bring up something that I'm really proud that this Council did.

It was quite a few years ago, but the political current from Washington, D.C. basically forbid the Department of Interior from commenting on what their thoughts were on use of aerial herbicides as a timber treatment technique on Prince of Wales Island. A completely political decision unless you believe somehow in the Tooth Fairy. And this Council was -- basically stuck its neck out and it came through with very reasoned comments on how we really didn't think it was a great idea to spray herbicide on people's subsistence food.

Well, that's not an issue today, but we do have certain currents in government saying that climate change doesn't exist. Well, I wouldn't be surprised if at our next meeting we have a -- we have something that we have to say that's real serious about climate change. And I wouldn't want that to be hostage to a political system which I understand OSM as part of Department of Interior definitely has to abide by.

So there's a real political dimension
to this as well. So no response is needed.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

I appreciate the explanation because it was never explained. And I understand we're not in the world we were in 20 years ago, but, you know, it's interesting in Alaska. Like if people knew that I was from Petersburg and they put my name on a letter and just wrote Petersburg, it would wind up in my box. You know, just that's the way it is in small communities. But I understand a lot clearer now why there just has to be this record. It's definitely bureaucracy.

But anyway, thank you.

I'd like to -- well, we've got some new words up here, but I'd like to take a little break. And then we'll come back and finish up approving our annual report.

So let's take a break.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please take your seats.

OSM.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I'd like to wrap up this annual report.

So the new bullet point number two on the correspondence policy point, it was worded by Mr. Schroeder. And I just want everybody to look at it and see if that's okay.

And we can move on to any other issues on the annual report that we want to add or fix or change or whatever.

Everybody good with that.
Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.

Good. Good job.

Oh, Robert.

MR. SCHROEDER: I just put under our point seven -- I'm sure we'll work really well with Forest Service on this, but we should mention that we have a Section .810 ANILCA responsibility to -- with respect to land management plans.

And then that -- it's not exactly an optional thing for Forest Service to talk to us, so that's part of ANILCA and it's also in our correspondence policy that that's what we do.

I can give you the wording on that. You could simply say this is part of Council Section .810 responsibilities. And that would do it.

And if Patty's still on there.

Patty, are you there?

MS. PHILLIPS: Yes, I am.

MR. SCHROEDER: I'm trying to fill in for you.

(Laughter)

MR. SCHROEDER: But I was just suggesting that with respect to talking about land use planning, that that's part of our Section .810 Council responsibility.

MS. PHILLIPS: You're doing a great job. I agree.

MR. SCHROEDER: I certainly wish you were here, Patty.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Robert, could you read that -- the point that you changed in our
correspondence policy? That sentence that you changed for Patty's benefit?

MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

The sentence we added is just the last sentence now says this is part of the Council's Section .810 of ANILCA's responsibilities.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

Okay. Is there any other issues on the annual report that need to be addressed.

MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, this is Patty.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Go ahead, Patty.

MS. PHILLIPS: For the meeting location -- the number nine on the final two bullets -- did we want to include that it was our understanding that Wrangell and Petersburg were included as a hub community.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: We were instructed by OSM that that's something that we would have to talk to the Federal Board about and have them list those as hub communities.

I think Mr. Peltola would clarify that for us.

MR. PELTOLA: Yes, Mr. Chair.

I did not -- yesterday when I made that statement, I did not have the advantage of having the full list available to me on hub communities in the Southeast. I know there are more in Southeast than other regions.

What we can do is when we go back get a list of all the pre-approved hubs and if specific communities are not on that -- if it's the desire of the Regional Advisory Council, we could work with DeAnna to inform you of that complete list.

If there's nothing -- not anything on there, then I would recommend that you forward it on to
Board consideration. Add other communities. Or you could, you know, approve or disapprove or add and subtract to that list.

MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

So I have another item, Mr. Chair, that I would like to discuss.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Please go ahead, Patty.

MS. PHILLIPS: And I think Mr. Schroeder brought it up yesterday and I had time to think about it and that's the update to the charter.

Previously, the charter has been an agenda item and it was then helpful to have guidance on some of these non-regulatory directives issued towards us from the Secretary and an explanation of some of these Secretary orders. Perhaps even copies of the orders for us to review and have it applicable to the subsistence RAC.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

I think DeAnna is taking notes here for us, so thanks again.

Any discussion on that.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any other issues to deal with in our annual report.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. DeAnna is going to work on the language and give it to us later, but what we can do is approve the annual report.

I would entertain a motion to approve the annual report because I think our proponent isn't here any more to put it on the table.

So is there a motion to approve the
annual report.

Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I make a motion to approve the annual report.

MR. KITKA: I'll second it.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. It's been moved and seconded to approve the annual report to be sent to the Federal Board.

Is there any more discussion.

(No comments)

MR. SENSMEIER: Question.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. The question's been called for.

All those in favor of passing forward the annual report as amended to the Federal Board, respond by saying aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you.

So next.....

Mr. Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: If I may address -- I'd like to address WP18-01A. This was not put on the front page for further discussion, but I think there is information.

There's like three things that affect the deer population right now. There's thousands and thousands of acres in land in the stem exclusion stage. And we have less old growth than we did before and we
have a high wolf population and we've had a very high harvest of bucks for several years now. Any one of those things can affect a deer population negatively and we're seeing that, but all three together certainly do.

But we listened to a lot of testimony from local users when we were in Craig and they all said they're having a hard time getting deer. However, the Department said no. Everything we're seeing, it is if anything going up.

But through the deer survey those numbers have been calculated for the previous year and the deer take was 700 less, which corresponds with everything that people were saying. So that's quite a change. And the complaints were just as loud this year and as many for this last season.

So anyway, that's new information and I just wanted to put that on the record.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike.

So in other words, the Department wasn't aware of those changes before because the data hadn't come out yet. And then once the data came out, then now it's realized that deer hunting is becoming much harder for subsistence users?

MR. DOUVILLE: That is correct.

They didn't have the numbers for the previous year or it lags behind like a year. So when Craig addressed -- when this proposal was made, they disagreed because it showed that the numbers were high yet. But everybody else was saying no, they're not. It's not that way. And the reduction in harvest certainly bears that out.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So would you consider making a motion to put that deer proposal to the Board of Game, as well as the Federal Subsistence Board? Is that what you're thinking? The changes that we made? Or.....

MR. DOUVILLE: No. I was not suggesting that. I was only adding new information to support the proposal we made. I don't have a
suggestion to submit one through the Board of Game.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you.

Well, it's on the record. Then I'm able to convey that message to the Federal Board when I go there, so I appreciate that and we'll make note.

Any other discussion on the deer.

Yes, Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Is there anything in place that when the deer population falls to a certain number that only Federal subsistence users are allowed to hunt. Is there anything in place currently.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Terry can correct me if I'm wrong, but it's in ANILCA and that's part of the -- there's triggers within ANILCA that allows for specific users in the subsistence arena to.....

Yes, Albert.

MR. HOWARD: I knew that much, but what I'm asking is -- is an example on my own. If that falls -- if the numbers fall to -- oh, they say there's only 700 deer on the island. When it hits that number, that triggers what you had mentioned.

I mean is there a solid number that says when we reach this amount of deer on the island, then it has to be closed to everyone else except for Federal users.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

To Albert, no. It's something we've never done. We've never talked about any specific numbers that would trigger a closure. It's kind of an interesting concept though. But no, haven't discussed that in the past.
But I just wanted to kind of, you know, weigh in on what Mike was saying there -- Mr. Douville.

I mean this is -- we have kind of a unique opportunity here because we have not had the Board make its decision on our proposal yet. And now we're at this new meeting and we have had, you know, new information since our previous meeting that we didn't have available to us when we deliberated on this. So it is fairly significant that, you know, this information has come out in this time period and like I say, what Mike was doing is just, you know, putting it on the record now that, you know, we did not have this information available when we deliberated. It kind of bears out exactly what the folks on the island had testified to, so it's fairly significant.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

That makes it a lot easier for me to basically argue our point when I go to the Federal Board. If we've got more information and having a meeting prior to that is a big help.

Yeah, Albert.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Is that something we can put on the radar for future meetings if -- if they can come up with a solid number that here is the deer population. It's a conservation concern and the subsistence priority kicks in and no one else can hunt.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Could I just comment again to Mr. Howard.

I think what you're talking about there, Albert, is essentially a management plan. And that is certainly from my understanding something that the Council is tasked with doing if we feel the need.

So that's a good point of discussion, so thank you.
CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

Any other discussion on the deer proposal that we've put in.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: The more information that I get, that makes it a lot easier. So I appreciate Mike putting that on the record so that I can relay that to the Board.

Albert.

MR. HOWARD: This conversation is bringing me back to the timely manner discussion -- the timely manner they're addressing this. The environment of the island has changed, so I think we need to figure out how it can be this yesterday. The person, I guess, I'm replacing on this Board always said that, you know, talking about it's not going to get anything accomplished. So I think I'd like to see this addressed sooner rather than later.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

Well, we had a couple more agency reports, but there's no one here to give those reports.

I think when I talked to Mr. Scott yesterday for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, he felt like he covered most of the issues that he wanted us to hear. That what the Department was doing. And so that one we won't have.

We could discuss future meeting places and dates. And I'm just not sure how that's going to work. We're not sure where we're able to meet.

But any thoughts on where we could have our next meeting.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I was thinking that we should try for Wrangell again if no one has a heartburn with that and see how it goes through OSM and how the
funding comes available for our next meeting.

John.

MR. YEAGER: Mr. Chair, unless this is inaccurate, on page 121 it already has Southeast listed for Sitka.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Right. We did that at our last meeting.

MR. YEAGER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I was just wondering -- I was just throwing it out there to go to Wrangell, but we could do it in Sitka. It's up to you guys. I just threw that as -- if we did want to go back to Wrangell in the fall.

It might interrupt your moose season though.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any thoughts on our next location.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: How about you, Patty. Do you have any ideas on where our next meeting could be?

MS. PHILLIPS: Well, I'm with John. It's already in our meeting calendar to meet in Sitka. And then are you talking about, you know, a full year from now?

CHAIRMAN BANGS: No. I was just referring to the next meeting. I just threw it out there if people decided or wanted to complete the meeting in -- you know, the next meeting in Wrangell, but Sitka is fine with me, too. I just was asking the Council.

John.

MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
I just think that we're backed up against the whole hub thing again. I mean they list -- it was mentioned that Sitka was a hub, as well Juneau. Ketchikan, Wrangell, Petersburg is not. We would have to ask for approval. I mean we could put all the best intentions in Wrangell, but end up in Sitka. So I don't know if changing it to Wrangell at this point is even worth the effort.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

So is everybody good with Sitka.

Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. I think John has a good point. Let's wait and see what our parameters are here and maybe stick with what we have scheduled now and get to Wrangell as soon as possible if we have the opportunity at the following meeting, I guess.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah. Well, we could put -- go on the record and use our next winter meeting and put Wrangell in there. That's part of what we're going to end up doing today anyway.

Any other thoughts.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So the week of October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th we're scheduled to meet in Sitka.

Everybody good with that.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I guess we don't.....

Yeah, John.

MR. YEAGER: Actually, that would be a fairly decent conflict with my schedule there. I would miss out on two job opportunities during that week, so I would probably -- I would rather pick a different time frame there. But not to inconvenience anybody else.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I could live with the
change of dates. It's up to -- I don't know. We can do
two in one week, but not more. So it would have to be
the week before or two weeks before.

Robert.

MR. DOUVILLE: What dates were you suggesting.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, what we had
chose for -- at our last meeting, October 2nd, 3rd, and
4th, in Sitka. That's on the calendar.

And if there's dates that work better
for the whole, we could change it.

MR. DOUVILLE: Middle of October.

MR. HERNANDEZ: October 16th. Does
that work, John?

CHAIRMAN BANGS: What dates are you
proposing, Don?

MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chairman, October
15th, 16th, 17th.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So how about 16, 17,
18. So that we're not convening on a Monday and
traveling on a Sunday.

Okay. So we have some new dates. Is
any -- have any discussion about that and then we'll entertain a motion to adopt those dates and time.

Mr. Douville.

MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, I'll move
that we have our meeting on October 16th, 17th, and
18th in Sitka.

moved.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. It's been
Can we get a second.

MR. YEAGER: Second.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Moved and
seconded to have our next meeting in Sitka the week of October 16th, 17th, and 18th.

All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.

Oh, Patty. Do you -- is that okay with you?

MS. PHILLIPS: Aye.


(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Harvey doesn't want Sitka to be a hub anymore.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. About the winter meeting. That would be at this time next year or from -- the window opens February 4th and it closes March 15th.

Any discussion.

Albert.

MR. HOWARD: When is moose season in Wrangell. Just in case we have to go into recess, Mr. Chairman.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: The meeting will start the day after it closes.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Any ideas on
times and places to meet in our winter 2019 Council meeting.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I would like to find out -- I don't recall the exact dates of the Federal Board of Game meeting in the wintertime. I'm not sure. We wouldn't want to overlap that, but I think it's probably in January.

Okay. It's January 20th.

So thank you, DeAnna.

Any thoughts on days and place.

John.

MR. YEAGER: How about we start at the February 11 through 15 time frame. That seems pretty logical just as a suggestion.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: It's the same time frame as where we're at now basically, so I'm good with that.

It gives Mike and I a chance to celebrate our birthdays.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: So -- yeah. What community would you -- what would the Council like to have the -- or hold their meeting.

Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Should we tentatively say Wrangell.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I think that would be a good idea. And then by that time -- or the time of our next meeting we should have a better indication of whether it's considered a hub or not. And that there may be funding to allow us to go there, so I would agree that would probably be a good place to at least put on the radar.
Anyone else.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Tentatively the week of February 11th through the 15th, so the meeting would be on February 12th, 13th, and 14th in Wrangell. And that's in 2019.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Question.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Do you have a question?

MR. HERNANDEZ: Question.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah. So put it into a form of a motion, second it, and we'll vote on it.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'll move that we meet in Wrangell on the dates February 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2019.

MR. YEAGER: Second.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. It's been moved and seconded to have the winter meeting of 2019 in Wrangell the dates February 12th, 13th, and 14th.

All those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Patty.

MS. PHILLIPS: Aye.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

Okay. So that's taken care of.

Any other business, DeAnna, that we need to cover.
MS. PERRY: C&T (indiscernible - no mic)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yes. We have our C&T proposal. Terry drafted up some verbiage for that C&T proposal and we're going to be able to put it up on the screen if it's not up there already. And review that and we'll make a motion to accept it if that's what the Council wants to do to move that forward.

MS. PERRY: Tell Patty that I'll get it to her in just a minute.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Yeah, Patty. DeAnna said that she would get that to you as quickly as she can.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Any discussion.

Robert.

MR. SCHROEDER: Just to make a record, I think the Southeast Regional Council has spent quite a number of years discussing C&T determination processes with OSM input and we have an intention that we've stated to review C&T determinations for all species in Southeast Alaska.

In our last regulatory round we submitted a proposal concerning customary and traditional use of deer in Southeast Alaska that's still to be worked on, still to be decided by the Federal Subsistence Board. That proposal was congruent with our intention for C&T throughout the region. This is our fish cycle and this is a way to address what we perceived as problems with the existing C&T determinations, which as our discussion showed are on the books as inherited C&T determinations from really quite a long time ago. Perhaps 30 years ago.

We would like to thank Terry for drafting this up and hopefully Patty and whoever else is on the line will get this real soon. I believe that the proposed language on the screen reflects the intention of the Council.

We have had some off the record
discussions about boy, if we do this, what things do we need to really consider. And there may be various things that we need to look at when we actually deliberate this proposal at our next meeting, but we felt that it was premature to get into the woods on this at this time.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

And I think you’ve covered the justifications and I appreciate that.

Any other discussion.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Was it sent to Patty?

MS. PERRY: Yes.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay.

MS. PERRY: And she did receive it.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Good.

You’ve read it, Patty? Or are you reading it now?

MS. PHILLIPS: I’ve read it. It looks good.

Thank you, Robert.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I would entertain a motion to approve the proposal to be sent to the Federal Board for review.

Donald.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I’ll make the motion that we submit this proposal to the Federal Board to change customary
and traditional use determinations so that they will
include all users for all fish and all districts in
Southeast Alaska and Yakutat.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

Is there a second.

MR. KITKA: Second.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. It's been moved
and seconded to adopt this proposal in regards to C&T
findings for fish in Southeast Alaska.

All those in favor, respond by saying
aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Opposed.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Motion carries. Thank
you.

Okay. What I'd like to do now is
something that we used to do at the end of every
meeting. And it seems like in the last five or six
years we've always run out of time and we didn't ever
get to this point where we had a few extra minutes.

And what I'd like to do is to have
Council Members reflect on the meeting and give us some
comments on their takeaway from our gathering here.

John.

MR. YEAGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Well, I think for me, each meeting is a
learning experience. I don't know. I'm sure that the
people that sit around the table here, as well as Cathy
and Patty, who I wish were here with us as well,
they're time and service and years of experience
probably -- they definitely do reflect their ability to
get through a meeting like this and ones that we've had
in the past.
And so I try to take in the comments from all of my fellow Council Members and where they develop those thoughts from and try to keep them in a tool kit so to speak so that in the future I can become as sharp as the rest of you.

But as far as the meeting this week, I think there was some very productive discussion and I thought that there was some very broad topics that were discussed at length and I think the outcome of that discussion was very positive and I think we did what we were supposed to.

I truly appreciate the discussions back and forth and the -- a lot of the candid remarks that made us chuckle and made us think. So I appreciate that about this group in particular. That that can take place. And at the end of the day we can leave and come back and pick right up again.

So I just think we did a good amount of work here. We heard some good public testimony. I appreciated the OSM representation as well. And that was very helpful in itself. And Terry. And I just think we had a good meeting.

So I look forward to our next meeting and hopefully contributing to the future discussions.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, John.

Don.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Kind of an interesting meeting. I guess can be characterized by pros and cons. I was a little disappointed to hear that we were meeting in Juneau again for the second straight time. You know, in my years here on the Council I have really enjoyed and appreciated the fact that we do go out. We have had the opportunity to go out in the past to the rural communities. You know, meeting in places like Craig and Yakutat and Hoonah.

Those are just to me some of the most important meetings that we've had where we do get to interact with the local folks and, you know, all that
entails socially and hearing directly from those people who live out there. I mean that's really what this Council is all about.

We're fortunate we do have good, diverse representation, you know, from the communities and everybody does bring some really valuable experiences here, but I do miss that portion of it.

On the other hand, being here in Juneau twice in a row with a relatively small agenda did give the Council an opportunity -- I mean we didn't have a lot of public comment because we heard a lot of public comment at our previously meeting, so we heard those issues. But it did give us the opportunity to really dig into some of these issues that we've talked about in previous years, but we do tend to run out of time.

Part of the reason we tend to run out of time is quite often we've gotten, you know, sidetracked by local issues that we hear from local people. So there's a -- you know, a give and take there.

This being a meeting to develop proposals, we really did get an opportunity to have some in depth discussion on those proposals we're going to put in, so that was good.

Yeah. So I guess -- yeah, that kind of sums up my thoughts.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you.

Mike.

MR. DOUVILLE: Mr. Chair, I have very little comment, but I was really disappointed to see the schedule changed and the place changed. We make plans way ahead of time and sometimes they're not very flexible. Seems like it's always interrupting something to come to these meetings. I'm willing to do it, but, you know, if we know far enough in advance.

The one comment I would like to make is I appreciate the Department being here and their willingness to discuss things and work with us. We
haven't always had that and they have good information
and to me, that's a big plus for us.

Beyond that, I don't have no more
comment.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike.

Ray.

MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I like coming to these meetings. I
like to hear the knowledge and expertise and from
different communities. And I admit I'm not as up to
speed as a lot of the Council Members when it comes to,
you know, uses and user groups and the Feds and the
State and all that, but I'm learning.

One thing I did not anticipate and I'm
really heartened by is the issues of Tier 3. The
cruise ships and the mining issues being taken up.
With the cruise ship issue, I've been involved with
that since 1982 when 32 ships came into Yakutat to
Disenchantment Bay. That was 36 years ago. And I've
had the privilege of working with scientists on this
issue.

Albert mentioned the seal issue and I
know what happened at Greens Creek and we've been
concerned in Yakutat and Disenchantment Bay where we
have historically harvested seals. And those cruise
ships come in at precisely the time that the mother
seals are giving birth, so the baby seals are washed
off. And at birth they do not know how to swim and do
not have fat. The population has dropped to 1,500.
They're heading up to Icy Bay and there's population
there now -- two years ago of 14,000, the highest-
population on the planet.

And so I'm glad these issues are being
taken up.

I spoke with you briefly, Mr. Chairman,
on the process for inviting Guy Archibald, who's a
scientist with SEACC. And I spoke with him this
morning. He'd be happy to attend on SEACC's dime
wherever the meeting is held. And Gershon Cohen from
Haines, who is a scientist with a PhD in mixing zones,
who addresses the mixing zone problem with cruise ships
and with the -- like the Greens Creek Mine mixing
zones. And I would hope that they could be contacted
and could attend the fall meeting and bring us all up
to speed on these issues.

And we work on a lot of other issues,
but if these things are not attended to, they will
affect all the other issues that we deal with.

And so looking forward to going to
Wrangell. I lived there for a while a long time ago
and I have a lot of friends there and that would be
good.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.

Harvey, do you have.....

MR. KITKA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Coming to these meetings is always a
learning experience. And it never seems to amaze me
that there's always more to learn from different
aspects of the people that come and talk to us. It's
always great to hear the public come and talk and we
get many things that -- I've stated over the years,
it's always nice to hear these people because they have
their feet on the ground on what's happening in their
areas. Some of us don't live in those areas and we
have to take great interest in what they say.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Harvey.

I would just like to say a couple of
things. I agree with Don that I think those outlying
communities that we were able to in the past go to --
whether it was freezing in the gymnasium in Kake and
winding up in the Salvation Army church for our
meeting, it was quite an adventure.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: And then the -- and
traveling in a boat with the whole Council and Staff
and a wave crashing through the window and on top of Melinda in her bunk.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: It was quite an adventure. But I understand that with the constraints in the budget and stuff, that we have to limit our outreach to communities, but I think if we can include Wrangell and Petersburg, at least we'll have some, you know, more rural users there. I think that will be important.

And Sitka is good, you know, but, you know, coming to Juneau is -- I mean that might be why we didn't get as much public comments is there's just not too many people that are able to come from the outlying rural communities to come to the big city for this meeting.

But I appreciate the patience that you guys afford me in trying to keep the meeting going. And I appreciate the hard work that you guys do to come up with our proposals and discussions on all the different things that come before us.

And this is probably one of the lighter agendas that I can recall in the past, but it did afford us an opportunity to meet before the Federal Board meeting and I think that is very valuable for us this time around.

And I will try to convey as best I can the comments from the Council on our issues we discussed.

So anyway, thank you.

And turn it over to Mr. Schroeder.

MR. SCHROEDER: Thanks, Mike.

And I'd like to thank the Council for -- since I used to work with the program -- of welcoming me over to the other side. Or if not welcoming me, at least putting up with me.

But I really -- I was thinking what am I going to say. And this Council is like really a high
functioning Council. I suppose now that I'm on the Council I shouldn't compliment myself, but it's a really high functioning Council. And I'm thinking, you know, why is that. And really it has to do with the people who are here and who take time out of their life, which to come in and stick with it year after year.

And, you know, I'm also thinking of quite a few people who aren't with us right now who were very important in forming this Council. Bill Thomas was fabulous in establishing this program. John Littlefield was really important. Floyd Kookesh put in his time here and really represented his community well. Dick Stokes from Wrangell. All these people are gone. And, you know, when they're around you sort of think it's just going to last forever. But they were putting in their energy, which turned out to be kind of finite, on these issues because these were very important to them.

So I'm kind of applauding people sticking with it and making time in busy lives and coming as volunteers to go through stuff that sometimes is pretty grueling and boring frankly, but that's the system that we have.

I would also like to recognize that, you know, just as some other people have said, I think our Staff support has really improved in many, many areas, particular State of Alaska working with us as opposed to working nonstop against us.

And OSM -- although OSM has been put on definitely a diet, I don't know if it's a starvation diet or not, but I really appreciate the support we got and having Gene and Tom stay around for our meeting here and pay attention.

And I'd also -- I felt a little bad because I really like to have Council Members over when you come to my town. And with the schedule change I just wasn't able to put that together this time, but good to see you all.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Robert.

Mr. Howard.
MR. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think the word Robert was looking for instead of putting up with was tolerate. But that's.....

(Laughter)

MR. SCHROEDER: He's so kind.

(Laughter)

MR. HOWARD: And when you mentioned the wave coming through the window, that's kind of a weekly thing at home. So.....

(Laughter)

MR. HOWARD: Those kind of experiences need to happen more often than not, I believe.

I think that my concern with having hub communities now is a good example. Juneau isn't recognized as a rural area. They're urban, which designates them a non-subsistence user. And how do you get the opinion of the subsistence user if we don't go into their home town. I know a lot of us bring our knowledge to the table of what happens at home, but to hear it and see it first hand, that's different.

I'll give you an example. I'm still -- even though I'm not the mayor of the city, I'm still connected to the legislators, so I like to poke fun at them as well. I'm sure you guys will probably -- and let them know that the decisions they're making and the impact it's having on our communities, I'll send them pictures of an empty freezer that should have produce in it and -- and they get it.

So there's things like that that you can't explain to this Board until you've seen it yourself. A gallon milk. Ten bucks for a gallon of milk. I mean you could almost get a cow and put him in your backyard. Or her rather. You can save some money.

The thing about this week's meeting, I think we got a lot done. It's exciting to sit here and see us stop talking about it and put it in writing.
A couple of examples is we didn't want
to talk the fact that your name's not on the mailing
address to death anymore, so we did something about it.

The other thing is with the wolves. We
-- and now the deer. And I think we should take that
approach every time we come to a meeting.

I'd like to see more meetings as an
example in Kake or even Wrangell or closer to
subsistence users. And when we do that, let's leave
time on the agenda. So if someone brings an important
item to the table, let's turn it into a proposal so
they can see this Board at work addressing their
thoughts and needs that are important to them.

We need to impress upon the powers that
be that tell us funding's an issue that -- as an
example, I see people in Angoon living paycheck to
paycheck, so they're not going to spend some of their
money to come here and talk to us because they can't
afford it. So how do they get their message to us. I
mean sometimes we have to go there.

I'm not encouraging a meeting in Angoon
because I know what that political environment's like.
Some people there would like to chew you up and spit
you out just to make themselves feel better. And you
can tell them I said that because they're used to me
talking this way.

I enjoy these meetings. And I'll crack
a joke. I've learned that in our meetings because some
of those meetings they want to take me out back and
beat me up, but that's what I have my girlfriend for to
handle the light stuff. So.....

(Laughter)

MR. HOWARD: I appreciate everything I
seen in this meeting. I mean it's no longer talking
about it. We're being about it. We're doing it. We
see a problem, we address it and move on. Whereas, as
the Chairman said, we got a response from three years
ago. That's not acceptable anymore.

When Mr. Schroeder talks about in a
timely manner, to me when a subsistence user sees a
problem, it should have been addressed a couple of
years ago. That's not a timely manner. Because that
-- whatever they bring to us is important to them
today. And if you wait three years they lose faith in
what we're supposed to be doing.

You know, I'm learning every day and
I'm finally figuring out what everything is for. And
every time I come to these, I try to learn something
new. Something new about the process to help the
subsistence user. When I stop learning and stop
helping the subsistence users address their concerns,
then I no longer need to be here.

And now that I look at this and
realized what the Board has passed, I think this is the
next step. To get rid of these boundaries the State
has here once the Federal Board accepts the last
proposal on opening all the areas. And the reason I
say that is I look at this and some of these boundaries
you could tell they didn't come to Angoon and ask us
what do you think about this boundary. Because we are
going to be fishing -- and for years we've been fishing
way over this boundary. Part of 13C should be 12A just
because we've always fished there. And that's my
grandfather -- their country is considered Teikweidi
country.

So I think the next step to your guy's
proposal would be to ask them to eliminate these
boundaries to be consistent with the proposal. And if
they're going to have any boundaries to put them around
areas like Juneau and places that aren't considered
subsistence. These areas are closed off to subsistence
and that's all there would be. There wouldn't be all
these other districts.

So I could talk about this forever, but
that's just a few thoughts, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

I know you weren't here physically,
Patty, but I was glad and we're thankful that you were
at least able to call in. Did you have any words you'd
like to share with the Council?

MS. PHILLIPS: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
Chair.

First, I would like to give my community report. So the newly approved Board of Fish actions -- the king salmon restrictions will significantly negatively impact Pelican and rural residents not only economically, but as our food source. Especially when we will be watching the sport industry continuing on without the kind of restrictions that the local rural residents will be impacted by.

Also, on climate change. We're -- you know, the swings in temperature in January from the upper 50s to the single digit temperatures will be affecting our berry patches. I have observed early greenings of, you know, the salmon berry bushes. And does that mean when they bloom that they're going to freeze.

Also, the salmon berries are maturing and ripening earlier at the same time as these black flies. And so the berries are virtually inedible because they're just covered in these black flies.

From my observation, the deer numbers are less. In the spring of 2017 there was dead deer inside the beach fringe timber. Then we had late snow and freezing temperatures then and -- but this -- at this time the deer appear hardy, but not as numerous. And I do see deer browse going on with the berries.

So as far as the meeting goes, thank you, Mr. Chair, for allowing me to speak.

We, the RAC, represent the entire Southeast Region. Everyone who lives a subsistence way of life, including those who live in Juneau.

I would like to recognize George Pappas for being in attendance at the RAC meeting. He's the Federal program State subsistence liaison. When I was listening in on the Board of Fish meetings via the internet, I heard the Board of Fish members ask if Mr. Pappas was in attendance and I heard the reply was no, he's not here. And so I would also like to encourage the Subsistence Program to fund Mr. Pappas' attendance at the State Board meetings.

I appreciate how well the RAC works
together. They take balanced actions. We, the RAC, are building a level of trust with diverse groups, particularly when they observe the RAC in action.

One example is the Berners Bay moose. And thank you for bringing that back to the RAC and thank you Staff for the better information so that action can be taken. But we were -- the territorial sportsman was in attendance and he personally observed the RAC in action and made comment on the thoughtfulness that occurred.

So thank you, Mr. Chair.

Those are my remarks.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Patty.

I would just like to go on the record in acknowledging the good work that Mr. Ken Jackson did. You know, he resigned. And I really appreciated him serving on the RAC and we're going to miss him. And I'd just like to wish him well and let him know that we will miss him.

So anyway, with that said, I think -- I was going to adjourn now, but I just got a note that said we have a short presentation to be given to us by -- I think it's Beth Spangler. And it's the Earth Scope Angel Project.

So I'll let DeAnna take over here for a minute and give us an intro.

MS. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Ms. Spangler was traveling when the agency reports were going on yesterday, so that's why we're a little delayed with her report. But the Alaska GeoScience Learning Experience is a project funded through the National Science Foundation.

And Beth, I just want to check and make sure that you're on the phone.

MS. SPANGLER: Yes. I got off the plane when I saw your message, so I apologize up front if you hear the speaker in the background at the airport.
MS. PERRY: Well, we appreciate that you're still trying to give us this report.

I'm just going to go ahead and show the PowerPoint. As you talk, if you'll just tell me which slide or next slide, we'll try to go ahead and get through your presentation.

MS. SPANGLER: Okay. DeAnna, did you get the revised one I sent yesterday? The shorter one? Or do you just have the original?

MS. PERRY: I just have the original.

MS. SPANGLER: Okay. So we're going to -- well, we're going to skip through some of those slides that weren't -- that were just going to make the presentation too long.

So yeah. Hi, my name is Beth Spangler and I work with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program at the University of Alaska, the ANSEP Program. And I have been recently working with a team of folks from actually across the country and we've received funding through the National Science Foundation on a project that -- to synthesize down is on geosciences and geoscience learning. So that includes everything from tsunamis to earthquakes and volcanoes.

And the next slide. So, you know, the big question is like why would we want to propose such a project. And obviously with -- especially ANSEP concerned about the children and making sure that they're prepared. And not only the students, but also the community members as well.

So on to the next slide, the third slide that says Earth Scope ANGLE at the top. So ANGLE refers to Alaska Native Geoscience Learning Experience, through NSF. And our real goal here is to increase resilience to geohazards through education and learning and really developing a learning community starting with the children.

And today we were seeking input so that the project can be integrated and -- sorry -- strengthen what has already been done. So we're looking to identify shared goals, as well as resource
information that can be shared.

And we also wanted to just share today a couple of opportunities for children, as well as educators, interpreters, those that might work with communities.

DeAnna, can you hear me okay?

**MS. PERRY:** Yes, Beth.

**MS. SPANGLER:** Okay. Alrighty. And then go ahead and skip the next two slides. And the third slide says -- like a Hubble telescope aimed at Earth.

And all I wanted to do really with that slide is just point out that it's funded through EarthScope. That is a national program and interestingly enough their real goal is that we install seismometers across the nation so that community members of EarthScope can see seismic data in real time on what's going on not only in their neighborhood, but across the country. And strangely, Alaska wasn't incorporated in their original EarthScope. It's called the Quake-Catcher Network. And now we're going to be. And we're going to do it through this project or introduce that through this project.

Go ahead and skip the next three slides. And we can go to the slide that at the top it has like a bunch of bubbles on it and it says Greater Resilience in Alaska.

And our goals here are -- well, our first goal is to basically share opportunities that we have through this project and through the ANSEP Program, which is a project that's near and dear to my heart. Is that we have -- we work with Alaska Native students from, you know, all over Alaska, as well as teachers. And we're going to have a middle school academy. Hopefully, we're going to be announcing it here pretty soon, specifically just for children from Southeast Alaska. And we're looking to do that in October.

And what's really exciting about the ANSEP middle school is that children spend 11 days at the university where they get opportunities for science
and engineering and one of the first things that they
do is build a computer. And now they're not only going
to build a computer, but that computer is going to have
a seismometer that's going to be installed in the
computer.

And when they bring that computer home,
as long as they keep the computer on they're a part of
this Quake-Catcher Network. So they can actually tell
when earthquakes are happening, how severe they are,
and then we're going to have a lot of educational
material attached with that, with other responders in
the area close to their homes.

So that's one opportunity that I wanted
to share is that the children from Southeast are going
-- not all of the children from Southeast would have --
all of them would have seismometers in their computers.

And the other opportunity is that in
the end of May, for those that might have -- if anyone
out there has -- knows folks that work with not only
children, but with parks and museums and health groups,
interpreters that work with the public in maybe eco-
tourism that have an interest in learning about
earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and getting a
seismometer for wherever they are located, we're going
to have an educator workshop.

And an application period is going to
be announced relatively soon for applications. We do
have some funding for folks to come to that workshop.
That will be in the Anchorage the last week in May. So
that's a pretty exciting opportunity. And it's May
29th to June 1st.

And the one thing that I was hoping to
be there for is that if anyone is interested in getting
announcements, that I could get your emails. That
would be great as well.

Other parts of our program besides, you
know, the activities like ANSEP and the educator
workshop, we're also talking to lots of different
communities about building resilience in your
community. Learning about things like that what do --
you know, does your community know their management
plan. Where is emergency healthcare in the event of a
tsunami, an earthquake or a volcano. You know, what do
So there -- and actually, DeAnna, if you could just go all the way to the end, where it says we seek your feedback.

And these are the kind of questions that, you know, we're looking to get input from communities. How residents -- building resilience. You know, if you know of any. And then of course just really do you know what to do. Do your children know what to do. Do you feel prepared.

So those are kind of the things that we're looking for input from. And I wish I could be there because it's a little awkward doing this on the phone, but that's really it in a nutshell, our program is kind of fast-paced.

And I know you guys have been meeting for days. I wanted to respect your time, but I wanted to make sure that you are aware of the opportunity not only for your children, but also for educators or emergency responders or community members that might be interested in working with us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to have time today.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Well, thank you for sharing that with us. I'm glad you were able to make it work. I do wish you were here. It would be helpful.

But I want to ask the Council if there's any questions that they might have for you.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: I don't see anyone that has a question, but thank you again.

MS. SPANGLER: Alrighty.

Yeah. And if anyone does have any -- would like to receive information on the workshop that's going to be in May or if they want to make sure that their -- I send them -- I could send you a personal message for the Southeast ANSEP Middle School
Academy for children, my email should -- it's on the ANSEP.net website. So if you just Google ANSEP.net, it -- and then go to, you know, the Staff.

I'm in there and you can email me.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you, Beth.

MS. SPANGLER: Of course. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. I just want to acknowledge that Cathy's back on the phone.

Are you there? Can you hear us, Cathy?

MS. NEEDHAM: Yeah, I got you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. We went through the agenda and we're ready to adjourn.

And we had a chance to go around the room and let all the Council Members say a few words if they wanted. And I would offer the same to you.

I know you weren't here and we're -- we miss you being here for sure, but we understand and just wanted to know if you had any words to share with the Council.

MS. NEEDHAM: No. I just thank everybody for their thoughts and prayers that they've sent the last few days and I wish I could have been there. It's very difficult to kind of try to listen in and do things, but I was able to do that and it sounds like you guys got a lot of work done. And I'll see you guys in the fall.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Okay. Thank you, Cathy. And best wishes for you and your family. And we hope that we'll be able to pull off a fall meeting in the town of our choice this time.

So okay. Thank you, Cathy.

And with that, if there's any -- is there any other comments.

Mr. Douville.
MR. DOUVILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

After thinking about it for a while, there is a couple of things that are of great concern in where I live.

One, there's a couple of bills out. One is giving land to the five landless, which unfortunately Prince of Wales has had more than its share of that, and it could happen again. A hundred and sixty acres to the Vietnam Vets, you know. We don't know where that would take place.

Overturning of the roadless rule and rolling back the -- or if you will, not going with the current forest plan we have. And getting rid of that and rolling it back I don't know how many years. To 2007 or something.

But all those have the potential to erode the land base that we subsist on. And it really is of great concern.

So I just wanted to put that out.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Mike.

I think that's a very valid point and maybe it's something that we could do. To craft letters at our next meeting or something that would address that. To be sent to show our concerns.

Would that be appropriate at our next meeting. I know it's late now, but I'm just wondering if that's something that would be helpful.

Mike.

MR. DOUVILLE: After listening to what we can and can't do, I don't know if we can address these sort of things as they come from senators and so on. But I don't know.

If we could say something, then certainly we should.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Absolutely.
Don and then Ray.

MR. HERNANDEZ: Yeah. Just, you know, to further what Mike said there, you know, all the stuff that's happening legislatively, you know, it's all going to affect this planning process that's been going on. You know, that people have been involved in. And, you know, what's it all worth if they just kind of decide to change everything back there at the legislative level.

It's kind of disturbing and I -- depending on what happens here legislatively, I mean this Council may have to get more actively involved in this planning process if the whole process changes in the midstream. And, you know, that is something the Council could be involved in. We may be looking at that more involvement, you know, in future meetings here.

So we'll wait and see.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Don.

Ray.

MR. SENSMEIER: With respect to the Vietnam Veterans' land allotment, those of us who were in Vietnam, I was there from the first week of January to July of 1970, so I wasn't able to take part in the land claims. And I subsequently did all of the paperwork to apply for allotments and others from Yakutat as well, but we were all denied because the land that we selected is in the Tongass National Forest, which encompasses the entirety of Southeast, and we could not select from Federal lands.

I talked to Dan Sullivan about it and he didn't have any answers. Told me to get a hold of his staff and stuff like that. But as it stands now, we can't select from Federal lands. And so we've been waiting 50 years and it'll probably be another 50 years.

So just for information.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Ray.
Any other comments.

Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Talking about land selection, it triggered something in my mind that I think we need to fix as well.

And the concern then was a buffer zone was -- our Tribal Council at the time thought it was too close to salmon streams. And the response we got from the Forest Service was we just decide where the land or who gets to cut on the land and then the State decides the buffer zone.

To me, I think the buffer zone isn't far enough back from the streams and it's been demonstrated in the Angoon area by trees getting blown over into the streams or being blown down onto the beach. I mean straight across Angoon where my son and I hunt all the time. We came in there one day and they were cutting.

And that in itself bothers you, but what bothers me now is you could see the clear cut because all the trees in the buffer zone got blown from a north wind onto the beach. So what you're not supposed to see when you're in a boat, you can actually see it.

So I think that's another thing we need to consider. Seeing what the impact it's having on subsistence users, our streams, and everything else.

So thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Thank you, Albert.

And I think Don's point and Mike's point about being able to correspond our concerns -- it seems as if it's going to affect subsistence, you know, foods and -- of fish and wildlife that there must be some avenue that we could express our concerns to agencies that we may have trouble getting correspondence to if it has to do with legislative bodies or whatever.

But I think there must be an avenue and I think it's worth trying to find that avenue to go
down and have our voice heard.

So is there any other comments or things that the Council wants to share.

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN BANGS: Hearing none, I guess we'll adjourn until Sitka.

Thank you.

Thanks to everybody for coming.

(Off record)

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

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Salena A. Hile
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