

BRISTOL BAY INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

Dolly's Hall
Naknek, Alaska
February 28, 2017
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Molly Chythlook, Chair
Dan Dunaway
Lary Hill
Billy Maines
Nanci Morris Lyon
Senafont Shugak

Regional Council Coordinator, Donald Mike

Recorded and transcribed by:

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

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Naknek, Alaska - 2/28/2017)

(On record)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm going to call the meeting to order. It's 8:43. And first on the agenda is invocation. We'll have the invocation first and then I'll go down the agenda items. Donald handed me -- I don't know if it's revised or not so I'll go down the agenda with the items after our invocation.

And I've asked Paul Boskoffsky to have our invocation so let's all stand.

MR. BOSKOFFSKY: (Invocation)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you, Paul. I'll go down through the agenda items. Those of you that are online if you have your agenda that you received, I'll go slowly enough that if you see any changes you could make them.

Okay. Number 1 was invocation.

Number 2, call to order.

Number 3, roll call and establish quorum.

Number 4, welcome and introductions.

Number 5, review and adopt agenda.

Number 6, election of officers. And we'll be electing a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Number 7, review and approve previous meeting minutes.

Number 8, reports. And under reports we'll get reports from Council members and also a Chair.

Number 9, public and tribal comment on non-agenda items. And this will be

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available each morning and probably we can make a provision for it in the afternoon since there's quite a few public people here.

Number 10 is old business and under old business is revisions of draft of MOU with the State of Alaska.

Number 11, under new business A is call for Federal wildlife proposals and under that

Number 1 was Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd report; and then B is wildlife closure review,

Number 1 under wildlife closure review is WCR 15-05,

Number 2 is WCR 15-07;

And then D is approve FY 2016 annual report,

E is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Native Relations Policy.

Number 12 is agency reports and we have a time limit of 15 minutes unless approved in advance.

The very first agency report we'll get -- we'll have is Native organizations, A will be BBNA and they've got emperor goose and handicraft update;

Number 2 is Mulchatna caribou TEK project;

Number 3, Pacific walrus endangered species list; and then they also have B, BBNA partners program;

And then we have U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, A is Togiak NWR, B, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR;

Then National Park Service has Katmai

1 National Park and Preserve;
2
3 And then after that is Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game
5
6 And then OSM.
7
8 Number 13 is future meeting dates and
9 we'll confirm the fall 2017 meeting
10 date and location and then also select
11 the winter 2018 meeting date and
12 location.
13
14 Number 14 will be closing comments.
15
16 Number 15, adjourn.
17
18 So these are the agenda items for
19 today. And we called the meeting to order at --
20 earlier and then roll call, establish quorum. I guess
21 it would be Donald or Dan, one of them.
22
23 Donald.
24
25 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
26 Roll call of the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional
27 Advisory Council.
28
29 Mr. Pete Abraham.
30
31 (No response)
32
33 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Abraham is
34 unable to attend due to medical.
35
36 Mr. Dennis Andrew.
37
38 (No response)
39
40 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Andrew is
41 attending a business meeting in Anchorage and couldn't
42 be here today.
43
44 Ms. Nanci Morris Lyon.
45
46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Here.
47
48 MR. MIKE: Ms. Molly Chythlook.
49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Here.
2
3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Senafont Shugak.
4
5 MR. SHUGAK: Here.
6
7 MR. MIKE: Mr. Billy Maines.
8
9 MR. MAINES: Here.
10
11 MR. MIKE: Mr. Dan Dunaway.
12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: Here.
14
15 MR. MIKE: Mr. Lary Hill.
16
17 MR. HILL: Here.
18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Victor Seybert.
20
21 (No response)
22
23 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Seybert's
24 also on business and couldn't be able to attend this
25 meeting.
26
27 Mr. Richard Wilson.
28
29 (No response)
30
31 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Wilson is
32 on leave and was unable to attend this meeting. His
33 leave was advanced about a year ago.
34
35 So, Madame Chair, you have five members
36 present here and one online. We have a quorum.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
39 you. Number 5 would be review and adopt agenda. Oh,
40 I'm sorry, I'm skipping. Welcome and introductions
41 would be -- so we'll introduce the Board members and
42 then we'll go to the public.
43
44 So, Dan Dunaway.
45
46 MR. DUNAWAY: Good morning. I'm Dan
47 Dunaway, I'm from Dillingham. I've lived there about
48 27 some odd years.
49
50

1 MR. HILL: Lary Hill, Iliamna. I've
2 been around forever.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Molly
5 Chythlook, Dillingham. Originally from Aleknagik.

6
7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Nanci Morris Lyon,
8 I'm from actually down in King Salmon. And, yeah, I've
9 been around for -- older than dirt.

10
11 MR. MAINES: I'm the youngest member of
12 the Board, Billy Maines from Dillingham. I guess I've
13 been around for less than what everybody else has been
14 I guess.

15
16 MR. MIKE: And I'm Donald Mike, I'm
17 from Kotlik, but I work for the Bristol Bay Council as
18 the coordinator and I work out of Anchorage.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Let's
21 go to the ones that are online. Please introduce
22 yourself, the Board members first.

23
24 MR. SHUGAK: Senafont Shugak, Jr.,
25 Pedro Bay.

26
27 MS. HOSETH: Good morning, Madame
28 Chair. This is Gayla Hoseth with BBNA.

29
30 MS. LAVINE: Good morning, Madame
31 Chair, members of the Council. This is Robbin LaVine
32 with OSM here in Anchorage.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anybody
35 else.

36
37 MR. WILSON: Good morning, Madame
38 Chair. This is Verner Wilson with BBNA. I'm here with
39 Keemuel Kenrud from Togiak and we were trying to make
40 it over to Naknek last night, but our flight was
41 canceled so we're trying to head over there today.

42
43 MR. KENRUD: Good morning, Madame
44 Chair. This is Keemuel Kenrud from Togiak, Alaska.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
47 you.

48
49 MR. LARSON: Good morning. This is
50

1 Cody Larson with BBNA as well online here.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
4 the one from Togiak, I didn't get the name.
5
6 MR. KENRUD: Keemuel Kenrud.
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Were you
9 planning on coming or are you going to be online the
10 rest of the day?
11
12 MR. KENRUD: I'm going to be coming
13 into Naknek with Verner Wilson later on today.
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
16 you.
17
18 Anybody else online.
19
20 (No comments)
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Hearing
23 none, let's go to the back of the room, introduction.
24
25 MS. DEBENHAM: Hi, my name is Rosalie
26 Debenham. I'm a fish and wildlife biologist for the
27 Bureau of Indian Affairs and I work for the Alaska
28 region. And I'm happy to be here, I'm here to
29 hopefully learn as much as I can in the short time I
30 have here.
31
32 Thank you.
33
34 MR. COGSWELL: Good morning, Madame
35 Chair. My name is Stewart Cogswell, I'm the acting
36 deputy assistant regional director for the Office of
37 Subsistence Management.
38
39 MR. STURM: Good morning, Madame Chair.
40 Mark Sturm, newly appointed superintendent at Katmai
41 National Park and Preserve.
42
43 Thank you.
44
45 MS. GRIFFITH: Good morning, Madame
46 Chair. My name is Sarah Griffith, I'm the visitor
47 services manager for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof
48 National Wildlife Refuges.
49
50

1 MR. SMITH: Good morning, Madame Chair.
2 Bill Smith, I'm the new supervisory biologist for
3 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge.

4
5 MS. CHISHOLM: Good morning, Madame
6 Chair and Chair members. My name is Linda Chisholm, I
7 am the subsistence coordinator and cultural resource
8 program manager for Katmai, Aniakchak and Alagnak
9 National Park units.

10
11 MS. RUPP: Good morning, Madame Chair
12 and Council members. I'm Liza Rupp, I'm the
13 subsistence program manager and cultural resources
14 program manager at Lake Clark National Park and
15 Preserve.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

18
19 Paul.

20
21 MR. BOSKOFFSKY: Paul Boskoffsky from
22 Naknek. I'm just here to see -- interested to see
23 what's going on with our subsistence.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Welcome.
26 Yeah, thank you.

27
28 MR. CADY: Good morning, Madame Chair.
29 Tom Cady, I'm the deputy manager at the Alaska
30 Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges. I've
31 been here about two years now.

32
33 MR. KLUTSCH: Yes, Madame Chair. My
34 name is Joe Klutsch. I'm not government affiliated,
35 I'm just here to listen in and learn.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
38 always happy to see you, Joe.

39
40 MR. KLUTSCH: Thank you.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Susan.

43
44 MS. HENRY: Good morning, Madame Chair
45 and members of the RAC. I'm Susanna Henry, the Refuge
46 manager at Togiak National Wildlife Refuge from
47 Dillingham.

48
49 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Madame Chair.

50

1 Before we get further started again, there's three
2 vehicles that need to be moved in front of the clinic.
3 It's blocking access to the clinic here. So whoever
4 parked in front of the clinic please move your vehicles
5 and park them off to the side.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: In the back,
10 Randy.

11
12 MR. ALVAREZ: You know me. All these
13 other guys don't know me. My name is Randy Alvarez,
14 I'm from Igiugig. I just came to see Dan, I never see
15 Dan only at these meetings.

16
17 Thank you.

18
19 MR. DUNAWAY: We should know, Madame
20 Chair, he's an alumnus of the Board and one time
21 Chairman.

22
23 MS. R. LYON: Good morning, everyone.
24 I'm Riley Lyon, I'm a senior at Bristol Bay High
25 School. And I'm here just to listen in and learn some
26 stuff.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We sure
29 welcome you students.

30
31 MR. KING: Good morning. I am Austin
32 King, a resident of King Salmon.

33
34 MR. AGLI: Good morning, everyone. My
35 name's Ethan, I'm just here to listen and learn.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Welcome.

38
39 MS. PETRIVELLI: Good morning. I'm Pat
40 Petrivelli, the Bureau of Indian Affairs subsistence
41 anthropologist and I work out of Anchorage.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Welcome, Pat.

44
45 MR. EVANS: Good morning, everyone. My
46 name's Tom Evans, I'm a wildlife biologist with the
47 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence
48 Management. Suzanne Worker is normally your biologist
49 for this RAC, but she is doing some training so I am

50

1 here in her place.
2
3 Thank you.
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Orville.
6
7 MR. LIND: (In Native). Good morning,
8 Chairman and Board members. I'm happy to be home and
9 looking forward to a productive and meaningful meeting.
10 Quyana.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.
13
14 MR. LIND: Oh, I should say I'm the
15 Native liaison for Office of Subsistence Management.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Then we
18 have our recorder.
19
20 REPORTER: I'm Lynn.
21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think we got
23 everybody. So thank you so much for attending.
24
25 We're down to review and adopt the
26 agenda.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to adopt.
29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Second.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: There's been a
33 motion by Dan Dunaway to adopt, seconded by Nanci
34 Lyons. All in favor say aye.
35
36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Let's discuss it.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Sorry. We
39 need to do the -- we need to discuss. And, Pat, did
40 you have.....
41
42 Dan.
43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: The one question I had, I
45 was glad to see there's a Lake Clark representative
46 here. Are we going to have any sort of report from
47 Lake Clark that should be added to the agenda?
48
49 Thank you.
50

1 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, Lake
2 Clark will be added under NPS agency reports. And if
3 you would allow me, Madame Chair, I can discuss any
4 changes to the agenda or additions.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So they're
7 being added where?
8
9 MR. MIKE: Under agency reports.....
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
12
13 MR. MIKE:NPS. We can add Lake
14 Clark.....
15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: After OSM?
17
18 MR. MIKE: No, page 2, it says NPS,
19 Katmai National Park and then we can include Lake Clark
20 National Park SRC membership. And then if you go under
21 old business we have revisions of draft MOU with State
22 of Alaska, Madame Chair, we can strike that and that
23 will be under OSM reports.
24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The MOU?
26
27 MR. MIKE: Yeah. Old business we have
28 revision of draft MOU with State of Alaska and we can
29 strike that from the agenda and put it under OSM
30 reports.
31
32 And that's all I have, Madame Chair.
33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.
35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
37
38 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you,
39 Madame Chair. I would also propose knowing that we've
40 got people that are trying very diligently to join us
41 at our meeting, that if needed we give BBNA some leeway
42 and move them to where it is appropriate once they are
43 able to arrive or confirm that they're not going to be
44 able to arrive that we can accept their reports over
45 the phone.
46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Did you
48 get that, BBNA? They're probably headed to the airport
49 then, they're supposed to be leaving.....
50

1 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
2 Gayla. We can barely hear you guys. So I don't -- I
3 know Verner was going to be -- I think their plane
4 leaves here at 10:00, I don't know if they are headed
5 to the airport to go check in, but we can hardly hear
6 you guys.
7
8 MR. WILSON: We can barely hear. We're
9 at the airport now. I don't know what you asked her, I
10 did hear BBNA.
11
12 MS. MORRIS LYON: Can you hear me
13 better now?
14
15 MR. WILSON: Yeah.
16
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. So, Verner,
18 I'm just proposing that we leave leeway for BBNA
19 reports that are going to be present when you guys
20 finally make it over here hopefully this morning. I
21 have no idea for sure when we'll get to those reports,
22 but if need be we can have them float a little bit and
23 that's my proposal.
24
25 MR. WILSON: Okay. Yeah, that would be
26 very helpful.
27
28 Thank you.
29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yep.
31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
33
34 Anything else, any additions or changes
35 to the agenda.
36
37 (No comments)
38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
40 none.....
41
42 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
45 been question. All in favor say aye.
46
47 IN UNISON: Aye.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
50

1 opposition.
2
3 (No opposing votes)
4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
6 none it carries.
7
8 Okay. The next one is elections
9 and.....
10
11 Donald.
12
13 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, thank you.
14 Donald Mike Council coordinator for Bristol Bay.
15
16 We're -- the election of officers we
17 hold every winter. So nominations for Chair is now
18 open.
19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, Nanci.
21
22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, I'd like to
23 nominate Molly please. As much as I'd like to do it to
24 Richard, I'll -- would prefer Molly at our helm.
25
26 MR. MIKE: Nomination for Molly as
27 Chair. Any other nomination?
28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to close
30 nominations.
31
32 MR. MIKE: Nomination's closed. All in
33 favor of Molly for Chair say aye.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 MR. MIKE: All opposed same sign.
38
39 (No opposing votes)
40
41 MR. MIKE: Molly, you're our Chair.
42 You have the gavel.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
45 you. Vice Chair.
46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.
48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.
50

1 MR. DUNAWAY: I move to nominate Nanci
2 as Vice Chair. She's been doing a great job in that
3 position in previous times.
4
5 MR. SHUGAK: Second.
6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, sorry.
8 Any more nominations?
9
10 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair, I move that
11 nominations be closed.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
14 nomination's been closed. All in favor say aye for
15 Nanci.
16
17 IN UNISON: Aye.
18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Opposed the
20 same sign.
21
22 (No opposing votes)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
25 you.
26
27 Okay. Secretary. Our Secretary has
28 been Richard Wilson. Nomination for the Secretary.
29
30 Dan.
31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll move to again
33 nominate Richard as Secretary. Again he's served well
34 in that position.
35
36 Thank you.
37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Richard
39 Wilson has been nominated. Any other nominations?
40
41 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, full
42 disclosure, Richard Wilson's my brother so I'll not be
43 voting on this.
44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
46 nomination for Richard. Any other nominations have
47 been closed. All in favor say aye for Richard as
48 Secretary.
49
50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
4 opposition.

5

6 (No opposing votes)

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Richard Wilson
9 has been reelected as Secretary.

10

11 So the Chairman -- all the positions
12 have been nominated, reelected I guess. Chairman
13 Molly, Vice Chair Nanci and then Secretary Richard
14 Wilson.

15

16 Thank you. We've been trying to do our
17 best as I guess leading this Committee.

18

19 Okay. We're -- are we -- are you able
20 to hear us online?

21

22 MS. HOSETH: Hi, Madame Chair, this is
23 Gayla. We can hear Dan Dunaway loud and clear, you're
24 very faint and so is Donald and Nanci when they talk.
25 So I don't know if it's the microphone, but it's really
26 hard to follow you guys. I know it's hard to be on a
27 teleconference, but some of you are -- we can't hear
28 you.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Gayla,
31 this is Molly again. How is it now?

32

33 MS. HOSETH: A little bit better, but,
34 yeah, it fades -- it kind of like fades in and out.

35

36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Gayla, you got me any
37 better now?

38

39 MS. HOSETH: It's still pretty quiet.

40

41 MR. MIKE: What about me, Gayla, can
42 you hear me.

43

44 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, you're loud and
45 clear now, Donald.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I think
48 it's just part of our microphones. We're talking as
49 loud as we can.

50

1 MS. HOSETH: Now you're very clear and
2 loud now.
3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I've
5 gotten my voice again.
6
7 Okay. Moving on to -- did you hear our
8 elections?
9
10 MS. HOSETH: No.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. All the
13 Chair, the Vice Chair and Secretary, all the members --
14 previous members have been reelected. Molly is Chair,
15 Vice Chair Nanci and then Secretary Richard.
16
17 Now we're moving on to number 7, review
18 and approve previous meeting minutes.
19
20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair, I make
21 a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from
22 this past fall meeting.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci's
25 made a motion to approve the minutes from the fall
26 meeting.
27
28 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by Dan
31 Dunaway. Discussion.
32
33 Somebody on the line?
34
35 (No comments)
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.
38
39 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair, I'm sorry I
40 missed that meeting, but under the roll call I just
41 wanted to correct the spelling of my last name, it's M-
42 A-I-N-E-S not Y.
43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
45 other corrections on -- in the minutes?
46
47 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, I don't -- I
48 didn't get my packet, but I did download some things
49 online. And I recall maybe on the second page there's
50

1 some contribution Member Richard Wilson made and there
2 was -- part of a sentence misnamed what he was doing or
3 where he's from, I can't remember what it was.

4
5 MS. MORRIS LYON: It was -- he -- they
6 called him.....

7
8 MR. HILL: Yeah, his name is Richard
9 Wilson, I think it was called Richard Nelson. So if we
10 could correct that, please.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
13 you for catching that.

14
15 Okay. Any other corrections.

16
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Question.

18
19 MR. HILL: Question.

20
21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: The question's
22 been called. All in favor say aye.

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
27 oppositions.

28
29 (No opposing votes)

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
32 thank you.

33
34 Okay. Moving on to reports. We'll
35 start with -- maybe we'll start with you online,
36 Senafont.

37
38 MR. SHUGAK: Yeah, I don't have
39 anything prepared, Madame Chair, so I'll, you know,
40 have one at the next one.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
43 you.

44
45 Billy.

46
47 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 I've got nothing to report other than I work for the
49 Curyung Tribal Council and we take care of the permits

50

1 for the hunt down on the coast there and we've handled
2 probably I want to say around 300 or better permits out
3 of our office and I had to get another hundred put in.
4 But I'm hoping to hear on the report later on that
5 we've actually had some success in trying to get down
6 to the manageable number of caribou that the Service
7 wants to maintain. I know for myself I've wanted to
8 get down there, but haven't had the chance. And
9 whenever it looked like I had the opportunity the
10 weather was against me. So I'm hoping that we've come
11 close to trying to accomplish the goal of dealing with
12 the Nushagak Peninsula herd.

13
14 That's all.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
17 you, Billy.

18
19 Nanci.

20
21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
22 Madame Chair. No, I have mostly just hearsay to report
23 on fall and winter hunts. It seemed like there was a
24 decent number of moose taken this year and it's been
25 great to have some access to the caribou and I know
26 some of the hunters that were awarded permits for that
27 over here for the first time in I don't even remember
28 how many years have had success and I know some
29 haven't, but it's nice to have that opportunity
30 available.

31
32 And then the other thing that I just
33 wanted to report that I don't -- again it's definitely
34 not an area that I would consider myself having any
35 expertise in, but there's been an awful lot of reports
36 around here from local residents of unusual yardbird
37 sightings, little red birds they don't recognize and
38 just some migratory birds that just aren't normally
39 recognized in the area that seem to be here and some in
40 large numbers. So just an observance.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
43 you, Nanci.

44
45 Lary.

46
47 MR. HILL: Okay. I'm Lary Hill. In
48 our area, Iliamna area, we've -- for the second year in
49 a row we've got a very -- as Nanci said a very decent
50

1 harvest of moose. And they seem to be migrating out of
2 the Park, I don't know if that's so or not, but it was
3 -- actually there was one killed about 800 feet from my
4 house, I wasn't quick enough to get it, somebody else
5 did. But anyway the winter season for moose and
6 caribou, it's -- we still have problems with access
7 because of the snow and the extreme cold. The fall
8 harvest for caribou was a little bit better, they still
9 had to go a long ways, a full day's travel, just to get
10 to the caribou. And same with now, it's still a long
11 trip to get to the caribou. But the caribou that they
12 are getting are in real good shape, they're fat and
13 they're -- you know, they haven't started moving close
14 to our area yet, but we hope that'll happen before the
15 season closes.

16

17 Also we're seeing some weird birds, not
18 so many hummingbirds this year as we have in prior
19 years, but the last thing is we're seeing -- I'm seeing
20 a decrease in the number of gulls, herring gulls, the
21 big gulls seem to be less in our area than before. I
22 don't know what the cause of it is, but it's really
23 noticeable by their absence. So I don't know what that
24 means.

25

26 That's it.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
29 you, Lary.

30

31 Dan.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
34 Dan Dunaway. Yeah, there's a lot of things going
35 through my mind. We had another pretty good berry year
36 which was wonderful. My understanding is and I don't
37 know if Fish and Game's going to provide a report or
38 not, but my understanding is there was a slight
39 increase in moose harvest over in the Dillingham area.
40 I saw some requests for extended seasons that were
41 denied because of the slightly increased harvest. I
42 understand that Togiak moose winter season went fairly
43 well or 17A I should say, but I haven't heard numbers.
44 I am also hearing that there's been some success with
45 the Nushagak caribou now that we have a real winter and
46 real good or better traveling conditions. I'm really
47 relieved if we have a better winter.

48

49 I have a fox pair living in my bird

50

1 feeder and I'm hearing of yellow crown sparrows in
2 other places. We're also hearing this concern about
3 ptarmigan, I haven't been out enough to check for
4 myself, but Saturday I was out, I saw no ptarmigan
5 tracks, but that's not always unusual in the area that
6 I go.

7
8 We had a decent king run I think. I
9 should say that I've been working part-time for the
10 Department of Fish and Game doing some subsistence
11 surveys and my appreciation of what it takes to collect
12 personal interviews for subsistence has really gone up.
13 It's a lot tougher than the rainbow trout that you
14 catch and they don't have any choice, you just make
15 them give you the data they have. But it's been very,
16 very interesting and a real eye opener and I really
17 appreciate the work folks have done.

18
19 And I guess I like to talk too much,
20 but I want to acknowledge the retirement of a couple of
21 key figures. One is Mark Lisak who's a long time fish
22 biologist with Togiak Refuge and a personal friend.
23 And he -- we won't be hearing as much from him at least
24 in an official capacity. Also Tom Krieg, the
25 subsistence biologist or subsistence person for Fish
26 and Game there in Dillingham will be retiring in April.
27 And he's spent a long, long time out here collecting
28 data all over Bristol Bay. And I just want to
29 acknowledge his contribution. And again as I've
30 working with him and with some other people, it's a lot
31 harder than I ever appreciated. So we appreciate what
32 he's done.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

37
38 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, I'd like to
39 add a couple more things from Iliamna if I may.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. HILL: I'm reluctant to talk about
44 this, but last -- this fall we actually -- my wife and
45 I actually spotted a pair of golden eagles in our area.
46 And we have not seen anything like that probably in
47 like 20 years. So really was encouraging to see them
48 returning. And they're -- obviously they were bigger
49 than the bald eagles and had a wingspan like this and
50

1 they're a definite kind of a reddish auburn color to
2 them and one was larger than the other. And they were
3 eating on a caribou leg somebody had left out. And we
4 went to go and see what was all the commotion, here's
5 these huge birds just picking on that carcass. So we
6 sat and watched them for quite a while. And lastly
7 it's a -- I know where their nesting is, but now I'm
8 not going to tell anybody. I can't confirm, you know,
9 having.....

10

11 Lastly with our season this year with
12 the run, salmon run peaking when it did, a little bit
13 later and also the berries were at their ripest. So
14 this year we didn't have to fight the bears for the
15 berries which we usually do if the run is before the
16 berries get their ripest.

17

18 But I wanted to mention the golden
19 eagles and we'll be keeping watch and hopefully we can
20 document some of that, but I'm trying to keep it a
21 secret, but just so between all of us just, you know,
22 keep it there because I don't know if they were just
23 temporary, but I think I know where the nesting area is
24 or there used to be one about 20 years ago and they
25 seem to be in the same area. So just, you know, keep
26 your eyes open in that area.

27

28 And that's it.

29

30 Thank you.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
35 There's one other thing, a real concern I wanted to
36 bring up is that over in the Dillingham area we've had
37 in the last couple winters some instances of moose
38 poaching. And very typically it ends up being a cow
39 moose that's pregnant so they're not just killing one,
40 they're killing two. There was -- I stumbled on an
41 issue myself last year and then I've heard there's a
42 couple -- and there was another one and I think there's
43 been one or two again this year and it really, really
44 concerns me that I get this gut feeling that there's a
45 little bit more poaching. I know there's always a
46 little bit going on, but it discourages me that as hard
47 as the rest of us work to have these coordinated moose
48 plans and to assure there's moose and we've got
49 abundant moose in the Togiak area now and yet there's

50

1 folks that somehow think it's okay to poach. And I
2 just want to speak out against it and ask the public to
3 help us discourage that so that we can have healthy
4 moose populations.

5

6

Thank you.

7

8

MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

9

10

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

11

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28

29

Thank you.

30

31

32

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any more
discussion.

33

34

(No comments)

35

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38

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49

50

So becoming an elder and my husband and
I are not able to harvest or hunt and harvest like we

1 used to, it's been really a privilege and very humbling
2 to be in this situation when people bring you their
3 resources, people that have harvested resources. And
4 in that way I still have a kind of an idea of what's
5 being harvested out there when people bring us
6 different resources.

7
8 And I guess starting with caribou
9 people from Manokotak mainly and the other like Togiak,
10 they've been, you know, hunting caribou on the
11 Peninsula and they seem to be harvesting and also
12 Dillingham folks hunting towards the east of the
13 Dillingham area are harvesting.

14
15 The sad situation that happened, it's
16 probably already been two weeks, one of our young
17 hunters from Manokotak was in a snow machine accident
18 on his way back from Manokotak and, you know, was
19 deceased. So I guess the snow machines that the young
20 people are driving now, I don't know if they're
21 realizing that, you know, speed isn't always the
22 appropriate way to go especially when you have a load
23 of caribou or whatever else are in the sled including
24 wood. That could be a dangerous situation for people
25 that are speeding.

26
27 So when we get these resources brought
28 to us we -- with me as a cook -- you know, cooking
29 these resources I can tell the difference of the
30 conditions of the meat. The resources, the caribou
31 that we're receiving from the Nushagak Peninsula have
32 been pretty edible. The caribou that we received from
33 the east side have been pretty tough. I like my
34 caribou just cooked I guess not -- maybe not medium
35 rare, but I tried cooking my first caribou that I
36 received from one of the hunters that came harvested
37 from the east area and that -- the meat was so tough
38 that I had to recook the meat. I don't know if it's
39 from the animal running.

40
41 Okay. So and then traveling to
42 Manokotak and Togiak, you know, this time of year
43 they're harvesting ptarmigan and they've been having a
44 hard time finding ptarmigan and they're just wondering
45 if it's because they're hiding due to such cold weather
46 still, but I guess like Dan mentioned that ptarmigan is
47 scarce and so Manokotak, Togiak villages, even
48 Aleknagik and Dillingham folks are having a time
49 finding ptarmigan.

50

1 And the last three years our --
2 Aleknagik Lake hasn't really been freezing as well as
3 the river, Wood River. This year the Wood River froze
4 and so did our lake system so when the Wood River
5 system wasn't freezing our -- that the smelt that
6 usually come up to the upper end of the Wood River
7 right there at the Aleknagik Lake because there was no
8 protection I guess from the ice that usually forms in
9 the river they came up to our lake for the first time
10 so people from -- even from Dillingham and elsewhere
11 were coming up to actually ice fish from right there at
12 the lakes -- our lake, first lake system at Aleknagik
13 and that was amazing.

14
15 Another thing that's happening that I
16 was asked to be involved in was the -- I guess there's
17 a survey by Alaska Department of Fish and Game
18 Anchorage on shorebirds. And they wanted me to
19 identify the Yup'ik names for these shorebirds. And
20 when we identify Yup'ik names for any resources it's
21 usually pretty clear of the ones that we actually
22 harvest to eat. And the ones that we don't eat are
23 usually generalized in the Yup'ik terms. So I couldn't
24 really help her with the shorebirds in identifying each
25 species that they were showing me because around here
26 as long as I could remember not very many people
27 harvest shorebirds to eat. So I told the folks that
28 were involved in the Anchorage office to contact people
29 from Bethel area that actually use the shorebirds for
30 -- you know, for their home use. And I think that has
31 happened.

32
33 So it's been a good year so far with
34 the snow, it's almost feels normal. Even the cold
35 weather is here so people are traveling a lot more than
36 normal. I noticed when I flew in yesterday this area
37 hardly had any snow. So we're normal and you guys are
38 still -- or this side of the area is still quite not
39 normal with no snow.

40
41 Okay. That's our reports. Unless you
42 have any questions, any more comments.

43
44 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, just to share
45 a little story. Two years ago I took out this bird
46 watcher and we were wandering around looking at birds
47 and there was these birds, I didn't know what they
48 were, they were small, kind of brown. So I asked him,
49 he was identifying everything and some I didn't know
50

1 where they were, what they were, saw this little bird
2 oh, that's a LBF. I'm scratching my head, what's an
3 LBF. He says little brown fellow.

4
5 (Laughter)

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. If
8 there's no other reports I'll give a quick overview of
9 the Chair's report.

10
11 Do you remember last -- at our fall
12 meeting we were discussing our concern about public
13 attendance. And the -- Joe Chythlook, BBNC Chair, came
14 up to the front and was concerned about that. And so
15 from that I asked if -- to help with the -- I guess
16 information about passing our -- to encourage people
17 that weren't attending the public -- if Bristol Bay RAC
18 could be involved with the leadership forum that BBNC
19 was going to be holding and we got on the agenda so
20 there was a -- some of us over there, Donald Mike was
21 there, Dan O'Hara and I don't know, was Billy Williams
22 there, I couldn't remember.

23
24 Okay. And I'm -- if you can't hear me
25 I'm almost kissing the mic here, I'm sorry.

26
27 But anyway the -- not only was Bristol
28 Bay RAC there, but Nushagak Advisory was also there to
29 try to encourage the Bristol Bay folks that were
30 attending the leadership forum the importance of
31 attending these Council meetings that involve their
32 subsistence resources. And so I think -- I'm hoping
33 that we made an impact, but I think we also need to
34 continue this trend to try to inform our public to
35 attend. I'm thankful that we've started encouraging
36 our students to attend because that's our future
37 leaders here eventually. I hope that you, the two boys
38 and the gal that was here would be up here leading the
39 folks out there.

40
41 Then January Federal Subsistence Board
42 met and Bristol Bay -- this year the Bristol Bay didn't
43 have any proposals, but I -- during my report I
44 reported on our hope to get the public involved in
45 hopes to have them attend our -- the Regional Advisory
46 Council and also our Nushagak Advisory Councils to help
47 with the -- making regulations. Because this is where
48 the regulations for our resources start.

49
50

1 And so I guess with our continued work
2 in hoping to try to get our public involved we're --
3 we'll be having more public folks attending then. And
4 I think that's working, we've got at least our students
5 coming now, before we never had our students involved.

6
7 So that's kind of a synopsis of my
8 report.

9
10 Okay.

11
12 Any other comments.

13
14 (No comments)

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Did I miss
17 anything, Donald?

18
19 MR. MIKE: No, Madame Chair. At the
20 Bristol Bay Native Corporation leadership forum in
21 Anchorage two OSM staff were there, myself and Carl
22 Johnson, my supervisor. We had RAC member Dan O'Hara
23 and Advisory Committee member Randy Alvarez. And I
24 thought we did a good job explaining our program to the
25 public and we had some questions after awhile, but we
26 only had an hour to participate. But it was a good
27 one.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We'll take a
30 five minute break.

31
32 MR. DUNAWAY: Just, Madame Chair, if I
33 might add. Thank you for that update on the leadership
34 forum because when I read the minutes I was hoping to
35 hear something. I'm really glad that that came off
36 because I remember Joe's invitation. So good work
37 everybody.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
42 take a five minute break.

43
44 (Off record)

45
46 (On record)

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Calling the
49 meeting back to order. Next on our agenda is the
50

1 public and private comment on nonagenda items. And I
2 think we'd encourage the students to come and talk to
3 us and also any of the public folks. This is your time
4 to come and talk to us.

5
6 Oh, one thing that I forgot to mention
7 and I don't know where they are, the blue cards. You
8 know where the blue cards might be?

9
10 MS. MORRIS LYON: They're on the back
11 table.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Fill
14 those blue cards and then, students, do you have
15 something you want to -- we're encouraging you to come
16 and talk to us.

17
18 Go ahead and pick up a blue card and
19 you can fill one out after the fact.

20
21 Okay. Come on students, we're waiting.

22
23 MS. MORRIS LYON: They're expecting it
24 at the end of the meeting, they're planning on coming
25 up at the end of the meeting.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess there
28 was a misunderstanding, they thought we were going to
29 have them come at the end of the meeting. But this is
30 the time for public and tribal comments on nonagenda
31 items for any public person to come and talk to us. If
32 not, then we can move on on our agenda.

33
34 Okay. Seeing none let's move down to
35 old business. Oh, I'm sorry new business. Call for
36 Federal wildlife proposals, the Nushagak Peninsula
37 caribou herd report. Do we have that person here.

38
39 Okay. Tom.

40
41 MR. EVANS: Good morning, Madame
42 Chairman and members of the Council. It's nice to meet
43 new people and a new Board so it's been fun coming here
44 and always enjoy -- even though I know my Councils
45 really well and it's nice to interact with the same
46 people over and over so you get a feel for what people
47 -- you know, what their interests are and how things
48 work, it's also fun to meet new people and go to new
49 areas.

50

1 So I'll give you a brief rundown on the
2 call for regulatory proposals. Typically we have a
3 proposal period, usually goes from mid January to like
4 the end of March. Because of the change in the
5 Administration the call for proposals has not been
6 signed by the Administration yet so we're waiting for
7 that call for proposals. But if there's any proposals
8 that the Council would like to recommend I suggest that
9 you go ahead and process them at the meeting, you know,
10 accept them or whatever and then we can work with you
11 or we can get the proposals in. And when the call does
12 get formalized we can submit those proposals for the
13 wildlife cycle. So we're submitting proposals for the
14 2018 to 2020 cycle.

15
16 So I'll give you just a brief rundown
17 of what the proposal process is. The Board will
18 consider proposals to change Federal hunting and
19 trapping seasons, harvest limits, methods of harvest
20 and customary and traditional use determinations on
21 Federal public lands. The Federal public lands include
22 the National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks,
23 Monuments and Preserves, National Forests, National
24 Wild and Scenic Rivers and Bureau of Land Management
25 areas that are not part of the national conservation
26 system. The Federal regulations do not apply to the
27 State of Alaska lands, private lands, military lands,
28 Native allotments or selected Federal lands by State or
29 Native corporations.

30
31 The Councils may choose to work with
32 OSM staff to develop a proposal and proposals are also
33 accepted by individuals and organizations as well.
34 Information that is included in the proposal should be
35 your name, organization, your contact information
36 basically, the regulation you wish to change including
37 management unit and number and species. If you know
38 the current regulation quote that because that helps
39 provide the groundwork to see what the change will be,
40 the regulation as you would like to see it written, an
41 explanation as to why the regulatory change should be
42 made, a description of the impact of the change on
43 wildlife populations and a description of the impact
44 that it might have on subsistence users. Other impacts
45 could include things like sport and recreational and
46 commercial interests as well. So just an idea of what
47 the change is and what the impacts will be on various
48 segments on the population.

49
50

1 You may not submit the proposals via
2 email, you can submit them by mail or hand delivery to
3 Office of Subsistence Management, you can submit
4 proposals here at the RAC meeting and you can also
5 submit proposals through the web, go to Federal
6 rulemaking portal. Like I said right now no proposals
7 are being accepted because of the change in the
8 Administration and we haven't gotten official approval
9 to do so yet. Typically like I say they end the end of
10 -- typically they've ended like the end of March, this
11 year that proposal period may go a little longer
12 because of this kind of the change. That's an
13 oversight of the proposal process and that's on page 15
14 of your book, by the way.

15
16 Thank you.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
19 questions for.....

20
21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: Has anybody heard
26 with the new Administration when this is going to get
27 signed or is it everybody's in the air?

28
29 MR. EVANS: It's kind of a day to day
30 thing, we just don't know. It's just.....

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So no
33 emailing on the proposals?

34
35 MR. EVANS: No emailing on the
36 proposals, correct.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: How about fax?

39
40 MR. EVANS: Fax you can do it to our
41 office, you can submit them via fax to our office. I
42 think that would work.

43
44 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

47
48 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
49 you. I -- what my understanding from OSM, the
50

1 directions the Councils should be taking, is if you
2 have any potential wildlife proposals we can discuss it
3 on record and when the Federal Register is published
4 for the call for wildlife proposals, you know, the
5 Federal Register, then we can submit those proposals.
6 But this is an opportunity for the Council to discuss
7 on record potential wildlife proposals on Federal
8 public lands.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, my
13 questions were if I got a question from the public
14 regarding, you know, how to send emails or send
15 proposals I'd have -- I'd be able to answer.

16

17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

20

21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
22 Madame Chair. And I would just suggest stepping back
23 from my role on the Council and into one as a business
24 owner, I would suggest that the -- they take -- OSM
25 takes a look at finding a way to get accepted at least
26 scanned PDF copies because as a business owner I don't
27 even own a fax anymore and have not for probably four
28 or five years because it's becoming archaic quickly.
29 So I -- and most everybody including, you know, even
30 legal people are accepting PDF scans so I would suggest
31 that as a consideration.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

36

37 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair, thank
38 you. As a coordinator I receive a lot of information
39 and I prefer PDFs than faxes. So more reliable than a
40 fax.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, the
45 reason why I brought up faxes is because villages, a
46 lot of times their computer is down, their computer's
47 not able to send anything, their only reliable is fax.
48 So that's why I asked that.

49

50

1 Okay. Thank you. Any other comments.

2

3

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

4

5

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

6

7

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

8

9 Prior to Richard's departure for his vacation he and I
10 -- he discussed with me the State's hunting regulations
11 for caribou in unit 9C. Currently there's a season to
12 be announced and Richard Wilson, Mr. Wilson's thought
13 was that this Council sponsor a proposal on the Board
14 of Game site. So he would like to see a season for 9C,
15 that portion of the north bank of Naknek River and
16 south of the Alagnak River drainage. He'd like the
17 season to mirror unit 9B, August 1, March 31. So he
18 stated there's no reason for closure on the north side
19 of the Naknek River.

19

20

Thank you, Madame Chair.

21

22

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan

23

Dunaway.

24

25

MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Madame Chair and

26

27 Donald, that sounds really interesting to me. So just
28 so I'm really clear Richard would like to see us have a
29 proposal that would mirror the State Regulation on unit
30 9C caribou; is that correct?

30

31

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Dunaway,

32

33 he'd like to submit a proposal to the Board of Game on
34 the State regulations for the remainder -- the -- unit
35 9C, that portion north of the north bank of the Naknek
36 River and south of the Alagnak River. Currently it's a
37 may be announced season, he'd like a season that begins
38 August 1, March 31. So his opinion is that there's no
39 reason for closure and he would like to add a season on
40 9C under State regulations and he'd like to sponsor it
41 or he'd like this Council to sponsor a Board of Game
42 proposal.

42

43

Thank you.

44

45

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci.

46

47

MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and I would

48

49 concur with his conclusion. I do not see any reason
50 why that area should be included and I think it would,

50

1 you know, benefit the users, especially the subsistence
2 users because of the time of year it applies to and I
3 think that's a good idea.

4
5 Thank you.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

8
9 Dan, did you have a comment.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, I want to be
12 supportive of what Richard and the more local folks
13 here would like to have and I'm still a little muddled
14 on it, but if -- you know, I see Randy's here and a few
15 other people. So he wants a set season not a to be
16 announced season. It seems like -- I'm thinking
17 Dillingham style, we I think adopted some to be
18 announced to give more flexibility to the Department.
19 So I just want to -- I want to be supportive, but I
20 also want to have a clear understanding before I go too
21 far.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

26
27 Donald, did you have a answer.

28
29 MR. MIKE: Yes, during my discussion
30 with Mr. Wilson, you know, I told Mr. Wilson that the
31 Council can discuss that on record and work on the
32 details. And as far as sending a proposal to the Board
33 of Game I would help him with the details, but any
34 other information that the Council wish to see on the
35 proposal, it -- I mean, we can -- I can get it started
36 so I guess Mr. Wilson is looking for support from this
37 Council to endorse the Board of Game proposal that this
38 Council may potentially submit to the Board of Game.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

41
42 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, thank you.
43 Through the Chair. Yeah, Donald, when is the deadline
44 for those submissions?

45
46 MR. MIKE: I believe it's -- Tom, do
47 you have the date, but it's -- I think the Board of
48 Game proposals the deadline is in 2017. I don't have
49 the exact dates, but we can work out the details and
50

1 issues.

2

3 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
4 Gayla with BBNA. I believe the Board of Game proposal
5 deadline is May 1st.

6

7 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you,
8 Gayla. Yeah, I would like to support that, Donald, if
9 you would take the initiative on that to make it
10 specific to that area and mirror the other dates for
11 lack of confusion. And I would invite any other users
12 and I see we have several in the area that would like
13 to make comments on it, hear from them if they'd like
14 to.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
17 we're looking at you, Randy, if not, Dan.

18

19 MR. ALVAREZ: Sure.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Come
22 on, Randy.

23

24 MR. ALVAREZ: Randy Alvarez from
25 Egegik. Yeah, that's -- I'm sure Richard's -- he's my
26 -- I'm related to him, he's my cousin, but anyway we do
27 a lot of hunting on the other half. I'm sure Richard's
28 referring to Mulchatna caribou, that's why he would
29 like to see this open. It probably needs to be in the
30 proposal there that it's referring to Mulchatna
31 caribou. And I don't see a problem with that. You
32 know, the Department has the option of emergency
33 closure which would be better than it is now. If it
34 was open for hunting for Mulchatna caribou, but if the
35 Naknek -- North Peninsula herd migrated across the
36 river the Department of Fish and Game always has the
37 option for emergency closure to close this area when
38 there are North Peninsula caribou there versus the way
39 it is now, it's always closed and they can open it when
40 Mulchatna caribou come down. And I'm thinking that's
41 what Richard's proposal is is keep it open for
42 Mulchatna caribou, but when North Peninsula caribou
43 migrate over there then the Department has the option
44 to emergency closure it.

45

46 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Randy, very
47 good point. I made the assumption everybody knew that,
48 but that is exactly the reasoning behind that proposal.
49 And it's been years since the North Peninsula herd

50

1 headed that way and crossed the river. And because of
2 that change in migration at least for now, that was
3 exactly Richard's thought, we had spoke about it
4 briefly too, I don't think nearly as much length as
5 Donald had, but I did neglect to mention that and that
6 is a totally imperative point that everything hinges
7 on.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
10 you, Randy.

11
12 Dan Dunaway.

13
14 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
15 Chair, thank you, Randy. I guess I just want to kind
16 of register my disappointment. I'm not aware of any
17 Fish and Game folks being available to kind of help us
18 understand this, it's a frustration at times to me that
19 if the State wants to work with the Feds they've go to
20 be present. I don't know if anybody's listening in,
21 but we've got to be together to work together.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

26
27 MS. KLEIN: This is Jill Klein from
28 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I'm listening in.
29 I'm not in the Division of Wildlife, but I can try to
30 help out as needed.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
33 you, Dan.

34
35 Dan.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Jill, I
38 appreciate your presence. Yeah, maybe the biologists
39 up at King Salmon are busy on a survey, I don't know.
40 I was kind of looking forward to them participating in
41 the meeting. So maybe pass that on.

42
43 Thank you.

44
45 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

48
49 MR. HILL: Does anybody know the status
50

1 of where they -- maybe Randy might address it or have
2 any of the North Peninsula herd been crossing the river
3 up behind Levelock, going up towards like Iliamna or
4 have the -- do you know if any of the Mulchatna herd's
5 coming down this way?
6

7 MR. ALVAREZ: Madame Chair, my name's
8 Randy Alvarez. There's -- they haven't crossed the
9 river this year yet. I don't know if they will.
10 There's a bunch of caribou that came down right behind
11 Levelock, people were getting. In Egegik we got some
12 the other day, they were right across the river. But I
13 haven't seen any tracks crossing the river yet. They
14 used to, but I think warm weather the last few years
15 have been keeping out part of the north. So maybe with
16 this cold weather coming back, getting a little more
17 snow then they'll start migrating back down again. But
18 that's just speculation.
19

20 MR. HILL: I was wondering because we
21 haven't had many caribou, we had to go way inland. And
22 usually they're starting to move to the area and they
23 haven't so far. So I'm wondering if maybe what you're
24 seeing is part of the Mulchatna caribou herd.
25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Donald.
27

28 MS. PETERSON: Madame Chair.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.
31

32 MS. PETERSON: This is Chris Peterson
33 from Alaska Fish and Game in King Salmon. And I
34 understood that there was a question concerning the
35 proposal by Richard Wilson. And if I can be of
36 assistance I'd be glad to.
37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.
39

40 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, hi, Chris, this
41 is Nanci Morris Lyon with the RAC Board here, down here
42 in Naknek. We just had a question about the migration
43 habits for the last few years of the Northern Peninsula
44 caribou herd. And due to a proposal that we're
45 considering putting forward to the Board of Game can
46 you help us out with that, the migration?
47

48 MS. PETERSON: I'd be glad to help with
49 any information I can. And Dave Crowley is here as
50

1 well. So if you have some specific questions we'll try
2 to answer those, but generally speaking the proposal is
3 based on keeping that particular hunt open for the
4 Mulchatna herd when it comes down this way for the
5 local residents versus in the past we used to be
6 concerned about the Northern Peninsula caribou crossing
7 the river and possibly being harvested in place of
8 those Mulchatna caribou. That's not been the case for
9 some years, but that's not to say it wouldn't happen as
10 the Northern Peninsula grows that might happen again,
11 but we do have, you know, the option of an EO to close
12 that hunt if we needed to. We do have radio collars on
13 a good number of the North Peninsula caribou and we
14 monitor them and we kept them each winter and if they
15 were to -- you know, if we able to find some signals
16 over here then we could take care of what we needed to
17 there.

18
19 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you,
20 Chris, that totally confirms what our discussion has
21 been hinged around and I appreciate the input there.

22
23 MS. PETERSON: Okay. Sure.

24
25 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan. Or I
28 guess Dan is -- or Lary.

29
30 MR. HILL: With respect to the Northern
31 Peninsula herd and my question would be that I would
32 agree with that proposal having seen them like that,
33 but who or how are we going to find out when those
34 Mulchatna caribou herd and the North Peninsula herd are
35 in the appropriate area at the appropriate time for the
36 season. So radio collars would work, but so how would
37 we -- how do we deal with an enforcement person saying,
38 no, which herd that these people are harvesting.
39 Unless you got up to date information on, you know,
40 which herd is being harvested. That's the only problem
41 I see with that, you know, just whose caribou are you
42 killing.

43
44 MS. PETERSON: If we weren't -- and we
45 do monitor them during the winter months and if the
46 season is open then we definitely would be monitoring
47 it periodically. We not only have the radio collars on
48 the -- on a certain number of animals, but we also can
49 make aerial observations either through like a Super
50

1 Cub or even a helicopter, look for tracks of any of the
2 NAP coming across the river. If there's snow it's
3 pretty easy to see if they're coming over and in that
4 case then we would have to close it at least initially.
5 As the Northern Peninsula caribou herd grows which
6 hopefully it will continue to do, you know, that might
7 become unnecessary to close it. But the tracks in the
8 snow are pretty clear and easy and then the radio
9 collars are something that we can always do that really
10 helps us keep track of where the herd is going.

11

12 MR. HILL: This is Lary Hill again. A
13 question about that. Just how -- so how would the
14 potential harvesters know, you know, which herd, are
15 they going to be checking with Fish and Game see which
16 part is open and which is not or is there going to be
17 like a public notice, something to that effect, how
18 would we know which one is there?

19

20 MS. PETERSON: Oh, I'm sorry that I
21 didn't make that clear. Yes, if the Northern Peninsula
22 caribou crossover the Naknek River and are in the area
23 where the Mulchatna sometimes comes down toward Naknek
24 and King Salmon, if the Northern Peninsula caribou get
25 into that area then we would close that hunt by an
26 emergency order until such time that we knew that those
27 animals were no longer on that side of the river.

28

29 MR. HILL: So you'd make like a public
30 statement or just have the harvesters check with you
31 guys to see if it's open or not?

32

33 MS. PETERSON: Oh, it would be very
34 public and we would put it on the radio -- we generally
35 put it on the radio, have flyers distributed, contact
36 all the local tribal councils, community organizations,
37 everything and let people know. So, yeah, it's very
38 public.

39

40 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you. Lary
41 Hill, thank you for your information, it's.....

42

43 MS. PETERSON: Certainly.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan
46 Dunaway.

47

48 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
49 Thank you, Chris, good to hear you on. I'm curious has
50

1 Richard discussed and/or submitted a proposal to --
2 this proposal to you yet?

3
4 MS. PETERSON: He's discussed to some
5 degree and I don't -- I'm not aware at this point if
6 he's actually submitted a proposal, but he was
7 certainly running through it with us and we didn't have
8 any, you know, great concerns over that. It simply
9 shifts the burden -- that's the wrong way to put it,
10 but it shifts it from being an emphasis on waiting for
11 the Mulchatna caribou to come down here in order to
12 open a hunt, it makes it so that the hunt is simply
13 open and we wait and see if any of the Northern
14 Peninsula caribou come up here. And in that case then
15 we close the hunt. It's simply -- that's the -- one
16 way to look at it anyway. So no problems with that.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Chris, you nailed
19 exactly what I was trying to get around to and because
20 we are inclined to support our member here and the
21 local folks. So thank you very much for that.

22
23 Are you anticipating providing us a
24 report later, I know there's -- you guys are doing a
25 tremendous amount of activity and surveys in the
26 Dillingham area and possibly over here. I'm hoping we
27 can hear from you later, but thank you so much for
28 clarification on this part, I really appreciate it.

29
30 MS. PETERSON: Oh, no problem. And I
31 was not contacted to provide anything to the meeting,
32 but I don't know if perhaps Neil Crowley over in
33 Dillingham will be adding to it or not, but I'll be
34 online and if there's any questions I'd be glad to
35 address them.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

40
41 Donald Mike.

42
43 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
44 During my discussion with Mr. Wilson, you know, he
45 stated to me that he had intentions of submitting a
46 Board of Game proposal to the Naknek Kvichak Advisory
47 Committee meetings, but I don't know if that is he had
48 met to discuss this at their meetings to provide a
49 proposal to the Board of Game, but if they had not

50

1 submitted a proposal, you know, he's looking for
2 support from this Council to submit a Board of Game
3 proposal.

4
5 Thank you, Madame Chair.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Joe, do you
8 have an answer to that?

9
10 MR. KLUTSCH: Yes, Madame Chair, my
11 name is Joe Klutsch, I'm a member of the Naknek Kvichak
12 Advisory Committee, still a member of. And a little
13 bit of background. I think in terms of the
14 justifications for this proposal that Randy Alvarez
15 covered it pretty clearly and then with the follow-up
16 information from Chris at ADF&G, how you would separate
17 out Mulchatna caribou from Northern Peninsula caribou
18 is -- I think she made it fairly clear. I can tell you
19 that this proposal was discussed at length at our last
20 AC meeting which was I think three weeks ago and the
21 Committee unanimously supported it. I cannot tell you
22 whether Richard has drafted the proposal as yet. The
23 deadline for proposals I believe is May 1st. And my
24 recollection was this was going to be an AC proposal,
25 recommended proposal. So with the EO authority I don't
26 think there's any really overwhelming biological
27 concerns and it could offer additional opportunity when
28 those Mulchatna animals come down here.

29
30 That was just making a clarification.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, Madame Chair.
35 Then I'm wondering if we could possibly poll the
36 Council for approval -- for support and then when Mr.
37 Wilson gets back we can find out because I wouldn't
38 mind lending support through the Regional AD Council or
39 this Council, either one. Would that be acceptable.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I think
42 that's -- would probably be the way to go right now.
43 So if we can have a motion.

44
45 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, can we have
46 someone state what the actual proposal is and then we
47 can act on it.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary, the
50

1 proposal hasn't been drafted.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: How about I take a
4 stab at.....

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci, I guess
7 will take a stab at what might be in the proposal.

8

9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. What I would
10 -- I'll make a motion that because we don't have a
11 proposal in front of us to address I would make a
12 motion that the Board -- the Council will support a
13 proposal that clearly defines that the area north of
14 Naknek and south of the -- how did he define, north of
15 the Naknek and south of the Alagnak?

16

17 MR. MIKE: That portion north of the
18 north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak
19 River Drainage.

20

21 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. So it would be
22 opened to caribou hunting when -- so that we can take
23 advantage when the Mulchatna caribou herd drops into
24 this area and that we would depend upon Fish and Game
25 doing emergency order closure when the Northern
26 Peninsula caribou herd goes north of that area. And
27 that we would support this because it would offer
28 additional opportunity during the time of the year when
29 it could clearly be used in our area.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan,
32 did you have a.....

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: That was well done. I'll
35 second that motion.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
38 been a motion by Nanci to support the proposal that
39 will be drafted, seconded by Dan Dunaway.

40

41 Anymore comments.

42

43 (No comments)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
46 all in favor say aye.

47

48 IN UNISON: Aye.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
2 opposition.

3
4 (No opposing votes)

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
7 thank you.

8
9 So I guess before we go on to our next
10 agenda item, I guess the students are now ready to come
11 up as a group. So we'll welcome -- have the kids come
12 up now. Or have the students, not the kids. Have the
13 students come up and talk to us.

14
15 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
16 Gayla Hoseth from BBNA. Could I ask a quick question.

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Repeat that.
19 Is this Gayla?

20
21 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, Madame Chair. This
22 is Gayla. We have some proposals that we wanted to see
23 if the RAC would be interested in being the authors of
24 the proposals. Would we bring that up at a later time?

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Gayla, we can
27 do right after the students talk to us. So you can
28 come on board and talk to us after the students.

29
30 MS. HOSETH: That's what we wanted to
31 do.

32
33 MR. KING: Hi, I'm Austin King and I
34 was just wondering how us as high school students can
35 be more involved in the -- this Board I guess.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. My I
38 guess wish is for you students to come -- you know,
39 come to our meetings like this, this Committee meeting,
40 and learn as much as you can. And I don't know, Don
41 would have to help me, but you can be involved -- I
42 don't know about coming on board as a Board member, but
43 you can be involved in any resource -- subsistence
44 resource information that this Committee works for and,
45 you know, if you've become a hunter, a processor, with
46 any resources of fish and game or with any of our
47 proposals, you are more than welcome. I don't know who
48 your teacher is, but we have Board members like Judy
49 that lives here, visit -- I mean, Nanci. Nanci that
50

1 can help you and, you know, help you with our processes
2 here. So we're delighted, we want you to be involved.

3

4 Nanci, you have a comment.

5

6 MS. MORRIS LYON: I do. Thank you,
7 Molly. Yeah, and, you know, it's these processes that
8 will shape the future of how your resources are handled
9 or managed. And you should feel welcome at all times
10 to bring forward concerns you have or even
11 observations. As you heard us give our Council member
12 reports earlier, you know, even things from off the
13 wall could matter by next fall and if we don't -- the
14 sooner we know about them the sooner actions can be
15 taken. And these are the venues that things -- that
16 make things change and that help things out, hopefully
17 both of those things happen when it does. And so this
18 -- it's important for you guys to know that this is
19 where you go when you see that the herd is picking up
20 in numbers and things seem to be -- the moose we
21 couldn't -- we haven't been able to get good reports
22 for our moose for many years so we have to just go by
23 what the hunters have been observing in the field and
24 it's important for you to come and say, you know, man,
25 I spent more hours than I ever have in my life and
26 never saw a moose this year or, you know, I went right
27 out there and it took me five minutes to find a moose
28 and my buddy was with me and the next day we went up
29 and found him one in about 10 minutes. And those --
30 that type of information even though we have all this
31 high tech stuff is sometimes more valuable for us to
32 have to use to make decisions with than what we can get
33 from biology and those types of resources at times.

34

35 So it's just important for you to know
36 that your voice counts.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

39

40 MR. HILL: Students, as you're getting
41 older and you're starting to maybe think about going
42 out into the world with whichever way you choose to
43 live your life. As you get out and you're becoming
44 more aware than just your little school society, you're
45 out and about, keep your eyes open, look around, if you
46 see something that doesn't look right, you know, keep
47 in mind, talk to Nanci and Richard Wilson also if
48 there's -- if you have concerns and ask how you can
49 help. Sometimes we just need eyes and ears out to see

50

1 what's going on around the country. So you -- if
2 you're out and you're -- you know, you see a bunch of
3 dead birds or animals, you know, talk to your Council
4 members or the Fish and Game. We depend a lot on those
5 kind of observations, just, you know, what's -- and
6 we'll take you at your word so, you know, be aware and
7 get out. So as an example on the way down from King
8 Salmon this morning I saw one crow, just one.
9 Ordinarily there are dozens and the bigger ravens,
10 there were none. So I don't know where they were, but
11 they're not here anymore. So just -- but observations
12 like that. And just keep your eyes and ears open and
13 let us know what you see.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

16

17 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, just add a little
18 on to that. Yeah, you've got members of the Board
19 right here in town. Another thing is especially here
20 in the King Salmon/Naknek area you've got numerous
21 Federal and State agencies and they're there to serve
22 you and they'll all be ready to hear from you or direct
23 you to the right person to talk to. When I lived in
24 some places people would knock on the door and be
25 afraid to come into our offices. Those offices are
26 there for you and you have every right to walk in there
27 and ask them questions and wait until you get an answer
28 that satisfies you or at least is as thorough as
29 possible.

30

31 So welcome to this, thank you very much
32 and don't hesitate to knock on doors.

33

34 Thank you.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, and then
37 -- yeah, like Dan Dunaway said there's -- you have
38 agency people here and I don't know if the -- you know,
39 they also have camps where you can go and learn
40 resource information. So the agency offices are here,
41 you can go down there and talk to them. Have them come
42 to your school, invite them to come to your school to
43 talk to you. And, you know, you're young and I guess
44 exploring your area here and just come and tell us your
45 observations on -- it doesn't have to be land animals,
46 but we're also interested in, you know, fish and bays
47 and whatever else is around in this area. So keep your
48 eyes open, get some information from the agency folks
49 here, from our Board members and be involved. We're

50

1 just excited, we're just happy to have you here to --
2 as interested students.

3
4 Any other comments, did we give you
5 enough information?

6
7 MR. KING: Thank you. Thank you for
8 that.

9
10 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
11 Gayla Hoseth with BBNA. Could I comment on that?

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

14
15 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you. I just
16 wanted to let the Council know one of the goals that we
17 have here at BBNA is to eventually form a Youth
18 Advisory Council that would be similar to the RAC the
19 Nushagak -- you know, like our AC Committee that we
20 have, but we're writing a proposal to eventually get a
21 Youth Advisory Council and the Youth Advisory Council
22 will weigh in on all these fish and wildlife proposals
23 and also come up with proposals from the Youth Advisory
24 Council. And then for -- also for students to shadow
25 us here at BBNA while we would take in, you know,
26 Council members from the Student Advisory Council to
27 teach them the process along the way from the beginning
28 to the end and the different regulatory processes that
29 we have to go through with the dual State and Federal
30 management issues.

31
32 I just wanted to put that out, we're --
33 and of course is funding, but sometimes we do have
34 money available where we can bring youth with us to
35 these meetings and that's something that we want to do.

36
37 So, Nanci, maybe if you're over there
38 you can get me into the right person who we can contact
39 of students that might be interested in accompanying us
40 here at BBNA as we travel to certain Board meetings.

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

43
44 MR. WILSON: Madame Chair, this is
45 Verner at BBNA. We still haven't left Dillingham yet,
46 but there -- we are very excited, we did put in a
47 proposal, we'll be hearing back in May. Hopefully with
48 that proposal as Gayla said with the Youth Advisory
49 Council, we would have a natural resources summit, keep

50

1 you and them in the loop about (indiscernible). It's
2 something that would be an opportunity for us to, you
3 know, bring youth from different communities as well as
4 their elders to be part of these processes. And so
5 it's very exciting and I'm glad that Keemuel Kenrud is
6 able to come with me today to the RAC and that's just
7 an example of how we're trying to get more youth
8 involved. As you know there was -- you saw my mom's
9 (indiscernible) I mean, the officer in Dillingham and
10 so it's something that I think is very important for us
11 at BBNA to involve the next generation.

12

13 Thanks.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
16 you. Anybody -- any other comments from online.

17

18 (No comments)

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
21 you.

22

23 Nanci, did you have a comment.

24

25 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, I just wanted to
26 respond to Gayla and say, yeah, that I would definitely
27 be willing to commit to that in working with the school
28 and educational system over here to find students that
29 would be a good fit. I think that's a program that's
30 totally worth while pursuing and I hope to see it come
31 to fruition.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

34

35 MR. HILL: As Council members and
36 members of the organization we're so eager to have
37 youth step forward. Let's not -- I know you can
38 process a lot of information, but let's not overwhelm
39 them with our talking. If they have other questions
40 can we have them ask it.

41

42 MS. R. LYON: Hello, I'm Riley Lyon
43 from King Salmon. I'd just like to input -- kind of
44 adding on to what Dan was saying earlier about
45 suggesting possibly getting the word out more about
46 these RAC meetings. I know of a lot of subsistence
47 users out here who spend a lot of time outdoors that
48 aren't here giving their input. And I just would think
49 the more input the better. And I don't know if there's

50

1 anyway we can get the word out more or encourage other
2 people to get here to these meetings and give input. I
3 think it would help the process with the proposals a
4 lot and to make the best regulations for subsistence
5 using.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, we need
10 all the help we can to get the people here because, you
11 know, this is their livelihood and we're in here mainly
12 agencies and just the Board trying to make these
13 regulations work for the people. And if we can get
14 more people in here that are actually user groups that
15 understand and have, you know, more experience out in
16 the field, I think it would -- I know it would make a
17 difference.

18

19

So thank you so much for your interest.

20

21

Do you have a comment.

22

23

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

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MR. DUNAWAY: I think I've heard that
some States in the Lower 48 have one or two of the
first days of a deer season are a school holiday to
accommodate that. And that might be something you
could bring to your school board.

47

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49

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Thank you.

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2

3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I just -- I
4 have to address it too irregardless of the fact that it
5 came out of my daughter's mouth.....

6

7 (Laughter)

8

9 MS. MORRIS LYON:but, you know, I
10 think it's a real valid fact and I think that it's
11 important and I think it would behoove us even as Board
12 members to approach the school board and bring that
13 fact forward because it's a part of a life where we
14 live. And it's not just a part, it's a very important
15 part because a lot of times it's -- it is how we
16 survive on the leaner years and subsistence has got to
17 be able to take place. And if the younger generation
18 -- even as Lary was saying our younger hunters are not
19 being well educated and I think that if it was brought
20 to light and that should come from us as well as the
21 students to the school board, perhaps maybe better
22 accommodations would be given for it especially in
23 light of when we have these special hunts available and
24 there's limited time for them.

25

26 So thanks for the good point.

27

28 MS. R. LYON: I was going to add also
29 that I understand it probably would be more useful to
30 bring something like this to the school board and see
31 what they say, but they kind of just think I want to
32 skip school. So but backup would be nice or hearing it
33 from more adults.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan
36 Dunaway.

37

38 MR. DUNAWAY: I don't want to spend too
39 much time, but, you know, if we wanted to make a
40 resolution encouraging local school boards to consider
41 some days off for hunting and subsistence activities we
42 could possibly draft something like that okay.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

47

48 MR. HILL: Yeah, if -- I think first of
49 all I would suggest that you ask your parent or your

50

1 hunting partner, an adult to come and talk to the
2 principal or talk to the school board and ask for your
3 help in the harvest. That might be a way to start,
4 have that happen first, make a actual formal request
5 and just run it through the channels. But and don't
6 give up because it's part of your life and you need to
7 get out while the stuff is there.

8

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

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MR. HILL: Add to that also, there's
less likely of a -- the management thinking that you
just want to skip school.

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
other comments.

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(No comments)

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I'd like
to have the agencies look at these kids. I know that
some of your projects take surveys and I was involved
with the -- working under Subsistence Division doing a
lot of surveys and they take a lot of time, but that's
where you learn -- that where you learn your resources,
that's where you learn the surroundings of your
communities by going and doing surveys sometimes house
to house. And so if the local agencies have any
surveys I would encourage you to get these kids
involved, the local students involved in that. That
could be another way to get them involved with our
resource information gathering.

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Thank you.

Thank you, students, for coming back to
us.

MR. WILSON: One more thing.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

MR. WILSON: This is Verner Wilson.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead,
Verner.

MR. WILSON: I don't know if Sarah
Griffith talked about this yet, but we -- you know,

1 another good example of getting youth involved is we
2 finally got our Becharof youth ambassador form
3 complete. And this might be on the agenda later, but I
4 wanted to, you know, talk about it while the students
5 are there that it is a good example of how students --
6 you know, we partnered with Dakota Thompson and she did
7 a lot of interviews on the Peninsula. And so the DVD
8 finally made it and she's (indiscernible -
9 distortion), you know, show up and give some copies
10 throughout the RAC to different people.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Is
13 there somebody -- Suzanne. Somebody's pointing
14 something, but are you through with your comments?

15
16 MS. R. LYON: Thank you.

17
18 MR. KING: Thank you.

19
20 MR. AGLI: Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks for
23 coming, coming in front of us.

24
25 MR. DUNAWAY: Next time Ethan's going
26 to have to talk.

27
28 MR. COGSWELL: Madame Chair, members of
29 the Board, Stewart Cogswell, acting deputy assistant
30 regional director for Office of Subsistence Management.
31 And I'm just so excited, this is awesome. This is
32 government in action and I want you three to be so --
33 they should be proud of themselves for addressing the
34 Board.

35
36 Yesterday -- I want to compliment
37 Donald Mike. Some of us from OSM got here a little
38 early yesterday and actually went to the high school
39 and talked to some kids. And Donald Mike and Lary and
40 Orville Lind from OSM and myself went and talked to
41 them just about what subsistence management is and how
42 to get -- you know, just talk, you know, to show them
43 that Federal workers are here, this is -- we're here to
44 talk to you. And I am so excited that you guys came
45 today, I'm very proud that they came and they got to
46 actually see and participate. Thank you, Madame Chair,
47 for allowing them to talk and address and I hope they
48 feel part of this. And they actually -- might be a
49 resolution, so this is actually working. So I think

50

1 it's a great example for the rest of the RACs to, you
2 know, try to incorporate this.

3
4 And good job, Donald, on organizing
5 that yesterday.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, the credit
10 goes to Nanci.

11
12 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, and I'm going to
13 pass it along to the kids because they had to take an
14 interest to get here first.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
17 we can more on. Okay. The people that are online, I
18 guess we're going to be working on your resolutions.
19 Was it Gayla or Verner.

20
21 MS. HOSETH: Thanks, Madame Chair. It
22 wasn't resolutions, it was some proposal -- you know,
23 we're waiting for the call for proposals, but we just
24 wanted to talk to the Council there as to some of the
25 concerns that people have brought forward to BBNA as to
26 what proposals they wanted to see submitted during the
27 Federal Subsistence Board wildlife life call for
28 proposals.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
31 we're -- okay.

32
33 Did you have something? Just one
34 moment, Gayla.

35
36 MS. HOSETH: Okay.

37
38 MR. EVANS: Sorry, Gayla, for
39 interrupting you. This is Tom Evans from OSM. Before
40 you guys leave the proposal that was submitted by
41 Richard Wilson to the Board of Game I was looking at
42 this -- at the Federal regulations and our Federal
43 regulations which cover 9C remainder also have the may
44 be announced season. So if there was a change made to
45 the Board of Game regulations they would take in effect
46 this year. Any changes to the Federal regulations
47 through the proposal process wouldn't take place until
48 2018. But if you wanted -- so there's two things here,
49 you can submit a special action to change the may be

50

1 announced season in the Federal regulations for unit 9C
2 to parallel with what's being submitted to the Board of
3 Game and then you also could submit a proposal to
4 change those regulations for the 2018/2020 regulations.
5 So that's -- before we get off that I thought before we
6 get into other regulations that Gayla is going to bring
7 forth I thought we probably should cover that first
8 while we're here.

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan,
11 did you have a comment.

12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: No, I'm just going to
14 defer to Nanci.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

17
18 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you, Dan.
19 Thank you, Molly. Yeah, you know, Richard had spoke
20 about that, but you would recommend a special action.
21 We knew that the progression of deadlines was going to
22 be the Board of Game first and the Federal side next.
23 I know it's his intent to align the two of them, but I
24 -- you know, I guess if we wanted to change our motion
25 to include a special action versus waiting for the
26 deadline for the Federal -- you tell me what you would
27 recommend I guess is what I'm asking.

28
29 MR. EVANS: So if the -- so that the
30 regulations would be parallel between -- and we don't
31 always have to have them be parallel between the State
32 and Feds, but in this case if that regulation went to
33 the Board of Game we don't know whether it will be
34 approved or not. So that's one thing. But if you guys
35 think it's a good proposal then you might want to put a
36 special action in to change the Federal regulations for
37 this coming regulatory year which would be, you know,
38 June 1st to July 31st for 2017 to 2018. And then you
39 could wait on -- you could also submit a proposal to
40 change the 2018/2020 cycle. Now if something happens
41 in the meantime you could take that proposal up in the
42 fall, you know, you could make the proposal now, but if
43 there are changes that need to be made that could be
44 taken up during the fall RAC meetings.

45
46 So if the Council, you know, feels that
47 it's a good proposal I guess I would suggest that you
48 submit a special action to do the same for unit 9C
49 remainder for the Federal regulations.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Tom. I
4 think I've long been committed to trying to keep
5 regulations as parallel as possible to better serve the
6 using public and we constantly hear problems with
7 confusion and conflicting regulations. I'm wondering
8 if we could make a proposal -- instead of amending the
9 one to the Board of Game is to make a new proposal that
10 -- I wonder if we can even word it something like
11 contingent on the Board of Game approving this
12 proposal, could we that -- could that then precipitate
13 a special action request. But put it in the pipe now,
14 and then we could also make a full proposal like you're
15 suggesting for the next cycle and it could be waiting
16 there. If there are problems that develop between now
17 and then we could change our position on our own
18 proposal. So I kind of want to defer to the people who
19 live in this area, but I would encourage that we submit
20 a proposal, get some draft language here to do
21 something to the effect I was just talking about. But
22 I'll look to you, Nanci, and -- well, Randy, I guess
23 and other folks that live here.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Well,
28 Joe's here too. I don't know if Randy's in here yet.

29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

33
34 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
35 Madame Chair. No, I -- and I agree. Like I said I
36 know that Richard was aware of the steps for the -- but
37 I do like the idea of the special action and I don't
38 know that I would not be willing to make a motion that
39 we would do something just like that, Dan, because we
40 do want the mirrored -- that was -- the intent was to
41 make them even keel so that there would not be
42 questions about that and I know that it would move
43 things along quicker. I must admit I hadn't thought of
44 that option when we spoke about it. So we could
45 certainly do that if the feeling is mutual among
46 Council members.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I -- you know,
49 I don't have any problem with it. I don't know, Lary

50

1 and Bill here.....

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MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

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7

MR. HILL: So we're going to support
8 the proposal that Richard Wilson talked about and we
9 voted on it. So this in addition to that in case it
10 didn't get approved. Do we do a special action first
11 or which one are we going to focus on?

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I -- has
Richard -- did Richard submit a proposal to ADF&G or to
the State?

MS. MORRIS LYON: Nobody seems to know
for sure.

MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, Mr. Wilson did
not submit a Board of Game proposal on unit 9C so he's
waiting for action on the Naknek Kvichak AC to take
action. I guess Mr. Klutsch already stated on record
that the AC submitted a proposal to the Board of Game
and this Council's going to support the AC's proposal.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay. Thank you,
Madame Chair. So I'm going to make a motion that the

1 Council would support a special action to be submitted
2 to the Federal Subsistence Board with content that
3 mirrors the same information that we supported for
4 Richard's proposal on the caribou from north of the
5 Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River area, that
6 they be alike and that it be contingent upon it being
7 approved by the Board of Game, State of Alaska.

8
9 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll second that motion.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
12 been a proposal by Nanci, seconded by Dan Dunaway.

13
14 Any other comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
19 all in favor say aye.

20
21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
24 opposition.

25
26 (No opposing votes)

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
29 thank you.

30
31 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Did you
34 have.....

35
36 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

39
40 MR. MIKE: I didn't any -- did Mr.
41 Senafont, our member from Pedro Bay vote in the
42 affirmative?

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm sorry,
45 Senafont, are you still online?

46
47 MR. SHUGAK: Absolutely. I voted yes.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I'm sorry. So
50

1 did you vote for -- vote on that?

2

3 MR. SHUGAK: Yes, I voted aye for it.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I'll
6 make a big X here by your name so I won't forget you.
7 Sorry.

8

9 MR. SHUGAK: Thank you.

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
12 you.

13

14 And, Tom, do you have additional
15 information.

16

17 MR. EVANS: So now if you did the
18 special action now you -- I think it would be good for
19 you to decide whether you want to submit a proposal to
20 that same effect for the 2000 -- because this is the
21 time to submit proposals for the 2018/2020 regulatory
22 cycle. Again that can be changed, you know, at the
23 fall cycle if we have, you know, changes in the caribou
24 distribution or migration or whatever then, but this
25 would be the time to submit a proposal for that as
26 well. So it's something to consider.

27

28 Thank you, Madame Chair.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

31

32 MR. MIKE: Yes, Madame Chair. This
33 Council already supported the potential action of Board
34 of Game proposal to unit 9C. This Council can also
35 endorse that recommendation to the Board of Game as
36 they submit a Federal subsistence proposal. So just to
37 be on record we can develop that.

38

39 Thank you, Madame Chair.

40

41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
42 you, Donald. That's good.

43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

45

46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

47

48 MR. DUNAWAY: So just to be clear, that
49 doesn't require another motion? Okay. Okay.

50

1 Otherwise I would move to support it. But thank you
2 very much, Donald, because, yes, I would like to see it
3 submitted to the Federal Board in the normal wildlife
4 cycle too.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thanks, Tom,
7 for getting that cleared up for us.

8
9 Okay. I think we're ready for you,
10 Gayla or Verner, one of you.

11
12 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. I don't know if Verner is still here in
14 Dillingham.

15
16 Verner, are you on the phone?

17
18 MR. WILSON: Yes, we are.

19
20 MS. HOSETH: I could go over -- I think
21 we have like three or four of them. I'll start off
22 with the first one and if you guys don't have your
23 Federal -- first of all I want to apologize that I'm
24 not there in person to present this to you guys in
25 person.

26
27 The Federal Subsistence Harvest of
28 Wildlife booklet on page 77, looking at that map. And
29 what we were wanting to do was to put in a proposal
30 with the Federal Subsistence Board because we want to
31 change the game management unit area of 17C to be
32 included into 17A west of the Weary River. We had some
33 people come in from the Village of Manokotak asking for
34 our assistance in helping write this proposal. And one
35 of the reasons that they wanted this proposal is also
36 due to enforcement in the area, making it a lot clear
37 on which land or, you know, which game management unit
38 you're in versus that long squiggly line that defines
39 17A and 17C. So one of the proposals that we wanted to
40 see and, you know, we'll present these proposals to you
41 guys here at the RAC and if you guys are interested in
42 being the submitters of them that would be great. This
43 is one of the big concerns that a lot of the local area
44 residents have and it would make things a lot easier by
45 doing so. And we understand that this would also --
46 that we would be doing the same proposal to the Board
47 of Game on the State side.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
4 Chair. This is a very interesting idea, Gayla. And
5 just looking at kind of a crude map I think I
6 understand pretty well. Have you discussed this with
7 either the Refuge or the State biologist? My initial
8 thoughts, I'm really kind of inclined to support this
9 because trying to figure out the so to speak
10 continental divide which is what I think that attempt
11 to that squiggly line down of the middle of the
12 Peninsula does, I can see where it might very well make
13 things much simpler. But I do want to take into
14 consideration what agency concerns might be.

15
16 Can you help me on that. Over.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 MS. HOSETH: Yes, through the Chair,
21 Mr. Dunaway. That I personally haven't had a chance to
22 talk to Togiak Wildlife Refuge about it nor have I
23 talked to Neil at the State. However the gentleman
24 that approached us here in the office said that Neil
25 would help us with the proposal. He didn't -- I think
26 he stated that it wouldn't -- he wouldn't support it,
27 but he would help us, you know, do the proposal and try
28 to get this passed. And I don't know the reasoning of
29 what the support was, it's just hearsay, but, no, I
30 personally haven't contacted them directly. I've been
31 out on some medical -- family medical leave for a bit,
32 but this is something that we wanted to work on and it
33 would really give a lot -- peace of mind especially to
34 the people in the Village of Manokotak when they're out
35 traveling to go and harvest moose and caribou.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thanks, Gayla. And
38 I'm kind of looking at Susanna, looks like she's not
39 really heard of it. I suspect from my bureaucratic
40 history that he's willing -- whoever this is is
41 probably willing to help you out, but probably has to
42 be careful not -- to defer to the agency policy and
43 review period. So he may even support it or may not,
44 but, yeah, their job is to help you write it the best
45 you can. I'm kind of interested in hearing from other
46 people, but I'm kind of liking the idea frankly.

47 Looking at -- knowing how flat that country is and how
48 hard it is to know where you are exactly if this made
49 it easier and I'm not -- top of my head I'm not sure it

50

1 would have any significant biological impact. It could
2 make some of their survey data a little tricky, but if
3 they've gotten -- these days with the GPS and stuff,
4 they might be able to rearrange it to fit the new GMU.
5 So I'm eager to hear more discussion.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 MR. WILSON: Okay. Yeah, this is
10 Verner. And just to follow-up on that I'm actually on
11 the -- we're getting on the flight with Andy Aderman
12 and Keemuel right now. But maybe it will just take a
13 discussion between, you know, agency, Togiak Refuge
14 staff, BBNA and the person who wanted to do this. And
15 so I think that would be a good chance to set up a
16 meeting to talk about the ramifications.

17

18 And we'll probably see you in about 45
19 minutes or an hour.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

24

25 Dan Dunaway.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Madame Chair,
28 thank you, Verner. With that information rather than
29 going off half cocked on this thing I wonder if we
30 could defer this to when more of the agency staff is
31 here so we can kind of kick it around. But I'm kind of
32 intrigued to pursue this and possibly support it if
33 some real serious problem isn't surfaced.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

38

39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
40 Chair. I'm listening to it and have my curiosity
41 peaked as well. I see it as something that could make
42 it easier for subsistence users in that area. I guess
43 at this point however I too would encourage initiating
44 talks between the principals involved in land
45 management and possibly formulating some wording that
46 could be brought forward to us in the fall meeting
47 perhaps when everybody would have time to put their
48 thoughts together and make sure that all the cobwebs
49 were cleared out from it. I'm not sure it's something

50

1 that we can flesh out at this meeting at this time
2 without everybody -- all the stakeholders involved
3 being available.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

6

7 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, I'm looking, I
8 see squiggly lines here. I'm wondering if there are
9 any staff at all that's involved with that Nushagak
10 Peninsula herd. I know there was some pressures
11 because of wolves herding the caribou down to that
12 area, but what was the reason for the division down the
13 Peninsula and I'm not familiar with the area, are there
14 any differences in the season for -- between 17A and
15 17C?

16

17 MS. HOSETH: Is there any agency --
18 this is Gayla, Madame Chair. Are there any agencies
19 that could address that there, if not I could give a
20 brief of what I understand of it if nobody's there from
21 -- maybe Susanna Henry could talk on that.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, nobody
24 is jumping up to solve this. Susan's here.

25

26 Dan Dunaway, do you have a comment.

27

28 MR. DUNAWAY: Susanna isn't waving
29 frantically to join us, but, you know, I think Gayla's
30 been pretty highly informed on a lot of things like
31 this and also sits on the Advisory Committee so this
32 might be time well spent to get her take on it.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I think
35 this -- any proposals like this work so much better and
36 so much smoother when all the cooperators are involved
37 from the get go. So I concur with Nanci and Dan that
38 this needs to be worked on and possibly can pick this
39 up in our fall meeting. There's some discussions going
40 on here, but other than that.....

41

42 Lary.

43

44 MR. HILL: Yeah, Madame Chair, just I
45 guess I know we talked about this several years back
46 when we were in Dillingham about that, those lines, and
47 I don't remember the management reason for the lines,
48 but there's no way you can tell you where you are with
49 those lines on the map. As far as I'm concerned they

50

1 can just follow the pink line where it butts up against
2 the white and make that one whole area.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So many of our
5 hunters, our young hunters, you know, carry these smart
6 phones, but I don't know how far the signals go. So I
7 guess this is one area that we need to clarify because
8 this isn't the first time it's come to our attention.
9 I don't know if -- what else we can do.

10

11 Donald, help us.

12

13 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, thank you. I
14 can offer a suggestion to the Council. You can appoint
15 a work group to discuss this issue that includes Gayla,
16 Federal staff and a couple of your RAC members. We can
17 convene a work group about 11:30 and call lunch at noon
18 and then come back at 1:00 o'clock and have that
19 work group present its recommendations to the Council.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, my
22 understanding is that BBNA and sounds like Village of
23 Manokotak started this proposal, but they haven't
24 really included the agency groups that are involved
25 with this area. And I don't know if the working group
26 at this moment would solve that. Except that the
27 cooperators need to get together to develop this
28 clearly enough so that everybody would be in agreement
29 with it before we can do anything here at the moment.

30

31 Donald.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. In
34 that case BBNA and the agencies in the Dillingham can
35 work together because, you know, the call for wildlife
36 proposal hasn't been published so we have still time
37 for them to get out the proposal and submit it.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think that's
40 probably the best way to go. I think so because right
41 now it's -- we can't do anything with it without all
42 the cooperators involved with it. So if that's okay
43 with you folks at BBNA?

44

45 MS. HOSETH: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 Yeah, that would be good. I just wanted to let you
47 guys know as to kind of the groundwork, what we're
48 doing here. I will be bringing this up at Nushagak AC
49 meeting on March 10th for discussion and maybe the

50

1 Nushagak AC could submit the proposal to the Board of
2 Game. And maybe we could do that through -- with the --
3 through the Federal Subsistence Board process, but I
4 guess I was just wanting to know, I mean, if you guys
5 were interested in being the author of this or would
6 you rather us do it through BBNA or through the
7 Nushagak AC.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Well, we have
10 Dan Dunaway that attends the Nushagak AC and I guess
11 after the -- that session is probably when we could get
12 more involved with this process.

13
14 MS. HOSETH: Okay. And then that -- so
15 then you guys know that that will be forthcoming and I
16 think that would really help a lot of the residents and
17 in this area when they go to hunt that they know past
18 the Weary River they in 17A. And I know that 17A has
19 more flexible dates with their moose hunting season
20 than we do in 17C. So that would be a big help to the
21 people in the Village of Manokotak.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
24 you, Gayla. And could you -- you know, if there's
25 going to be a session regarding this off or before AC
26 or, yeah, before AC meeting could you involve Dan
27 Dunaway on this so that, you know, he will be our
28 informant for this Board.

29
30 MS. HOSETH: Sure. I would be happy
31 to.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any --
34 Dan Dunaway.

35
36 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you. Yeah, I
37 missed a little bit of the discussion, I was talking to
38 Mrs. Henry here. Yeah, I would love to participate. I
39 can anticipate that it'll take a little time and
40 discussion and it might mean think of some alternative
41 other rivers, I -- but I still like the idea of a
42 clearly identifiable boundary making it easy, but,
43 yeah, if we can ask you to make sure and include the
44 agencies and I'm thinking too sometimes we have
45 difficulty getting representatives from Manokotak to
46 participate in AC meetings so we need to hear from them
47 clearly as we work through this. But it sure sounds
48 like an interesting idea and I'd be happy to work with
49 you on it.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3 MS. HOSETH: Okay. And thank you. And
4 Diana Gamechuk is the representative now on the
5 Nushagak AC and I'll definitely be in touch with her to
6 fill her in. And she -- I think she already is aware
7 of the request.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And, Gayla, I
10 think it probably would be good to include the proposal
11 maker of that, it's probably one of the hunters from
12 Manokotak.

13

14 MS. HOSETH: Yes.

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Anymore
17 discussion on this, sound like, you know, that's
18 probably the best plan right now because it's kind of
19 murky. And I think if we follow that process by fall
20 meeting we'll be able to deal with it a little bit more
21 clearly.

22

23 Dan Dunaway.

24

25 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, ma'am.
26 And with Billy's agreement I'm hoping that you could at
27 least CC him on stuff to keep him kind of in the loop
28 and if he has an opportunity to participate or concerns
29 since he's a fellow RAC member I think it would be nice
30 to have him at least following the issue as well.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MS. HOSETH: Okay. I got that.

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

37

38 Anything else?

39

40 MS. HOSETH: Yes, I do, Madame Chair.
41 One of the other concerns and issues that were brought
42 up is on page 16 in the regulatory book under the
43 general provisions. I guess one of the things we
44 wanted to look at and I'm not really -- I was working
45 with Suzanne Worker on this in discussion with deciding
46 on how to put the proposal together, but one of them is
47 to adjust the wording in there to allow for fair chase
48 and positioning oneself for hunting I guess with a
49 snowmachine. And also for power drifting in a boat

50

1 that isn't under power, if you're drifting if you're
2 able to shoot from your skiff. Those were some of the
3 concerns that people have there as well is the -- being
4 able to allow for fair chase.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

7

8 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Gayla, for
9 clarification page 16 of the -- oh, I'm looking at a
10 State book, you must be speaking of a Federal book.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, we don't
13 have the Federal.

14

15 MR. DUNAWAY: But it's -- I assume
16 that's under methods and means, am I correct?

17

18 MS. HOSETH: It's under general
19 provisions, yeah, methods of taking wildlife,
20 subsistence restrictions. And one of the restrictions
21 is to use a motorized vehicle to drive herd on
22 wildlife. There's also one in there of take wildlife
23 from the motorized vehicle when moving or from a motor
24 driven boat when the boat's progress are from different
25 units. But I know that people have brought up the
26 concern that if you're hunting and you're in a skiff
27 and you don't have your motor running, but you're
28 drifting, whether or not you can shoot from that, yes.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm going to jump in. In
31 the past my impression was that as long as your forward
32 progress was -- you were no longer under forward
33 progress from the power source on your boat that you
34 were okay to shoot. As least that's how I've operated.
35 I'm getting some nods from a couple of agency folks out
36 there, but as far as chasing them with the boat under
37 power and the motor in the water, I know I've turned it
38 off, flipped the motor out of the water and turned into
39 the current and the minute I started not moving forward
40 I have shot.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

45

46 Lary.

47

48 MR. HILL: Yes, Madame Chair. I'm
49 addressing that taking of wildlife from motorized

50

1 vehicle when moving. That doesn't take into
2 consideration that your motor might be turned off, but
3 just especially when you're going downriver and the
4 current is flowing you can't stop your progress unless
5 you use a motor. So there's some stuff that needs to
6 be cleared up there I think. And your wording.

7
8 MR. DUNAWAY: I've always kind of hoped
9 that enforcement folks would use some reasonable
10 judgment there. If you're skimming along still at 20
11 miles an hour you're still under power, but if you're
12 not moving more -- detectively faster than the current
13 itself I would hope they would have some accommodation
14 there, but I know that's a judgment call.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I don't
17 know.....

18
19 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, I think -- I
20 mean, when I was talking with Susanna she said that
21 allows for the -- allow for a chase on a snowmachine to
22 look into unit 23 where there is language to allow for
23 the pursuit of caribou on a snowmachine. And I don't
24 know -- I mean, we still have some homework that we
25 need to do on that, but these are -- just to give you
26 guys a heads-up at the RAC meeting that these are
27 proposals that we're going to be working on here at
28 BBNA and digging deeper as to what would be -- and for
29 unit 23 on page 112, I know you guys don't have the
30 booklets, but they have special provisions up there in
31 unit 23 on BLM managed lands only, a snowmachine may be
32 used to position caribou, wolf or wolverine for harvest
33 provided that the animals are not shot from a moving
34 snowmachine, but they could be used to position. And if
35 we -- you know, that would be something as what we
36 would try to line it up with the caribou on that
37 Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're still
40 looking Gayla.

41
42 MS HOSETH: Okay. It's on page 112.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, Gayla, this is Dan
49 again. Yeah, we did get provided some Federal books
50

1 and I have a State book that I grabbed so we're kind of
2 thumbing through it. Off the top of my head I would --
3 personally I would say go ahead and develop a proposal.
4 This could be pretty controversial, it really touches
5 on a wide spectrum of different ethics among different
6 user groups. So it will be -- have to be carefully
7 worked out.

8
9 And then I'm curious, I seem to recall
10 hearing that this is becoming an issue this winter with
11 the availability of snow and the caribou on the
12 Peninsula.

13
14 Can you elaborate on that at all?

15
16 MS. HOSETH: No, I haven't heard
17 anything about this winter on the snow. And this way
18 when the gentleman approached it was before we headed
19 out to the Federal Subsistence Board meeting in
20 Anchorage so he must have been in here at the end of
21 December.

22
23 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you.

24
25 MS. HOSETH: And we'll be bringing this
26 to the Nushagak AC meeting as well or discussion I'm
27 sure.

28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

30
31 MR. HILL: Madame Chair. I guess I'm
32 having a problem with -- I don't myself practice when I
33 did hunt shooting from a moving snowmachine. That's
34 kind of dangerous, I'm -- I'd rather stop. Plus it to
35 me if there's a large herd it begs just shooting at the
36 mass herd instead of individual caribou. Conservation
37 wise I would rather see the snowmachine stop and you
38 can pick out a specific animal. Also Fish and Game
39 enforcement agent told me off the record that if you
40 just come up alongside the caribou and the wounds are
41 from the side they're less likely to be cited for that
42 as opposed to if you're -- all the bullet holes are in
43 the rear end of the animal that's obviously being
44 chased. So just some thoughts on that. But I don't do
45 it and it's unsafe and if somebody else (indiscernible)
46 30 shots, you know, to stop -- I mean, to shoot from a
47 moving snowmachine, I mean, to me -- that's my personal
48 feeling since I don't do it and I don't recommend to
49 anybody to do that, you just can't aim that well from a
50

1 moving snowmachine.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
4 my suggestion and I think Dan Dunaway also mentioned,
5 this is to go ahead and write that proposal and we can
6 look at it with you folks. And then like the other
7 proposal that you're going to be working on you'll be
8 working with the cooperators and hopefully get Dan and
9 Billy Maines involved with that. That's -- I guess
10 that's all we can do right now.

11

12 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you, Madame
13 Chair. And I do have another one.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Go
16 ahead.

17

18 MS. HOSETH: This would be for
19 customary and traditional to try -- to look -- to do a
20 proposal to do C&T for units 9C and 9E to be included
21 in the Nushagak Peninsula caribou hunt. You know, we
22 don't know the exact -- trying to find out the exact
23 location of where those caribou came from, if it was 9C
24 or 9E or where -- you know, where the exact location
25 is, maybe it could be a combination of both. And we
26 want to look at the C&T when we do expand outside of
27 the southern villages and then we, you know, go to the
28 remainder of 17 and include Stony River and Lime
29 Village. We are wanting to look at the C&T for 9C and
30 9E as well. I know that we discussed this in length
31 before other RAC meetings and maybe this proposal you
32 guys would be willing to be the authors of on this one
33 for the C&T determination.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

36

37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, Gayla, as much
38 as I like the idea of this happening, I'm just
39 wondering what the requirements are going to be to
40 justify C&T for 9C and 9E for this herd. And I'm kind
41 of gazing around the audience here, if somebody could
42 tell us what kind of justifications or support we're
43 going to have to have in order to make that a reality.

44

45 MS. HOSETH: Through the Chair, if I
46 may, Madame Chair, address Nanci. And when I've talked
47 with Suzanne Worker, you know, if we do the proposal,
48 you know, information will be discovered when they do
49 the analysis. But I know that it's really important

50

1 and, you know, a lot of us here when it did come time
2 to open up this hunt to statewide residents we would
3 rather keep it local to Bristol Bay residents and since
4 the caribou came from that side there might be a chance
5 that we could identify C&T for that.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
10 Chair. Yeah, I know we've talked about this a lot in
11 the caribou herd management group or whatever it's
12 called, and this seems like kind of the right way to
13 approach it, but I know my last impression was is that
14 you might end up having to change even your C&T
15 criteria because I'm not sure if source of broodstock
16 so to speak is one of the important things, but as --
17 and I -- from that standpoint I might be reluctant to
18 support it as a RAC member, but I certainly don't want
19 to discourage you from exploring it further. Yeah, and
20 it is to some degree the right process to go about it.
21 I also saw Donald raising his hand and he may know
22 stuff so I'm going to step aside.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

27

28 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.
29 This Council discussed on record the issue of the
30 Nushagak caribou herd. But we have OSM staff that are
31 anthropologists and they can provide all that analysis
32 in the proposal. If the Council wish to submit this
33 proposal as the proponent OSM staff, Robbin LaVine's
34 our anthropologist, and she'll provide all the analysis
35 needed for this Council to take action.

36

37 Thank you, Madame Chair.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

40

41 MS. MORRIS LYON: Then I would love to
42 see it explored.

43

44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, it needs
45 -- it needs to be explored.

46

47 Donald.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, it's on record

50

1 a potential proposal that this Council wish to see as a
2 proposal to the Federal subsistence program. So we've
3 already spoken to it on record so we will develop the
4 proposal for the Council.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Did you
7 get that, Gayla?

8
9 MS. HOSETH: Yes, I did. And thank you
10 very much.

11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anything else.

13
14 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, and I was -- one
15 more last thing. I'm sorry to take up too much time.
16 There's -- I'm taking up too much of the time on the
17 record here. One of the things is as you know the wolf
18 and predator -- bear control, I guess predator control,
19 in 17C and 17A. And I know that there's a new Fish and
20 Wildlife policy and I'm not too familiar with it yet,
21 that addresses predator control and I might -- we might
22 have to go forward with this on the State side for
23 predator control management in 17C and 17A.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Gayla.
28 I know I want to try to discuss that when we get to the
29 part of the agenda where some of these -- dang, I'm
30 stuck for the name of them here, but this Native
31 relations policies that are going to be coming before
32 us and I think there's language in there that might
33 drill down to this, but, yeah, I guess probably I know
34 the State is still vigorously disputing the -- some of
35 those policies that were -- came out about a year ago.
36 So I guess standby and I'm interested to hear what you
37 have to say on it as we go.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

42
43 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
44 Chair. And of course I can never keep my mouth shut
45 when predator control comes up, but I would still -- I
46 am still wanting and hoping at some point someday to
47 hear from Fish and Wildlife what their justification
48 for predator control is. It -- it's been stated in
49 their mandates that, you know, under certain

50

1 circumstances it would be considered, but I've never
2 heard what those circumstances are and I've asked for
3 it for many, many years. So kind of with you on that,
4 Gayla, I'm not sure where we're going to go or get with
5 it, but we can keep hammering away, I'll be happy to
6 support it.

7

8 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

11

12 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, our government
13 agencies are notoriously understaffed and underfunded.
14 It's going to be difficult for us to know which caribou
15 comes from where. We might be going to the point of
16 having genetic markers like we do with our salmon. So
17 what I think we're trying to do, it looks like to get
18 rid of all those squiggly lines and just hunt where we
19 want to hunt. But we still have to know where those
20 caribou are coming from or moose and the predators --
21 predator control in my view it has to be, you know,
22 strictly monitored because these animals have to have
23 some kind of predators to keep their numbers down so
24 they don't end up killing off all the wolves and the
25 caribou population explodes and -- or the bears if
26 population explodes and so it would have to be -- any
27 kind of predator control has got to be I think strictly
28 monitored with the help of the biologists that help to
29 manage these herds.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

32

33 Any other comments.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess like
38 Nanci -- I guess you can go ahead with whatever you're
39 doing there and we, you know, as far as predator
40 control we're -- I think a majority of our Board
41 members here have been dealing with this and we --
42 we're fully aware that it affects our resources. And
43 whatever proposal or whatever we can come up with to
44 continue to I guess pound on this let's do it. I don't
45 know what else -- what else I -- you know, what else we
46 can do.

47

48 Lary.

49

50

1 MR. HILL: Just experiences I've had
2 with -- well, not predator control, but one set of --
3 for instance if you're going to get rid of some bears
4 which bears are you going to get rid of and what's
5 going to be done with the carcasses and the hide and
6 everything. The reason I'm saying this if you kill off
7 the biggest bears actually there's going to be more
8 bears around because the sows will be able to have more
9 of their cubs survive. So it's not going to cut down
10 on the number, there will actually be more. Same with
11 wolf packs, if they're -- as a survival of the species
12 it's been my observation that they'll only have one or
13 two litters when -- making sure that they've got
14 enough. So that's what I meant, it's got to be really,
15 you know, strictly controlled not just shooting
16 whatever, you know, the biggest bears or alpha males or
17 females. So there's always others to take their place.
18 We have to be really careful with that. I'd just as
19 soon in our area the -- we lose a lot of moose to bears
20 and wolves, but, you know, how many is enough, how many
21 is too much. So that's -- we really got to be careful
22 with this if we go that way with predator control.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

25
26 Any other comments.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think we're
31 -- I don't think -- I don't know what we -- what else
32 we can do but encourage you to move forward with what
33 you're doing here.

34
35 Do you have anymore comments on this?
36 I see you have the walrus issue on your list here too?

37
38 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, we'll address that
39 when Verner get there. Thank you, Madame Chair. I do
40 have one more regarding proposals and I promise this is
41 the last one. And maybe it's just for discussion
42 purposes. You know, in the past we looked at doing
43 community harvest quotas for the Nushagak Peninsula
44 caribou hunt or Nushagak Peninsula caribou harvest.
45 And if we went -- you know, right now the bag limit is
46 five and I know a lot of people are happy with that.
47 And we were kind of wanting to do the pros and cons of
48 what it would be if we went to community harvest quota.
49 After looking at it I think we would just like to

50

1 remain status quo, but and keep it how it is right now
2 due to reporting requirements that we would have to do
3 with the community harvest and how those things would
4 be distributed. I think that we brought up those
5 discussions when people weren't able to go out and
6 harvest the caribou due to poor traveling conditions
7 and we're just so thankful that this year people have
8 been able to get down there on snowmachines and harvest
9 caribou. But that was something that was a direction
10 that we were supposed to look into is the community
11 harvest quotas.
12

13 So we're still looking into that, I
14 just wanted to put in on the record that we haven't
15 forgotten and basically have a lot of work to do here
16 at BBNA for the call for proposals for the Federal
17 Subsistence Board.
18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci and then
20 Dan.
21

22 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
23 Chair. Yeah, Gayla, I think that it's excellent that
24 something would be established about community harvest
25 quotas and everything that surrounds that, whether it's
26 the rules and the recordkeeping and those little things
27 that can sometimes sink a ship. Because I agree maybe
28 now's not the proper time to implement it with what's
29 going on with the Nushagak herd or the villages right
30 now, but I think that that's an excellent tool for us
31 to have in the toolbox. And rather than having it
32 taken the two, three, four, five, six cycles it might
33 take to establish rules around it and recordkeeping
34 around it, I think it's an excellent thing for us to
35 move forward with.
36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
38 Chair. Thank you, Gayla, for the update, it's nice to
39 stay abreast of that kind of stuff. And it would be
40 interesting to see if you kind of come up with a
41 summary.
42

43 The other -- only other thing I want to
44 emphasize is don't apologize for taking time, this is
45 why we're here. If you have 10, 15, proposals, I know
46 it would be a lot of work, but I feel like we're --
47 you're giving us stuff that we need to do. There's
48 been times in the past it's almost disappointing that
49 there was nothing although then it's also nice to know
50

1 maybe things are okay. But don't apologize for --
2 that's your right and our responsibility.

3

4 Thank you very much.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I concur
7 with Dan. You're the eyes and ears for us. Your
8 connection to BBNA is a connection to the villages with
9 their concerns and we sure appreciate all your help and
10 willingness to work with the -- our communities
11 regarding these issues that, you know, they're -- our
12 villages are dealing with.

13

14 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Thank you very
15 much, it really means a lot. Thanks a lot.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
18 other -- anything else?

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: It sounds like
23 Verner will deal with the walrus later?

24

25 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I can have a report
26 to give you and then I'll go once we get done to the
27 emperor goose stuff. I can give you a report on that
28 and then we'll talk about the Mulchatna caribou as
29 well.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. With
32 that are you -- you're pretty -- are you all completed
33 with your proposals and your suggestions?

34

35 MS. HOSETH: Yes, I am. Thank you.

36

37 Thank you so much.

38

39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
40 thanks for your reports and your proposals and your
41 information.

42

43 I think we'll take like a five minute
44 break now before we go on to our.....

45

46 MS. MORRIS LYON: It's almost noon, do
47 you want to take a.....

48

49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I've got 11:37

50

1 so we have another half hour before lunch. So let's
2 take a five minute break and then come back and I guess
3 deal with one more agenda item.

4
5 (Off record)

6
7 (On record)

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We've
10 called the meeting back to order. Tom is going to do
11 the wildlife closure reviews.

12
13 MR. MIKE: Senafont, are you still with
14 us?

15
16 MR. SHUGAK: Yeah, where's my caribou.
17 You copy?

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: No, we're
20 going to skip that, Andy Aderman's not here.

21
22 MR. EVANS: I'm just waiting for
23 everybody to get back here.

24
25 Okay. Well, thank you, Madame Chair
26 and members of the Council. Again my name's Tom Evans
27 and I'm a wildlife biologist for the Fish and Wildlife
28 Service Office of Subsistence Management. I'm going to
29 provide you a brief summary of the wildlife closure
30 review process and then I'll go into the two wildlife
31 closure reviews.

32
33 OSM reviews wildlife closures every
34 three years to determine if the justification for the
35 closure is still consistent with the Federal
36 Subsistence Board's closure policy. Section .815 of
37 ANILCA allows the Federal Subsistence Board to restrict
38 or close the taking of fish and wildlife by subsistence
39 and nonsubsistence users on Federal public lands when
40 it's necessary for conservation of healthy populations
41 of fish and wildlife or to continue subsistence uses of
42 such populations. Recognizing that the distribution
43 and abundance of fish and wildlife populations
44 fluctuate along with subsistence use patterns, the
45 Board decided in 2007 to conduct closure reviews every
46 three years or earlier if new information becomes
47 available that would potentially allow the closure to
48 be lifted. Councils are asked to consider the OSM
49 preliminary recommendation, share their views on the

50

1 issue and make a recommendation on the Board. Input
2 from the Councils is critical to developing regulatory
3 proposals to address adjustment to the regulations.

4
5 After the Council reviews the closure
6 review they have three options which should be in the
7 form of an action item. These will be action items to
8 maintain or -- so to maintain the status quo, modify or
9 rescind the wildlife closure. If the Council
10 recommends to modify or rescind the closure then they
11 should submit a proposal, a separate action item.
12 Councils may begin work with OSM staff to help develop
13 the proposal, however like other proposals they can be
14 submitted by individuals and organizations.

15
16 So that's the general overview of the
17 wildlife closure policy. So this will be an action
18 item that you guys will have to do. I have two closure
19 reviews to go over today, wildlife closure review 15-05
20 and 15-07. And I'll start with 15-05. Hold on a
21 second.

22
23 MS. HENRY: Madame Chair, while he's
24 looking for something I just want to mention something
25 that was mentioned earlier. It sounds like Andy
26 Aderman, Verner Wilson and Keemuel Kenrud are on a
27 Grant flight now that's going to take them to King
28 Salmon. So we'll get them, I think Orville Lind kindly
29 offered to go pick them up. So we'll probably see all
30 of them after lunch and then Andy could give his
31 presentation about the Nushagak caribou update in
32 person.

33
34 Does that make sense?

35
36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yea, we
37 skipped over that so he can give that report when he
38 gets here.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. EVANS: No, I'm just looking for my
43 talking points. And apparently I didn't -- I don't
44 have them here right now with me for 05. So anyhow I
45 can -- I'll just kind of wing it. So here we go.

46
47 Okay. Here we go. All right. So I'm
48 going to present you on 15-05 right now. Federal
49 public lands in units 9C are closed during December for
50

1 the hunting of moose except for Federally-qualified
2 subsistence users hunting under those regulations.
3 This closure was last reviewed in 2012. In 2015 the
4 Board defined -- never mind. The population status and
5 trends are not known. The area has low moose density
6 and -- low moose density, poor weather and lack of snow
7 make it difficult to get robust population estimates.
8 The bulls per 100 cows which is a measure of the
9 composition of the herd and productive was 37 bulls per
10 100 cows which is close to the State's management
11 objective for this low density population which is 40
12 per 100 cows. The annual moose harvest from 9C from
13 2000 to 2007 averaged about 35 and it's declined to
14 about 21 from 2008 to 2015. Local harvest has also
15 declined during the same periods from 19 to 14.

16
17 Our recommendation is to maintain the
18 status quo for WCR 15-05. Maintaining the status quo
19 will allow continued use by subsistence users while
20 allowing for the completion of a -- there's a test
21 survey going on, how to conduct moose surveys with low
22 snow conditions, and so we're kind of waiting to see
23 what the results from those surveys are.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

28
29 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
30 Chair. Yeah, and I know that we have people either
31 online or in the room that can probably give us some
32 more information on surveys, but I know that they have
33 been able to get out to get surveys done this year,
34 they've been very grateful for the snow that we've had
35 and we've had some decent weather base to take
36 advantage of that. So I'm going to be anxious to
37 actually have our first updated, reliable information,
38 solidly reliable information in many years, but I would
39 concur that I think that leaving this status quo at
40 this point in time until we can evaluate the
41 information those surveys are going to give us would
42 probably be a wise decision.

43
44 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan
45 Dunaway.

46
47 MR. DUNAWAY: I just -- I'm inclined to
48 agree with Nanci and the recommendations, but I'm
49 struggling to interpret some of the data here a little
50

1 bit because I'm seeing a figure one, page 25, almost
2 looks like there's a -- you know, it kind of depends on
3 which range of data you select whether it's declining,
4 increasing, but it almost looks like things have
5 improved slightly if I'm reading this right since 2013.
6 But so you said average harvest is locally 35 per year
7 or 30. I'm just -- I'm not reading this right or
8 something, I could use some help.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MS. EVANS: The average in unit 9C from
13 2000 to 2007 averaged 35 and declined 21 from 2008 to
14 2015. So Dan is correct, the population -- the harvest
15 has increased a little bit in recent years, but the
16 average between 2008 and 2015 is still 21.

17

18 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

19

20 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, and just as a
21 side comment too, Dan, that's identical to pretty much
22 the reports you've heard from both Richard and I for
23 subsistence take, that it has been better the last
24 couple years, but previous to that we've been
25 struggling hard.

26

27 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, I started looking
28 at the axes a little closer and those numbers are not
29 big.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

36

37 MR. HILL: With the -- your report on
38 this is -- what was the success rate of the people that
39 went out and actually attempted to harvest moose in
40 those areas say in the last say five years or so just
41 generally.

42

43 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, Dave
44 Crowley, Department of Fish and Game, I have an answer
45 to that.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, go
48 ahead.

49

50

1 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
2 The -- I don't have overall success by resident and
3 nonresident hunters in front of me, but what I do have
4 is the success rate by local hunters. So in other
5 words hunters who live in unit 9B and C. Recently the
6 last couple of years harvest success rate has increased
7 from a low of about 18 percent in 2012 to right about
8 37 percent as of last year. So hunter success by local
9 hunters has improved markedly in the last five years.
10 The harvest by local hunters in 9C has been fairly
11 stable between 15 and 18. And I believe 18 so far is
12 the number I have for this year. The difference there
13 then before 2010 is that nowadays in the last seven,
14 eight years, actually since the meeting in 2010 with
15 the moose working group, the majority of the harvest is
16 by local hunters, three-quarters to oh, more like 85
17 percent of the harvest in 9C is by local hunters. And
18 that was a direct result to some changes that were made
19 after the moose meeting in 2009/2010. So success rate
20 has gone up, harvest itself has been fairly stable,
21 just below 20. But the proportion of moose taken in 9C
22 is -- the vast majority is by local hunters nowadays.

23
24 Thank you, Madame Chair.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

27
28 MR. HILL: I didn't look at the chart
29 real well on this report page 25. What I was after I
30 see were nonlocal and local users are in the same area.
31 For instance 2009 nonlocal users spiked up to 50
32 percent and local users went down to 10 percent. And
33 that's kind of what I was after. So that there is to
34 me, you know, justification for keeping things the way
35 they are with this. And that but now nonlocal and
36 local users -- nonlocals still have a greater harvest
37 rate so what's -- what is the difference, is this means
38 of access or what is that attributed to?

39
40 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, I don't --
41 Dave Crowley again. I don't have that info in front of
42 me, but I would attribute that to fewer nonlocal
43 hunters and most of them guided or at least some
44 portion of them guided. So they're -- the number of --
45 basically the number of moose the nonlocals are taking
46 has declined by quite a bit. Their success may be
47 still high, but that's because they're guided and
48 there's fewer of them. And they -- often they're using
49 aircraft to get out away from the roads and river
50

1 system. So they're being flown out and they're being
2 guided and as a result they have a higher success rate.

3

4 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

7

8 Any other comments, questions.

9

10 (No comments)

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Looking for a
13 motion.

14

15 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay, Madame Chair,
16 I'll move that status quo is maintained for proposal
17 WCR 15-05 for the moose in those units.

18

19 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, I'll second
20 that.

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
23 been a motion by Nanci Lyon to keep the I guess status
24 quo on 15-05, seconded by Lary Hill.

25

26 Any other comments.

27

28 (No comments)

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
31 all in favor say aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
36 opposition.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And I heard
41 you online there. Thank you.

42

43 MR. SHUGAK: Thank you.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

46

47 MR. EVANS: Okay. So I'll now go down
48 to WCR 15-07 which can be found on page 28 of your RAC
49 books.

50

1 Federal public lands in unit 17A and
2 17C, that portion of 17A and 17C consisting of the
3 Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tuklung
4 River and Tuklung Hills west of the Tvativak Bay are
5 closed to the taking of caribou except by the residents
6 of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik,
7 Dillingham, Clark's Point and under -- hunting under
8 these regulations. This closure review was last
9 reviewed in 2012. The population has fluctuated from
10 about 146 animals in 1988 to over 1,200 by 1998 and
11 then declined to below 600 in 2006 due in part to
12 decreased calf recruitment and adult female survival.
13 Changes in range quality and quantity and predation by
14 wolves and brown bears and weather events are all
15 potential factors that likely have contributed to the
16 decline. In 2015 the population increased over 1,300
17 caribou and recently bull, cow and cow/calf ratios were
18 high in 2015 with 65 bulls per 100 cows and 46 calves
19 per 100 cows.

20
21 The Nushagak Caribou Herd Management
22 Plan which was finalized in 2011 establishes a
23 framework for harvest strategies based on the
24 population size and trend. Based on this plan the
25 threshold for allowing the caribou harvest from the
26 Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd is when the population
27 reaches 200 and is stable and/or increasing. At
28 populations above 800 the recommendation is to harvest
29 all caribou above 750 animals.

30
31 OSM's preliminary conclusion at this
32 time is to modify or rescind the closure. The Nushagak
33 Peninsula caribou herd currently exceeds the upper
34 population level objective and is increasing. There is
35 a concern that the population is perhaps exceeding the
36 habitat capacity and if it isn't reduced may leave the --
37 the Nushagak population may leave the Peninsula or may
38 crash. If this happens the opportunity for
39 subsistence users could be negatively affected if the
40 population crashes and/or leaves the Peninsula.
41 Rescinding the closure will allow for increased
42 participation in the hunt and is the best alternative
43 to reduce the population and ensure continued viability
44 of this population for subsistence users.

45
46 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan
47 Dunaway.

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, kind of looking to
50

1 Ms. Henry and all. Are we expecting to get maybe some
2 fresher information on this whole herd status when Mr.
3 Aderman and the others get over from Dillingham? I'm
4 seeing a nod yes and my inclination is to not take any
5 action until we have the opportunity to hear from --
6 because I know they've been working on it a lot, but
7 it's good to learn this background, but I really don't
8 want to move forward until we hear from them.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

13

14 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
15 Chair. Yeah, I would concur, it may change our minds
16 on how we want to move forward with the recommendations
17 in our motion here.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We'll
20 put this aside until after lunch. And I'm sure Andy
21 will be here by then. So let's put this aside and then
22 go to lunch until what, 1:30. So we'll break for lunch
23 until 1:30.

24

25 (Off record)

26

27 (On record)

28

29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I'm
30 going to call the meeting back to order. Next on the
31 agenda that we're going to cover is under 11D, approve
32 FY 2016 annual report.

33

34 And I think that's Donald.

35

36 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. At
37 our last fall meeting in Dillingham the Council left up
38 to me to identify some of its 2016 annual report to the
39 Federal Subsistence Board. And during its fall meeting
40 the Council came up with two items for the 2016 annual
41 report. One is the Meshik River salmon and outreach to
42 public meetings of the Council and this Council
43 discussed that we need to do outreach to communities to
44 accommodate Council meetings due to availability of
45 hotels, lodges and restaurants.

46

47 So if the Council wish to add to this
48 annual report they can do this at this time now or just
49 go ahead and approve the 2016 annual report.

50

1 Thank you, Madame Chair.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We need
4 an action -- this is an action item. We need to
5 approve the 2016 annual report.
6
7 Nanci.
8
9 MS. MORRIS LYON: Madame Chair, I'll
10 move to approve the 2016 annual report.
11
12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
13 been a motion by Nanci to approve 2016 annual report.
14
15 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, second.
16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by
18 Lary.
19
20 Anymore discussions.
21
22 (No comments)
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You know, this
25 was -- this letter was written to Chairman
26 Christianson, he Chaired his first Federal Subsistence
27 Board session in January and he did a wonderful job.
28 It was a little bit more relaxed than normal, but we
29 got through it. So he was -- he was good. A local guy
30 from southeast.
31
32 Okay. If no discussions all in favor
33 say aye.
34
35 IN UNISON: Aye.
36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
38 opposition.
39
40 (No opposing votes)
41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
43 none, thank you.
44
45 The next one is U.S. Fish and Wildlife
46 Service, Alaska Native Relations Policy.
47
48 Donald, is that you.
49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Orville Lind was going to be
2 doing that presentation, but he's not here at the
3 moment.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Should we just
6 skip over this until he gets back?

7
8 MR. MIKE: Yes.....

9
10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

11
12 MR. MIKE:Madame Chair.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Gayla, are you
15 online?

16
17 MS. HOSETH: Hi, yes, I am.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Could
20 you start with the emperor goose and handicraft update?

21
22 MS. HOSETH: I sure can. Just one
23 quick little second. Okay. Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 Is Verner there in the room with you
26 guys?

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Not yet. I
29 think they're having lunch.

30
31 MS. HOSETH: Oh, okay. Well, I'm sure
32 that a lot of you have heard the exciting news that
33 we're going to be able to have an emperor goose hunt
34 coming up this spring/summer, 2017. And, you know,
35 it's a real historical moment with the Alaska Migratory
36 Bird Co-Management Council. And we have our own first
37 AMBCC as some of you may -- I'll refer to it as AMBCC
38 which stands for Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management
39 Council, approved their own Emperor Goose Management
40 Plan that will outline the subsistence harvest for
41 emperor geese. And then we also revised the Pacific
42 Flyway Emperor Goose Management Plan that kind of
43 outlines the fall/winter harvest season.

44
45 So as some of you may know that the
46 emperor goose hunt has been closed for about 30 years,
47 we haven't been able to harvest any emperor geese. And
48 the Native Caucus at AMBCC and the AMBCC as a group --
49 mainly it was the Native Caucus that really worked hard

50

1 to make sure that we kept it a customary and
2 traditional subsistence harvest to where we don't have
3 any bag limits, we don't have any, you know, quotas
4 that we have to comply with or anything like that. So
5 we're going to have a traditional hunt for emperor
6 geese this spring and summer, but we really are going
7 to be working on education and outreach to the Bristol
8 Bay region and throughout the State of Alaska to remind
9 everybody that even though it's a customary and
10 traditional hunt that they still want to conserve and
11 only take what we need.

12
13 So that's really exciting and we've
14 come a long way. And we're going to be in a three year
15 trial period which we're going to be closely monitoring
16 the emperor goose population on an annual basis at the
17 AMBCC meeting.

18
19 And going into -- and that got all
20 approved at the Pacific Flyway and the Service
21 Regulations Committee last year. And it just got
22 published in the Federal Register and right now we're
23 in the comment period for the 2017 spring and summer
24 migratory bird harvest regarding the regulations that
25 are to be in place for 2017 also for the emperor goose
26 hunt and that comment period ends on March 13th.

27
28 And the other thing is that during the
29 January 2017 Board of Game meeting -- oh, before I go
30 into the Board of Game do we have any questions on the
31 spring and summer harvest?

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Gayla, I don't
34 see anybody needing to ask you a question on this.

35
36 MS. HOSETH: Okay. And then so for --
37 at the January, 2017 Board of Game meeting in Bethel
38 the AMBCC submitted an agenda change request proposal
39 to allow for emperor goose harvest for the fall/winter
40 season with a limit of 1,000 emperor geese to be taken
41 during the fall/winter hunt. The Board of Game
42 approved the proposal and this hunt will take place for
43 2017. It's going to be a highly regulated hunt and
44 it'll be through a permit system allowing a thousand
45 birds to be taken and reports must be reported within
46 24 to 36 hours based on which geographical area you're
47 in and were in the works right now of figuring out what
48 are the reporting requirements going to be. Only one
49 bird is going to be allowed per permit and each region
50

1 will have a limited number of birds allocated. And the
2 hunt will close once the 1,000 bird limit has been
3 reached. That's also exciting and I think the Bristol
4 Bay region numbers are at 150 is what Bristol Bay will
5 get for that fall/winter hunt.

6
7 And that's pretty much everything, you
8 know, in a quick report in regards to the emperor
9 goose, it's been a long process and I know Molly used
10 to sit on the AMBCC and it's also been a sacrifice for
11 the people who traditionally harvest emperor geese to
12 not hunt them for 30 years.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Yeah,
15 this is exciting to hear. During our corporation
16 meeting we invited John Dykstra to come and give us a
17 report on this -- not the TEK hunt, but the emperor
18 goose information that he was passing out to not only
19 the corporation, but also the tribal council.

20
21 MS. HOSETH: Okay.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci has a
24 question or comment.

25
26 MS. HOSETH: Okay.

27
28 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
29 Madame Chair. And, Gayla, I just want to lend my
30 congratulations. I know how hard you've personally
31 worked as a member of that team and I think you guys
32 have done a really, really fine job of organizing it
33 and getting it to where it is today so I just want to
34 commend you on record.

35
36 MS. HOSETH: Oh, thank you so much. It
37 was a -- it was a lot of work so thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
42 Chair. Gayla, yeah I too congratulate you because I
43 remember when it was closed and I was living in the
44 Aleutians.

45
46 I have a question though, where will
47 the permits be issued and then what is -- what do they
48 -- a few more details on the reporting of who and where
49 and how do they do that, just for background?

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MS. HOSETH: Okay. Right now I think
4 that is the permits, we're trying to figure out where
5 people are going to be able to access those permits,
6 the logistics of that are being worked out right now.
7 We don't know if it's going to through Traditional
8 Councils like other permits are through the Fish and
9 Games offices. I don't have updated information on
10 that, just knowing that they're in the process of
11 figuring out how people are going to be able to access
12 the permits.

13
14 So the general hunt will happen this
15 fall and in the -- just so that people are aware and
16 it's something that the Native Caucus at AMBCC didn't
17 want is we didn't want this opened up to nonresidents.
18 In 2018 there's going to be 25 nonresidents awarded for
19 a draw permit, that they'll be able to participate in
20 the general hunt in units 8, 9, 17 and 10. And so
21 there's going to be an application period for that 2018
22 draw this November and December of 2017. So, I mean,
23 that -- we're happy that we got the 1,000 bag limit,
24 but it -- that will happen -- it won't -- the
25 nonresidents won't happen until 2018.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I think
28 -- unless there's any other comments I'm going to have
29 you just go ahead and go -- do the Mulchatna caribou,
30 TEK Project.

31
32 MS. HOSETH: Okay. I'm working with
33 Jamie Van Lennon with the State of Alaska and we're
34 doing a mapping project and gathering traditional
35 ecological knowledge from -- we went to the villages of
36 Togiak, Koliganek, New Stu and Ekwok and talked to a
37 lot of elders and got information, how they've seen --
38 how the herd used to be back in the day and what
39 they're noticing today and kind of where the caribou
40 are, where they winter, where they calf. That's an
41 ongoing project and we're just wanting to let you guys
42 know that we are doing that project and we don't have
43 anything finalized at this moment.

44
45 It's a really fun, interesting project
46 and to hear the stories and what the elders have to
47 say, it's been a fun project to work on.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

50

1 MR. WILSON: Hi, Gayla, it's Verner. I
2 finally got to the Council meeting. I'll just add that
3 I know BBNA staff and Jamie and I think I are also
4 planning on going to Igiugig at some point before the
5 caribou hunt's closed and we'll be talking with elders
6 and other hunters there as well. So I think that's in
7 the plan this month.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Dan
10 Dunaway.

11
12 MR. DUNAWAY: Verner answered a little
13 of my question because I was going to say what about
14 Levelock, Igiugig, Newhalen and.....

15
16 MR. HILL: Iliamna.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY:because they also
19 access those, but I'll defer to Lary, he probably knows
20 it better.

21
22 Thank you.

23
24 MR. HILL: Yeah, Verner we have -- in
25 our area we traditionally go out and harvest from the
26 traditional Mulchatna which is all mixed up anyway, but
27 we have history of use of the Mulchatna caribou herd.
28 Years ago when it was like a quarter of a million they
29 ran out of food and the herd crashed and moved on. Now
30 they're starting to move back into our area. So if
31 you're looking for traditional ecological knowledge I
32 would just suggest you go to the other Lake villages, I
33 mean, Kokhanok, Igiugig, Nondalton, Newhalen, Pedro
34 Bay, we've all gone and harvested from that Mulchatna
35 caribou herd. And they're slowly starting to move back
36 into the area. So, you now, let's get everybody on the
37 -- and lastly is the -- is there some criteria that you
38 guys use to assess whether or not someone's
39 recollection is true or made up?

40
41 MR. WILSON: Gayla, do you want to go
42 ahead and.....

43
44 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, through the
45 Chair, Mr. Hill. The Lake Iliamna villages are
46 included in the TEK project. We just -- we have --
47 we're broken into different teams, Karen Evenoff is
48 working with Jamie Van Lennon at Fish and Game and we
49 kind of have -- we have assigned areas of who is doing
50

1 which area. BBNA is doing those villages that I
2 outlined for you earlier and then Karen Evenoff is
3 working with the Lake Iliamna villages. And then also
4 this project is going into unit 18 which another team
5 is doing TEK information and all of us are going to get
6 together with the whole mapping to kind of perceive
7 areas where the Mulchatna caribou have, you know,
8 migrated over the years. So your area is included in
9 that.

10

11 MR. WILSON: And then maybe going back
12 to your question about whether or not there's some
13 controls as to whether things are true, it's my
14 understanding that, you know, we really just listen to
15 the elders and hear what they have to say and then
16 document that. And I'm on the Steering Committee for
17 the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative
18 as well and one of the reasons why some members of that
19 committee were very interested in funding this proposal
20 was to not just document, you know, TEK, but also to
21 really compare current data with all the collars that
22 are being put on the caribou across the range and so
23 looking at the historical information based on these
24 TEK interviews and then comparing it to modern day
25 information.

26

27 And so I don't know if you have any
28 more details to say regarding the interviews, Gayla,
29 and on controls as to whether things are true, but
30 that's my understanding.

31

32 MS. HOSETH: We've got a list of, you
33 know, people to talk to in the villages as we know who
34 are avid hunters. And those are the people that we all
35 -- you know, up to and outreach and get the information
36 from. And unfortunately, you know, there's not too
37 many elders left so we really want to capture that
38 knowledge that they do have while they're able to be --
39 you know, while they're still here to be able to share
40 that information with us.

41

42 Just to also -- part of the project is
43 that we will be going back to these villages to give
44 community presentations on the data and information
45 that we've gathered before the project is finalized.
46 And it'll be a draft -- you know, a draft information,
47 if anybody sees anything that needs to be corrected
48 when we do go to these community villages that, you
49 know, do our presentations, things can -- we can, you

50

1 know, make sure -- we definitely want to make sure that
2 we have accurate data in the projects that we're doing.

3
4 MR. HILL: Gayla, yeah, wait, my
5 concern about, you know, isn't whether or not you're
6 going to -- whether you believe or not what the person
7 is talking about, that's not up to you to judge what
8 I'm hearing, you're just recording. The other question
9 I had is how are you protecting this information, is it
10 -- some of it's going to be confidential and, you know,
11 we've always felt like if we gave up too much
12 information that right away someone will come in and
13 tell us we can't do it anymore, so there's still that
14 fear, is this information then subject to like the
15 Freedom of Information Act or any of those kind of
16 things or is it going to be public or is there some way
17 you -- when you ask the elder person that, you know, if
18 you have -- if you can use this information, do you
19 have like a, I don't know, a form or they request -- a
20 request that, you know, you can use that information?

21
22 MR. WILSON: Gayla, do you want to talk
23 about that?

24
25 MS. HOSETH: Yeah, I'm trying to think.
26 Jamie handled that portion at Fish and Game and I
27 believe there is a form, you know, and we're not naming
28 names I believe in the report. I don't know how the
29 information is going -- Verner, if you have more
30 information on the -- with the LLC and how if it is
31 public, I -- I'm not quite sure.

32
33 MR. WILSON: Yeah, it's my
34 understanding that every interview that they've done
35 they do acknowledge through a form that they are being
36 interviewed for this study, they're informed that this
37 will be used in a report about traditional ecological
38 knowledge and I don't think that there's specific, you
39 know, names being said. And so we're actually
40 discussing with others about possibly filming some and
41 combining some projects because as I mentioned earlier
42 we have our Becharof youth ambassador film internship
43 that one of our interns was able to go and film. And
44 so I know that there was some interest in maybe even
45 documenting that on film and there's definitely -- we
46 would have to get permission on that. But, yeah, I
47 think all the interviews and Jamie Van Lennon would
48 know more specifically, but there are specific rules
49 where they have to agree to provide that information

50

1 and they acknowledge that it'll be in a report.

2

3 MR. HILL: And also once this person
4 contributes this information are they then later asked
5 to look at what you've recorded and see if they -- yes,
6 this is indeed what they said and how they wanted it
7 used?

8

9 MR. WILSON: I mean, that's -- yeah,
10 that's what I think we try to do every time especially,
11 you know, when I -- on different projects not
12 specifically on this one, but because I haven't been on
13 the interviews yet, but there are -- there's ways that
14 we want to make sure that it's accurate and that they
15 review the information. And so -- but, Gayla, if you
16 have anything to add on that?

17

18 MR. LARSON: Hey, Verner, this is Cody,
19 Cody Larson here. May I speak to that?

20

21 MR. WILSON: Sure.

22

23 MR. LARSON: I also work with the
24 Division of Subsistence and a couple of projects like
25 this and with the interviews that we've conducted there
26 is sort of this waiver form that they -- that
27 highlights, you know, what the information's going to
28 be used for and there's different amounts of sharing of
29 say the person's name or being able to quote what
30 they've said so that each person being interviewed gets
31 to determine how much -- how far their information that
32 they've provided is going to be used. So that's a
33 little bit to that.

34

35 And at the end of each project that we
36 have scheduled in the timelines, there are community
37 review meetings and so that's a public community review
38 with Council members and the public in each community
39 to review the information to make sure that it's
40 accurate and better reflects what the intent of the
41 intent of the community participation in the projects
42 is. And so it's during that final review process
43 before anything is published that corrections can be
44 made and misconceptions or mis-perceptions can be
45 reviewed and discarded from the publications as well.
46 So that's sort of that process with ensuring that the
47 community members themselves are being reflected how
48 they -- you know, how they choose. And so that's how
49 it's worked with the projects that I've collaborated

50

1 with the Division of Subsistence on.

2
3 MR. HILL: I'd like to continue my
4 questions if I may. But anyway and lastly, you know,
5 how is this information going to be used. I would like
6 to see it used in some kind of education for our youth,
7 for our young hunters, for the people in the villages.
8 It -- I would just hate to -- you know, I have a lot of
9 information, to relate that information and then have
10 all this information be in just a binder stuck up on a
11 shelf gathering dust. That's such a complete waste of
12 time and effort. I'd like to see it used educationally
13 somehow with our youth and with maybe Alaska history or
14 something like that. So, you know, let's not waste
15 that information and don't just record it because when
16 the elders tell you something, I'm almost an elder so I
17 can almost relate to it, tell you something, you write
18 it down and there's a fear there no more cause to
19 remember it, it just goes away. So let's not waste it
20 and, you know, pass it on to, you know, our youth and
21 involve our people in that process.

22
23 That's all.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 MR. WILSON: Yeah, and this is Verner
28 again. And I really appreciate those comments because
29 I think whenever you do a study you don't want to have
30 a study that's just going to sit on a shelf. And I
31 remember as part of our Steering Committee
32 deliberations they -- there are some other Steering
33 Committee members that said, you know, this could be,
34 you know, very interesting to see and modeled for other
35 regions that look at how Mulchatna caribou have changed
36 their distribution over time. And then you think about
37 things like climate change and how it could affect
38 migration patterns and then you look at modern collar
39 data and you -- it's a good way to, you know, be able
40 to compare with what -- TEK with actual data. So I
41 think that that was partly the reason why Steering
42 Committee members supported it.

43
44 And also, you know, it's -- something
45 at BBNA that we're really focused on right now partly
46 is also climate change and we're looking at, you know,
47 coming up with really good data sets. There's -- we're
48 partnering with some Federal partners, we were just at
49 the Alaska Forum on the Environment, we are looking to
50

1 come up with an easy way to share all this information
2 that -- because there's a lot of studies going on out
3 there and when you really think about it you want to
4 have a place where -- like a data base where you could
5 put all that stuff and have it easily accessible for
6 people to access and not just in urban Alaska where
7 they have faster internet, but also in rural Alaska.
8 And so that's something that we're partnering with some
9 Federal agencies, other Alaska conservation
10 cooperatives, other entities who are interested in, you
11 know, gathering this data and then being able to put it
12 into an easy accessible site.

13
14 And so I just wanted to comment on
15 that.

16
17 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, can I give a
18 -- I found like a brief overview. Like our project
19 partners are, you know, the Division of Subsistence,
20 Alaska State Department of Fish and Game, BBNA and Lake
21 Clark National Park. And the project is caribou are an
22 important source of food to -- for residents of western
23 Alaska. But as environmental conditions and migration
24 patterns change the local hunters have encountered
25 difficulty accessing the Mulchatna caribou herd and the
26 existing data described Mulchatna caribou, who had
27 harvested, herd movements and caribou abundance through
28 time. And an investigation drawing from traditional
29 ecological knowledge has not yet occurred. That's what
30 this whole project is all about. And we're conducting
31 the TEK landscape mapping interviews to document local
32 knowledge of caribou movements and how it is in
33 relationship with the ecosystem change within the
34 traditional and contemporary range of the Mulchatna
35 caribou. Interviews will be conducted with community
36 residents and we're going to focus on how caribou,
37 moose and predator populations are adjusting to the
38 changes in weather, water, wildfires and vegetation.
39 And the TEK landscaping mapping sessions that we
40 conducted will attempt to provide a 50 year snapshot of
41 local caribou and ecosystem knowledge and it's an
42 effort to hope that we contact community members with
43 long term experience observing the Mulchatna caribou
44 and how the information can be used for future as to
45 local and regional advisory councils and making
46 recommendations for regulatory changes. It's going to
47 be able to assist the State of Alaska Board of Game and
48 the Federal Subsistence Board in forward management of
49 the wildlife in the region. So the information can be
50

1 used by the communities to identify ways in which TEK
2 might be useful. But it's also a way of having TEK
3 being used as like on traditional scientific knowledge
4 of our people living -- that we're gathering the
5 information from.

6

7 I hope that's helpful to kind of give a
8 better overview of our -- of the project.

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Did we lose
11 you or are you still on?

12

13 MS. HOSETH: I'm still here.....

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

16

17 MS. HOSETH:did you catch
18 everything?

19

20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You know when
21 the traditional and ecological knowledge process first
22 came on, this was in the early '80s, it was really hard
23 to sell it to especially our agencies, our biologists
24 because the majority of the traditional and ecological
25 knowledge that we were collecting were considered
26 anecdotal because they were not book learned. And so
27 if you're going to be wanting to use this with the --
28 any agencies, any Board of Game, Board of Fish, you
29 need to make sure that that's going to be acceptable to
30 the people that, you know, may be -- that you think may
31 be able to or may not -- may want to use it or may --
32 that you want them to use.

33

34 And then another thing is with that
35 TEK, there's two components to traditional and
36 ecological knowledge. There's an in depth knowledge
37 that a majority of the elders will not freely give
38 unless they trust the receiver of these knowledges.
39 And then the other component is there's a general
40 knowledge that, you know, they're more than willing to
41 give. And that's probably what you'll mostly be
42 getting unless you find a person within the community
43 that the elders will be trusting, a trustworthy person
44 that, you know, will be talking to them. So there's --
45 you know, it sounds easy, but it's not.

46

47 And another component to the
48 traditional and ecological knowledge is that even
49 though we're lumped into Bristol Bay region, each
50

1 region, even between Dillingham and Togiak, there's a
2 slight cultural difference. And majority of that
3 reasoning is, you know, people have gotten so
4 mobilized, it depends on what households you're getting
5 to. People have gotten so integrated from all the
6 regions in Alaska that if you come in with a survey and
7 want the information they'll give you the information,
8 but they'll have a component like for instance if it's
9 somebody from Bethel area that's been living in Togiak
10 or wherever, they'll give you their cultural
11 information from that region. And so a person that's
12 surveying needs to recognize that, you know, the
13 household that you're talking to is not traditionally I
14 guess not a traditional resident.

15
16 So there's -- you know, there's all
17 these little components, but overall that -- I'm glad
18 that you guys are taking the opportunity to collect
19 this information and it'll be useful. It'll be useful
20 in spite of, you know, these little sideline
21 information that the people -- you know, when they read
22 the report if they're lumped, you know, the whole
23 region. And then like for instance the agencies and
24 others that read the report would more likely to lump
25 the information to say that like the east villages
26 versus the west villages, that's what they do and
27 that's what their traditional and ecological knowledge
28 is when it's not, but that hopefully will iron out, you
29 know. But I am glad that this program is being set
30 forward for you guys to at least take aim at it and get
31 it processed and done.

32
33 Thank you.

34
35 Anything else.

36
37 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

40
41 MR. DUNAWAY: I was listening here, I'm
42 thinking that I wonder if this would be -- I don't want
43 to add complications, but if there was an opportunity
44 to include some of those youth interns or job shadow
45 opportunity that you can have a few folks learning how
46 to collect the information and just being there to hear
47 it, yeah, the stuff sounds absolutely fascinating and
48 yet how many times we actually end up relying on some
49 local knowledge can be -- especially solving some sort
50

1 of little problem. So, yeah, I encourage you to carry
2 on, that sounds great.

3

4 Thank you.

5

6 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

7

8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

9

10 MR. MAINES: Verner and Gayla, it's
11 nice to hear that our regional nonprofit is looking at
12 TEK. I do want to warn you that one of the things that
13 a number of the Federal agencies over the past five or
14 six years that I've been working with and talking to
15 has tried to come up with the definition for TEK. They
16 want to be able to put a square peg in a square hole or
17 a round peg in a round hole. There's always been this
18 trying to force a marriage between western science and
19 TEK, but in my research and in my work it's kind of
20 hard to do that because it's something that's sort of
21 like inherited, it's part of the DNA of the indigenous
22 people of the world that they tend to feel and know and
23 see things that other folks can't. And I know that we
24 Alaskans are fairly young in the realm of dealing with
25 Federal agencies as well as international law and
26 policy and stuff like that to where we have benefitted
27 from our friends in the Lower 48, but at the same time
28 they're keeping a watchful eye on what we do because
29 what we do will affect what they've gone through and
30 what they've instituted in Supreme Court cases and
31 Indian policy law and stuff like that.

32

33 TEK is a scared beast I would say for a
34 lot of the tribes in the Lower 48. Lary was talking
35 about how do you gather it, how do you use it, how do
36 you keep it and how do you keep other folks from
37 misusing it. And there have been more cases than not
38 of people willing which the Native people are more than
39 willing to help knowing that hopefully it will benefit
40 them, you know, make people understand how and why we
41 do things the way we do it. But more times than not
42 it's been used against them. One example I could think
43 of recently was dealing with water quality standards
44 and fish consumption rate which is one of the
45 standards. The tribes in Idaho worked together, did
46 door to door surveys on the consumption of fish. And
47 the State of Idaho grabbed ahold of those surveys and
48 utilized the 50 percentile of those surveys to be the
49 standard that they were going to set for the entire

50

1 State whereas the Federal agency at that time was EPA
2 and the tribes who liked to work with EPA in certain
3 instances, liked to look at the 90 to 95 percentile.

4
5 And then the other things is dealing
6 with historic data and that's where the TEK became
7 involved with that. And the State of Maine which
8 doesn't recognize the tribes in Maine even though there
9 are tribes there, they've been doing the same thing
10 because they were one of the first ones hit with any
11 manmade toxin, pollution and stuff like that that wiped
12 out all their wild salmon and wild fisheries and stuff
13 like that to where they would like to be able to have
14 the same choices that they did when they were first
15 established before the settlers came into Maine, they
16 would love to have a chance to be able to do that. So
17 whenever we're looking at doing things and we're trying
18 to put in our best foot forward more times than not
19 we've got other people looking over our shoulders and
20 wanting to make sure that we do not jeopardize what
21 they've fought and worked on and have tried to relate
22 to their Federal partners wherever they are, whatever
23 they're doing.

24
25 So when I hear that you're doing TEK,
26 to me it's just maybe a historic showing of were, where
27 they came from, what they were doing and stuff like
28 that, not so much as this is my favorite berry patch
29 and only I can have this berry patch, nobody else does
30 it because I'm not going to share it with you, you
31 know, it's just apples with applies, oranges with
32 oranges, but also remember that it only takes one bad
33 seed to ruin it to everybody else. And I know that
34 like I said at the very beginning of that, we have
35 people watching us when we're trying to decide what's
36 best for us.

37
38 Thank you, Madame Chair.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anything
41 else.

42
43 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

46
47 MR. HILL: I've just -- Lary Hill. I
48 just want to address the idea or the question of the
49 interviewers. You've heard some of us elders talk and
50

1 we can talk a long time about one subject. And the
2 elder looks at you and assesses your own knowledge,
3 that you're like a lifetime user he'll get more into
4 real specifics and detail. Like for instance the --
5 how caribou smell in the fall as opposed to the
6 difference of how they smell in the spring. And you
7 can tell the -- how good of shape a caribou is in if
8 you're downwind from him and that kind of stuff, but if
9 you're just someone who has never lived that or
10 appreciated that lifestyle you'll get more of a general
11 knowledge. So be aware of that and each time
12 interview an elder they're trying to teach you
13 something. And so you don't get all the information at
14 once, you get it in different levels depending on the --
15 what the elder's told you and so you already know
16 that, then they can go more into detail. It's just
17 like a math problem, you're learn what's one plus one,
18 pretty soon you go up to algebraic equations and that
19 kind of stuff. So, you know, keep that in mind.

20
21 And the lastly is is the person who's
22 giving that information like we heard earlier is that --
23 does that person actually -- have they actually heard
24 that, have they actually lived that or is it hearsay
25 from another individual. So, you know, be careful of
26 that with the depth of the knowledge you're going to
27 hopefully receive. And like Molly talked about it's a
28 matter of trust too. So I'm hoping your interviewers
29 are trained in how to respond. Like for instance I
30 could tell -- for about three hours I could talk to you
31 about these little fish up in Iliamna Lake that climb
32 up the mountains and disappear for six months then come
33 back and where they go in the winter and that kind of
34 stuff. So there's all this knowledge so you've got to
35 really have an open mind and be prepared to sit and
36 listen for a long time sometimes so, you know, not to
37 rush these -- the interviewers.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
42 Anything else.

43
44 Gayla.

45
46 MS. HOSETH: No. Thank you for all the
47 information, I appreciate it and I'll take into
48 consideration everything that was spoken.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And these
2 Board members are available to you folks so talk to
3 Lary, you know, if you need some support.

4
5 I think right now we have new people
6 that came in after lunch. I'm going to have you
7 introduce yourselves. If you never introduced
8 yourselves this morning stand up and introduce
9 yourselves starting from Verner.

10
11 MR. WILSON: Good morning. My name is
12 my Verner Wilson, I am the director of natural
13 resources for Bristol Bay Native Association. I've
14 just completed my first year on the job. So it's
15 really nice to be here at the RAC again.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Andy, please
18 come to the mic.

19
20 MR. ADERMAN: I'm Andy Aderman,
21 wildlife biologist with the Togiak Refuge.

22
23 MR. CROWLEY: Dave Crowley, Department
24 of Fish and Game, King Salmon area biologist.

25
26 MR. HAMON: Troy Hamon, I'm the
27 resource manager for the National Park Service lands
28 managed out of King Salmon.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I think -- do
31 we have another one?

32
33 MR. CARUSO: Pete Caruso, local
34 resident, 38 years, just here to see what's going on.
35 I do a lot of hunting and a lot of trapping throughout
36 the year.

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You're the
39 kind that we want present to tell us, to talk to us.
40 So thanks for coming.

41
42 BBNA, we're going to continue with the
43 Pacific walrus. I think Verner was going to do that
44 presentation.

45
46 MR. WILSON: Yes, thank you, this is
47 Verner. BBNA has long been part of a number of
48 different groups on marine mammal issues. Our
49 colleague -- my colleague, Helen Aderman, she's the
50

1 executive director of the Qayassiq Walrus Commission
2 and she wanted me to give this report on the Endangered
3 Species Act listing proposal for the Pacific walrus.

4
5 So BBNA has Section 119 -- along with
6 Qayassiq Walrus Commission, also known as QWC, we have
7 Section 119 co-management funding to co-manage the
8 Pacific walrus at Round Island as you all may know.
9 Qayassiq, QWC, was formed in March, 1995 to oversee the
10 walrus harvest activities and they have members from
11 nine villages from Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak,
12 Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, Ekuk, Ekwok, and
13 New Stuyahok. And we also partner with the Bristol Bay
14 Marine Mammal Council and the Round Island Cooperators,
15 the Eskimo Walrus Commission. We're part of -- we had
16 a tribal consultation with Fish and Wildlife Service
17 with a number of different agencies to hear about the
18 proposed ESA listing and that happened on January 30th.
19 Helen was able to give a technical report to Fish and
20 Wildlife Service and also shared information with a
21 number of the different stakeholders with QWC and the
22 Bristol Bay -- the different Bristol Bay tribal
23 councils. And at the consultation and, you know, at
24 previous meetings QWC and the Bristol Bay tribes had
25 indicated they do not support the proposed Endangered
26 Species Act listing of the Pacific walrus because they
27 are concerned about how it could affect their hunting.
28 They want continued hunting access without additional
29 regulated restrictions on their ancestral and
30 traditional sites of Qayassiq, Hagemeister Island,
31 Summit Island, Cook Island, Cape Pearson, Cape Newenham
32 and QWC does not want to see the State and Federal
33 Regulatory agencies, they basically don't want the ESA
34 listing.

35
36 And they also noted the -- how Pacific
37 walrus is an important traditional Native food. And
38 there's some issues with relation to the ivory tusk,
39 there's proposed bill to ban the sale of ivory from
40 Africa, but people are concerned that that could impact
41 the sale of ivory from our villages that a lot of
42 people depend on for a source of income.

43
44 So that's the report from QWC on the
45 Endangered Species proposed listing of the walrus.

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments.
48 Questions.

49
50

1 Nanci.

2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
4 Madame Chair. Yeah, I don't -- I actually meant to say
5 something in my Council report about the walrus and
6 that I was fortunate enough to go down and see them at
7 their new haul out that's closer -- further north here
8 than it's ever been before. But I would be interested
9 in hearing future reports on -- if any analyses have
10 been done of habitat or the reasonings behind the
11 migrations to new locations and areas and some of those
12 things just as a heads up in future meetings and stuff.
13 It's all part of some of the changes I think we're
14 seeing around here and it's very unique and worth
15 noting now and following in the future.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: And, Verner, you might
22 have said, I think I'm in my after lunch copies here,
23 but when is -- so I wasn't quite aware of this listing
24 kind of in process, when is there likely to be a final
25 decision?

26
27 MR. WILSON: So it's my understanding
28 that they are required by law to designate it as
29 endangered or have a designation by 2018. I know that,
30 you know, they're trying to go through all their public
31 comment periods and tribal consultations before then,
32 but I've heard that actually a decision could be coming
33 as soon as, you know, this spring or summer. And so
34 this is just from previous experience, but if you look
35 at the history of the whole issue you see that there is
36 a lawsuit that really forced this whole discussion in
37 the first place and I think it was Center for
38 Biological Diversity tried to get Fish and Wildlife
39 Service and other agencies to designate it as
40 endangered because they're concerned about the impacts
41 to climate change. And so that -- I think that's been
42 years and years and years ago. So I know that the Fish
43 and Wildlife Service said that -- in their previously
44 ruling they said that it was warranted to be threatened
45 because of climate change, but there's other species
46 that they're more concerned about right now.

47
48 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

2
3 MR. HILL: Madame Chair, Verner, I seem
4 to remember previous Administration under President
5 Obama named some of those islands in that area as
6 national historic sites, do you know which ones and the
7 second part of that question is how would that affect
8 the local hunting, where those walrus -- some of the
9 walrus do haul out on those islands?

10
11 MR. WILSON: I think that's Round
12 Island specifically. And I think or actually I think
13 there's two of them, I forgot what the other -- three,
14 I forgot what the other ones are called, but I looked
15 it up, the National Historic Preservation Act, I don't
16 think it's going to -- I know that there's concern
17 about how it could affect hunting or any other
18 activities, but it's my understanding that that basic --
19 designation as National Historic Landmark basically
20 frees up and opens up possibilities for funding for
21 additional research. I know that a lot of these
22 different agencies, especially when you look at their
23 archeological aspects are really underfunded for doing
24 that kind of archeological work. And so I thought it's
25 a good opportunity to, you know, get more people to go
26 out there and look at the artifacts and -- but that's
27 just my personal reading of the pact. And so.....

28
29 MR. HILL: You know, I looked at that
30 and at first I was, you know, pretty concerned about it
31 as another way of keeping us from doing our subsistence
32 activities, but then like you said I -- it was more to
33 the bent of the archeological discoveries and homesites
34 building sites where people lived and it's a way of
35 protective those sites. So but I was worried that it
36 might affect the actual hunting which is off the island
37 part.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

44
45 MR. MAINES: Verner, I guess I'm kind
46 of behind the eight ball in this one. I didn't know
47 that walrus was even being considered to be on the
48 Endangered Species list because I haven't seen a fall
49 in the numbers anyway. So the thing that I've noticed

50

1 is that they change their haul out areas more than
2 anything else, in fact wasn't it this last summer they
3 had to -- the Alaska Department of Fish and Game had to
4 change the district down in Port Heiden (ph) as far as
5 fishing because of the walrus hauling out on the beach
6 down there. I also was kind of questioning why would
7 QWC go against the possibility of being on the
8 Endangered Species list because my understanding of ESA
9 is that it may be on that, but that doesn't stop the
10 subsistence harvest of the animal, you know, that you
11 can still allow that and it's still allowable under the
12 Endangered Species Act so I was kind of curious about
13 that part.

14
15 And I -- too me I think the last thing
16 that you brought up in your discussion, the sale of
17 ivory, which a lot of the folks still do would be more
18 of an issue than anything else because they're moving
19 forward as far as the rhino horns and the tusk of the
20 elephants and stuff like that that would have an impact
21 on our ivory here.

22
23 MR. WILSON: Yeah, you have a good
24 point about the ESA listing. You know, I -- at the --
25 I was at the QWC 20th anniversary meeting and there was
26 some discussion about, you know, it's not going to
27 affect the ability to be able to hunt because under,
28 you know, that law Alaska Natives are exempted to be
29 able to, you know, continue their traditional
30 subsistence way of life. They still did pass this and
31 I think that's the -- it speaks to the fact that
32 they're concerned about any potential impacts to their
33 being able to go subsistence hunting. I know that up
34 north where my mom's family is from they're also trying
35 to look at how ice pack changes in sea ice could impact
36 the migration and distribution of walruses and that's
37 something that I would like to see more information on
38 especially when you -- if you could compare the data of
39 what they already have from the satellite images of
40 where sea ice -- the sea ice extent is on the Bering
41 Sea versus where -- how far, you know, walrus go and
42 how many walruses there are that come down to the
43 Bristol Bay region. That would be interesting to see
44 if there's any correlation between that.

45
46 But, yeah, that's -- I was also at
47 Alaska Federation of Natives and one of my mom's
48 cousins spoke about that whole issue of walrus ivory
49 and that is something that I think there's a lot
50

1 different groups like the Eskimo Walrus Commission
2 that, you know, pass resolutions against it. I know
3 that they're rounding up resolutions so that they could
4 try to get support at the Federal level to make sure
5 that our ability to sell ivory, walrus ivory from
6 Alaska is intact and continues to be available to us.

7
8 So our different marine mammal councils
9 like QWC and Bristol Bay Marine Mammal Council are
10 making sure that our voices are heard through
11 resolutions and I think BBNA will -- I think a lot of
12 our villages would be interested in that as well. So
13 it would be interesting to see if, you know, there's
14 more tribal level of trying to make sure that our --
15 that hunt is being -- able to continue and the sale of
16 the ivory is continued.

17
18 MR. MAINES: Thanks, Verner. I would
19 then ask the folks from the Togiak National Wildlife if
20 ivory becomes illegal to sell then are you guys just
21 going to donate it to us instead of having your annual
22 sale during beaver round-up?

23
24 (Laughter)

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

27
28 MR. HILL: Yes, just I would not want
29 to see the walrus put on that endangered species partly
30 because, yes, it might be people are worried about them
31 disappearing, but, man, when that happens it's just
32 your access is so restricted. And I seen it happen and
33 it's anyplace those walrus might have sat on a beach
34 and pooped it's going to be part of the area you can't
35 even go near unless you have special permits and
36 process. So the area's really restricted like when the
37 Beluga whales were going to be at the Cook Inlet once
38 they're going to be put on the Endangered Species, they
39 were going to take almost half of that Cook Inlet as
40 part of their area where you couldn't even do anything.
41 In Lake Iliamna they wanted to put our seals on the
42 Endangered Species and if that happened we wouldn't
43 even be able to travel on the lake, on the ice in the
44 middle of winter because it might affect the seals. So
45 let's be really careful about if that does happen, you
46 know, I wouldn't agree with them being on the
47 Endangered Species, it's just so restrictive.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other

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1 comments.

2

3 MS. HOSETH: Madame Chair, this is
4 Gayla and I have Helen Aderman here, she'd like to give
5 some comments if that's okay.

6

7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

8

9 MS. ADERMAN: Good afternoon, I'm Helen
10 Aderman, I've been the executive director of the
11 Qayassiq Walrus Commission since 2001.

12

13 Regarding the Endangered Species Act
14 listing of the Pacific walrus, the Qayassiq Walrus
15 Commission another thing they would like to do is have
16 the cooperators co-managers and their Federal agency
17 staff co-manage the Pacific walrus is to conduct
18 updated baseline research in the walrus islands,
19 including Round Island. That's another (indiscernible)
20 that the Commission expressed at the meetings that they
21 still don't have any updated overall population based
22 (indiscernible) and they would also like to have the
23 cooperator agencies study the effects of the seasonal
24 northern Bristol Bay trawl fishery on the foraging
25 habitat of the Pacific walrus and stuff like that.

26

27 Recently in the winter I believe that
28 the National Marine Fisheries Service take the ESA
29 listing off of the Iliamna freshwater harbor seal for
30 the time being so that status is okay on the Iliamna
31 freshwater harbor seal.

32

33 Thank you.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments
36 or questions.

37

38 (No comments)

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Helen, this is
41 Molly. Which -- are all our islands affected by this
42 or is it just Round Island?

43

44 MS. ADERMAN: Well, the Qayassiq Walrus
45 Commission is the co-manager of the Round Island or we
46 call it Qayaciq in Yup'ik Eskimo, but all the Bristol
47 Bay tribes also include the Bristol Bay walrus haul
48 outs. The ESA listing affects all statewide Pacific
49 walrus in Alaska.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: During I guess
2 Verner gave us your report, but I didn't hear or maybe
3 I missed it as to why -- is it because the numbers are
4 really diminishing or why is this Endangered Species
5 listing happening?
6

7 MR. WILSON: I could -- just like the
8 Center for Biological Diversity had said they -- Fish
9 and Wildlife Service and other agencies need to
10 designate it because they think that climate change
11 will affect the sea ice and walrus really depend --
12 they depend on the sea ice to go clamming and get food
13 under the water. And so if you have less sea ice then
14 it's harder for the walrus to be able to haul out on
15 that sea ice. And so that's their main reasoning from
16 the news stories that I've read.
17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: To my
19 knowledge in Bristol Bay I've never heard of or even
20 seen walrus haul out on sea ice around here unless they
21 do it way out in the ocean. The main -- or the
22 walrus normally usually haul out on islands. So I
23 don't think the sea ice for walrus in Bristol Bay is an
24 issue as far as I know.
25

26 Lary.
27

28 MR. HILL: As far as the walrus hauling
29 out on ice in Bristol Bay, I had personally seen walrus
30 haul out right in Bristol Bay outside the mouth of
31 Naknek River outside of Johnson Point. There were big
32 ice flows there one spring and a bunch of walrus came
33 in and they were out on those ice flows. So they do
34 come -- they do go to different areas to search for
35 food. So but I have -- this astonishes, this
36 Endangered Species for all of the walrus, I mean, all
37 of them, that really seems incredibly restricting.
38

39 MR. WILSON: Yeah, and this is just
40 from the news stories that I've read and some of the
41 reports actually from up north, but as you know the
42 walrus that come down to Bristol Bay are males and I
43 think it just depends by year -- by what time of the
44 year they're at. So in the winter I think is what
45 they're talking about where walrus -- those same walrus
46 that might go to Round Island and other places they
47 depend on ice more. It just depends on the time of the
48 year. But what Lary had to say about putting an ESA
49 listing on all walrus that's -- you know, you see
50

1 groups like Center for Biological Diversity trying to
2 do that for a number of different species so it's not
3 really surprising because they did that for the harbor
4 seals in Iliamna, they did that for the polar bears and
5 others. So I think they're just trying to make a point
6 about climate change.

7

8

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

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MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
Chair. Yeah, I just would like to go on the record too
that I appreciate you guys bringing this forward to us,
to our attention, especially the Subsistence Board. I
hope you're doing it for the other Boards in the area
that are being -- that may not be aware of it as well
because as you know one of the main user groups and
somebody who probably cares more about the walrus than
most common people, I in some ways am resentful of them
taking this on without consulting us in a more closely
and convenient manner than this. But I appreciate you
staying on top of it and hope that you will continue to
do so for us in the future.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

MR. HILL: If I may, that Center for
Biological Diversity, that makes my blood boil. It's --
you talk about information being misused, that
information that you mentioned about the harbor seal in
Lake Iliamna, we, you know, will share our information
with this group, oh, yeah, we're here to help you guys
out and next thing you know, they're pushing to put it
on this Endangered Species list. So that's another
example of information that we gladly give to
organizations is being misused. So I don't know what
we can do about it other than just, you know, keep on
-- you know, we have to be careful and not give up.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. I guess
we'll -- thanks for the information again. We'll -- if
we don't have any more discussions, this was just
information.

MR. ALVAREZ: Can I make a comment?

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Yeah,
come on up, Randy.

MR. ALVAREZ: My name is Randy Alvarez

1 for the record. I serve on the Bristol Bay Marine
2 Mammal Council, I'm the representative for the Naknek,
3 Kvichak and Iliamna Lake area. And I've, I don't know,
4 10 years going -- probably more than 10 years going to
5 the Marine Mammal Council meetings and these issues are
6 brought up. And I just wanted to agree with Verner as
7 saying that, you know, the Center for Biological
8 Diversity is -- they're pretty far -- my opinion
9 they're pretty far left that they want to stop all
10 harvest of these animals that have been used for a long
11 time. And they're located in California so they have
12 to get somebody to get them up to some of these deals
13 because they're not in subsistence best interests for
14 the utilization of these animals, they're kind of the
15 opposite end of the spectrum. But I don't agree that
16 they're -- you know, they're -- like Verner says
17 they're -- really that with the warming there's not
18 enough ice, walrus are like polar bears, they use the
19 ice a lot for resting. And if Richard Wilson was here
20 he'd agree. In the early '70s Richard and I and
21 another guy went out in a boat out here in the bay and
22 over in the Kvichak main channel we saw or heard of
23 walrus, must have been about 200 that were just -- they
24 migrated down and they were on the ice floating around.
25 And another one, you know, there was discussion on the --
26 they changed their haul out from Cape Cinnamon down
27 between Port Moller and Port Heiden, they moved up to
28 Cape Greg which is right by Pilot Point. And one of
29 the -- at the last meeting last spring the biologist
30 says well, off of Pilot Point is the biggest clam bed
31 in Bristol Bay out in the water, they changed their --
32 that's where the clams are so they might be there for a
33 long time, you know, they might be there for 20 years
34 or more. So that's -- and it's -- like Verner says
35 it's the males that come down because they travel so
36 far that the females and the calves, it's too far for
37 them to come, they stay way up north some place. So,
38 you know, I don't agree that they should be listed as
39 endangered, I don't -- you know, they're still --
40 sounds like to me that there's still plenty, you know,
41 of walrus. So it -- I just wanted to comment on that.

42

43

44 And also, you know, the Center for
45 Biological Diversity wanted to list the seals in
46 Iliamna Lake as endangered. Well, they're not. You
47 know, I was talking to a pilot, one of their guys that
48 does surveys, his last name is Withero, he did them for
49 about four years on Iliamna Lake on the seals up in

50

1 Iliamna in the springtime in April when they were
2 hauled out on the ice and then again in August, last
3 August when it was nice and warm. And there were
4 plenty of seals and in fact the National Marine
5 Fisheries through NOAA a couple months ago decided
6 there was no reason to declare those Iliamna Lake seals
7 as endangered because certain time of year there's a
8 lot of them. And they do migrate, some of them do
9 migrate back and forth down to the bay. In fact
10 Barbara Mahoney about three years ago told us that they
11 took some of samples of seals harvested up there by
12 subsistence users and analyze them and they were so
13 closely related to the seals down here in the bay that
14 she -- her exact words were if they were people they
15 would have the same last name. So, you know, and I
16 shoot -- I seen in Igiugig and I got one a couple years
17 ago in the falltime. And so they do move around
18 although there are quite a few of them that stay up
19 there all year round. But I asked her too so if the
20 seal stays up there for -- and there's seal -- if there
21 are seals that move back and forth and seals that live
22 up there do they always live up there or do they get
23 out -- they might stay in the lake for four or five
24 years, do they go -- do they never go down to the bay.
25 You know, they don't know that, they'd have to -- they
26 would have to tag them and they'd have to tag all of
27 them, but National Marine Fisheries decided that that
28 it didn't need -- those seals don't need to be declared
29 endangered because of their -- the whole idea was
30 brought up because of a try to keep Pebble from
31 utilizing that area which is -- you know, I hated to
32 see that as a avenue of going down so that put our --
33 such a thing on the seals that are utilized just to try
34 stop something that most people don't want, you know.

35
36 But anyway, I just wanted to comment on
37 that.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you,
40 Randy.

41
42 Nanci.

43
44 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, I would just
45 comment too I agree, I think I've always considered
46 those Iliamna seals as really, really smart seals
47 because they get the best of both worlds, they get to
48 go down there and play in the saltwater and come up and
49 play in the freshwater. So if anything I think they

50

1 should be protecting them because of their
2 intelligence.

3
4 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
5 you for this.

6
7 And since your -- I don't know if it's
8 going to be Gayla or who's going to be presenting this
9 Partners Program, it's under BBNA.

10
11 MR. WILSON: Cody, are you online?

12
13 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

16
17 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair, before we get
18 any other agency reports we have one more business item
19 we need to complete at lunchtime, wildlife closure
20 review 15-07. I just want to remind the Council that
21 we still have to take action on that.

22
23 Thank you, Madame Chair.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Pardon.

26
27 MR. WILSON: I could be real quick on
28 Partners, I don't really have -- we don't -- I mean, if
29 you want to, I mean, not -- just a couple minutes.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.

32
33 MR. WILSON: All I have to say about
34 our Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program is that,
35 you know, last March we hired Cody Larson and he is our
36 Partners -- our subsistence fisheries scientist. You
37 met in October, I think he was -- well, he was here at
38 the last meeting.

39
40 We are ramping up our summer programs
41 right now, I made -- we made a flyer for all the
42 internships that are going to be available for students
43 in the Bristol Bay region, there are some internships
44 here in Naknek, Togiak, Dillingham, Aleknagik and so
45 we're hiring an intern coordinator, we are hiring some
46 other interns to look at monitoring of our salmon
47 resources in the region and we're also -- they would
48 have experience in fisheries monitoring, but also some
49 of the positions will be looking at other natural

50

1 resource issues such as land and fire management. And
2 so I would encourage everyone, I'm going to be putting
3 these fires across Naknek and throughout Bristol Bay to
4 let young people know that we're hiring this summer.

5

6

So that's our Partners Program.

7

8 MR. LARSON: Thanks, Verner. This is
9 Cody Larson again. Sorry, I was -- I had to run out
10 and keep all of the ravens away from the back of my
11 truck, they found the bag of trash from this morning.

12

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Do any of the Council members have any
questions or thoughts on the internship program that
Partners has done?

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I think
we're done with that. Verner, you can give some flyers
to those three students back there.

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Thank you.

Okay. We'll go up the Nushagak
Peninsula caribou herd report.

Andy.

MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Madame Chair,
Council members. My name is Andy Aderman, Togiak
National Wildlife Refuge. And it's my understanding
that you're going to take up the closure review right
after this so I'm not going to go into a real lot of
detail because it's already in your books, the
regulatory history. I think probably what you're most
interested in is what's been happening here the last
six months.

And as far as harvest as of yesterday
we have 148 caribou reported harvested.

1 MR. HILL: Wow.

2

3 MR. ADERMAN: Of that 136 have been
4 taken under the Federal permit and 12 have been taken
5 under the State RC501 permit. Almost equal male and
6 females as far as reported harvest.

7

8 I don't know if you want any more in
9 depth, I think -- let me just go into that State permit
10 hunt. That's open to all State residents. It included
11 the area on the Peninsula including Federal lands for
12 the months of August and September. And I believe
13 there were six reported during that time period. I'll
14 have to check with Neil, six of the 12. And all that
15 totals up to 12. And that's because that hunt just
16 north of where the Federal hunt occurs is still open
17 and the caribou from the Nushagak Peninsula herd do go
18 into that area and get harvested there as well. So out
19 of those 12 taken under the State permit 11 are from
20 residents of unit 17, seven out of -- from Manokotak,
21 three out of Aleknagik and one out of Dillingham and
22 the 12th or the other caribou was taken from a resident
23 in Kasigluk which I believe is unit 18.

24

25 Under the Federal hunt as far as I know
26 it's been all unit 17 residents, primarily Aleknagik,
27 Dillingham and Manokotak. I don't -- and a couple from
28 Clark's Point. That Federal hunt by virtue of the
29 Federal lands not being restricted that increased the
30 people eligible for the Federal permit so all residents
31 of unit 17, unit 9B and Stoney River and Lime Village.
32 We haven't had any interest from the traditional six
33 communities that normally get the permits or have in
34 the past.

35

36 I think I told you last October we did
37 a count in late June of 2016, we had a minimum of 1,230
38 caribou which was a decrease of a little over 80 from
39 the year before. Again that's a minimum count, the
40 estimate would put it in the high 1,300s I believe.
41 Let me check that. Yeah, it's probably around -- the
42 upper end would be 1,375, the lower end about 1,225.
43 The mid point of that would fall right at 1,300.

44

45 What's changed this year, obviously we
46 got snow and it got cold and froze everything up and
47 people have since early January, and that's when same
48 day airborne took effect, by virtue of the proposal
49 last year going into effect and it was good conditions

50

1 for people to get down there. There wasn't any snow on
2 the lakes and they could land and they didn't kill that
3 many, but they got some. Then the snow came and the
4 guys on snowmachines have been able to get after them
5 and they've been doing pretty well, the numbers -- the
6 harvest numbers change almost daily.

7
8 And we have a lot of Federal permits
9 out there. Billy can tell you the month of February I
10 think I stopped by three or four times bringing more
11 permits because people are coming and getting them and
12 getting five permits per person usually and it doesn't
13 take that many people to go through a hundred permits.
14 So we'll continue to watch over that, you know, this
15 month or March, I guess that starts tomorrow, that's
16 traditionally when we have -- when we have good snow
17 conditions people wait until March to go, it's longer
18 days, usually better traveling.

19
20 I think that's about it. I think I
21 also gave you -- maybe not, it's in the agency report,
22 but we did a composition survey in mid October of 2016
23 and come up with 51 bulls per hundred cows and 40
24 calves per hundred cows.

25
26 MS. MORRIS LYON: How many calves?

27
28 MR. ADERMAN: Forty per 100.

29
30 MR. HILL: Would you call that good?

31
32 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, that's real good.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

35
36 MR. HILL: Yeah, looking at this
37 Nushagak herd and looking at the history there, those
38 were classified as somewhat transplanted from somewhere
39 else and the herd grew from that. Genetically are they
40 pretty much the same or there's been some influx from
41 other herds, you know, with the genetically similar
42 species when they're too closely related there's
43 potential for, you know, disasters or viruses or
44 sicknesses, things like that, do you know anything
45 about that or.....

46
47 MR. ADERMAN: The original herd was the
48 Northern Alaska Peninsula herd that.....

49
50

1 MR. HILL: Uh-huh.

2
3 MR. ADERMAN:those animals are
4 from and I suspect they're almost identical genetically
5 as them, there may be a little bit of change over time.
6 Both the Nushagak Peninsula herd and the Northern
7 Peninsula herd have had exposure to Mulchatna caribou.
8 In fact we've had at least a couple of Nushagak
9 Peninsula caribou, and these were collared animals,
10 that joined up with the Mulchatna herd, you know, and,
11 I mean, we caught them when they were young on the
12 Nushagak Peninsula and they were there for a couple
13 years and they stayed there and then one day they
14 decided to go off towards Togiak and they joined up
15 with some Mulchatna animals.

16
17 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, with this winter
22 hunt and all are you hearing any anecdotal information
23 or have you been down there, I know I was trapping in
24 early January and there was really no snow in -- but
25 the tundra area I was crossing was heavily covered in
26 ice and I'm just curious do the caribou still -- are
27 they maintaining good condition now, are they able to
28 get food or is that ice and snow making it tough for -
29 just what -- do you have a gut feeling on it?

30
31 MR. ADERMAN: I was down there a week
32 and a half ago and there was about eight inches of snow
33 on the average and you could see where -- places where
34 caribou were cratering or digging out and eating sedges
35 and probably some lichens. Other area where it gets
36 drifted are obviously deeper and I think caribou tend
37 to avoid those areas, they seek out the more windblown
38 areas. I get the sense that most of the animals are
39 still on the Peninsula, if it gets too bad they'll
40 leave. And the caribou that I've seen are in okay,
41 decent shape, they don't have a lot of fat, but they're
42 not a bag of bones, at least the ones that I've seen.
43 So I think all in all they're doing all right.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you.

46
47 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

48
49 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

50

1 MR. MAINES: Thanks for the update,
2 Andy. What do you see as the trend right now, I know
3 that we've issued quite a few permits from the office
4 and stuff, you say 148 as of yesterday?

5
6 MR. ADERMAN: Correct.

7
8 MR. MAINES: How many have come in
9 within the last week?

10
11 MR. ADERMAN: It kind of slowed down,
12 I'd say maybe a dozen, 15, were reported in the last
13 week.

14
15 MR. MAINES: Fifteen permits or 15
16 kills?

17
18 MR. ADERMAN: Fifteen kills. It's one
19 caribou per permit.....

20
21 MR. MAINES: Right.

22
23 MR. ADERMAN:and.....

24
25 MR. MAINES: Because we -- like you
26 said and we've told you, you know, we're giving out
27 five at a time and like you say it's only takes 20
28 people to come in and go through a hundred real quick
29 like. So I was just kind of curious as to what sort of
30 like the average was, what type of process, how
31 frequent are they coming in because I know 150 rounded
32 out is still a far cry from what the management level
33 should be at or what the Service wants it to be at.
34 And I'm -- we are going to be taking a look at that
35 closure coming up next and I've got questions as to
36 whether or not I want to go with the recommendation or
37 I want to modify it somehow or maybe just get rid of it
38 as far as myself personally goes. Because there is
39 justifications when those emergency changes were put in
40 place, I was against only for the fact that whatever we
41 wanted to do was going to affect the number of animals
42 taken and so weather cooperated and it allowed people
43 did get out there to get them. Because whether you're
44 from the area or outside of the area the same way to
45 get down there is the same way to get down there no
46 matter who you're at, you know. You couldn't really
47 fly down there and land because it was all rough and
48 stuff like that, couldn't go down in the boat because
49 of the waves and the weather and stuff was making it
50

1 really tough, you know, until the weather conditions
2 are -- cooperated, it didn't matter where you came from
3 you weren't going to anything as far as getting those
4 numbers down, you know.

5

6 So I was just kind of trying to get a
7 lay of the land type of thing as how frequent are they
8 coming in, what's the average percentage and how many
9 people are we looking at?

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: I suspect most people
14 haven't -- that got permits haven't gone yet or if they
15 did they weren't successful possibly. It really varies
16 from person to person. I've got probably a half a
17 dozen people that I know of that have reported taking
18 all five, one guy in the fall, the rest in the winter
19 portion of the hunt really in the last -- probably the
20 last month when things got good. I get sometimes
21 permits in that report on a caribou that was taken in
22 August or September, that happens. Most of the people
23 are pretty good and I get them the next day or, yeah, I
24 mean, they stop by the office and drop them off or they
25 call me on the phone, said, hey, I got these or I get
26 them through the mail. And I usually get them within
27 the five days it's required, you're supposed to report
28 within five days. That can stretch out a little bit,
29 they may have reported, but by the time I get it
30 through the mail it may be a little bit longer. We do
31 have some PSAs and through social media, Facebook, the
32 Trading Post and stuff like that encouraging people to
33 report on their harvest, you know, in a timely fashion
34 just as a reminder, you know, because I don't want to
35 get to the end of March or near the end of March and
36 hear about caribou that were taken two, three months or
37 longer ago. I mean, I want to hear about it, but I
38 want to hear about it sooner rather than later.

39

40 MR. MAINES: Because I know that you
41 stated and it was also part of the documentation that
42 March is usually a big year for getting down there, but
43 I also know that typically in years past March is when
44 the weather starts warming up, things start melting
45 real quick like and ice is gone and stuff like that.
46 And I always joke around with our annual carnival, here
47 we go we're going to be wading in the hip boots and mud
48 boots and stuff like that, down through the muddy
49 streets and stuff like that again. And here it is,

50

1 it's going to be next weekend or this weekend in fact.
2 And I know on -- coming over on Monday I went outside
3 and I almost felt like, oh, boy, seems like spring has
4 sprung. But the air was still kind of cool so I knew
5 it wasn't quite there, but it's just around the corner.
6 So I'm kind of curious as to the -- it may be -- it is
7 definitely better than it has been for the past four or
8 five years of getting down there because there's cover.
9 You say yourself you were down there a week and a half
10 ago at eight inches, that's pretty good for down there,
11 you know, but there's been years when it's been feet
12 deep and it's like a highway. So I'm kind of really
13 concerned as to whether or not the anticipated goal
14 would even come close because to me it still sounds
15 like another 250 or 300 to be on the safe side to get
16 down to that 750, 800 number that, you know, you guys
17 are looking for.

18 So that's why I'm asking my idiotic
19 questions, I'm trying to get a sense myself.

20
21 MR. ADERMAN: Right. And, you know, if
22 we could all predict the weather it would make things a
23 lot simpler and I think if we maintain conditions or
24 they improve I think we can easily kill a couple
25 hundred more caribou. Right now we're at the highest
26 harvest level for any given regulatory year in the
27 history of this herd. You know, the permits are there
28 and but I understand I went into this winter hunt
29 thinking, you know, boy come end of January, early
30 February if it's like the last two, three winters with
31 no snow, well, we might as well reopen the State hunt
32 down there. Not that it's going to dramatically
33 increase the harvest, but it would help some.

34
35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: You know there
36 was a death over there a couple of weeks ago and so the
37 hunters are not enthusiastic about hunting right now.
38 It usually takes like two weeks or so after and then,
39 you know, they'll probably pick up on hunting of
40 caribou.

41
42 I guess one question, you know, when
43 Joe and I fly down the coats the majority of the --
44 well, this is like in the fall, I haven't flown during
45 the winter, but in early fall or late fall the majority
46 of the caribou are right at the very tip of the
47 Peninsula. And those caribous, there's -- you know, I
48 see beautiful caribou in magazines and some of those
49 caribous are just beautiful, the color. And they look
50

1 so healthy that -- the caribou down there. And I've
2 seen the caribou -- caribous, one or two of them, in
3 the middle of a mud flat right there by Picnic Point
4 or, you know, where we land and I watched a couple of
5 them and they just stood there, I was wondering if they
6 were stuck. But, you know, with such skinny legs --
7 and they weren't, you know, too far down into the mud,
8 but they never moved for like half an hour and they was
9 just standing there.

10

11 MR. ADERMAN: Was this in maybe August?

12

13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

14

15 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, it's -- it can
16 still be pretty buggy and I think a lot of times
17 they're doing that, they're out in those mud flats and
18 the windier places like the cape just trying to get a
19 little bit of relief from the bugs.

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And then in
22 the early '80s when I was doing surveys when we -- when
23 I asked about the caribou, how many caribous certain
24 household harvested, they'd start talking about the
25 differences between a caribou that's mixed with
26 reindeer. They'd say that either -- I can't remember
27 if they were shorter legged or longer legged and so
28 they would target the longer legged ones or either the
29 little shorter or the longer legged ones because they
30 knew that those were pure caribou and not a mixture of
31 half and half. I don't know if people have mentioned
32 that over there, but this is like in the early '80s
33 over there.

34

35 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, I've had heard, you
36 know, some people will actually talk about reinabou,
37 but I -- you know, back in that time period that would
38 predate the Peninsula herd and the effort to get them
39 established there. But there certainly is good
40 documentation of reindeer, you know, being in the area
41 pretty prevalent up through the '40s and maybe early
42 '50s, both around Dillingham and over on this side as
43 well. And certainly some of those animals.....

44

45 MR. MAINES: Yes, we love those
46 cardeers.

47

48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Any
49 more questions for Andy or should we move on to --

50

1 remember we set the.....

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you want to
6 take a break? I guess we can take a five minute break
7 and pick up the -- is it.....

8

9 MR. DUNAWAY: Do the action item?

10

11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes, the
12 action item.

13

14 We'll take a five minute break and then
15 pick up the action item.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And soon as we
22 get done with our action item I think we have Orville,
23 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Native Relations
24 Policy.

25

26 Okay. Action item.

27

28 MR. EVANS: So you guys have heard
29 pretty much the presentation I made before lunch, you
30 got Andy's update and so now it's a -- just basically
31 up to you guys as to what you want to do with wildlife
32 closure review 15-07. Our recommendation again was to
33 rescind it, but it's up to the Council to make their
34 decision as to what they'd like to do at this time.

35

36 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

37

38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

39

40 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
41 I haven't followed this quite as close as last year I
42 was attending all the working groups or caribou
43 management group or whatever it's called. I'm inclined
44 to support the recommendations of the Service and I'll
45 so move.

46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
48 been a motion by Dan Dunaway to support 15-07.

49

50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll second it.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by
4 Nanci Morris. Any discussions.

5

6 Billy.

7

8 MR. MAINES: What is the Service
9 intention as far as rescinding the current action, what
10 are they going to replace it with I guess is basically
11 what I'm kind of curious.

12

13 MR. EVANS: So the closure is rescinded
14 and basically there is no -- if the closure's rescinded
15 then the Board -- then the Council will generate
16 another proposal to make -- to reflect the rescinding
17 of the closure. In other words it won't be -- the
18 Federal public lands will not be closed to the taking
19 for non-Federally-qualified users, that's basically
20 what it'll do. So right now Federal public lands are
21 closed to the taking of caribou except by the residents
22 of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik,
23 Dillingham, Clark's Point and Ekuk. And so that would
24 be taken out of the regulations and it would be open to
25 all users.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

28

29 MR. MAINES: I guess then my question
30 would be how long would that be in effect?

31

32 MR. EVANS: Until it's changed.

33

34 MR. MAINES: And when was the next
35 possible chance of changing it?

36

37 MR. MAINES: Could be next year, I
38 mean, it just - it's up -- just depends when someone
39 comes up with a new proposal to change it. So the --
40 when a closure happens it's good until it's changed.
41 Now we're going to rescind the closure so we won't be
42 reviewing -- you know, there won't be a closure review
43 in three years because the closure basically will no
44 longer be in effect if the action is taken to rescind
45 the closure at this meeting. So then it'll just be in
46 the regulations as you see it, you'll have a -- if you
47 do it now -- so it's a proposal, you do it now it'll be
48 good for the 2018/2020 regulations, if you do a special
49 action to rescind it for this year then it would be --

50

1 so that would be good for this upcoming harvest year.

2
3 MR. MAINES: I guess the reasoning for
4 my questions is to ensure that there's the possibility
5 of sometime in the future that the seven villages that
6 this herd was meant to utilize has the opportunity of
7 being the ones who utilize that herd again. If it gets
8 down to the level that the Service wants it to get to
9 and that the issue looking at the bag limit at that
10 time if not now because it originally when it was first
11 in place it was one a year, then it went to two a year
12 and then back down to one a year, then all of a sudden
13 we have this explosion and it's open to everybody under
14 emergency action, same day air, same day whatever and
15 you can get up to five. And I'm kind of wanting to
16 emphasize that the need to have I guess the best
17 management practices is at a crisis management because
18 that's the way I feel like we're under right now is
19 crisis management, to save a herd that has potential of
20 feeding seven communities for decades and I would like
21 to see that. I understand that there's a potential of
22 that herd leaving those boundaries, but I don't see
23 anything wrong with that, which would make additional
24 herds maybe look at possibly sometime in the future.
25 So I'm just of wanting to maintain the emphasis of what
26 it was put there in the first place for.

27
28 That's all.

29
30 MR. EVANS: That all makes perfect
31 sense. Basically if -- you know, we get -- the idea is
32 to try to knock the herd down to that 750, 800 animal
33 limit and when it gets down to that limit the closure
34 could go back into effect and just limited it to the
35 Federally-qualified users in there. In the meantime it
36 just gives it time to see whether we can get that
37 population down there and if pressure from opening it
38 up to non-Federally-qualified users has a, you know,
39 big impact, more of an impact than we want, then we
40 definitely -- I think the State would probably go along
41 with closing it down too when it reaches that 750, 800
42 animal limit. So I think there's time, we just need
43 time to see how it's going to play out like within the
44 next year or two, maybe even only a year it would take.
45 And then we could basically reintroduce a new
46 regulation, I mean, there might have to be some special
47 actions in the meantime, but because if you do the
48 special action now and you do the proposal for
49 2018/2020 that's three years you're basically covering.

50

1 So if you think that's too long of a period you could
2 possibly just do the special action now, see how it
3 plays out, a special action to, you know, open it up
4 and then just, you know, you want to do a proposal at a
5 later time.

6

7 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

10

11 MR. MAINES: Just one last comment and
12 I said it before when the special conditions were being
13 proposed and acted upon is that once we open it up
14 statewide it'll always be statewide. Because as I
15 mentioned when Andy was at the table and I know myself
16 from living there and participating in the hunt is that
17 we can't predict the weather. Access is the key point
18 as far as being able to utilize that herd. And over
19 the past 10 years I would say there's only probably
20 been three, maybe four, less than half that time that
21 we've been able to get down there and utilize it in a
22 good, timely fashion with less opportunity of something
23 happening, whether it's equipment of loss of life or
24 whatever the problem or issue that's arisen. But I --
25 my gut is just telling me we open it up statewide it'll
26 always be statewide because the access to it is so
27 limited that we'll never achieve that goal or that
28 objective.

29

30 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

33

34 MR. DUNAWAY: Sorry, I had my mic on
35 for a while and didn't mean to. Thank you, Madame
36 Chair.

37

38 And of course we -- if we take this
39 action and I've got several questions here, this
40 wouldn't eliminate the emergency or field, I forget the
41 Federalese for field closure should there be an
42 immediate need, am I correct on that?

43

44 MR. EVANS: You are correct on that
45 emergency order or a special action.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. And then -- now
48 when I was involved with this stuff last winter there
49 was -- I'm trying to remember and I'm kind of looking

50

1 to Ms. Henry and Andy there, there was discussion about
2 kind of a management plan I think where different
3 harvest levels different hunts were allowed. Where are
4 we with that or would that likely be a proposal to come
5 out or that would be elevated if we take this
6 rescinding action?
7

8 MR. ADERMAN: Madame Chair, Andy
9 Aderman again. Yeah, Dan, what you're referring to is
10 what we called the harvest strategy and there was eight
11 different states. The first state was we're less than
12 400 and the population is stable or possibly declining
13 where there's no harvest. And then it goes along until
14 you get to state eight where you're over 750 caribou
15 and it's basically harvest everything above that, you
16 know, regardless of the trend, whether it's still
17 increasing, it's stable or going down.
18

19 MR. DUNAWAY: So through the Chair,
20 Andy. So would you expect to be submitting a proposal
21 with that plan or is that just kind of more of a
22 operational policy that would -- that the caribou group
23 would be basing their recommendations on a yearly
24 basis?
25

26 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, that was something
27 that the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee
28 endorsed and that's to give the Refuge manager, you
29 know, some direction on how many permits do we make
30 available and now things have changed a little bit,
31 there used to be just a fall season, August and
32 September, and then a winter season December to the end
33 of March. Now that's all the way through so if you get
34 a permit early on it's good until the end of season
35 unless we reach our harvest objective which we never
36 have. But if we did we'd want to step in and say, hey,
37 we need to close it down or maybe we're going to exceed
38 it a little bit, there's three days left in season,
39 it's not a big deal sort of thing. But it's just to
40 kind of give guidance on, you know, where we're at,
41 what the -- you know, numbers-wise and what the trend
42 is and how many we're going to harvest.
43

44 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. And,
45 Madam, Chair, Andy, so if we take and approve this
46 motion then you would continue -- harvest would be
47 allowed through permits, it wouldn't be thrown open to
48 a -- just kind of open season harvest ticket type
49 thing?
50

1 MR. ADERMAN: Well, if you went with
2 the recommendation then it would allow the State to
3 open a hunt using the State registration permit like
4 they did in August and September last year. And, you
5 know, that's not a bad thing if we're above our level
6 and trying to get it down. So, you know, that's
7 certainly an option to have whether we do it through
8 this or as Tom mentioned, a special action where we
9 take the closure off again for the next regulatory year
10 and then see where we're at. And I think, you know,
11 if we get down around that target level at 750, 800, I
12 don't think the State's going to have a hunt. Now I
13 can't promise that, but they -- we've been partners in
14 this from the time this -- you know, getting the
15 animals caught on the Peninsula and moving them over,
16 getting them established and I don't see that changing.

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thanks, Andy.
19 Through the Chair again. So what it reassures me here
20 is that we should take this action which I really
21 support. I was really impressed last winter, I'd say a
22 year ago, that the biologists were concerned about
23 nutritional quality of the range and the sustainability
24 of the herd in that area and by keeping to this
25 recommended level we're actually doing everybody a
26 favor and yet you're not throwing open this hunt to
27 something that's -- you'll still have really close
28 scrutiny of the hunt. So that it in most cases
29 shouldn't get out of hand and be a problem. So I'm --
30 and that there's been a wonderful partnership between
31 the State and the Federal government on this then so it
32 gives me the confidence that -- to move ahead with this
33 rather than being overprotective and actually hurting
34 ourselves in the long run by having the herd decline to
35 the levels it did previously when for whatever reason
36 they kind of atethemselves out of house and home. So
37 I know I was a lot more up on it a year ago, but I
38 really do believe and especially it's wonderful we have
39 the opportunities to hunt, I'm aching to get down there
40 myself, I've got permits sitting in my little hopper
41 where they live. So anyway I wanted to kind of get
42 back up to speed on it and I would hope that we can
43 support this recommendation that the biologists have
44 brought to us.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

2

3 MR. HILL: I guess direct this to Andy.
4 What's your estimated population right now on this
5 particular herd?

6

7 MR. ADERMAN: I'd say it's probably
8 right now 1,100 to 1,200 animals.

9

10 MR. HILL: And how many permits are
11 available?

12

13 MR. ADERMAN: About the same.

14

15 MR. HILL: Say that again, please.

16

17 MR. ADERMAN: About the same number,
18 1,100, 1,200 permits.

19

20 MR. HILL: So what -- and that would
21 take you down to this optimum in your opinion 750 or
22 about there or.....

23

24 MR. ADERMAN: We would hope it would,
25 you know, obviously if everything was perfect going and
26 like that we'd really have to -- and we will keep an
27 eye on it, but, you know, that we don't want to overdo
28 it. But again dealing with weather and -- I mean, the
29 travel conditions changed I think a fair amount from a
30 week and a half ago when I was down there to last
31 Friday. Last Friday I went on a snowmachine trip and
32 it was rough. The snow was soft, but it had drifted.
33 And I talked to a successful hunter yesterday and he
34 said it was -- and he's a young guy, he said it was 20,
35 25 miles an hour max on a snowmachine all the way down.
36 It was -- and that was when it was still soft this last
37 weekend, we were upper thirties as far as temperatures,
38 but now with it single digits all them drifts are hard
39 and it's even, you know, and that may discourage some
40 people, it may not. It's not ideal, like I think of
41 past Marches is when I've gone down there and it's like
42 this tabletop, you know, it's a good base of snow and
43 it's almost dangerous because you get complacent, it's
44 so nice to travel. It's you want to go and, you know,
45 you get looking around and then something creeps up
46 that you're not paying attention. But it's really
47 access is the key thing, it -- you know, for people to
48 get down there and I sure hope we don't lose it. You
49 know, we've got a really good start and if we get a

50

1 couple more snows I think it'll get really good again.

2

3 MR. HILL: So it -- Andy this is Lary
4 Hill again, through the Chair. But the Refuge manager
5 has the ability to shut it off, cut it off, if there's
6 too much of a harvest. What would happen then to the
7 permits that are not used, would you notify the permit
8 holders or how would you do that?

9

10 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, we'd make a very
11 public announcement and work with, you know, all the
12 traditional councils, the ones that issue the permits
13 and, I mean, get the announcement out. But, yeah, the
14 hunt would essentially be over, you know, and you'd
15 still need to report on the permits that you got,
16 whether you hunted or not you need to report, that's a
17 condition of when you get the permit and you sign your
18 name to it that you're going to follow through. But,
19 yeah, the Refuge manager has that authority, it's
20 called a delegation of authority letter to set the
21 harvest limit, the harvest objective and make any
22 closures as necessary. We may have to do some
23 additional stuff depending on how long that closure
24 would be, I think if it's longer than 60 days or.....

25

26 MR. EVANS: Yeah, that just depends on
27 the length of the closure, temporary or an emergency
28 special action, depends on the length of the closure
29 whether it's greater than 60 days or not.

30

31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
32 discussions.

33

34 (No comments)

35

36 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Although I
37 have reservation regarding this I am in support of it
38 because right now if the village people are harvesting
39 the caribou they're harvesting to dry, you know, it's
40 summer fishing season's coming on and if they realize
41 that the caribou are healthy they use the resource to
42 dry for summer use. And I would prefer for them to
43 harvest as much as they can because when they -- when
44 it gets to the point where they realize the animals
45 aren't healthy, you know, they're not going to make an
46 effort to harvest them. So I'm happy that this
47 resource is available and even though we have a concern
48 of it with the population I think with the weather
49 maybe we can get those numbers down.

50

1 So there was a motion, second and we're
2 in discussion.
3
4 If there's no more discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: All in favor
9 say aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
14 opposition.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: One opposition
19 so -- one, two, three in support and one.....
20
21 Donald, do you want to.....
22
23 MR. MIKE: Yes, there's a motion on the
24 table to accept wildlife closure review 15-07 as
25 submitted by OSM. And roll call for -- in support of
26 the motion.
27
28 Mr. Dunaway.
29
30 MR. DUNAWAY: Yes.
31
32 MR. MIKE: Mr. Hill:
33
34 MR. HILL: No.
35
36 MR. MIKE: Nanci Morris, Ms. Nanci
37 Morris.
38
39 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.
40
41 MR. MIKE: Billy Maines.
42
43 MR. MAINES: No.
44
45 MR. MIKE: Senafont Shugak.
46
47 MR. SHUGAK: Yes.
48
49 MR. MIKE: Ms. Molly Chythlook.
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

2

3 MR. MIKE: It's a tie vote, motion
4 fails. Three/three, motion -- it's a tie vote.

5

6 MR. DUNAWAY: No, four to two, it
7 passed.

8

9 MR. MIKE: Oh, I'm sorry. Sorry about
10 that. Motion passes.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
13 thank you. Thank you.

14

15 Before we go on I think we need -- we
16 have some more introductions. Is there -- Verner, did
17 you say there was somebody that hasn't introduced
18 themselves?

19

20 MR. KENRUD: Good afternoon, Madame
21 Chair. My name is Keemuel Kenrud, I'm a Arctic youth
22 ambassador and a citizen from Togiak, Alaska. Verner
23 thought I should reintroduce myself again as I've done
24 so this morning on the teleconference. So, yes, my
25 name is Keemuel Kenrud. Nice to meet you, ma'am.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. And I
28 understand you're Pete Abraham's grandson?

29

30 MR. KENRUD: Yes, ma'am. Unfortunately
31 I don't think he's been able to call in today.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, sounds
34 like he may be traveling back from Anchorage.

35

36 MR. KENRUD: He has made it home, I
37 just don't think he wants to pick up the phone quite
38 yet.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Well,
41 thank you.

42

43 MR. KENRUD: Thank you, ma'am.

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.

46

47 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
48 And please extend our best wishes for Pete's health and
49 I know he's been really fighting some bugs here lately.

50

1 MR. KENRUD: I'll definitely do that.

2
3 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you very much.

4
5 MR. KENRUD: Thank you, Dan.

6
7 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Next on the
8 agenda is Orville.

9
10 MR. LIND: Good afternoon, Madame
11 Chair, Council members. I'm going to give a brief
12 overview of the draft Alaska Native Relations Policy.
13 I'd like to introduce myself the Native way, I am
14 Orville Lind, son of Fred and Annie Lind, grandparents
15 were Dora and Fred Lind. My Native name is (in Native)
16 which means eagle in Alutiiq (in Native). I'm so happy
17 to be here.

18
19 You should have the draft American
20 Relations -- Native Relations Policy in your booklet.
21 You should have one -- the first one is the Wildlife
22 Service Native American Policy and of course this
23 policy was signed January, 2016 and applies across the
24 nation and is specific to our relationship with Federal
25 recognized tribes here in Alaska and to our nation. We
26 have over 500 Federal recognized tribes in our nation
27 and which 229 of those Federal recognized tribes are
28 here in Alaska. The second document is a draft of the
29 campaign policy for Alaska and it's titled the U.S.
30 Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Native Relations
31 Policy. The two documents are meant to be used side by
32 side and it's difficult to define terms and gain full
33 context of the draft Alaska policy without the Native
34 American policy next to it to reference.

35
36 There are two reasons we need to have
37 the Alaska specific policy as a campaign to the Native
38 American policy. The first reason is because of
39 subsistence and subsistence is a provision in the
40 Alaska Native Interest Lands Conservation Act, in the
41 Marine Mammal Protection Act, in the Migratory Bird
42 Treaty Act and in the Endangered Species Act. Three of
43 the Acts are specific to the Alaska Native peoples and
44 therefore we need to describe those responsibilities to
45 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees under them. The
46 second reason is because we are directed by law to work
47 with the Native entities in addition to working with
48 tribal governments there came a need to describe our
49 relationships with the Alaska Native organization and
50

1 to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
2 corporations. Examples of the Alaska Native
3 organizations include the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
4 Management Council, the Eskimo Walrus Commission and
5 the regional Native nonprofits like Tanana Chiefs
6 Conference and the Association of Village Council
7 Presidents. This draft Alaska Native Relations Policy
8 gives guidance to our employee for their
9 responsibilities and opportunities for relationships to
10 the tribes, the Alaska organizations and Alaska Native
11 corporations.
12

13 The section directly corresponds to the
14 Native American policy including government to
15 government relationship, communication and
16 relationships, resource management, culture and
17 religion, law enforcement, tribal capacity building,
18 assistance in funding, the implementation and
19 monitoring, the scope and limitations. And the draft
20 Alaska Native Relations Policy was developed over the
21 last year with a team of cultural and geographically
22 balanced tribal and Alaska Native corporation
23 representatives.
24

25 It is now open for public review and we
26 are providing it to the Regional Advisory Councils as a
27 courtesy. The tribal and Alaska Native corporation
28 consultation phase will be occurring during
29 approximately the same time frame of the public review.
30 The deadline for comments is April 12, 2017 which is
31 coming up. Comments may be submitted to Joanne Bryant
32 or to Crystal Leonetti which you have the information
33 in front of you. You may also give your verbal
34 feedback now and so we can have that on record. We are
35 not asking for Regional Advisory Council action, we
36 just want to provide this for your information and
37 encourage subsistence hunters and fishers to read it
38 and provide us with any comments that they may have.
39

40 Qu yana. That's all I have for you at
41 this time.
42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan Dunaway.
44

45 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair.
46 Thank you, Orville, you answered a couple of my
47 questions already there.
48

49 I've got quite a few. The first one is
50

1 an observation and I know it's just kind of a logistic
2 thing for the RAC and all, but it's kind of hard to
3 absorb this much policy in a really short period before
4 a meeting and then have a relatively soon deadline to
5 comment and this stuff takes some rumination. But
6 beyond that does this only apply to Fish and Wildlife
7 Service relations with tribes or is it for all Federal
8 agencies is one question I have.

9
10 MR. LIND: I can only say that it all
11 applies to Federal recognized tribes.

12
13 MR. DUNAWAY: But is it just Fish and
14 Wildlife and tribes or.....

15
16 MR. LIND: Which would be.....

17
18 MR. DUNAWAY:would it also be
19 Park Service?

20
21 MR. LIND:the U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Service.

23
24 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

25
26 MR. LIND: I would think -- would it
27 involve the Park Service also?

28
29 MR. COGSWELL: I'm not sure, let me
30 find out.

31
32 MR. LIND: You find that out.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Because I was curious
35 whether -- I'm just curious whether the Park Service is
36 going to have a whole separate pile of paper here or is
37 this kind of blanket for all the agencies?

38
39 MR. LIND: And I do agree that since
40 this encompasses our nation I would think that it would
41 include all Federal agencies.

42
43 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. I got several
44 here.

45
46 MR. LIND: And I will confirm that.

47
48 MR. DUNAWAY: Great.

49
50

1 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

4

5 MR. MIKE: Yes, just to answer the
6 Council's questions. This is the U.S. Fish and
7 Wildlife Service Native American Policy, it doesn't
8 apply to National Park Service or other agencies.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Donald. And,
11 Orville, so is this -- we've been discussing tribal
12 consultation at our meetings for quite sometime, is
13 this kind of what -- this is what's been distilled out
14 of those discussions?

15

16 MR. LIND: Well, there are two things.
17 There's in our Federal Subsistence Board consultation
18 policy is to have consultation opportunities with
19 Federal recognized tribes and also ANCSA corporations.
20 They're two distinctive -- where the tribes are tribe
21 to tribe consultation and with corporations it's
22 actually corporation to government consultation.

23

24 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay.

25

26 MR. LIND: And with this policy I think
27 it's just a structure to set similar guidelines to
28 follow the mandates, executive orders to consult with
29 all tribes.

30

31 MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. I
32 think that's one of my more kind of overall questions.
33 On a more specific question on the first page, one, two
34 -- third paragraph down, there's a discussion. It says
35 Alaska Natives as indigenous people have distinct
36 individual and collective human rights that have been
37 affirmed by the United Nations and supported by the
38 United States recognizing their right to self
39 determination, lands and so on. That really leaped out
40 at me somewhat. I'm not understanding the order in
41 which that sentence is constructed, In a way almost
42 seemed like it's giving primacy to the United Nations
43 over the United States and I guess I'd ask for an
44 explanation before I convey anymore reaction to that,
45 but have you -- are you aware how that got organized?

46

47 MR. LIND: I wasn't part of that
48 working group that came up with this draft, but I think
49 that's a very good question to Crystal Leonetti who's

50

1 actually the primary contact.

2

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

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MR. MIKE: Yes, thank you, Madame Chair. That's a good catch, Mr. Dunaway. I also caught that statement and I notified Crystal Leonetti and they're working on the structure of that language to make it more clear so we'll have new language when the next draft comes out.

MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Thank you. Madame Chair, I -- my initial reaction is that we first worry about the obligations of the United States government and it almost seems like were seceding some authority and some, what's the right word, anyway that we're allowing the United Nations to direct us before we're respecting the United States government and I think that's a little backwards. And there's other segments of the nation that are very concerned about how much the United Nations gets to tell us how to do our government and so I'm concerned about that.

If I may go on a little bit.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

MR. MAINES: I just wanted to respond to Council Dunaway's question about United Nations and United States. United States is a member state of the United Nations. The United Nations came out with a policy, it was a declaration of indigenous people's rights. United States signed off on it, agreeing to it. Within the declaration, the first sentence was talking about nobody has the right to take away the subsistence rights of the indigenous people period. It also talked about the treaties that were created by nations with tribes, that those treaties were supposed to be the letter of the law and that it's one of the things I've been preaching for the past year since it was nice to hear the United States finally signed off on the UN Declaration of Indigenous People's Rights that the folks in D.C. ought to be worried more about making right all the wrongs for the treaties that they've created over the years instead of who's a republican and who's a democrat.

MR. DUNAWAY: Okay. Okay. Billy, that helps me quite a bit and, yeah, because I wanted to

1 make sure I understood it before I get too wound up on
2 it beyond that. But I would -- it would be nice -- I'm
3 thinking maybe that is the explanation, but if I could
4 get a confirmation from the folks who composed it would
5 be really helpful. Yeah, we could go on a long time
6 about this.

7
8 I also wonder how this will influence
9 how the Fish and Wildlife Service can see them being
10 consistent, say the new rules that were adopted that
11 were quite controversial regarding management or
12 harvest of predators and other things -- man, I've lost
13 all the language from a year ago, I was totally loaded
14 up on all this stuff, but reading through some of this
15 policy almost makes me feel like, okay, the Federal --
16 Fish and Wildlife Service and Park Service both moved
17 vigorously to proscribe certain harvest practices that
18 the State of Alaska has been advocating. And yet I
19 look in here and some of those proscribed actions,
20 harvest methods, whatever, might totally defeat what
21 you're committing to doing within this plan of
22 continuing the opportunity -- subsistence opportunities
23 and so I don't see how the Fish and Wildlife Service
24 can be -- if they continue some of those proscribed
25 plans and we have stable, but extremely low level
26 abundance of both predators and subsistence food
27 animals we won't ultimately be providing the
28 subsistence opportunity that you commit to in this
29 policy. And that makes me kind of baffled how that's
30 going to go because some of those harvest methods that
31 you have just recently prohibited may be very well
32 designed to assure and enhance subsistence
33 opportunities on these Federal lands. And so it's like
34 you're not working together.

35
36 And that was one of my other main
37 points. There's quite a bit of material in here to go
38 through, but that's one of the -- my biggest points
39 that I'd like to make. So I'll secede the floor here.

40
41 Thanks.

42
43 MR. LIND: Through the Chair. Thank
44 you, Mr. Dunaway. To answer your first question it is
45 just the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service throughout
46 Alaska. The Native Relation Policy is just for here,
47 the tribes here in Alaska. And again this is a draft
48 keep in mind, and then again, you know, they're asking
49 to have comments by April, I believe it's in April,
50

1 April 12th. And so you can keep in mind also that this
2 draft was compiled by Native organizations, Native
3 tribes, here in the State of Alaska. And we're here to
4 again just if you have comments right now it's going to
5 go on record and that's what we appreciate the members
6 keep in mind as we go from now until April 12th.

7

8 Thank you.

9

10 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, Madame Chair, I
11 would hope that those comments I just offered up do get
12 conveyed to these people because it's kind of like
13 we're going to do this and we're going to do this and
14 which one are you going to do. And -- but I've talked
15 long enough.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Orville, do
20 you know what tribes worked on these?

21

22 MR. LIND: I don't know all the tribes,
23 I think Crystal Leonetti would answer that question.
24 And again her information's on the packet -- in the
25 packet that we provided for you. Also her email is
26 there. And she's the primary contact like I said, I'm
27 just a person that just spoke the information. She
28 couldn't make this meeting.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. The
31 reason why I ask is this is another example of cultural
32 differences. Even though they may be a tribe, the
33 expanse of knowledge and information differ. But.....

34

35 MR. LIND: Yeah, and again you can also
36 -- Madame Chair, you also -- again keep in mind there's
37 two, one is the American and then the one is Alaskan
38 and they go -- use by side by side. And again we're
39 asking just for comments on the Alaska.

40

41 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

42

43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

44

45 MR. HILL: Yes, I just had a short time
46 to look at this draft here. Forgive me, but -- and
47 this is a mandate to set up an actual Alaska Native
48 Relations Policy, is this from the Department of
49 Interior or the President or where'd that come from?

50

1 MR. LIND: Again this information is in
2 your packet.

3
4 MR. HILL: Well.....

5
6 MR. LIND: The information is in the
7 packet. Basically.....

8
9 MR. HILL:I'm sorry, I didn't get
10 the packet. But this is Lary Hill for the record. But
11 it just almost seems like looking at this draft it's
12 like the -- who is the -- who are the editors and who
13 drafted this particular document. It seems like we --
14 myself anyway, seems like we know that we should be
15 able to relate to and work with the -- our government,
16 Federal government on a one to one basis. But this
17 seems like it's USFWS up here and we're still down
18 here. That's the feeling and it's like -- almost like
19 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife has is using this document
20 to convince themselves that we need to do this when we
21 already know this.

22
23 And the other thing I had with respect
24 to the Native religions.

25
26 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: On page.....

27
28 MR. HILL: Actions start with nine.

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, nine.

31
32 MR. HILL: It's the Marine Mammal
33 Protection Act. The - this is kind of the last
34 sentence that doesn't make much sense. The Service is
35 committed to working with the tribes (indiscernible) to
36 carry out the purpose of this provision. There's still
37 -- I don't believe that the Alaska Native tribes have
38 much, this is my opinion, influence with how those work
39 out with respect to the coastal requirement for some of
40 the marine mammals. For instance how far in do you
41 have to live away from the coast to be considered a
42 coastal dweller. You know, are there miles attached to
43 it.

44
45 And another I was looking at on page --
46 I don't have a page number, cultural religion is
47 section five -- oh, 12, page 12. On the bottom I'll
48 read the last paragraph. The Service also supports the
49 development of regulations for the subsistence harvest
50

1 of fish and wildlife that reflect cultural and
2 spiritual traditions of Alaska Native people. The
3 (indiscernible) demonstrates the Service's commitment
4 to work closely with them, whatever the AMBCC is,
5 partners in revising proposals when necessary for
6 review by Service Regulations Committee. Where's the
7 Service Regulation Committee, is that a Federal Board
8 of some sort or is that U.S. Fish and Wildlife? I'm on
9 page 12 at the bottom.

10

11 MR. LIND: I'm not 100 percent sure who
12 is in the Services -- oh, I'm not 100 percent -- oh,
13 again, Orville Lind, Native liaison. I'm not 100
14 percent sure who that is, again that's another question
15 for Crystal Leonetti who's the primary contact for
16 this.

17

18 MR. HILL: See with this it's in dark
19 print which means it's fairly important to have that,
20 it means like even though we might come up with
21 regulations that (indiscernible) still we might
22 dissatisfy (indiscernible) by review by Service
23 Regulations Committee. And I'm bringing this up
24 because of the spiritual traditions for this -- I call
25 it a boogey man, the use of eagle feathers in our
26 spiritual practices. Growing up we had eagle feathers,
27 they're usually cast off, we didn't kill the eagles,
28 cast off and we used them in our ceremonies and some of
29 our masks, our power masks, our power headdresses, we
30 used them. But now you're practically a criminal if
31 you pick one up off the ground. And they've got to be
32 sent to a central location to see if you then have
33 permission to go ahead and use it. And that's what I
34 don't like. I looked at the Native American Policy on
35 -- back and forth on page -- I don't know the page
36 number, trial cultural use of plants and animals. Are
37 birds considered animals?

38

39 MR. LIND: Yes.

40

41 MR. HILL: Okay. Then based on this
42 and spiritual practices it doesn't make sense to me why
43 we cannot say for example use eagle feathers although
44 other birds are named parts that we could use. And so
45 there's that pushback there even though it say, yes,
46 you can, but then, no, you can't in the next paragraph.
47 So I would like to kind of have that addressed. I know
48 it's really an unpopular thing for the National Park
49 Service and every other Federal agency just stay away

50

1 from it, but I still would like to have that addressed.
2 But again that's what I'm talking about, the spiritual
3 traditions.

4
5 I didn't want to look at this and just
6 automatically look for something wrong, I wanted this
7 to be something I could really dig into, but not having
8 much chance to really look at it.

9
10 I guess that's it.

11
12 Thank you.

13
14 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Billy.

17
18 MR. MAINES: Thank you, Madame Chair.
19 Orville, I'm going to try to help you out a little bit
20 only for the fact I've been dabbling in a lot of the
21 Federal politics and issues and concerns in some of my
22 other work related tasks. There was an executive order
23 signed by President Obama for all the Federal agencies
24 to come up with consultation policies and every Federal
25 agency has to have their own way of consulting and
26 fulfilling their Federal and trust responsibility with
27 Federally recognized tribes. There's 567 Federally
28 recognized tribes in this country. I don't know how
29 many Federal agencies there are, but there's quite a
30 few. Department of Interior which covers most of the
31 folks in this room has one, but each one of them under
32 the Department of Interior has to have their own
33 specific agency policy on how they're going to do
34 business with the Federally recognized tribes. The one
35 that's here before us under the Fish and Wildlife
36 Service, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
37 starting working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
38 Service in developing a Native American policy. I know
39 Crystal very well and she has gone from one position to
40 another and one of the key things is to make sure that
41 the tribes not only across the country, but those of
42 her home in Alaska are part of the discussion and
43 having a seat at the table when it comes to talking
44 about customary and traditional ways of living.

45
46 The issues that both Dan and Lary are
47 bringing up and Orville's passing it onto Crystal,
48 Crystal's more than willing and more than capable to
49 answer all and any of the questions that we may have

50

1 for her. But one of the things that I wanted to bring
2 out is this, this is an executive order signed by the
3 President for this to happen. We're going through a
4 transition, we have a new Administration in place.
5 That executive order may go bye-bye. The policies that
6 have not been developed yet by some of the Federal
7 agencies may not ever be developed. The ones that are
8 in the process like this draft for Alaska may disappear
9 too. But in the process we need to continue working
10 with our partners one way or the other to ensure that
11 our voices are heard and that our concerns are being
12 addressed and that we're not throwing them under the
13 bus for one reason or another because I really truly
14 think that they're wanting to work with us because I
15 think their hearts and their soul are in the right
16 place to ensure that we have every opportunity to
17 continue to live the way that we're so used to living.
18

19

20 So, Lary, you brought up that Service
21 regulation, if you look on page 18 the definition is on
22 page 18 for you for that one.....

23

24 MR. HILL: Yeah.

25

26 MR. MAINES:one little group of
27 people that they were talking about. But I -- I don't
28 want us to get bogged down in the politics that are
29 created with the responsibility and fiduciary
30 accounting of what we're trying to do with the folks
31 that are working with those. And the folks that are in
32 this room right now, their bosses could have changed by
33 now or will change or we don't know. We have an acting
34 director who may not be the acting director tomorrow.
35 I mean, it all depends on how fast these people want to
36 move and what their agendas are. But the key thing I
37 want to point out here is that we've had a door open
38 and we want to try to keep that door open and we don't
39 want to -- I'm a good one for saying this too, alienate
40 the people that want to work with you because I've done
41 that and I've apologized for it in the past thinking
42 that they were coming out here to tell me something I
43 already knew about and that I'm the one that should be
44 educating them because they don't know the way I do and
45 think and eat and drink and stuff like that. They're
46 trying to bring a new way of doing it to an old dog
47 who's gone past the new trick stage. And I want to
48 make sure that Dan gets his questions answered, Lary
49 gets his questions answered and Orville doesn't feel
50

1 like that he's being thrown under the bus because
2 Crystal wasn't able to be here. But this has been
3 going on for a couple years. I've gone to numerous
4 meetings in Anchorage and elsewhere where Crystal and
5 the North American and Native American Fish and
6 Wildlife Society as well as the BIA has had some
7 sessions on consultation and also on subsistence and
8 stuff like that, it's nothing that's brand new. So
9 when I see this I'm saying, okay, well, they're making
10 a little headway, there's still some ways to go.

11
12 Like for me the main point with the
13 Alaska policy, the Alaska Native organizations, I can
14 come up with a, you know, handful of them right off the
15 top of my head. I'm saying why would Fish and Wildlife
16 Service want to deal with some of the Alaska Native
17 organizations that really aren't intended to deal with
18 fish and wildlife. They may be there for conservation
19 purposes, but they're not there for fish and wildlife,
20 you know. Like to me the Alaska Native Tribal Health
21 Consortium, they're in for conservation, they're in for
22 health and stuff like that. They're an Alaska Native
23 organization, why would the Fish and Wildlife Service
24 want to have anything to do with them. So the tweaking
25 of the definition of Alaska Native organization may be
26 something that the policy might have to address. I
27 understand why the Native corporations are in there,
28 they've been trying to become Federally recognized
29 tribes ever since (indiscernible) cleanup the list in
30 '75. But I understand why they're there, they're one
31 of the major landowners in the State of Alaska.
32 There's always the best management practices as well as
33 a good neighbor policy and we've got to be able to
34 manage both of them at the same time for the same
35 reasons and that's to take care of me.

36
37 And that's all, Madame Chair.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

40
41 MR. HILL: Well, on the opening on that
42 first page there and kind of follow-up with what Billy
43 is talking about, the Alaska Native organizations and
44 the Alaska Native corporations are not tribes. We are --
45 the village tribes are tribes, they're not -- the
46 corporations are not tribes. And that's what it states
47 here. What's -- the American -- Native American policy
48 provides a framework for government to government
49 relationships which furthers the United States trust

50

1 responsibility to Federally recognized tribes. And
2 again these corporations are not tribes. And the
3 Alaska Native organizations, as well meaning as they
4 are, still they're not tribes. Not that there couldn't
5 be I would believe informed of what's going on to maybe
6 have some input, but it's up to the Alaska Native
7 tribes to start this process to work with you at the
8 Fish and Wildlife.

9
10 And I don't feel you guys even really
11 need, you're already working with us, why have a bunch
12 of extra BS to go through.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Stewart.

17
18 MR. COGSWELL: Madame Chair, members of
19 the Council. I just want to kind of speak for OSM in
20 general on this issue. And this has been a lot of good
21 discussion on this, I think it's really pertinent and
22 I'm glad that we're having it. But Councilman Maines,
23 I'm very impressed with your knowledge as you're very
24 fluent in this and it's very good to see that, you
25 know, a Council member's very -- your in depth
26 knowledge of this. And you're so right, I'm only
27 acting for three more days so I don't know how --
28 they'll be a new deputy assistant regional director,
29 his name is Tom Doolittle and he starts on Monday. So
30 you know more than you thought you knew.

31
32 So no one from OSM here is an expert of
33 this. Like you said Crystal has an in depth knowledge
34 of this and she has been the Service lead for this.
35 And she's a fighter for subsistence rights. So she is
36 the one and she couldn't be here so I apologize for
37 that. You know, a lot of times we bring reports and we
38 just bring the reports that someone handed us to
39 present to you and we're not the expert. But I think
40 you summed it up that -- correctly that Crystal is the
41 lead and she's been working on this for a long time.

42
43 And any -- these are -- your questions
44 are great, you know, and we've heard some of these
45 before so we'll get the transcripts and questions, all
46 of this will go back to Crystal and it'll be discussed
47 as part of the record that, you know, we use to
48 incorporate into this or whatever document -- this
49 still is a draft so and it's great to have discussion,
50

1 that's what we're here for. So it's no problem
2 whatsoever to talk about these things and to bring your
3 questions and concerns back to us and to Crystal and to
4 Fish and Wildlife Service. So I really appreciate the
5 discussion and, yeah, kick the tires of this thing,
6 that's why it's a draft. So I appreciate the
7 discussion.

8

9

Thank you.

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Orville.

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MR. LIND: And again, you know, this is a draft and again the policy gives guidance to the employees again for their responsibilities and opportunities for relation -- stronger relationships to working with the tribes and the corporation. And, you know, I did go through this last night, it really is a greater -- I think a greater opportunity for the Fish and Wildlife Service as an agency to build their relationship through all these different types of the resource management, the cultural importance of the spiritual things that we do in our different cultures all over the State. And I think it's a good thing, but again we have to go through the process which means to work with all corporations, with all the Federal recognized tribes. From my heart I think it's a good thing, but that's just me. And this is an opportunity again for the RACs, the 10 Regional Advisory Councils to make some comments. And really again like you said it's going to be your policy, it's going to be Alaska's policy. Each RAC member represents their tribes in their regions and I think this is a good thing.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I want to ask a question. Is it necessary to have this deadline to be April 12. This is such an important document and I just saw it just, you know, this -- it wasn't given to us ahead of time and still we're trying to make comments regarding this. It sure -- I think it sure would be great to extend it so that we can have a discussion and changes made by our fall meeting.

And I'll go Dan and then Lary.

MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you, Madame Chair. I want to thank -- you know, I appreciate the discussion that's followed my initial question. Billy, you've really helped me understand a lot and that was

1 some of the stuff I struggled with right off the bat
2 was putting it in context. And I am not at all opposed
3 to having this, I'm just trying to get a handle on what
4 it means. And then also since it's more between tribes
5 and the agency I can understand why we have maybe
6 something of a peripheral, it'll affect us because of
7 it, but we're not really directly involved.

8
9 Also and just full disclosure since my
10 sons are tribal members, but not in this region I have
11 a personal interest in how it all works.

12
13 So I appreciate you bringing it to us.
14 I also wanted my other parts I want to understand and
15 all is that I know when we were hearing about how do we
16 do tribal consultation, this RAC was a little concerned
17 that if it comes to Fish and Wildlife issues was there
18 going to be a separate ramp or road for tribal agencies
19 to pursue their concerns that went around the RAC. In
20 which case not to be too much territorial about it, but
21 just this could be confusing and yet I do believe I
22 read in here, and if I read right I like it, that the
23 tribes are directed to run their fish and wildlife
24 concerns through the RAC where appropriate. I -- if I
25 understand that right because I -- if we have two roads
26 to get to somewhere it's going to create quite a bit of
27 confusion. So I appreciate that part. And I
28 appreciate the opportunity to discuss here.

29
30 And with that I'll shut up again.
31 Thank you, guys, for more explanation.

32
33 Oh, and hopefully we won't muff the
34 oscar when it comes to the actor here. Take it away
35 at the wrong time.

36
37 So good job, Stewart.

38
39 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.....

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

42
43 MR. HILL:Lary Hill here.
44 Looking at this document I appreciate the amount of
45 hard work that went into it, I know it wasn't just done
46 on the spur of the moment, I know there was a lot of
47 hard work that went into it and it was -- it's tough
48 bringing it before an audience like ours. It's tough
49 because you're going to get pushed back, you know,
50

1 because each tribe has -- or each -- like myself, we're
2 just a small tribe of probably less than 50 and
3 sometimes we feel like we're being, you know,
4 overwhelmed or overrun by the bigger areas. But to
5 have this kind of input coming through this
6 organization here, I do appreciate that. And I would
7 if it's possible to maybe see if we can get like an
8 extension on the deadline for input since not to
9 anyone's fault, but I didn't get this until yesterday,
10 I couldn't download this on my computer, it just would
11 stop, the bandwidth wouldn't accept it. So, you know,
12 there's that. But I do appreciate what's in here, I
13 know it took an awful lot of hard work so I didn't want
14 to leave you with the idea that I just didn't like what
15 this was. And it's -- unfortunately now we have to go
16 to paper and regulation and rules, we can't really sit
17 down and talk, you know, person to person. So just
18 thank you guys for all the effort you put into this and
19 I do appreciate the opportunity to comment on it.

20

21 Thank you.

22

23 MR. COGSWELL: Madame Chair. Thank
24 you, Councilman Hill, for those words and I think
25 that's the intent, you know, we want to try to
26 incorporate as much as we can. I'm texting Crystal,
27 she's in Native relations training and she's texting me
28 back intermittently. So that's why I'm texting when
29 I'm up here. I asked her is the due date firm and she
30 said it's not firm, so there might be a little bit of
31 flexibility. They're trying to get this published as
32 soon as possible because I think -- I'm not as familiar
33 with the process of how long it's been ongoing, but I
34 think they want to get it done, you know, the don't
35 want it to be open ended, but I think we do have
36 flexibility with the date. So we can talk to her more
37 about that when she's out of Native relations training
38 and get back with you.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

43

44 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
45 Madame Chair. Yeah, I was -- I had the same problem as
46 Lary did as well and Donald had contacted us and said
47 that he'd be bringing it as well which was good, but
48 with the meat that's in here it definitely did not
49 allow adequate -- enough time for any of us to really

50

1 analyze it. And that's nobody's fault, but I too would
2 really appreciate an extension on the date and I would
3 love to see this on our agenda again come fall. And,
4 yeah, I hope that the discussion with the other
5 Councils goes well too. And maybe we could hear those
6 that were able to get it and give input back, maybe
7 that could be shared as well for our consideration.

8
9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And what I --
10 another thing I'd like to do is appoint like maybe
11 Billy and Lary and Dan to be the main people to look
12 through this document and then we'll -- you know, like
13 if Nanci and the rest of us have any comments we'll get
14 in touch with you if that's okay. Because I don't want
15 this -- after we request an extension I don't want it
16 to just lay until our fall meeting, I want somebody,
17 you people, to master it as much as you can. Well,
18 not, that's the wrong word. Look at it and, you know,
19 see what.....

20
21 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

22
23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.

24
25 MR. HILL: I don't mind having a part
26 in this, I hate to -- I don't like to use the word hate
27 because it's too strong, but to criticize something
28 without offering something in return. So I'd like to
29 maybe be -- help, you know, talking about this. I
30 don't know how we can get together, texting or
31 something. But an increased deadline date, I don't
32 know what that could be, maybe before commercial
33 fishing starts or something like that when everybody
34 gets real busy. I don't know, I don't think we should
35 hold off until the August meeting. But if we have to
36 could we?

37
38 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

39
40 MS. MORRIS LYON: I would look amongst
41 my other Council members to find out if they would -- I
42 would willing to propose forming a committee of the
43 three Council members that -- oh, I'm getting a yes
44 from Donald. How does Madame Chair feel about that,
45 proposing a.....

46
47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Donald.

48
49 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair. I

50

1 wouldn't call it a committee, I'd rather call it a work
2 group. So it's like, Madame Chair, you're appointing a
3 work group to look over this policy and give its
4 comments and I propose, you know, if we -- if the
5 committee -- work group wants to meet on teleconference
6 we can set that up and I'll develop your comments for
7 the policy.

8
9 So I'll contact the work
10 group/committee of Mr. Dunaway, Mr. Hill and Mr. Billy
11 Maines and we'll -- they will start developing their
12 comments.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay.
15 Orville, your few minutes went to 30 minutes. But this
16 was good, thank you for bringing up this.

17
18 MR. LIND: And, Madame Chair, I want to
19 thank you for your time, but again like Billy mentioned
20 also, you know, if you guys from now and later on, you
21 come up with a real good question and you have real
22 good questions and comments, contact Crystal directly,
23 she's giving you the information and her mission to do
24 so.

25
26 So with that, quyana.

27
28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
29 you.

30
31 MR. LIND: Thank you.

32
33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Moving
34 on, Togiak -- we're under U.S. Fish and Wildlife
35 Service, Togiak.

36
37 MS. HENRY: Madame Chair, and members
38 of the RAC, I'm Susanna Henry, Refuge manager at Togiak
39 Refuge and I just want to thank you all for your
40 service and helping us out with all of the things that
41 we do with subsistence. So I really appreciate that.

42
43 If you look in your information book
44 for the meeting, page 39 through 44 is Togiak's
45 information bulletin. I know, Madame Chair, you were
46 looking at that on the plane over here. So some people
47 have snuck a peek at it and we're going to -- we'll be
48 able to answer questions about that as well. But
49 rather than going over that we had just a couple of
50

1 other things to work on.

2
3 One thing that Donald just passed out
4 to you was a little update on the predator rule. And
5 just a little update. It passed and became part of the
6 Federal Register I'd guess you'd say, it was published
7 on August 5th last year. And the -- I know I've
8 presented several times to the RAC about how the
9 intention of that rulemaking was to have predator
10 control limited only in -- to cases of conservation,
11 not for reasons of human consumption. And it --
12 there's a -- in the middle of the first page it says
13 Refuge manager can authorize predator control on a
14 National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska only if all
15 alternatives have been evaluated and there's a National
16 Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, compliance has been
17 completed, the compatibility determination has been
18 done and section 810 of ANILCA has passed.

19
20 And then the -- this paper goes on to
21 describe the local situation for us for unit 17 and
22 also for unit 9. And you'll see I made some little
23 hand corrections about the Nushagak Peninsula caribou,
24 updating it with Andy's latest information about that.
25 But basically what it's saying is that for our area no
26 predator control is currently warranted or proposed,
27 that really we need the assistance of the predators to
28 help with our herd management, our optimum populations
29 are -- we're either approaching those or conditions are
30 improving and there's no proposed predator control at
31 all.

32
33 Also something that you should be aware
34 of is that the rulemaking that went on last year,
35 there's several reasons to think that it might not be
36 in place permanently. And one of them is the State of
37 Alaska versus Secretary Jewell lawsuit that was filed
38 in Alaska District Court on January 13th. It's
39 currently in the process of discovery and that one
40 basically the State is saying that they want to
41 preserve their ability to hunt for future generations.
42 State officials need flexibility to manage wildlife
43 populations and they're really questioning whether or
44 not it's Federal or State management of wildlife
45 populations. So that has yet to be played out in the
46 courts.

47
48 And at the same time Congress Don Young
49 introduced House Joint Resolution 69 which using the
50

1 Congressional Review Act could reach back up to 60 days
2 in the previous Administration, during the Obama
3 Administration, and could basically nullify any actions
4 that took place within that time frame and that
5 includes the rulemaking for the Fish and Wildlife
6 Service. It does not include rulemaking for National
7 Park Service since that was accomplished earlier. And
8 from what I understand and anybody can correct me if
9 I'm wrong about this, the House Joint Resolution 69 has
10 passed the House of Representatives, but not the
11 Senate. So those things could possibly nullify it
12 anyway.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Thank you for this
17 update, it's kind of nice to get it clarified and I
18 always really appreciate the -- and now the Becharof
19 Refuge also has got an on time report in these booklets
20 and it's really handy to be able to read it ahead of
21 time and it's really handy to have it there to refer to
22 later. So I really like those.

23

24 On this predator control if I can keep
25 my thoughts straight, yeah, I know I'm hearing in the
26 news that some people are framing it up as a State's
27 rights versus a Federal government right on management
28 control and such, but it does also then -- here I've
29 kind of questioned that these rules if they're not
30 thrown out seem to kind of contradict some of this
31 Native Policy that you're showing here and I understand
32 some of these methods and means were originally
33 proposed by rural subsistence qualified people as a way
34 to preserve and enhance subsistence harvest
35 opportunities. And once again I see a real
36 inconsistency within the Service of, okay, we're going
37 to respect Native and tribal rights and we're going to
38 consult with them, but you can't do this is kind of --
39 so I think well, what's the point in the consultation
40 then here are the whole -- this other policy.

41

42 The other thing I find a little ironic
43 because I did really, really appreciate that Fish and
44 Wildlife Service followed the process, whether I agreed
45 with the actions they wanted, they followed very
46 closely the process that I understand's laid out for
47 Federal government to do these things and now they're
48 not -- they're likely to be vulnerable to these things
49 being rejected where frankly the Park Service jumped

50

1 the gun and didn't follow process and now they're going
2 to be rewarded to maybe not lose their rules which are
3 essentially the same thing. And it's -- I guess it's a
4 little bit like when you're in school and the other --
5 and you get caught chewing gum, but your -- you just
6 put it in your mouth and the other kid's been getting
7 away with it for a couple of days.

8
9 So anyway more observations than
10 anything, but the -- this inconsistency with the -- in
11 these two policies with this fresh predator control
12 thing kind of pops out at me. Although I have to say
13 from the science I've heard on the Togiak Refuge I
14 don't see really a whole lot of call for predator
15 control. There's been and I'm questioning, I think
16 there's been a lot of strong call for predator control
17 on the Alaska Peninsula and in some places
18 scientifically justified, down in Cold Bay, Unimak
19 Island area. And then the strong call for it up closer
20 to here, but the science that I understand is rather
21 ambiguous, that, yeah, there's a lot of predators,
22 there's no many moose or caribou, but are our range
23 conditions sufficient to support any more animals even
24 if you got rid of the predators. But I know folks over
25 here and some of our former members of our RAC were
26 really loudly calling for predator control from here
27 south and pretty frustrated that it really didn't go
28 anywhere. But I'll let some of them that are still
29 here speak for themselves, but I just wanted to bring
30 those points up.

31
32 Thank you.

33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

35
36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
37 Madame Chair. Yeah, and I -- you know, looking over
38 the new evaluation of this predator control policy and
39 not even knowing if it's going to be with us for very
40 long or not are two different things, but we'll leave
41 that for another day. However I will say that at least
42 for the first time I am glad to see at least we can say
43 there's A, B, C and D to go through in order to
44 implement predator control whereas before it was just
45 an ambiguous term that was left out there that could be
46 implemented, no rules, no -- nothing that was going to
47 define it for us so we could -- if we had a case which
48 I think we had a very strong and valid case, I don't
49 know that we do anymore, I'll be the first to admit
50

1 that because our caribou population is coming back.
2 But I do think it's something that we need to continue
3 to address should it happen again that we have a huge,
4 quick, rapid decline in the caribou population that's
5 detrimental to all of the subsistence users in the area
6 which it was without question and for many years.

7
8 So that being said all I will give this
9 is a well, we're getting there because when I look at
10 this and consider having actions being evaluated by
11 NEPA, that still doesn't tell me what the hell NEPA's
12 going to tell me when it goes through the NEPA process.
13 And when I look at a -- the same thing in ANILCA
14 section 810, these are all still going to be
15 evaluations that are determined by people who are not
16 subsistence users in the area primarily. They're going
17 to be somebody who it's been sent to sitting in a desk
18 deciding whether or not we know what we're talking
19 about or not. So I think that at least we've got a
20 start, but I still think we have a long way to go.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Do you have
23 some more information, Andy?

24
25 MS. HENRY: Yes, we have a little
26 proposed cleanup I guess from the wildlife closure
27 review that we wanted to talk over with the group.

28
29 MR. EVANS: Okay. So this is Tom, Tom
30 Evans with Fish and Wildlife Service, OSM. So as part
31 of doing the closure review process the Board -- the
32 Council here voted to rescind the closure, WCR 15-07,
33 but follow-up to that the Togiak National Wildlife
34 Refuge would like to -- plans to propose a proposal
35 that will fall -- that will follow this and basically
36 be a proposal without the restriction to the Federal
37 public lands. So the proposal would read -- this would
38 be the proposal they would put forward for this thing
39 would be that for unit 17A and 17C caribou. Unit 17A
40 and 17C, that portion of 17A and 17C consisting of the
41 Nushagak Peninsula south of the Igushik River, Tuklung
42 River and Tuklung Hills west to Tvativak Bay up to five
43 caribou by Federal registration permit. And that would
44 be the new -- the regulation would go from August 1st
45 to March 31st which is the same dates that the current
46 season is. What would be missing would be the Federal
47 public lands are closed to taking of caribou except by
48 the residents of the seven different villages.

49
50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

2
3 MS. MORRIS LYON: Just a quick
4 question. And can you tell me what your justification
5 might be for wanting to leave it at five, you want to
6 leave it a larger, generous amount. I guess my -- and
7 my reluctance stems from would we not be safer to
8 perhaps have something a bit more conservative and
9 increase it if we deemed it appropriate rather than
10 going from liberal and then taking it down to
11 conservative.

12
13 MR. ADERMAN: The regulation is up to
14 five. So the -- and it again falls to the Refuge
15 manager by delegated authority to set that harvest
16 limit. So it -- five is the max, it could be anything
17 less than that.

18
19 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

20
21 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you, Madame
22 Chair. Thank you. That -- yeah, we -- since we got
23 rid of something we've got to fill the hole. And that
24 up to is a key point that from -- in the past which
25 would allow I think -- in my mind makes this thing way
26 more workable and is a lot less of a -- it reduces my
27 concern about excessive outside, nonlocal kind of
28 harvest and especially they have to get the permits,
29 have to come to town and that sort of thing.

30
31 I'd be willing to make a motion to
32 support this proposal as the RAC to the Federal
33 Subsistence Board, I would even consider either
34 carrying it to the Advisory Committee to support as a
35 proposal, kind of look for the pleasure of the Council.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. So
40 you've made a motion?

41
42 MR. DUNAWAY: Move to support the
43 language.

44
45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Okay.
46 He's -- Dan Dunaway has moved to support the -- what
47 would we call that, wildlife proposal. I guess I need
48 a second.

49
50

1 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll second it.
2
3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seconded by
4 Nanci. Any more discussion.
5
6 (No comments)
7
8 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: All in favor
9 say aye.
10
11 IN UNISON: Aye.
12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
14 opposition.
15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.
17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing none,
19 thank you.
20
21 MS. MORRIS LYON: I heard one, one
22 opposed.
23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, there was
25 one opposed?
26
27 IN UNISON: Uh-huh.
28
29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, sorry.
30
31 MR. ADERMAN: So we still have a little
32 bit of time yet?
33
34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yes.
35
36 MR. ADERMAN: Okay. I guess I want to
37 apologize for not being here earlier, I was listening
38 in while I was waiting in Dillingham. But I did draft
39 a proposal that affects Federal harvest limits for
40 Mulchatna caribou. And what it would do is align with
41 the State bag limits, essentially the Board of Game
42 said in the entire region that Mulchatna caribou exist,
43 they simplified the regulation and just said two
44 caribou. Our regulation says two caribou, however only
45 one can be a bull and only one can be taken from August
46 1st to January 31st. So I'm proposing that in 9A, 9B,
47 9C, Alagnak drainage, in 17A the drainages west of
48 Right Hand Point, 17B and 17C east of Wood River, 19A
49 and 19B to basically just make it two caribou by State
50

1 registration permit.

2

3

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

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registration permit.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Andy. I -- you were probably in flight when we discussed Richard Wilson's proposal that is being formulated as we speak for opening up north of the Naknek River because if you include all of 9C you run the risk of hitting the Northern Peninsula herd versus the Mulchatna herd. Which obviously if they cross the river we can run the same risk, however do -- is there anything in there to preclude that because all I heard was 9C?

MR. ADERMAN: I did hear I think most of that discussion and as I understand it it's -- what I would propose in this thing is 9C, that portion within the Alagnak drainage. So I think that's north of the area that Richard.....

MS. MORRIS LYON: He might have that wording and north. And I guess I would be more in favor if it included the language and north of the Naknek River to clearly define that area north of the Naknek River to the Alagnak drainage.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Is this for 9C?

MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah.

MR. ADERMAN: For 9C. So you want that area.....

MS. MORRIS LYON: I think it should define north of the Naknek River. The Alagnak drainage is fine, but it doesn't -- it's not as defining.

MR. ADERMAN: Okay. And then just I guess one other thing, an update. Moose we had the winter hunt over in 17A there were 18 cows and nine bulls that were taken during that hunt. It started in late December and went to late January.

MR. DUNAWAY: What was the composition?

MR. ADERMAN: Eighteen cows and nine bulls. And then I've got a little bit of results from

1 the October moose survey that we did. Some of it's in
2 the right up there on page 40, but as far as 17A goes
3 we got an estimate of -- an uncorrected estimate of
4 1,280 moose which is a little bit of an increase over
5 the last survey that was done in 2011 which there was
6 1,166. And I say it's uncorrected because we did
7 sightability trials knowing that we're -- you know,
8 we're likely to miss moose in the absence of snow. If
9 I apply that correction factor, that sightability
10 correction factor it suggests that we're over 1,700
11 moose in 17A. That being said the uncorrected estimate
12 at 80 percent confidence is 19 percent of the mean
13 which is a bit high. At 90 percent confidence it's 23
14 percent of the mean. I'd really like that to be 15 or
15 less. So the way -- part of it is a result of our
16 incorrectly stratifying or calling a unit high or low
17 based on how many moose we think we'd count in there
18 and then, you know, some of the lows where we thought
19 we'd count three or less moose we had four or more.
20 Some of the highs that -- where we expected to count
21 four or more moose we had zeros. You know, it's --
22 part of it's a learning thing. I think right now moose
23 are probably more distributed, normally they're down in
24 the riparian areas and we should be able to stratify at
25 a better level. We are planning to repeat that survey
26 here in a week and a half. Again hopefully you'll get,
27 you know, a more precise estimate for 17A.

28
29 The other thing that came out of the --
30 that October survey is we got some composition data
31 that we haven't really had before. And just Refuge-
32 wide we come up with an estimate of 61 bulls per
33 hundred cows and a little less than 34 calves per
34 hundred cows which are both pretty decent figures. But
35 nothing to compare it to because that's really the
36 first time we did this and -- yeah.

37
38 So that's all I had.

39
40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So is that the
41 ratios for the moose?

42
43 MR. ADERMAN: Yeah, I'm good with that.
44 It's a -- that means there's quite a few bulls out
45 there for people to harvest and the population is still
46 growing which we need to address I think probably. I'd
47 like to again get a little more precise estimate, but
48 don't want to get into a Nushagak Peninsula caribou,
49 you know, situation, if we can avoid it.

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

2

3 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you for that
4 report, that's -- 61 bulls to cows, I know where I
5 should be going hunting. But we kind of slid by one
6 place. Are you looking for us to support or actually
7 submit this proposal for the Federal harvest on
8 Mulchatna caribou?

9

10 MR. ADERMAN: That's up to the
11 Council's purview. If they wish to endorse it that's
12 fine, if not we can put our name on it as well.

13

14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

15

16 MR. DUNAWAY: Well, as you well know in
17 the time I've been on this Council I've always liked to
18 see as much consistency among regulations to minimize
19 potential confusion to the public. And so I would like
20 to make a motion to submit this proposal, the language
21 as you've discussed with us, I think you could even use
22 a little, if you need to, tweaking to make consistent
23 with Mr. Wilson's. But I would move to support the
24 proposal as a RAC.

25

26 MS. MORRIS LYON: I'll second it.

27

28 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. There's
29 been a motion to support that Mulchatna caribou
30 proposal that Andy presented to us, seconded by Nanci.
31 Anymore discussions?

32

33 (No comments)

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Seeing
36 none, all in favor say aye.

37

38 IN UNISON: Aye.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
41 opposition.

42

43 (No opposing votes)

44

45 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Thank you.

46

47 Any more.

48

49 MR. ADERMAN: No, thank you, Madame

50

1 Chair.

2

3 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thanks
4 for your presentations.

5

6 The next one on the agenda is Alaska
7 Peninsula/Becharof.

8

9 MR. CADY: Madame Chair, members of the
10 Council. My name's Tom Cady, I'm the deputy manager at
11 Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge.

12

13 I just might note that we're going to
14 run about 20 minutes so is everybody comfortable with
15 going over a little bit still? We're right about 5:00
16 o'clock I think.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: We're going.

19

20 MR. CADY: Okay. Let's go for it.
21 Well, I just have a couple of quick staff updates and
22 then I'm going to turn it over to my colleagues for
23 reporting out on their respective programs.

24

25 The first thing I want to reiterate is
26 William Smith, Bill, he's joined our Refuge as the
27 supervisory biologist just in the last few months so
28 he's kind of running the show now for our biological
29 program. And also in our biological program, I don't
30 know if any of you know Kevin Payne, but he was brought
31 on as our subsistence biologist a little over a year
32 ago and he and his family recently located to Colorado.
33 But he is still working remotely for the time being.
34 So to be determined on the outcome of his position
35 ultimately. And I'll also mention Dom Watts, Dominick,
36 recently moved to the Kenai Wildlife Refuge to be the
37 wildlife biologist over there for them. So we'll be
38 looking hopefully for a new mammalian biologist when we
39 get past the hiring freeze.

40

41 So with that I'll turn it over to Sarah
42 Griffith.

43

44 MS. GRIFFITH: Hi, Sarah Griffith,
45 visitors services manager for the Refuge.

46

47 So over the past year I've had the
48 pleasure of working with BBNA, Verner Wilson, Cody
49 Larson and everybody else to hire a youth ambassador,

50

1 film intern, Lakota Thompson, a local student here in
2 Bristol Bay. And with her we -- actually I traveled
3 the Peninsula with her and she interviewed folks in
4 some of the villages on subsistence and changes over
5 time. And we actually have the film here to show you
6 today, it got a sneak preview at the Elders and Youth
7 Conference up in Fairbanks this past year and I did
8 travel with it this past fall and spring. Well, I
9 should say a rough draft, one of the drafts of it while
10 carrying out education programs for the migratory bird
11 calendar contest.

12

13 So with that I'd love to have you guys --
14 you all be the first ones to see our final project.

15

16 (Film played for Council)

17

18 MS. GRIFFITH: So that's from our
19 visitors services program oral history project and a
20 lot of the folks we interviewed were more willing to
21 share once we expressed that it was going to be used
22 for educational purposes and that was the main focus.
23 And we're actually looking forward to taking the film
24 on tour almost I guess. Because we're going to -- Bill
25 and I are actually heading down to Port Heiden this
26 weekend to show it at carnival. So really excited to
27 take back the products that BBNA and the Refuge worked
28 on with Lakota and take it back to the villages who
29 gave their time and the folks that gave their energy to
30 spend some time talking with us.

31

32 Thank you.

33

34 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

35

36 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
37 Chair. Yeah, I commend you on it and I know the young
38 person who produced it and I'm glad that she had the
39 opportunity to do that and I thank you for offering the
40 young people in the community the opportunity as a
41 whole. Do you have anything else on your plate in the
42 coming year or the coming years that you plan on
43 opening up to the younger generation to get them a
44 little bit more involved?

45

46 MS. GRIFFITH: Nothing specific, but
47 that is a priority for the Refuge definitely to involve
48 the next generation of conservationists and get them
49 involved. So I know that's why I do make a very large
50

1 part of my program, you know, visiting the villages and
2 working with the youth, not just here in Bristol Bay,
3 but down the Peninsula as well. So no projects
4 specifically on the hopper, but definitely I'm always
5 on the lookout for opportunities to get youth involved.

6

7

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

8

9

10 MR. HILL: Thank you for that. It's a
11 really good idea to have someone involved to take down
12 what these people are saying. When they started
13 talking about braided stuff seal gut, I -- that's some
14 of the best eating. If you've ever had it, it's like
15 eating bone marrow. Same -- tastes the same, it's
16 really, really delicious.

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And someone, one of the presenters said I don't know why we like these foods, it's in us. But that's a really true statement. We're -- I believe we're genetically predisposed to have these kinds of foods. For instance if I spend a week in Anchorage or somewhere else I could eat and eat and eat and I won't get full. I'll go home, my wife if she's with me will sit down with -- she'll chop up a bunch of moose meat, make a gravy with some rice and onions and that there just makes my body feel good again. Or I sit down with a smoked fish and eat a couple of pieces of smoked fish, you know, have some tea, that there is -- it kind of refurbishes my body, I don't feel so tired. But eating all that processed food which I'm not used to, it really makes me feel ill. So it's here, that's -- we can't escape it.

So having this kind of input and getting younger people involved, they're few enough as it is so I'd like to encourage anybody else, you know, like yourself, what you're doing here, just, you know, keep it up, let's get more of the younger people involved.

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Thank you.

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MR. SMITH: I'll give a brief update. Bill Smith, I'm the new supervisory biologist for Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Refuges. As Tom said I'm brand new to the area, wife and I moved up here in November, mid November of this last fall. So I'm kind of in the uphill learning curve of Alaska and its complexities with hunts and hunt packages and stuff

1 like that.

2

3

4 I wanted to give you just a brief
5 update of some things the wildlife programs do. And at
6 Peninsula/Becharof -- there's a complete update in your
7 package, but I thought I'd hit a few of the high spots
8 that are most important.

8

9

10 One of the things we're really high
11 priority for the year is the completion of an inventory
12 monitoring plan for the Refuge. This is an
13 administrative process, not a survey unto itself. But
14 we're really hoping to go through this process, have it
15 complete by the end of the year that really prioritize
16 wildlife and habitat survey work on the Refuge as well
17 as research projects if any come out of the process.
18 This process will address not only -- will address
19 subsistence and subsistence users as mandated by
20 ANILCA, treaty and policy obligations and also
21 increasing our knowledge of rare and limited resources.
22 And it's all aligned to make sure that we're still
23 obtaining the Refuge purposes as established by ANILCA.
24 So as I said we're going to try to have that done by
25 the end of the year, it's an internal administrative
26 thing, but it's very similar to the process the Park
27 Service has gone through previously, our sister agency
28 in Department of Interior.

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30 Dave Crowley's here with Fish and Game,
31 I'm not going to go into the moose survey numbers per
32 se. Dave has a far better grasp on that than I do.
33 But I will kind of hit two high points related to that.
34 As Tom alluded to we're kind of a little short staffed
35 right now in the biological program on the Refuge with
36 Dom moving over to Kenai and losing Kevin as our
37 subsistence biologist. So it's just the two of us,
38 myself and Melissa Cady right now at this point.

39 Moose surveys continue to be a high
40 priority for us on 9C and 9E. Poor weather conditions
41 continue to kind of hamper some of our ability,
42 inadequate snow cover, high winds, to get a lot of that
43 data. We are looking to continue that effort. We are
44 also looking to try to implement some of the
45 correlation factors that Andy and Pat have been working
46 on on Togiak to get at a much better understanding of
47 how to get better moose numbers with inadequate snow
48 cover on the Refuge. It takes some effort to get that
49 underway and being short staffed it'll be a little bit

1 of a workload too, but it's something we want to make a
2 high priority to try to get a correlation factor here
3 to get better numbers to Fish and Game and to the
4 Boards for harvest information.

5
6 We have an ongoing moose reproduction
7 and survival survey Dom was involved with for quite a
8 while on the Refuge. And it's something we want to try
9 to continue, it's a little bit of a challenge with
10 being short staffed. We have -- it's been providing a
11 fair amount of good information in relation to the role
12 predation is playing on this moose herd on the
13 Peninsula as well as calf survival and herd condition.
14 Trying to keep that active being a little bit short
15 staffed right now is a little bit of a challenge, but
16 we're going to try to work with Dave and Fish and Game
17 staff to try to keep the 15 collars that are still
18 active out there still actively monitored and possibly
19 replaced because they are starting to -- at the end of
20 their usable life.

21
22 A quick follow-up on the Cape Greg
23 walrus haul out. It was discussed last year I believe
24 at the RAC meeting and came up this year as well. We
25 don't have a lot to offer on that. It's off Refuge,
26 but as you've already covered the -- it was active in
27 June of 2016 and the State adjusted the Igushik salmon
28 district boundary to accommodate that one mile closure
29 of that haul out. The Refuge didn't actively survey
30 it, but when we were in the area we definitely tried to
31 go over and make sure we understood if it was active or
32 not. We don't know when it became inactive, some local
33 folks around here might have better information than I
34 do, but we definitely noticed in November and December
35 there was no activity on that haul out. If that haul
36 out does become active again we anticipate that the
37 marine mammal people would probably be looking to
38 implement the same kind of salmon district boundary
39 adjustment to accommodate that haul out.

40
41 The last thing I'd like to give a brief
42 update on is the emperor goose outreach program. That
43 hunt as has already been covered is going to be open
44 for the first time in 37 years since its closure in
45 1987. The spring hunt is a rural subsistence hunt and
46 Fish and Wildlife Service, the migratory bird people as
47 well as Refuges have come up with an outreach plan to
48 get information out to the local communities and Sarah
49 and I are going to be participating, kind of making
50

1 sure the local villages here on the Peninsula get a lot
2 of this information related to this opportunity being
3 open. The outreach plan is going to be targeted
4 probably towards Pilot Point, Port Heiden, Chignik and
5 Perryville, areas that have larger concentrations of
6 emperor goose and communities with a history of harvest
7 there. We're going to definitely try to acknowledge
8 that this hunt wouldn't be possible without the support
9 of subsistence hunters who for decades kind of had to
10 make the sacrifice of taking this off the plate
11 figuratively and literally as a harvest potential for
12 them. And we're going to target our talking points
13 that subsistence users should think of it as a special
14 opportunity for a special food. And there's good
15 information in the packet and I've got some of the
16 handouts back on the back table back here that we're
17 going to be bringing to the local villages along with
18 some posters that convey that the bird is susceptible
19 to overharvest and it's the choice of the subsistence
20 users to take a few and leave more. So it's a pretty
21 nice package they put together, we're going to be the
22 vehicle to getting that information out to the local
23 villages.

24
25 That's all I have.

26
27 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

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29 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

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31 MR. DUNAWAY: Thanks. Great. Since
32 you're new and I don't know if this term is used up
33 this far, but when I lived in Sand Point and I worked
34 in and out around King Cove, I mean, that closure on
35 emperor geese came out and I'm pasting up everything
36 and nobody knew what I was talking about, what the
37 hell's an emperor goose, we only hunt beach geese. So
38 that -- they called them beach geese down there. So if
39 -- especially if you get down around Perryville and
40 stuff. By now maybe that know what it is because
41 there's been a lot of publicity, but I just thought
42 I'd.....

43
44 MR. SMITH: That's good to know.

45
46 MR. DUNAWAY:mention to you
47 because people were just totally confused. And I'm
48 excited because I remember hunting them and in Unalaska
49 and I liked eating them, but other people I hunted with
50

1 didn't like eating them so I got them all. But it's
2 nice to see it turn around. Once in a while wildlife
3 management works with cooperation.

4
5 So good luck and thank you and welcome
6 to.....

7
8 MR. SMITHS: Thank you.

9
10 MR. DUNAWAY:this part of the
11 world.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
14 comments.

15
16 (No comments)

17
18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Katmai.

19
20 MR. STURM: Good after, Madame
21 Chairwoman and distinguished Council members. Thank
22 you for letting us come and talk with you today.

23
24 I guess I just wanted to mention before
25 we gave a couple of updates, we just have a couple
26 today, that when we got going this morning, Madame
27 Chair, you mentioned that you're not able to get out
28 like you used to and take advantage of the subsistence
29 hunting opportunities. And I guess I would just
30 observe that I'm starting to have my doubts given the
31 way that you're running an efficient and productive
32 marathon of a meeting here today.

33
34 I guess I'll just give one update which
35 is relating to the Pike Ridge access plan that has been
36 going on in and around Katmai National Park and
37 Preserve for a number of years. A couple of years ago
38 there was evidently a scoping process where we in the
39 Park Service went out and solicited some information
40 from interested stakeholders about how to address an
41 ongoing issue with regard to access to lands adjacent
42 to the Park and a particular trail that crosses onto
43 National Park designated lands and wilderness lands.
44 We compiled a bunch of information regarding that
45 scoping effort and have since been working on
46 developing a number of alternatives as to how best to
47 move forward with a decision on how to manage that
48 particular portion of the Park. I guess that I would
49 just like to say that we expect to be sharing a draft
50

1 version of our compliance documentation sometime later
2 this spring, perhaps summer timeline and I guess we're
3 hoping to, you know, move towards a decision on how to
4 manage that area sometime later this fall/winter.

5

6 I guess I'd be happy to take any
7 questions about that plan if there are any.

8

9 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

10

11 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you,
12 Madame Chair. I was afraid that perhaps it might get
13 dropped or set aside for as long as possible when Diane
14 left or retired, I don't know how you put that
15 properly. But anyway I'm very glad to hear it hasn't
16 because it is a trail that's been used by many
17 generations of our subsistence users around here.....

18

19 MR. STURM: Uh-huh.

20

21 MS. MORRIS LYON:and I think that
22 we should see it through and I'm very happy to see that
23 you've maintained it and kept it in its proper
24 location. And I hope we do come to a good conclusion.

25

26 MR. STURM: So I'll look forward to
27 your comments when we do have a draft for you to
28 review.

29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
31 comments.

32

33 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

34

35 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

36

37 MR. DUNAWAY: Richard isn't -- hasn't
38 had the opportunity to be here, but I don't know if
39 he's introduced himself to your office, he lives here
40 in town. But I'm sure he's very interested in seeing
41 it solved too. So I'm pleased and I don't even live
42 here, but it's very -- it was an issue a little bit for
43 me when I worked back and forth over here. So good
44 going, keep it going.

45

46 Thank you.

47

48 MR. STURM: Thank you. And, yes,
49 Richard has mentioned that to me already.

50

1 Thank you.

2

3

4 MS. CHISM: Madame Chair, and RAC
5 members, my name is Linda Chism and I am speaking with
6 you today on behalf of questions that Mr. Wilson and
7 Ms. Morris Lyon mentioned at the previous RAC meeting
8 which is to give you an update on the unplanned road
9 situation out at Brooks Camp.

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So just to review the series of events, there was in the fall of 2014 a rehab project for a historic cabin out at Lake Brooks. And there was a misunderstanding about the work plan and in terms of those different steps we're still in an active investigation. But what I can say is that a 180 foot section of road was built to allow for the health and safety issues of accessing Brooks Lake while repairs were being done to the historic building. So unfortunately that action was done without proper consultation or compliance.

And so it's in terms of improving those avenues we've worked really hard in the last year to build an actual protocol to make sure that we're doing all of our compliance and consultation steps as necessary and being very early with tribes and corporations when appropriate and necessary. So once we understood the situation in 2015 we've closed that section of road, it's still being closed. We've been in contact with the Council of Katmai Descendants and local tribes and corporations including Pauvik. We met with Pauvik in December and right now we're in the process of asking the local tribes to come back and meet with us to come to a mitigation that is copacetic for all parties.

So we've also conducted damage assessments and we've heard from CKD and local tribes that they wanted that kind of action done. So we conducted a noninvasive assessment just to ascertain what kind of damage might have been done to the archeological site that was underneath the road. So it looks like the site is still intact, but the concern is that compression and frost heaving over time might continue to degrade the site if the road is kept.

So we'll talk with the tribes, with the corporations, with Pauvik, to see what kind of remediation, revegetation plan and additional items to

1 have everyone feel whole we can pursue in terms of that
2 action.

3

4 So that's where we are right now.

5

6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

7

8 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, thank you. I
9 appreciate the update very much and would you mind
10 giving us another one come fall after the busy season
11 and let us know what's happened since and the
12 discoveries that you may have made, good or bad?

13

14 MS. CHISM: Certainly.

15

16 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay.

17

18 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

19

20 MR. HILL: I'm Lary Hill, my family
21 lives here, I'm a member of the Pauvik. And when I
22 first heard about this it seemed like, you know, oh,
23 no, back to the wild west days, do it first and ask for
24 forgiveness later and that kind of thing. And it was
25 awful, it was bad that it happened, but what I'm
26 interested in is the remediation or reclamation of the
27 area and, you know, has the site been named as a
28 historic site or it's just an archeological ongoing dig
29 or what's happening with that?

30

31 MS. CHISM: So the site in question,
32 it's called XMK008, and it -- I know that's how I refer
33 to it. So it's -- it has several components meaning
34 that there are different times when people lived at
35 that site and it's as old as 3,600 years ago. So
36 that's actually a very unique component and culture
37 because it's when people started living at Brooks Camp
38 on a more permanent basis. So it's actually part of a
39 larger National Historic Landmark, the Brooks River
40 Archeological District National Historic Landmark.

41

42 MR. HILL: Okay. I also know that
43 there are sites like that all through the Katmai
44 National Park area, all the still streams and river
45 beds where people camped and fished and stuff, but, you
46 know, the -- I'm assuming a blatant disregard for the
47 importance. We felt like how about if I went to your
48 hometown and dug up your graveyard and, you know, put a
49 road through it, that was what it meant. So I

50

1 appreciate the update on it and the fact there's some
2 remediation going on. And the people that built the
3 road, is there any kind of, I don't know, feedback or
4 stuff that they can contribute, you know, funding or
5 anything like that to help with the reclamation?
6

7 MR. STURM: I guess I would say that
8 that's still a work in progress. What we the Park
9 Service have committed to is to do a proper restoration
10 and to work through a process with feedback from tribal
11 representatives to determine what that might be. I
12 think regardless of what the ultimate investment will
13 be we will find a way to cover the cost. We feel badly
14 that this has happened and we want to do what we can to
15 make it right.
16

17 MR. HILL: Okay. Thank you. I'm a
18 member of the -- of Pauvik, I'm not a Council member,
19 just a member and I really -- having grown up in this
20 area and spent some time up there it was.....
21

22 Anyway I'm glad something's -- that's
23 not being dropped and everything's being worked on.
24 That's good.
25

26 Thank you.
27

28 MR. STURM: Thank you.
29

30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: My burning
31 question is are you folks partners with BBNC or is that
32 another entity?
33

34 MR. STURM: So I think it's in
35 reference to BBNC's recent acquisition of Katmai Air
36 and Katmailand. They are what we call a
37 concessionaire, they provide services to visiting
38 guests through those properties and the Grosvenor
39 property. And in -- I guess in a sense we are
40 partners, we certainly work together to determine what
41 expectations are for providing an appropriate visitor
42 experience and try to find ways to work together to
43 provide just that when the season hits. So in a sense
44 we are, but ultimately they are a concessionaire that
45 provides a service that we need help to provide.
46

47 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We
48 hadn't heard from or hadn't heard any reports of that
49 and I think we've been trying to get the members of the
50

1 BBNC, a representative to come and talk to us
2 regarding, you know, that and we haven't had luck. Our
3 meetings have been scheduled when they're having their
4 Board week. So that's good to know.

5
6 MR. STURM: So what I can say is I do
7 have a call with BBNC staff on Friday and I can mention
8 this to them and try to get them to your -- to the fall
9 meeting if that might work.

10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, I think
12 Donald has contacted them. We just couldn't get them
13 today because this week is their Board week.

14
15 MR. STURM: That's right, it is.

16
17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And then our
18 fall meeting they were also busy, but, yeah, mention
19 that when you talk to them.

20
21 Okay.

22
23 Any other comments.

24
25 (No comments)

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Hearing or
28 seeing none, thank you.

29
30 MR. STURM: Thank you.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah. Okay.
33 I think MOU?

34
35 MS. MORRIS LYON: No, Lake Clark.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, Lake
38 Clark.

39
40 MS. RUPP: Madame Chair and members of
41 the Council, my name is Liza Rupp and I'm the
42 subsistence program manager and the cultural resources
43 program manager for Lake Clark National Park and
44 Preserve.

45
46 And I have one item for your attention
47 today, specifically one of our SRC members, Teni
48 Hedland, who is a RAC appointed member, his term
49 expired in November I think. And so I was -- I'm
50

1 requesting that you discuss whether you'd like to
2 reappoint him. I have spoken with him and he would
3 like to continue if you would like to reappoint him.
4 So that would be my request for you to discuss because
5 we are always in need of our members. We have one
6 empty seat that we're trying to fill as well that's a
7 State -- a Governor's appointee. So we like to keep as
8 many -- close to a full roster as possible because as
9 you all know it's hard to get everyone in one place for
10 a meeting such as this.

11
12 So that's my request.

13
14 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci.

15
16 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes, I -- it would be
17 my honor to nominate Teni to continue on as the Lake
18 Clark National SRC representative to the Board.

19
20 MS. RUPP: Thank you.

21
22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Nanci
23 has made a motion to I guess reappoint -- is it Teni?

24
25 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yes.

26
27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: To SRC.

28
29 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.

30
31 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: And seconded
32 by Dan Dunaway. Any comments.

33
34 MR. HILL: Before this goes -- Teni
35 Hedland's my brother-in-law.

36
37 MS. MORRIS LYON: Sorry. I'm sorry,
38 Lary.

39
40 (Laughter)

41
42 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

43
44 MR. DUNAWAY: I'll tell him you said
45 that.

46
47 (Laughter)

48
49 MR. DUNAWAY: I know Teni can take a
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1 joke. So he -- mostly he makes them though.

2

3 I was -- word of mouth's good, we
4 didn't -- I'm used to seeing a letter and all that, but
5 if we -- we'll take your word on it I guess and, yeah,
6 I know it's been problematic to keep the SRC staffed
7 and also anyway you can I wish you luck because it's
8 helpful to us to get the input from the SRCs. So
9 there's been times in the past that we really needed
10 that information. And I've known Teni for many years
11 and he's got a lot of knowledge to share.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: He was on our
16 Board for a time too.

17

18 Any other discussions.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: All in favor
23 say aye.

24

25 IN UNISON: Aye.

26

27 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any
28 opposition.

29

30 (No opposing votes)

31

32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
33 thank you.

34

35 But I've been really appreciative about
36 this -- our agency group. Now they're sending their
37 managers. Before we'd have an issue and they couldn't --
38 you know, they couldn't help us unless they got back
39 to their bosses. So this has been nice.

40

41 You have more addition to.....

42

43 MS. RUPP: Oh, nothing in particular.
44 I think just the summary I gave you. We have ongoing
45 wildlife projects, especially a brown bear research
46 project that's been kind -- very interesting. Our
47 wildlife biologist, Buck Mangipane, has been working on
48 that for three years. This will be the last year. So
49 they've been studying brown bear movement in the

50

1 interior of Lake Clark and it's pretty interesting.
2 His -- maybe by the fall, for the fall meeting I might
3 be able to -- he'll have more of a final product and
4 I'll be able to share that with you, but the bears move
5 interesting way. So that's something.

6
7 And then just our general, we're
8 continuing with our counting tower on the Newhalen
9 River just below Nondalton which we've been doing for
10 many years and we'll continue this year as well as
11 counting up on the Twaknaha, the outflow of the
12 Twaknaha Lake. So just our usual wildlife research
13 projects as well as some cultural projects that Karen
14 Evenoff, she's helping with the Mulchatna survey and
15 has also been doing a project with Denali doing some
16 place name sharing with elders and youth from members
17 of the Nondalton community as well as members from
18 Nikolai and Denali. So working on sharing traditional
19 knowledge between different groups and different
20 generations.

21
22 So those are some of the highlights.

23
24 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

25
26 MR. DUNAWAY: I'm trying to speed read
27 this and I'm not very good at it. But this mercury
28 contamination thing kind of jumps off the page at me
29 because in the past I know there's been some evaluation
30 over around the Dillingham area because there'd been a
31 mercury mine. And we were really relieved to find no
32 real levels of concerns. So are there levels of
33 concern in the Park up there or can you tell me a
34 little more?

35
36 MS. RUPP: I am sadly not the best
37 person to tell you more, Crystal Barts is our mercury
38 expert, she's part of our Southwest Alaska Network, but
39 she was supposed to actually present at the last SRC
40 meeting and was unable to make it. But I know there's
41 concerns, but it's not excessive, but there is
42 definitely -- they have been doing some studies and
43 found certain levels of mercury. I actually gave away
44 all my handouts so I don't remember what it says there
45 precisely, but so if you -- she does have a flyer, sort
46 of a summary of her studies that I'm happy to -- I
47 could make sure that Donald gets that and would --
48 could distribute to the RAC so that you can see. Also
49 if it is of interest we can, you know, in the fall if
50

1 you would like maybe we can see if she could be
2 available for -- to come to Dillingham or to present on
3 that because it is a project she's been working on for
4 several years.

5

6

MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

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MR. HILL: Yeah, Liza, I remember one of the comments was made that well, there's -- the mercury accumulates over the life span of a fish so we have the long lived lake trout, pike and burbot. So that's where you're finding a lot of the mercury, it comes in I believe -- a lot of the salmon come in and they eat the salmon remains and stuff and so that mercury builds up. And the idea was that you'd have to eat a lot of livers because that's where the mercury is going to I believe just -- I could be wrong, but that's where it's going to -- where you'll find it. So you just -- you can eat those fish, but just don't eat the liver or eat the -- don't eat a lot of it and that's kind of what the recommendation was.

MS. RUPP: And I know there's a handout that I think is statewide with the proportion of fish -- I mean, the larger the -- same with halibut, you know, you want to eat the smaller halibut. It -- as Lary said it does accumulate over the years so the older the fish the more concentration there is. So women and children should eat smaller or fewer -- you know, that sort of thing. But I think for the general -- especially salmon it is not really a concern. As Lary said they're short lived fish and it can't accumulate that fast in their tissues.

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

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MR. DUNAWAY: What I recall was statewide there was concern for pike I think in the St. Mary's area where they were actually pretty high level. And that was -- mercury was a concern nationwide, worldwide, and the salmon industry was very happy to find out that -- but, yeah, I jumped off the page and, yeah, if you could either, you know, through email to Donald or I could give you my email, I always want to stay on top of these kinds of things. So especially like -- it's interesting to hear what Lary says and it's where is it coming from, that old mine up there on

1 Lake Clark or, you know, atmospheric accumulation.

2

3 Thank you very much.

4

5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
6 questions or comments.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: It looks like
11 no more comments. So thank you.

12

13 MS. RUPP: Thank you.

14

15 MR. MAINES: Madame Chair.

16

17 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Oh, sorry.

18 Bill.

19

20 MR. MAINES: I just wanted to make it a
21 formal invite to have you come back for the fall
22 meeting and give us updates on the work that you -- are
23 laid out in your report here. It would be nice to
24 continue that cooperation/collaboration on what you're
25 doing and getting to see you a little more.

26

27 Thanks.

28

29 MS. RUPP: Certainly. Thank you. I'm
30 sorry I wasn't able to make the fall meeting. It -- I
31 was trying, but it didn't quite workout. So I will
32 definitely -- I have -- I've already written down so
33 I'll make sure to make it a priority and by then we
34 should have some good updates from especially the bear
35 survey and the -- or this summer -- you know, this
36 coming summer's fish.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Yeah, another
41 thing that I want to say thank you is the agencies -- I
42 think Togiak National Wildlife folks started this and
43 I've always appreciated the reports like this. And
44 I'm -- this is probably the third one I've seen
45 including Togiak fish and -- yeah, Togiak report. So
46 thanks again for giving us these reports because it
47 really summarizes what you're doing and what resources
48 you're working with.

49

50

1 Thank you.

2

3

ADF&G.

4

5 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair, I'm Dave
6 Crowley, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I am the
7 King Salmon area wildlife biologist. And I appreciate
8 the Council hanging in there. I am going to limit my
9 update to populations of tasty animals.....

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11

(Laughter)

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MR. CROWLEY:and I'll be brief.
First of all I'll start with moose in units 9B and 9C,
southern 9B and 9C which we treat more or less as the
same population and it's one hunt and that's the way we
manage it. We finally got a composition survey in last
fall, late November, early December and I've got the
results here. I should mention at the same time Troy
Hamon with the Katmai National Park was also flying
surveys so we were able to do some interesting
comparisons and contrasts the way we were doing that.
Bull/cow ratio was 47 bulls per hundred cows which is
really good, it's the best we've seen in a decade or
two. It's been quite a while since it's been that
high. And also heartening, 26 calves per hundred cows
and normally in that area we like to see over 15
percent or 15 calves per hundred is kind of a good
year. We've seen more calves the last couple of years
and this year we finally confirmed that indeed calf
survival seems to be going up at least to December.

The last thing we saw from that survey
that was interesting was that of the bulls that we
counted 27 percent of those we determined to be
yearling bulls. So that also suggest that survival has
gone up quite a bit. That's -- I was actually pretty
amazed to see that high of a number. If I see that
number into the teens I'm usually satisfied with that,
but seeing 27 percent of yearling bulls was really
good.

Also for this area, southern 9B and 9C,
finally got some funding, we're going to put collars
out this spring, we're going to look at -- similar to
what the Refuge has been doing in 9C and E. In 9B and
9C we're going to look at calf survival, we're going to
look at cow survival.

1 One of the things high on my list is
2 movements into and out of the Park area, especially the
3 wilderness area of the Park. And I'd like to determine
4 if that area of the Park which is, you know, it's no
5 access to hunters if that is the source of moose for
6 hunters, if that's a sink, do moose produce elsewhere
7 and they move into the Park where they can't be
8 harvested. And mostly importantly just to try to
9 delineate what the population is that I'm setting my
10 harvest quota for unit 9B and 9C.

11
12 So pretty excited, we're going to start
13 out putting 24 collars out this year and hopefully get
14 some more funding for next year and we're going to
15 monitor these for however many years the funding hangs
16 in there. And that's another positive for this year
17 with the license fee increase and Obama being the gun
18 salesman that he was, our budget is in really good
19 shape. I mean, most other State budgets are going down
20 and ours is actually increasing. And it's because of
21 the license fee increase and the Pittman-Robertson
22 funds in general.

23
24 I discussed on the phone a little bit
25 about the harvest in 9C, but very quickly in unit 9B
26 the local harvest has increased to about 20 moose per
27 year. And that's for the last three years. And
28 similar to 9C the proportion of the local harvest
29 versus the nonresidents -- nonlocal and nonresidents,
30 has come up by quite a bit, more than three-quarters of
31 the harvest is now by local hunters. Local hunter
32 success in 9B is also increasing. It bottomed out in
33 2012 and '13 at about 19 percent. In 2015 local hunter
34 success increased to about 55 percent.

35
36 I'm going to move on to caribou, but
37 any questions on moose before I do that?

38
39 (No comments)

40
41 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Go ahead.

42
43 MR. CROWLEY: Okay. Thank you, Madame
44 Chair. We did a composition count on the Northern
45 Alaska Peninsula herd last October and the results of
46 that were 24 calves per 100 cows. And I'm a little bit
47 concerned about that number because that's kind of
48 right on the boundary where kind of the rule of thumb
49 is you want to see 24, 25 calves per hundred cows for a
50

1 stable to increasing caribou population. And that's
2 the second year in a row where we've seen a decline in
3 that. And that -- it's not quite a trend yet, I'm
4 definitely keeping an eye on it. The most likely cause
5 would be predation. The habitat's in good condition,
6 the animals that we've been capturing and observing
7 from the helicopter are in excellent shape. There are
8 some incredible bulls down there to the point where we
9 have to have the wow factor in the survey, we got to
10 run the -- by the animals first and look at the big
11 bulls and then go and do a run on the animals to count
12 the animals because very impressive bulls in excellent
13 body condition down there.

14
15 Our bull to cow ratio is around 50
16 bulls per hundred cows and the actual numbers we got
17 off of that survey was 70 bulls per hundred cows, but
18 I'm sure we were missing a bunch of cows up in the
19 hills. But it was very striking that -- we because
20 also did the SAP in Unimak and we had 50 bulls per
21 hundred cows. But when we went back and did the NAP we
22 just had bulls everywhere and I assume the cows are up
23 in the mountains. Often we can get into the mountains
24 because of, you know, the wind and the clouds.

25
26 Overall the population of the NAP is
27 doing very well. The estimated population size is --
28 and this is since we're not doing the photo census yet
29 based on my computer modeling of the population I'm
30 guessing it's around 3,600 and increasing on the NAP
31 now. We of course started the subsistence hunt last
32 year, the tier two hunt last year. We're going to
33 continue that this year. I'm not going to increase the
34 numbers of permits until that calf survival kind of
35 works itself out. So it's going to be 200 permits
36 again issued between us between us and Becharof Refuge.

37
38
39 And the last time I checked on a hunt
40 for this year, I think the harvest was around 80. Now
41 that's been several weeks, I've been on leave for
42 several weeks. So we still have a ways to go, but
43 we've got the best month coming up here. Hopefully
44 we'll get some more taken in March.

45
46 And last fall I had a request from
47 Ugashik if -- to see if I could extend the season to
48 the end of September because the caribou hadn't made it
49 up there yet. And I did that and I think as a result
50

1 there were 15 more caribou taken during that 10 day
2 extension.

3
4 And that is my report for caribou and
5 moose on the Peninsula.

6
7 Any questions.

8
9 Madame Chair.

10
11 MR. DUNAWAY: Madame Chair.

12
13 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

14
15 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you very
16 much. Is there a way you can grab an opportunity to
17 check your assumptions on cows, I just -- that makes me
18 nervous because my assumptions can be really fraught
19 and I know talking to Neil Barton over there about
20 ptarmigan and I guess he was talking to you guys over
21 here and so he started asking around over in our area
22 and just -- because he was saying well, I kind of think
23 you're probably okay, but when he started really asking
24 around people are going we're not seeing a lot. So
25 would you have a chance like next spring or -- I know
26 that can be real tricky because they move around and
27 everything else, but just thought I'd ask.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair. Yeah,
32 thanks, Dan. I'm pretty sure it's an anomaly because
33 we've been seeing a steady increasing trend every count
34 we've done. And the weather was definitely keeping us
35 out of the area where we would expect to see cows. Our
36 next count of cows is going to be in late May, we're
37 doing parturition survey, a pregnancy survey, so we'll
38 look at the cows again. And there's just -- it would
39 be really strange just to lose all those cows because
40 things were just ticking along, body condition's good,
41 predation's been mostly on calves. And, yeah, but
42 certainly we're going to look at it again in late May
43 and then our next survey in October.

44
45 MR. DUNAWAY: And this is a little out
46 of the area, but since you're here I'll ask is what are
47 you hearing about the south herd and Unimak. Since I
48 used to live in Sand Point and Dutch Harbor and I
49 hunted out of Cold Bay I still am very interested, do
50

1 you have any information?

2

3

Thank you.

4

5 MR. CROWLEY: Madame Chair. Yes, I do.
6 We also surveyed the SAP and I've actually got those
7 numbers right here. The SAP is increasing still, it's
8 been increasing since we did the predator control back
9 in -- starting in 2008. We are at 24 calves per
10 hundred cows and oops, I'm sorry, that was the SAP, 38
11 calves per hundred cows on the SAP and 50 bulls per
12 hundred cows. And the last population estimate I ran
13 was -- and again this is kind of model based because
14 we're not doing a census yet, 2,200.

15

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MR. DUNAWAY: And that's from what,
Herindean to Unimak?

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MR. CROWLEY: Port Moller to, yeah,
Unimak Island. Yep. And then speaking of Unimak we're
at 40 calves per hundred cows on Unimak and 33 bulls
per hundred. And very slowly increasing, we believe
the population has increased to around 330 caribou on
the island. But that's still dangerously low, we could
lose that to, you know, an extreme icing event. It's
still quite precarious, but everything's positive so
far and fingers crossed. Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any more
questions.

(No comments)

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
thank you.

MR. CROWLEY: Thank you, Madame Chair.

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: OSM.

MR. COGSWELL: Madame Chair, members of
the Council, Stewart Cogswell, OSM. The OSM update is
on the back table, I am not going to read this word for
word. I will give you a brief synopsis.

Staffing updates. Ameer Howard was our
policy coordinator, a very amazing and talented person,
left our office. She's still in the region, she's
going to be our Congressional liaison for the region.

1 She's very dynamic and she's going to do wonderful
2 there. We're going to miss her. We're going to try to
3 fill her position when this hiring freeze stuff goes
4 off.

5
6 Moving on we have Hilary Krieger.
7 She's a new admin person, comes from the Social
8 Security Administration, she's -- so far she's been
9 wonderful. We're happy to have her.

10
11 We now have our own outreach
12 specialist, Caron McKee. She comes to us from the
13 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and she's been
14 fabulous. I'm working with her on a bunch of outreach
15 materials and she's just been fabulous to work with so
16 I'm really excited to have Caron McKee there.

17
18 Tom Doolittle was hired as a new deputy
19 assistant regional director. He's worked in Alaska for
20 many years, most recently he's been with the Forest
21 Service in Craig, Alaska. And he was a deputy Refuge
22 manager in Bethel and Yukon Delta for a while.

23
24 And two people that aren't on here I'd
25 like to just say thanks on the record is Jennifer
26 Hardin, she's our anthropology division chief. She
27 stepped up and was the acting fisheries division chief
28 for the past six months to a year. I don't know
29 exactly how long, but she did it for a long time and
30 she did an amazing job. So Jennifer Hardin as of
31 Monday she will be go back to being an anthropology
32 chief, but she did a wonderful job. And I'll add while
33 Jennifer was acting fisheries division chief, Robbin
34 LaVine, an anthropologist stepped up to the supervisory
35 anthropologist or the division chief and did a
36 wonderful job. So I'd just like to thank Jennifer and
37 Robbin for stepping up the plate, they were awesome.

38
39 There's stuff on the back of the sheet
40 I'm not going to spend a lot of time on. Nonrural
41 determination. The Board approved the new policy at
42 the January meeting. If you have questions we can talk
43 about that.

44
45 The MOU between the Board and State,
46 there's really nothing new. You guys were able to
47 provide input, I think the State provided input,
48 there's a team working together and they're still
49 working on putting -- getting it revised. I see them
50

1 in our office all the time working on this. So the MOU
2 is still ongoing between the Board and the State.

3
4 The Fisheries Resource Monitoring
5 Program, the latest call closed on February 20th. So I
6 don't know how many projects were -- we have yet.
7 Everyone was out of the office that could get into the
8 system to see how many we have. Last time we had 44.
9 So I'm assuming it's probably going to be around there
10 again. And so, yeah, we're going to start that process
11 from now until May. OSM will do analysis, then we have
12 a Technical Review Committee made up of all sorts of
13 different -- all agency folks and they will rank the
14 projects and we'll ask for your comments I believe in
15 the fall.

16
17 So that was my non-read update. So I
18 hope that wasn't too fast, but again I just want to
19 thank the -- Jennifer and Robbin, I can't say enough
20 about them stepping to the plate when we were short
21 staffed.

22
23 So that's all I have.

24
25 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any comments
26 or questions.

27
28 (No comments)

29
30 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Seeing none,
31 thank you. Okay. Future meeting dates.

32
33 Donald.

34
35 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. The Council
36 can refer to page 49 of your meeting materials and at
37 the last meeting the Council selected the dates of
38 November 1 and 2 in Dillingham. We need to confirm
39 that. And I just handed out an updated future meeting
40 calendar for next winter's meeting of February and
41 March, 2018.

42
43 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Nanci.

44
45 MS. MORRIS LYON: Yeah, Madame Chair, I
46 would like to suggest the Council take a look at
47 February 27th and 28th as meeting dates. My reasoning
48 for this is it seems like that's kind of when we have
49 been having our winter meeting because it kind of
50

1 doesn't -- it kind of fits around the basketball
2 schedule as well as people's trip planning. I just
3 know that it's worked for us for the last several year
4 so that would be my suggestion.

5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any other
7 suggestions.

8
9 Donald.

10
11 MR. MIKE: Just for the Council's
12 information, there's Council members here that serve on
13 other Committees and Councils. And for example we had
14 our two new members, Mr. Dennis Andrew and Victor
15 Seybert, they both are serving on Bristol Bay's Native
16 Health Board and I don't know what their schedule is
17 like for next winter's meeting. So just to keep that
18 in consideration.

19
20 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Thank
21 you.

22
23 MR. MAINES: I'm sorry, Madame Chair.
24 Donald, the Health Corporation's already made out their
25 meeting schedule for the next three years, all you have
26 to do is get online or call up their public information
27 officer. You'll find out whether or not they've
28 scheduled the same week, same time period for next
29 year. But it's real easy to find out.

30
31 I would like to go along with what
32 Nanci proposed, the meeting dates that we're having
33 right now for our meeting.

34
35 Thank you.

36
37 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

38
39 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah, thank you. I don't
40 want to be called Mike again.

41
42 Yeah, these dates work for kind of the
43 same reasons as Nanci, I'm following my son in
44 basketball and he gets further in high school I'll be
45 following him closer. If that doesn't work my
46 preference would be for that February 13, 14 or that
47 week sometime would be I think a good alternate for me.
48 But the ones Nanci suggested and that we're working on
49 right now are -- look good to me.

50

1 Thank you.

2
3 MR. HILL: Madame Chair.

4
5 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

6
7 MR. HILL: Yeah, I'm -- as far as those
8 dates are concerned it's a year away and like an old
9 friend of mine said I don't even buy green bananas
10 anymore. But, you know, if it's -- I can make it I
11 will make it, if I can't I can't. That's just --
12 whatever the dates are. So it doesn't make any
13 difference to me.

14
15 Thank you.

16
17 MS. MORRIS LYON: Thank you, Madame
18 Chair. Donald, could I maybe suggest that you would
19 let us know by email on -- if it's going to be a
20 conflicting date with the Board that they're also
21 appointed to and at that point you could make some
22 suggestions for alternate dates that we could look and
23 we can get to you by email. Does that sound okay?

24
25 MR. MIKE: Madame Chair. Yes, I got
26 the option one of February 27, 28, option two, March
27 13, 14. So I can look at the calendars and get back to
28 the Council.

29
30 MS. MORRIS LYON: Okay.

31
32 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

33
34 MR. DUNAWAY: Yeah. A good point
35 because I have worked with Dennis Andrew on our
36 Advisory Committee, he's got a tremendous amount of
37 knowledge and I've known Victor a little bit in the
38 past. He also -- he hails from an area that I don't
39 know well, so it sure would be nice to accommodate
40 everybody's schedule if we possibly can.

41
42 So the one thing is nice a little
43 later, it's usually a little warmer and a littler
44 lighter and travel is a little easier.

45
46 Thank you.

47
48 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. We're
49 okay with that. Okay. Do we have any closing

50

1 comments.

2

3

I'm sorry. Donald.

4

5

6

MR. MIKE: Yeah, I just need the
Council to confirm their fall meeting date of November
1 and 2 in Dillingham.

7

8

9

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: November what?

10

11

12

MR. MIKE: November 1 and 2, page 49.
I just need Council confirmation that we're still going
with those dates.

13

14

15

16

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I guess we can
go with that. I'm not hearing anything from anybody so
we can confirm that.

17

18

19

MR. MIKE: Thank you, Madame Chair.

20

21

22

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Closing
comments.

23

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MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Dan.

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MR. DUNAWAY: I just want to appreciate
all the fellow Council members and our -- we work
together in a congenial manner and I really appreciate
the help Billy gave us earlier on giving context to
some of these policy things. It's really helpful and I
appreciate all the hard work of the agencies that bring
this stuff to us. Yeah, like Molly said those summary
reports are just great. And keep on building those
bull/cow ratios and those calf/cow ratios and we'll all
be happier. And thank you very much for everybody's
time. Welcome to the new RIT. I've been having the
opportunity to get to know him a little bit just on a
general public basis in Dillingham and I think he's a
good addition.

40

41

42

Thank you.

43

44

MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary.

45

46

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48

49

MR. HILL: Madame Chair, a comment. I
appreciate the opportunity to keep working with this
Council. Sometimes you wear so many hats you don't
know who you are one day when you go and you've got to
turn your thinking around and who am I today. But I

50

1 always learn something when I come, that's my life, I
2 like to learn things all the time especially when it
3 comes to the biology. And also some of the facts we've
4 learned actually goes along with what as Native elders
5 we already knew. So it's good to have, you know,
6 confirmed. Other than that, you know, thank you for
7 that and the way we all work together real congenially.

8
9

10 Thank you.

11

12 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Anybody else.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: So we can
17 thank you folks for -- oh, Senafont, do you have any
18 comments?

19

20 MR. SHUGAK: No, Madame Chair, just I
21 enjoyed it all. See you at the next meeting.

22

23 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: I appreciate
24 you sticking with us even though sometimes we forget
25 you.

26

27 Thank you so much for sticking with us
28 all day.

29

30 MR. SHUGAK: No problem. I enjoyed the
31 day.

32

33 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Again
34 thank you every for coming and again I want to thank
35 the -- you folks that come, the decision makers so that
36 you don't have to go back and go back to your
37 colleagues or your bosses to confirm what we're trying
38 to do here. So it's been a lot easier for us to make
39 the formal decisions here when you're talking to us.

40

41 And, Pat, I want to thank you for
42 faithfully attending. And sometimes you get us out of
43 a I guess corners. So we must have been doing okay
44 this time.

45

46 So thanks again and safe travels home.

47

48 MR. HILL: Motion to adjourn.

49

50

1 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Lary's made a
2 motion to adjourn.
3
4 MR. DUNAWAY: Second.
5
6 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Second by Dan.
7 All in favor say aye.
8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.
10
11 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Any opposed.
12
13 (No opposing votes)
14
15 MADAME CHAIR CHYTHLOOK: Okay. Safe
16 travels home.
17
18 (Off record)
19
20 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)ss.
STATE OF ALASKA)

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

THAT the foregoing pages numbered ___ through ___ contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the BRISTOL BAY FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, taken electronically on the 28th day of February at Naknek, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 19th day of March 2017.

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