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SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

VOLUME II

Nome Mini-Convention Center
Nome, Alaska
November 2, 2016
9:10 a.m.

Members Present:

- Louis Green, Chairman
- Fred Eningowuk
- Theodore Katcheak
- Ronald Kirk
- Elmer Seetot

Regional Council Coordinator - Karen Deatherage

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Nome, Alaska - 11/2/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good morning, everybody. I'll call the meeting to order here. It is 9:10. We're going to go around the room here and on the phone. I'll start with the phone first for introductions of people at this time and then, when we're done on the phone, then we'll go around the room again.

MR. RIVARD: Anybody on the phone? Please introduce yourselves.

MS. WESSEL: Good morning. This is Maria Wessel with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

MS. INGLES: Palma Ingles, OSM in Anchorage.

MR. WHITFORD: Good morning. This is Tom Whitford, the Regional Subsistence Program Leader for the Forest Service.

DR. REAM: Good morning. This is Joshua Ream, anthropologist with the Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody else on the phone?

(No comments)

CHAIRMAN GREEN: At this time I'll start around the room here and start with the Council.

MR. SEETOT: Elmer Seetot.

MR. KIRK: Ron Kirk, Stebbins.

MR. ENINGOWUK: Fred Eningowuk, Shishmaref.

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Louis Green, Nome.

MS. DEATHERAGE: Karen Deatherage,

1 Council Coordinator from the Office of Subsistence
2 Management in Anchorage.

3

4 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard, Office of
5 Subsistence Management, Anchorage.

6

7 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers,
8 National Park Service, Anchorage.

9

10 MS. DEBENHAM: Rosalie Debenham, Bureau
11 of Indian Affairs out of Juneau.

12

13 MR. ADKISSON: Ken Adkisson, National
14 Park Service, Nome.

15

16 MR. DUNKER: Bill Dunker with ADF&G
17 here in Nome.

18

19 MR. UBELAKER: Brian Ubelaker, BLM.

20

21 MS. MIKOW: Beth Mikow, Subsistence
22 Division, ADF&G.

23

24 MS. HOWARD: Ameer Howard, Policy
25 Coordinator, OSM.

26

27 MR. SEPPI: Bruce Seppi, BLM in
28 Anchorage.

29

30 MR. AHMASUK: Brandon Ahmasuk, Kawerak,
31 Inc.

32

33 MR. ASHENFELTER: Good morning. Roy
34 Ashenfelter representing Kawerak.

35

36 MS. LAVINE: Robbin LaVine,
37 anthropologist for the Office of Subsistence
38 Management.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Good morning,
41 everybody. The next item is I would ask anybody with
42 tribes or ANCSA corporations or anybody online that's
43 joined us with public testimony or comment at this
44 time.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. We'll
49 move into the agenda here. Since Ted isn't here we're
50 going to bounce around a little bit this morning. He's

1 dealing with a class presentation. I'm going to move
2 under new business, Item G, Charter review. Karen will
3 present that.

4

5 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
6 Again, this is Karen Deatherage with the Office of
7 Subsistence Management. On Page 129 of your meeting
8 books you'll find the Draft Council Charter. This
9 document is designed to give Councils guidance on their
10 roles, compensation as we talked about yesterday, the
11 makeup of the Council, how many times a year it meets
12 and so every couple of years the Charter needs to be
13 renewed under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. So
14 the Council is required to either make recommendations
15 or accept the Draft Charter as is and make a motion to
16 put that forward.

17

18 Thank you.

19

20 I'll be happy to answer any questions
21 you might have.

22

23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.

24

25 Anybody from the Council have comments
26 or concerns.

27

28 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Elmer.

31

32 MR. SEETOT: With membership down to a
33 couple members out, how hard is it for local residents
34 within the Seward Peninsula area to apply? I mean are
35 there a large number of people applying for positions
36 on RACs?

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: Member Seetot, through
39 the Chair. Thank you. That is a fantastic question.
40 This Council currently is down to seven members. We
41 have three vacancies and we do have applications in
42 right now to the Secretary of Interior for applicants
43 who applied the last cycle to be considered for these
44 seats. However, we are going to be calling for more
45 applications for the next cycle and those are on the
46 back table.

47

48 I'd like to encourage all Council
49 Members as well as any folks in the audience to please
50 grab one of those nomination packets and encourage

1 people in your villages and Nome to apply. Those
2 applications will be due in January and then the
3 applicants from those applications will be used to fill
4 empty seats.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that,
9 Karen. Any other questions, comments, concerns.

10

11 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Fred.

14

15 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is Fred.

16 You did mention there is three vacancies on the Seward
17 Pen RAC. We were just assuming whose positions are up
18 or vacated.

19

20 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Fred.

21 Through the Chair. The vacates are Peter Buck, and his
22 seat actually expires this year, so we do have
23 applicants in that could be considered for his seat
24 this round.

25

26 MR. ASHENFELTER: Karen, Peter Buck
27 also had a stroke.

28

29 MS. DEATHERAGE: Yeah, I should say
30 that on the record. Peter Buck resigned from the
31 Council and actually withdrew his application for the
32 next cycle was because he experienced a stroke. My
33 understanding, talking to his family members recently,
34 is that he is doing well. He is going through therapy
35 right now learning how to speak again and walk, but
36 they're very impressed with his progress the last time
37 that I spoke with his family. So that position is
38 vacant.

39

40 Then we have, for personal reasons,
41 Amos Oxereok from Koyuk had to resign and his position
42 wasn't going to expire until 2017. So the Secretaries
43 may fill that position this round. We're waiting to
44 hear back on how that's going to be filled because his
45 wasn't expiring until 2017.

46

47 Joseph Garnie, his position will expire
48 in 2017 and he has resigned from Council. We do have a
49 candidate in the pool to fill that position.

50

1 We should be hearing from the
2 Secretary's Office in December regarding who would fill
3 those positions and they'll go ahead and will alert the
4 Council to the new members.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
9 information. Good question. That answered your
10 question, Fred?

11
12 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah.

13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So the Charter review.
15 So since we have a quorum at this time I'd accept a
16 motion to adopt the Charter as currently written. It's
17 been hammered out pretty good I imagine. I didn't
18 notice anything that stood out to me when I read it.

19
20 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I so move.

21
22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. Is
23 there a second.

24
25 MR. KIRK: Second.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer, Ron. Any
28 further discussion.

29
30 (No comments)

31
32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none I'd ask
33 for.....

34
35 MR. SEETOT: Call for question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
38 called. All those in favor of adopting the Charter say
39 aye.

40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
44 sign.

45
46 (No opposing votes)

47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Motion passes. I'm
49 going to go to under new business again, Item I,
50 feedback on all-Council meeting that took place in

1 Anchorage. Karen.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
4 Council members. As you know, we held quite the
5 extravaganza in Anchorage last winter for the all-
6 Councils meeting. It was pretty extraordinary.

7

8 One thing I do want to point out in
9 your meeting books is a copy of the joint letter. If
10 you all recall during the joint Council meetings there
11 were several issues that were of common concern to all
12 of our Councils, so all 10 Councils signed on to a
13 joint letter to the Board about those concerns and that
14 is in your meeting book.

15

16 What we want to know and the reason we
17 put this on the agenda is to get your feedback, both
18 positive and/or negative, of the all-Council meeting in
19 Anchorage. Things you liked about it, things you might
20 change about it, anything you would like to add to it.
21 So this is an open discussion so we can get your
22 feedback on that meeting.

23

24 Thank you.

25

26 (Carol Ann Woody and Sarah Apsens
27 present)

28

29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.
30 Anybody on the Council have any comments, questions or
31 concerns on that.

32

33 MS. DEATHERAGE: The Page number is 133
34 for the joint letter from all the Councils.

35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'll allow some time
37 for review here for the Council Members.

38

39 (Pause)

40

41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any comments on the
42 event we had down there.

43

44 (No comments)

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The one thing I would
47 find some way to add is that anytime there's a shared
48 resource, let's just say the Western Caribou Herd,
49 instead of having -- I know the RACs from the North
50 Slope and Northwest met and we're part of the user

1 group that uses that caribou from that herd, we should
2 be included. I had conversations with members of the
3 other RACs and they thought that we should have been
4 included in the meeting too. So instead of a two-
5 Council meeting it should have been a tri-meeting.
6 Anytime there are shared uses of a resource it should
7 be thought of that way.

8

9 That's my comment on that. Other than
10 that it was a great opportunity for people to get
11 together and share information across the state and
12 have discussions about things going on in their area.
13 I know I shared stuff from our area. I appreciated
14 that. I'd like to see that every so often. Five years
15 I think was one of the timeframes.

16

17 Any other Council comments.

18

19 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes. This is Fred. On
20 the letter from the Subsistence Advisory Councils, just
21 a positive on number 4, we request the Board develop a
22 program that will allow each of the 10 Councils a
23 mechanism to engage youth in the subsistence regulatory
24 process. I'm very happy with that. After all, our
25 youth are our future leaders. They'll be sitting in
26 our seats in the future, so our youth need to be
27 educated on the regulatory process on the subsistence
28 regulations.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. Ron,
31 anything to offer on that?

32

33 MR. KIRK: Unh-unh.

34

35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Having said
36 that and heard that, I don't think there's anything to
37 add, so we're moving on.

38

39 MS. DEATHERAGE: Chairman, might I
40 suggest that we look at doing WSA 16-07, which is the
41 special action request for moose in Unit 22D remainder
42 submitted by BLM, I'd like to suggest that any action
43 the Council take on that be done maybe after the
44 special action is presented and BLM is able to answer
45 any questions that you might have about that request.
46 So you might want to move that down until after an
47 agency report and the presentation of the special
48 action.

49

50 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen.
2 That was kind of where my thoughts were because Ted is
3 not here and I wanted him to be a part of the process.
4 I think that takes us to Agency reports. On the list
5 here first is tribal governments. Anybody online
6 representing a tribe.
7
8 (No comments)
9
10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anybody in the room
11 here in Nome.
12
13 MR. ASHENFELTER: I am.
14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you know which
16 tribe you're with?
17
18 (Laughter)
19
20 MR. ASHENFELTER: What page is this WS
21 again? I think the special action -- is it intended to
22 remove one cow moose? I need an explanation before I
23 -- what's the language in the special action? Sorry.
24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: I have copies here if
26 anybody would like a copy of the special action. This
27 came in late, so it wasn't included in your meeting
28 book.
29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It has to do with the
31 closure of a cow moose hunt on Federal lands in Unit
32 22D remainder. Okay, Roy, does that pretty well answer
33 your question?
34
35 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yeah, thank you, Mr.
36 Chair. Is there a history behind whether or not this
37 cow take -- I see the closure of a cow moose hunt.
38 That means one cow I'm assuming in 22D remainder.
39 What's the history of someone shooting this cow or
40 shooting a cow in 22D remainder since this process has
41 been available? For example, did somebody shoot a cow
42 moose in 2015, '14, '13, '12, 11, '10? What's been the
43 take on this opportunity?
44
45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We'll get back to you,
46 Roy. I moved this to after all the agency reports. Do
47 you have anything to testify on for tribes or anything?
48 Other than that, is there anything else to bring to the
49 table that you would make comment on for the tribes.
50

1 MR. ASHENFELTER: Yeah. The reason why
2 I was asking about the closure for a cow, it's one cow
3 the way I'm reading the special action. It is not an
4 overarching -- eliminating this opportunity really
5 won't change that much in the dynamics of 22D, but it
6 will eliminate an opportunity for someone to subsist
7 hunt in the latter part of the fall or early winter. I
8 don't see the -- so antlerless moose harvest is
9 currently open from December 1 to December 31.

10
11 So if a person hasn't had a chance to
12 feed their family with a moose hunt from September 1st
13 to September 14, that's the season for all of Unit 22
14 for moose and bulls only, and then it reopens in
15 October for bulls only, and we all knows what happens
16 in October. They're in full rut by then. I did shoot
17 a moose two weekends ago because I didn't get one in
18 September.

19
20 The strategy is very simple. You just
21 walk up to them and shoot them. They're more concerned
22 about hanging around their ladies than about running
23 and hiding. Anyway, it's a fall hunt, they're in full
24 rut. There was another bull about 300 yards away and
25 that was the other reason he didn't want to move. So
26 I'm trying to feed my family, so that was how I did it.
27 It was fairly simple, go out and go to Unit 22E, go
28 find a herd. It's not that simple, but once you find
29 them it's really not a hard take.

30
31 This opportunity in December is a
32 better in my opinion. 22D remainder you've got Brevig,
33 Teller people and you do have Nome people that do this
34 too. That can provide meat for their family in
35 December if the snow conditions and freeze-up
36 conditions occur and they have this opportunity. I
37 just don't see the dilemma of one moose being the cause
38 for the continuing decline of overall herd. I see it
39 more as an opportunity to feed a family that has an
40 opportunity to get one moose. So those are my comments
41 on this particular action.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Roy. At
44 this time I'd ask if there's any other tribal
45 governments to make comment online.

46
47 (No comments)

48
49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none online in
50 the room. We'll move on to Native organizations. That

1 could be ANCSA corporations online.

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't think

6 anybody's joined us for a while.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I don't see anybody

11 here in the room. So I'll move on to the National Park

12 Service. There's that guy. I don't know his name. He

13 doesn't have a name tag on.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 MR. ADKISSON: Good morning, Mr. Chair

18 and Council Members. Ken Adkisson, National Park

19 Service. Yeah, this is not the gray and green uniform

20 obviously, but I passed on that this morning. This will

21 be very brief. I just wanted to update the Council on

22 some of our projects and where we're at with the so-

23 called horns and antlers, Park Service regulations.

24 Some of you will probably remember those. This has

25 been a long, drawn-out process.

26

27 The intention of the regulations are to

28 basically legalize what people have been doing for a

29 very, very long time, but unfortunately was prohibited

30 under existing Park Service regulations. This largely

31 related to the collection and utilization of naturally-

32 occurring products from fish and wildlife and plants

33 aimed towards making handicrafts, implements,

34 selling, bartering or even personal use.

35

36 The reason for that is the Park Service

37 nationally has some very tight, protective regulations

38 about people's use of the resources in the Parks. It's

39 based on places like Yellowstone and Yosemite and the

40 big National Parks in the Lower 48 and really doesn't

41 fit with conditions up here. So the Park Service was

42 trying to move forward and correct that situation.

43 Basically this was a way to legalize these activities

44 that go on.

45

46 Like I said, it's been a long, drawn-

47 out process. What it takes to get Federal regulations

48 through is amazing. So in January of this year the

49 Park Service published the proposed regulation package

50 and that was open for a 90-day comment period. The Park

1 Service received a number of comments and dealt with
2 those.

3

4 As I understand it, the final
5 recommendations have gone to Washington, but it's
6 probably going to take some time to get the final
7 regulation packages out and published. We'll be really
8 lucky if we got them by the end of this year,
9 especially with the potential changes in the
10 administration in Washington. Hopefully by next spring
11 we'll have a final rule published on that.

12

13 We worked hard to make sure that there
14 are not onerous permitting requirements and things that
15 go with it. It's pretty liberal and pretty easy to
16 comply with, but it legalizes these activities.

17

18 I'll give you one example of it.
19 Several years ago we had a major mortality event with
20 muskoxen on the Seward Peninsular up in the Cape
21 Espenberg area and roughly about 50 animals were killed
22 in a major coastal surge. Technically, if people were
23 out there and could have collected the horns and the
24 animals and things and used them, but under existing
25 Park Service regulations at the time that would have
26 been prohibited.

27

28 So that's what we're trying to do and
29 also plants and things like that. So that's where
30 we're at on that and we'll update you when we finally
31 get more out of Washington.

32

33 In terms of our wildlife projects and
34 surveys, most of the activity this year has been up
35 north in the Kotzebue area. We're engaged in surveys on
36 moose, sheep, muskoxen and brown bears up in Unit 23
37 and some in 26A and a little bit down in 23 Southwest.
38 You've got a handout that sort of summarizes most of
39 our project work and there's a couple in there for
40 those of you who may be new to the Council or whatever,
41 a couple of those sections deal with the 2015 brown
42 bear survey on the Seward Peninsula and the other one
43 is a little bit of information from the 2015 muskox
44 survey and comp work.

45

46 We're looking forward to 2016 and
47 hopefully being able to participate in the interagency
48 surveys for muskoxen and moose if those develop and the
49 weather permits and everything on the Seward Pen. Like
50 the muskoxen, we try to do every couple years.

1 That's about it unless there's
2 questions.

3
4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ken. Any
5 questions from the Council.

6
7 Fred and then Ron.

8
9 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, this is Fred. We
10 had our intercouncil meeting at Anchorage last winter,
11 but we did a recommendation on the collection of items
12 like horns or plants. I opened up a discussion on
13 that. The way that was going to work is individuals
14 were going to get permits for collection of those items
15 and I did a recommendation to have a blanket permit
16 through the tribe where the tribal members would be
17 eligible to collect in the Park Service land instead of
18 getting individual permits for individual people.

19
20 So that was a recommendation and I do
21 believe it's in the minutes of our meeting from last
22 year. I would like to see that process moved forward
23 if that can be done where an individual don't need to
24 get a permit and a permit issued to the tribes or
25 affected tribes that are affected by this regulation.

26
27 MR. ADKISSON: Member Eningowuk,
28 through the Chair. Yeah, that's a pretty common
29 concern throughout most of northwest Alaska. The last
30 drafting of the regulation package I saw conditions
31 vary across the state, especially road-connected
32 community Park units, like Denali and so forth, have
33 special concerns and I understand those. I believe the
34 regulations will leave a great deal of latitude to
35 individual Park Superintendents how they implement the
36 regs.

37
38 It's fully our intention, at least, for
39 example in Bering Land Bridge to do something like
40 that. Possibly publish some kind of language to that
41 effect in our Park Service regulation compendium and
42 perhaps put a notice up in Shishmaref or something that
43 the community members or something are eligible to do
44 that. We don't want to get into the business of
45 issuing individual permits for this stuff.

46
47 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah. Right now
48 currently we are criminals in that land. Because of
49 our traditional way of life, we always collected horns
50 and plants and everything in the Preserves and

1 currently we're criminals. But that's our way of life,
2 that's our tradition. It has been handed down from
3 generation to generation that we subsist on the land
4 where we're surrounded by until it was enacted to be a
5 Park surrounding our land.

6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Again, Mr. Eningowuk,
8 through the Chair. Yeah, exactly. I don't know of a
9 case anywhere in the areas that I'm more familiar with
10 up here that we've ever actually issued a citation or
11 had some kind of an issue develop over that stuff, but
12 there's always the potential and that's one of the
13 reasons we wanted to legalize the thing through some
14 kind of system like this that would recognize that as a
15 legitimate use.

16

17 I might add that the other thing about
18 the regulations is that knowing how people do use the
19 land and how important resources in a local area are to
20 local people, the regulations will have some
21 restrictions on who's eligible to do that. So it won't
22 be everybody in the state of Alaska who's eligible to
23 do that. Part of that will be based around some of the
24 customary and traditional use determinations. The idea
25 is to protect the local resources for the local people.

26

27 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay. Thank you, Ken.
28 I didn't mean to put it that way, but that's what we're
29 doing.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

32

33 Ron.

34

35 MR. KIRK: I was going to talk about
36 what he mentioned, so it's all right, Mr. Chair. I was
37 going to bring up -- since I brought it up in the last
38 meeting in Anchorage. My concern was what he just
39 mentioned. We live off this land and our ancestors
40 never knew the land across the bay or certain part of
41 their area to be known as a Park Service. To them it
42 was just land to where we'd go to get our edible
43 plants, harvest our antlers to use as tools. We
44 shouldn't have to pay for a permit to harvest our
45 edible plants or ivory or antlers to use for our way of
46 life to put food on the table.

47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. Are there

1 any other questions, comments, concerns. How about
2 you, Elmer.

3

4 MR. SEETOT: One comment I had on your
5 NPS wildlife update on caribou was that the caribou
6 were pretty fat. Around the Kuzitrin River area there
7 was hardly any snow, just enough for our snowmachines
8 to go to the areas around Davidsons or to the Kuzitrin
9 Bridge to harvest our caribou. The majority were bulls
10 from Kougarok Road. They were mentioning something
11 about 10,000.

12

13 They went to Agiapuk and then through
14 Davidsons, so they had a chance to fatten up. I think
15 the majority of the herd was around the lava beds, so I
16 think they were getting more pressure from the wolves
17 and that got them kind of lean. Those that weren't
18 being chased around by wolves I think they ate pretty
19 good and they remained healthy and fat throughout
20 spring.

21

22 Two springs ago I had -- what really
23 surprised me was that we were able to get bull caribou
24 in April with a couple inches of fat. Usually they're
25 pretty lean. You don't find them like that. So I
26 think they were eating pretty good. The majority of
27 their winter food I think has been pretty much consumed
28 over the years, so they're finding new places to eat
29 via smell, via movement by wolves. But that was a good
30 sign that caribou were healthy.

31

32 The other thing was that we had one
33 moose come through the village last summer, going
34 through town. I think it was being chased by a bear,
35 so we do have bear problems. I mean we do have bear
36 populations within a five mile radius of Brevig.
37 Compared to wolves, I think bears are more manageable
38 because they're just in a certain area within Teller
39 and Brevig.

40

41 That is a big concern for residents
42 because two cabins got broken in in Agiapuk River
43 during the past summer. I have seen wolves chasing
44 moose certain places, so I think that's when the
45 population of moose kind of went down around the
46 Agiapuk River drainage. That's something that we're
47 constantly working on.

48

49 Other than that, thank you.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
2 Ken, on this muskox survey, the number of -- I'm not
3 catching the total. Oh, wait a minute, 1,800 and 400,
4 so we're looking at just a little over 2,000. Is that
5 the entire herd or is that just that portion?
6

7 MR. ADKISSON: Mr. Chair, that sounds
8 about right. Bill Dunker probably could give you the
9 actual figure. If it's not on there, I'd have to go
10 look it up to be precise about it, but that sounds in
11 neighborhood.
12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What was the high
14 point of the herd number, do you recall?
15

16 MR. ADKISSON: Again, I'd better ask
17 Bill about it because he's been doing the summary
18 reports and stuff recently. It's overall I would say
19 probably the high point came around in the '80s
20 sometimes and it's declined in some areas pretty
21 substantially since then, but the population seems to
22 be expanding to the east. If you look at the total
23 numbers, it seems to have maybe started to stabilize a
24 little bit or plateau out. Personally though I think
25 the Park Service still has some concerns especially
26 about 22E and what's going on up there.
27

28 There was a period in there between
29 surveys and we lost about 50 percent of the animals and
30 they don't seem to have been since then recovering
31 especially well.
32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ken. Any
34 other questions.
35

36 We've got Ron and then Fred.
37

38 MR. KIRK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
39 Looking at your brown bear studies, does that include
40 22A? I think if you include 22A in our area you'll
41 find that your bear surveys should be substantially
42 higher than what you have. We have a lot of bear
43 problems in our area. We have a couple of bears that
44 don't leave our area. They stay within our city
45 limits. I'm wondering when you do your survey do you
46 include the 22A area or is it just mainly further up?
47

48 Thank you, Mr. Chair.
49

50 MR. ADKISSON: Member Kirk, through the

1 Chair. No, it doesn't include the 22A area. If you
2 look in your handout, there's a graph or illustration
3 of the survey areas and it's quadrants. Basically what
4 we're in the process of doing is trying to develop a
5 new system for basically monitoring and surveying bear
6 populations.

7

8 Traditional ways of like, for example,
9 where you go out and you capture the bear and you mark
10 it and then you go back and you recapture are very,
11 very expensive. We simply can't afford to continue to
12 do bear surveys that way.

13

14 What we're trying to do is work on a
15 much more efficient system using sort of a line
16 transect and these squares and everything that we do
17 surveys in. If it really works, you know, we could
18 probably expand it to other areas that aren't currently
19 part of the project. But the idea is we've done a
20 couple of these now in this area that's displayed, so
21 it shows some promise. If that does produce a cheaper
22 way of more frequently surveying bears, it will be
23 good.

24

25 MR. KIRK: Thank you.

26

27 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. With the
28 closure of sport hunting or non-Federal qualified users
29 in 23 on the caribou, this may have an effect on the
30 Bering Land Bridge. They don't have the opportunity to
31 hunt in Unit 23, but currently it's open, if I'm
32 correct, in Unit 22 as a whole. I was wondering if
33 this may have an effect of outsiders coming into our
34 territory, moving away from Kotzebue, coming over on
35 this side, landing and hunting for caribou. So under
36 the Park Service regulations, are these sports hunters
37 able to land in a Preserve or different areas in 22 as
38 a whole, not just only 22E I'm speaking of.

39

40 MR. ADKISSON: Member Eningowuk,
41 through the Chair. That whole issue of displacement
42 out of 23 is the result of that caribou closure of the
43 Wildlife Special Action 16-01. It is a major concern.
44 We don't really have good numbers and data right now to
45 really address that. All I've heard are anecdotal
46 things or occasional sort of random observations from
47 protection people. You heard some of that yesterday
48 when they were talking about 16-03.

49

50 What I have heard from our protection

1 staff and patrol folks is that there was probably
2 increased pressure north into 26A just north of the
3 closed area. There was some increased pressure perhaps
4 on some of the gravel bar areas in the Noatak that are
5 not considered Federal public lands. The impacts I
6 don't know. I mean a lot of the commercial operators
7 complained that they lost a lot of clients as a result
8 of the closure. How much of that were totally
9 cancelled trips and how much of it was actually
10 displaced to another location I don't know.

11

12 In answer to your question, yeah, 22
13 would be open under most of those conditions. Got to
14 keep in mind that what we're talking about in terms of
15 these non-local people who are affected by 16-01, most
16 of that is a fall hunt. Once winter comes those people
17 are out of that country. That's pretty much the end of
18 their caribou hunting. So you're really looking at a
19 late summer/fall kind of phenomenon.

20

21 We now have caribou, reindeer, whatever
22 you want to call them. I mean we have these things now
23 calving out on the Seward Peninsula in the summer.
24 There's more and more of a presence of them in the
25 summer out towards the coast and Shishmaref is taking
26 advantage of that. Personally, I'd be very concerned
27 about increased pressure from the north coming down
28 onto 22 because it would be very easy for these people
29 to land for example on the beaches up by Espenberg.
30 And those on floats could also perhaps utilize some of
31 the lake areas, which would get them a little more away
32 from most of the subsistence hunters at that time, but
33 still it's a form of pressure on the resource.

34

35 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, the only reason I
36 brought that comment up is, you know, we live a very
37 strong subsistence way of living up in Shishmaref and
38 the way we hunt caribou is not by plane, especially
39 when the sports hunters are hunting also too. We boat
40 up along the coast and perch on a hill, look around for
41 caribou with binoculars and then sometimes we sit on
42 the hill all day. Those caribou are getting closer.

43

44 If we have more activities with the
45 airplanes within the area, they do disrupt their
46 traveling. Like for example that was like about five
47 years ago we went up toward Kukpuk way to try and get a
48 caribou, at least one, and we got interrupted by a
49 plane that was flying around. Landing and taking off,
50 landing, taking off. I don't know what they were

1 doing, but I know for a fact that was the Park Service
2 doing some kind of a project.

3

4 With possible increased sports hunters
5 coming to our area, that's going to affect the way we
6 subsistence hunt. A lot of people spend a lot of money
7 on gas just to go caribou hunting with a boat. We
8 perch on a hill, wait until we see a caribou and
9 they're coming closer. We wait all day. It's not like
10 we just hop off the plane and go run after them.
11 That's pretty rough country out there, you know. We've
12 got a lot of nugaheads (ph). I don't know what you call
13 them. Maybe tussocks that we've got to haul the
14 caribou over. So we just wait for the caribou to get
15 closer to us so that we can haul all the meat back to
16 our boat. So that may have an effect within 22 with
17 the closures in 23.

18

19 MR. ADKISSON: Again Mr. Eningowuk,
20 through the Chair. You've heard in discussions on 16-
21 01 and so forth and 16-03 now for some time a lot of
22 the local people's concerns, especially up in 23 about
23 potential impacts of aircraft flying around scouting
24 for animals. Sometimes perhaps being even accused of
25 trying to attempt to move animals.

26

27 You mentioned an incident in Bering
28 Land Bridge with the Park Service research aircraft.
29 We're trying to be pretty sensitive to that and remove
30 our own operations from the source of problems with
31 local people through our compliance process. We'd
32 encourage you to report all incidents of aircraft use
33 like that that you see or where you have a problem to
34 us. I know it's hard, but descriptions of the plane,
35 tail numbers if you can get it. Somebody snap a
36 picture of it with their camera and pass that
37 information on to us. It almost stands to reason the
38 higher the intensity and level of that kind of activity
39 more likely it is it's going to have a problem occur
40 from it.

41

42 So we're trying to watch for that kind
43 of thing and we're concerned about that with the
44 closure in 23. We haven't seen a lot of effect from it
45 yet, but if it stays, I would think those people are
46 going to try to go somewhere. Right now the operations
47 of that kind of thing come out of Kotzebue, so that's
48 not very far to the coastline there. Anything you see
49 up there we'd appreciate your passing that on to us.

50

1 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, thank you for
2 that. We do have our annual tribal membership meeting
3 this coming winter and I'll comment on that for the
4 general to report any planes that disrupt their hunting
5 because we do spend quite a bit of money just for gas
6 alone and tell them to report anything to tribal office
7 or to the Park Service office.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 MR. ADKISSON: thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred.
14 Thank you, Ken. This is the reason why I'd like to see
15 Arctic Slope, Northwest and Seward Pen at the table
16 when we discuss caribou. Like I said, I had
17 discussions with the members from Northwest and Arctic
18 Slope about it, but what Fred just brought up was the
19 possibility of putting pressure on Unit 22. It could
20 be an issue. It would be interesting to see what
21 comes out of this by June 30th, 2017 and what they come
22 up with numbers on.

23
24 I don't have anything else for you,
25 Ken. Is there a comment on the phone?

26
27 MS. DEATHERAGE: No. I just have one
28 quick comment.

29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Karen.

31
32 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
33 I just wanted to point out to the Council members on
34 Page 161 of your meeting books there's a copy of a
35 letter I wrote on behalf of the Council to the Park
36 Service regarding the subsistence collections proposed
37 regulation that Ken talked about earlier. Fred, it did
38 include your request for community permits in that
39 letter, but I just wanted to point that out to
40 everyone.

41
42 Thank you.

43
44 MR. ENINGOWUK: Thank you.

45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Ken. So on
47 the agenda we have the BLM report. Thomas. He's got
48 his name tag on. I know who he is.

49
50 MR. SPARKS: Mr. Chair. It's always a

1 pleasure to be in front of you on an annual basis.
2 Wish it could be more. Many of you I've known
3 personally for decades, so it's great to see you again.
4 I just kind of put some highlights down on a little
5 piece of paper here and I'll pass this out to you guys.
6

7 MR. RIVARD: Would you identify
8 yourself for the record.
9

10 MR. SPARKS: Tom Sparks, BLM, Nome
11 Field Station, associate field manager, Anchorage Field
12 Office. A couple things I wanted to point out, kind of
13 bigger issues that certainly may affect some of your
14 members more to the south. We're involved in a new
15 land use plan. It's the Bering Sea Western Interior.
16 We've been going through a series of land use planning
17 efforts the last 10 years. This is one of the bigger
18 ones we have left. It entails millions of acres, over
19 10 million acres. It goes east all the way to Denali
20 Park. It goes south all through the Kuskokwim/Yukon
21 Rivers and goes all the way north up to Unalakleet. So
22 it's a very large area that we're dealing with.
23

24 We've gone through some public
25 outreaches. We went to Unalakleet last February. Most
26 of the public outreach we did were more to the Yukon
27 and Kuskokwim Rivers because that's where the majority
28 of the communities are. We're at this stage developing
29 alternatives. It may not mean too much to you guys,
30 but I'll point out a couple things.
31

32 One is that BLM, when we issue permits
33 and authorizations on Federal land is that we have to
34 ensure that that activity is in conformance with our
35 land use plan. So that's the first thing we ask, is
36 somebody that comes in and puts a proposal in to us
37 does it conform with our land use plan. So if the
38 answer is no, then we have to do an amendment to the
39 land use plan, which is a fairly big deal. So those
40 things are pretty important.
41

42 We're looking at off-highway vehicle
43 use, we're looking at reindeer herding, we're looking
44 at special recreation permits, which means guides to
45 you fellows. It may be important. So there's a number
46 of activities that I think are important. Particularly
47 Mr. Kirk it's going to affect you down that way. Not
48 so much Elmer and Mr. Green. Certainly, Fred, you're a
49 little to the North. But I wanted to point that out
50 that that's a big planning effort. It will keep going

1 for a couple more years, so there's plenty of time, but
2 I would encourage you to get engaged.

3

4

5 Last year we made some pretty
6 definitive boundary changes. The Anchorage and
7 Fairbanks districts have changed boundaries. The
8 Anchorage district used to go all the way south down to
9 Southeast Alaska and we've changed the magic line.
10 Some of those Southeast areas are now managed out of
11 our office outside of Anchorage and Glennallen. Then
12 we took over some areas that used to be managed out of
13 the Fairbanks office. Central Yukon Field Office out
14 of Fairbanks.

14

15

16 So our office now goes all the way to
17 Kivalina to the north and encompasses nearly all the
18 Nulato Hills. So it's a big swath of land that is
19 somewhat new to the Anchorage Field Office, a couple
20 years now. One of the areas that we're grappling with
21 is the Squirrel River in Unit 23. We have had, as
22 you're probably aware of, some issues with transporters
23 and guides with the caribou season. We've also seen
24 some changes in the land status in the Squirrel River
25 area where the State has taken ownership of the three
26 primary forks of the rivers in the Squirrel River
27 drainage. So things have changed quite a bit.

27

28

29 I also wanted to inform the board, I
30 kind of hinted to it last year, we have been willing to
31 increase our Nome Field Station, little old Nome here,
32 which has primarily been me for quite a number of years
33 now. We have a new employee here, Brian Ubelaker.
34 He's in the back here. Maybe, Brian, you could stand
35 up and say hi.

35

36

MR. UBELAKER: Hi.

37

38

39 MR. SPARKS: Brian showed up about mid
40 September. He was actually born in Nome, which
41 intrigued me very much. He moved up from Anchorage
42 through Washington. So he is very much trying to learn
43 the ways up here and anything you guys can do to make
44 him feel welcome I'd really appreciate it.

44

45

46 We're kind of looking to expand as
47 well. We're looking for another position here in Nome
48 for recreation and they'll try to tackle some of that
49 Squirrel River area, so that will probably be happening
50 this winter. So we'll probably have three employees in
51 the Nome Field Station fairly soon here.

1 I just wanted to give some updates on
2 activities that we've been doing. Bruce Seppi is here.
3 He's our subsistence biologist out of Anchorage Field
4 Office. I don't know if you want to tackle the permits
5 you handed out before I do other things.

6
7 MR. SEPPI: The only permits that were
8 out were six muskox permits that were issued on a
9 random basis. People called in, we announced that six
10 permits would be available in 22B and we accepted names
11 in August before the hunt opened and randomly picked
12 names, so six permits were issued mostly to Nome
13 residents, but also some in White Mountain.

14
15 That's a small number, but those are
16 the only ones available on the Federal side. So that's
17 really the only permits we issue. There are also hunts
18 that are under our jurisdiction in 22B for moose, but
19 they're run on a State harvest ticket. So unless the
20 quotas are reached we don't really do anything with
21 that, although we do close them when those quotas are
22 met.

23
24 MR. SPARKS: There's the moose in
25 Unalakleet.

26
27 MR. SEPPI: Oh, sorry. Also 22A that
28 hunt out of Unalakleet we do issue permits for that. I
29 was out there in mid August and issued about 60
30 permits. There was unlimited number of permits, but
31 there was only 22 bulls allowed in that hunt and that
32 quota was met right about the time the season closed.
33 In fact, I think they went a little bit over that
34 quota. So it's in combination with the State hunt and
35 that Federal hunt, so 22 bulls were taken out of there
36 and we do issue permits out of there.

37
38 MR. SPARKS: I just want to mention a
39 few things in mainly southern Norton Sound, but we are
40 continuing on a fish weir in the Unalakleet River.
41 It's a cooperative project with the Department of Fish
42 and Game. We also issued an authorization for the
43 State to take eggs out of the mainstem of the
44 Unalakleet for king salmon. Some of the activities
45 that were done here in the Nome area with transplanting
46 the eggs to the salmon, so the Fish and Game has taken
47 some over to North River, so we're in cooperation with
48 that.

49
50 We still have the Iglutalik fish weir

1 project going on and we have been working with NSEDC on
2 water temperatures in the Imuruk Basin and fish samples
3 in Teller and Brevig and we've been doing that with
4 USGS for a number of years now. We continue to monitor
5 our reindeer permitting and it's mainly the Teller Herd
6 because that's really the largest viable herd that we
7 have left other than, of course, St. Lawrence Island.

8
9 We have a notice level operations for
10 Graphite One, which is on the north side of the
11 Kigluaik Mountains. We have not received any update on
12 that in terms of their going to a plan level operation.
13 The work that's done now is for validity determinations
14 on the Federal claims.

15
16 We've been doing some special
17 recreation monitoring concentrated this year on the
18 Nulato Hills based out of Unalakleet for a few days. I
19 got to see some real pretty country. The first time
20 I've been over to Kateel River. It was very, very nice
21 out that way, but we did an emphasis out there and we
22 are looking at some issues with some of our guide
23 operations in that area.

24
25 We permitted one new big game guide who
26 bought some property in Council and he is bear hunting
27 in the spring and fall time and primarily in 22B.

28
29 We also expanded the GCI TERRA
30 broadband project. That goes north now all the way to
31 Red Dog Mine, east to Galena and hooks into Fairbanks.
32 So that's something that our office has been working
33 with for about five years now. We have almost 20
34 towers that are about 50 miles apart throughout the
35 eastern Seward Peninsula and, as I said, north up to
36 Red Dog. So that allows the broadband internet
37 certainly here in Nome, Kotzebue and Barrow.

38
39 We also issued a permit for the
40 community of Noatak for some fuel delivery. That was a
41 short-term permit. Trying to help them out in terms of
42 some of the high cost of fuel there, but that was a
43 short-lived permit.

44
45 That's really some highlights that I
46 wanted to talk to you guys about and also to offer
47 myself and Brian that if anything is bothering any of
48 you guys or your board, I certainly want to make myself
49 available and hear your concerns and be happy to answer
50 any questions that you may have.

1 Thank you.

2

3 MR. SEPPPI: I have a few more things to
4 add here if you don't mind. Bruce Seppi with Anchorage
5 Field Office. I just wanted to add that we finally
6 hired a ranger/pilot. That position has been vacant
7 for a number of years. His name is Walker Gusse. You
8 folks might know him because he's coming from the Park
9 Service in Nome.

10

11 He's both a fixed wing pilot and a
12 helicopter pilot, but he will be flying fixed wing for
13 BLM and involved in law enforcement operations
14 throughout the district, our 20-plus million acres, but
15 that means Unit 22 and 23 here. So he is based in
16 Anchorage at the Anchorage Field Office and the
17 aircraft is based out of Anchorage also. He'll be
18 spread pretty thin, but he'll be throughout our lands,
19 including out here in 22. So we're very happy to have
20 that position and he'll report sometime in mid November
21 here.

22

23 BLM staff, including myself, helped the
24 Park Service and the Fish and Game. It's a Fish and
25 Game project to collar 60 caribou up in Onion Portage
26 this fall and it was quite an experience. I've never
27 been out there before and never seen the caribou
28 migration come across the Kobuk River. So I was happy
29 to be involved with that. They put out about 30
30 satellite collars and 30 VHF collars that have to be
31 tracked on bull caribou, cows and some calves also.
32 This is what everybody uses, the agencies, and mostly
33 Fish and Game to track these animals. We're just
34 assisting in this, but we're very happy to be a part of
35 that.

36

37 Not only did I witness the caribou
38 migration there, but the amount of people that are
39 coming up and taking advantage of the hunt there. It
40 was, of course, the Unit 23 non-qualified subsistence
41 user hunt was closed down, but there was a big presence
42 of people coming all the way up from Kotzebue to take
43 advantage of that hunt. The caribou are pretty
44 vulnerable when they come across the river, so people
45 can come there and take their fill of caribou right
46 there in a very short period of time. So I did witness
47 that and get a little bit of an idea of how that
48 harvest takes place.

49

50 Also BLM helped with getting youth out

1 there, school-age kids out from Selawik and Kotzebue,
2 working with Fish and Wildlife Service, the Selawik
3 Refuge, and kids did come out and they didn't stand on
4 the sidelines. They were very much involved and helped
5 put caribou on and were holding wet caribou on the side
6 of the boat and chasing them down. So they got very
7 much involved with that. Some of those kids will be
8 coming to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd working group
9 meeting in December in Anchorage.

10

11 We helped put that together with Fish
12 and Wildlife. It's kind of a difficult thing to put
13 together, but after seeing the kids out there I'm glad
14 we were able to make that happen.

15

16 Also BLM is assisting Fish and Game
17 with a moose survey in 22A. Last year, because of lack
18 of snow, we weren't able to pull that off. That's a
19 Fish and Game project, but again BLM is assisting that
20 with a plane, pilot and observer. Probably Brian and
21 myself will be involved with that. We'll also be
22 assisting with a Peninsula-wide muskox survey with Fish
23 and Game this year too based out of Nome. So hoping we
24 get an actual good snow cover to pull that off in
25 March. That GSPA in 22A from Unalakleet happens in
26 late February, early March.

27

28 Then finally, as I mentioned, the
29 Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meeting will
30 happen in Anchorage December 13, 14, 15. The Technical
31 Group meeting will be on the 13th, but the main meeting
32 will be on the 14th and 15th. It's at the same place
33 it was last year, the Marriott. I helped put that
34 contract together with a contractor to help get
35 everybody to Anchorage. It is a complicated process to
36 get a lot of people to a meeting like that, but I'm
37 glad it is happening. I know one member from this
38 Council, Mr. Tom Gray, is on that board. I'm hoping
39 some good information and good discussion will come out
40 of that. It's usually a lively discussion about
41 Western Arctic Caribou and what happens with them, so
42 I'm glad that meeting is going to take place.

43

44 I'll leave it to questions.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, folks.
47 Council Members, questions.

48

49 Ron.

50

1 MR. KIRK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
2 mentioned a moose survey in 22A. Does that include the
3 Pikmiktalik drainage and Nunaktuk drainage in our area?

4
5 MR. SEPPI: No. No, it doesn't go
6 farther south than the Golsovia. Also a lot of times
7 we're weathered out of that area, south of Unalakleet,
8 south of the Golsovia. It includes basically the
9 Unalakleet watershed and it doesn't go any farther than
10 that. Fish and Game is here. You can ask more
11 specific questions on that, but we don't go quite that
12 far with that survey.

13
14 MR. KIRK: But you do survey the
15 Golsovia drainage for moose population?

16
17 MR. SEPPI: Yes.

18
19 MR. KIRK: Does that include the
20 Klikitarik drainage?

21
22 MR. SEPPI: Yes, it does. Between
23 Unalakleet and the Golsovia, yeah.

24
25 MR. KIRK: Okay. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred.

28
29 MR. ENINGOWUK: Tom, a question for
30 you. You were talking about BLM lands earlier and I
31 think in Shishmaref you do have very tiny BLM land,
32 so it does effect us also though it's very tiny.

33
34 MR. SPARKS: Yeah, there's a small
35 strip between the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
36 and the Shishmaref Native Corporation lands. We are
37 still heavily engaged in the land transfer program.
38 It's one of the main missions of BLM in the state is to
39 transfer the lands to the Native corporations in the
40 state of Alaska. This region has seen a lot of
41 activity over the years.

42
43 This year we gave out the largest
44 patent in BLM's history out at St. Lawrence Island. So
45 we had the National Director come up here, Neil Kornze
46 and the State Director, so we're still doing that. We
47 have four villages left in the Bering Straits Region
48 that have not reached their full entitlement to lands.
49 There's some issues with each one, but it's the
50 Diomedes, Unalakleet, Sitnasuak, Shaktoolik. Council is

1 scheduled. Actually we're very close to getting
2 Council completed. But those are the last ones of the
3 region.

4

5 MR. ENINGOWUK: Just one quick
6 question, not subsistence related, but our plan to
7 relocate and that portion of land may have some
8 involvement with the road to your mountain, so we may
9 have to work with you or maybe I may talk with you
10 later sometime today on that just off the record.

11

12 MR. SPARKS: Yes, Fred, through the
13 Chair. We're well aware of that. We actually gave a
14 permit to the State of Alaska, Department of
15 Transportation to drill some holes to look at
16 permafrost and pingos, so we're more than well aware of
17 that. We are a multi-use agency. We offer rights-of-
18 way. We have lots of tools in our toolbox to assist
19 your village and we'd be happy to work with you at any
20 time.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron, go ahead. You
23 have a question.

24

25 MR. KIRK: Tom, you're talking about
26 lands from BLM. You have a very small portion in our
27 area too. It's a little small portion. I that portion
28 going to be turned over to corporation?

29

30 MR. SPARKS: No. We're done with
31 Stebbins. We have closed their entitlement, so once we
32 do that we reject all the over-selections by the
33 village corporation. Unless there's an exchange we
34 don't have legal authority to offer any more lands up.
35 So that's one of the finality things we call it with
36 this land transfer program. But we can entertain a --
37 I think that's going to be the next generation of land
38 guys actually. There's going to be a lot of people are
39 going to look back at all the maps and see how the
40 opportunities are in terms of some exchanges.

41

42 The other thing too is some of the maps
43 you guys look at they don't include the State
44 selections and some of the Native selections that are
45 out there. So be aware of that. The lands that are
46 subject to the Federal subsistence regulations are only
47 those Federal lands that are not encumbered by State
48 selections or Native corporation selections. So that's
49 something that some people are a little confused about
50 and it's good to mention that sometimes.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer?
2
3 (No comments)
4
5 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Just one question for
6 Tom. You mentioned on the egg takes, I guess is what
7 you would call it, on the Unalakleet. Do you guys get
8 any reports on any of the successes or the failures or
9 anything?
10
11 MR. SPARKS: Yes. They just started
12 with that. Of course, this year the Unalakleet was
13 real high water and we had all those pinks up there
14 that was causing all kinds of problems, so the project
15 didn't really get going this year. We gave Fish and
16 Game a three-year permit. So we're hoping that those
17 activities will really start in earnest next year and,
18 yes, we do get reports on those. We'll be sure to
19 provide that with you guys. We're trying to work in
20 cooperation with other agencies in terms of our fish
21 resources. It's really important that anything we can
22 do to help out with that we're certainly at the table.
23
24 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Tom. Am I
25 correct when I say chinook?
26
27 MR. SPARKS: Yes.
28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. I don't
30 have any further questions. Anybody on the Council.
31
32 (No comments)
33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Great report.
35
36 MR. SPARKS: I'll leave this little
37 bullet list for you guys here. Thank you very much.
38
39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Well, it's a good time
40 to take a break here. It's 10:27. So let's take 10
41 minutes. It gives Karen enough time to make a couple
42 pots of coffee.
43
44 (Off record)
45
46 (Ted Katcheak present)
47
48 (On record)
49
50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Call the meeting back

1 to order. It looks like everybody is in place here.
2 The Fish and Game report is up. You have the floor.

3

4 MR. DUNKER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For
5 starters, I'll just kind of introduce myself. I think
6 you all have noticed that I am not Tony. We've had
7 some staff changes in the Nome office over the past
8 couple of years. Peter Bente, the former Region 5
9 management coordinator retired and Tony has moved in to
10 replace him as the Region 5 management coordinator.
11 With that change the Unit 22 area biologist position
12 was vacant and I was hired on to fill that void.

13

14 I've lived in Nome for the better part
15 of six years now. I started with the Department as a
16 WB-1 as a regional biologist traveling throughout the
17 area and helping with a variety of different S&I
18 projects. I'm pretty honored to be in the position I
19 am right now and look forward to working with all of
20 you guys and our Federal partners in the future to
21 manage our wildlife resources.

22

23 I'm just going to go over some of the
24 S&I activities that we've been a part of over the last
25 year or so starting with moose. In the spring of 2016,
26 we completed a GSPE moose survey in Unit 22B west of
27 the Darby Mountains and Unit 22C. The results of the
28 population estimates in both those areas were we
29 observed 728 moose in B west of Darbys, which is a
30 modest increase in the overall population in that area
31 and one of the first increases in overall density that
32 we've observed in B west of the Darbys in many years.

33

34 22C the estimate came back with 354
35 moose. Ultimately that's a result of several years of
36 some pretty intense antlerless moose harvest in the
37 area intended to reduce the population to within our
38 management objectives as a result of some concerns over
39 resource limitation in the area that we observed
40 following some short yearling calf weights taken in the
41 late 2008-2009 timeframe.

42

43 We've also in the last couple years
44 conducted some composition surveys in 22C, bull/cow
45 ratios in that area have been a concern over the last
46 several years. Through the course of several years of
47 reduced harvest quotas we've managed to make progress
48 towards rebuilding those bull/cow ratios. In 2015 we
49 observed 28 bulls per 100 cows, which is up from below
50 20 in 2012.

1 Our plans for this coming years as far
2 as moose S&I activities are concerned, we're currently
3 waiting on some snow and got our fingers crossed we'll
4 be able to get up into the 22D remainder, 22D in the
5 Kuzitrin and 22E to conduct fall composition surveys.
6 That will be a really important piece of information
7 for us to get in an effort to kind of evaluate our
8 harvest rates in those areas.

9
10 Then as Bruce mentioned, we have plans
11 to conduct a GSPE survey in the central portion of Unit
12 22A this coming spring. We've been foiled by weather
13 in years past, so we're hopeful again that we'll have
14 the survey conditions necessary to complete that
15 project.

16
17 Moving on to some updates on our S&I
18 program and just overall hunt management for muskox.
19 We just wrapped up our fall muskox captures. We
20 currently have 38 collared muskox in the vicinity of
21 22C, D southwest, 22D in the Pilgrim River drainage and
22 22B west of the Darby mountains. This year we put out
23 an additional nine collars and primarily we use that
24 information to monitor our adult female mortality as
25 an indicator of just the overall trend of the
26 population.

27
28 Some promising observations from that
29 whole activity. We were seeing a good number of
30 calves, so we're hopeful that next year we should see
31 some improved recruitment within the population and
32 hopefully a continuation of what we think might be a
33 stabilization within the population.

34
35 As far as hunt management is concerned,
36 we're currently accepting applications for the Tier II
37 muskox hunt for Tier II hunts on the Seward Peninsula.
38 This current year, 2016-2017 those permits were issued
39 last year based on the applications submitted in
40 November of 2015. We issued a total of 37 bull muskox
41 permits for the Tier II and registration muskox hunts
42 on the Seward Peninsula and then our Federal
43 cooperators have or will be issuing an additional 13
44 permits for the Federal hunts within those areas.

45
46 As I speak, we've got staff traveling
47 to some of the local communities to help local
48 residents kind of navigate the Tier II process and get
49 their applications in in a timely manner. That's
50 something that we've always stressed within the Nome

1 office as being very important to our hunt management
2 is to put boots on the ground and talk to local people
3 and make that Tier II system work for our local
4 residents.

5

6 Letty is in Golovin right now and we'll
7 be making an effort to travel to the remaining villages
8 within the Tier II hunt area during the course of
9 November here. We've also been talking with our fellow
10 staff up in the Kotzebue region about getting to
11 Deering and Buckland and doing the same kind of
12 outreach efforts in those areas in an effort to make
13 the Tier II system work for everybody involved.

14

15 As I think Ken and maybe Bruce
16 mentioned, we have plans to conduct a range-wide Seward
17 Peninsula muskox census this coming spring, which will
18 be immediately followed by our composition surveys.
19 Collectively, we use all that information to establish
20 hunt quotas and monitor the overall population, so
21 we'll be back at it again this coming spring.

22

23 I've got some additional information
24 that you've heard a lot of people talking about the
25 current status of the Western Arctic Herd, so I won't
26 spend too much time on a lot of the things that other
27 folks have covered. Some other highlights from this
28 past year and some of the survey and inventory
29 activities associated with the Western Arctic Herd that
30 have been conducted.

31

32 This past October we had some biologist
33 based out of Kotzebue conducting our fall composition
34 studies in the area, the results of which were a
35 bull/cow ratio of 41/100 cows, which is good. It's
36 within our management objective for the bull/cow ratio
37 within our management objective for the bull/cow ratio
38 within the population.

39

40 They observed a lot of small bulls
41 within the population, which given high survival and
42 good productivity in the last year, so it more or less
43 makes sense. And they observed a calf/cow ratio of
44 54/100, so again kind of following suit with what we've
45 seen for calf productivity and survival over the last
46 year or so.

47

48 Ultimately, there's a lot of positive
49 signs within the population as it stands right now and
50 some of our caribou aficionados and biologists or
51 whatnot feel that with another mild winter we may be

1 poised for stability or maybe even growth given the
2 composition of that population and whatnot.

3

4 Unfortunately, kind of the bad news
5 here, that population estimate that we got in July of
6 201,000 animals within the Western Arctic Herd does put
7 us very close to some of the critical values that we
8 have for that population. As it stands right now,
9 we're at the lower end of the conservative management
10 threshold outlined in the Western Arctic Herd
11 Management Plan, so that's something that we are
12 grappling with.

13

14 We're also closing in on some of our
15 State intensive management population and harvest
16 objectives and we're continuing to monitor the harvest
17 within the population because along the same lines
18 we're kind of reaching that point where the harvestable
19 surplus may be exceeded by the current harvest, so
20 that's something that may happen in the future and
21 we're trying to set ourselves up to be prepared to
22 manage the hunt.

23

24 Along those lines I handed out a sheet
25 listing some of the proposals that will be before the
26 Board of Game this coming January. A handful of those
27 in those regional or multi-unit proposals kind of get
28 at the -- or attempt to provide managers with the tools
29 necessary to better manage harvest and, if necessary,
30 reduce overall harvest in the event it becomes
31 necessary with continued declines in that population.

32

33 Unit 22 is more or less ahead of the
34 pack on that in that this past year working with the
35 Northern Norton Sound -- excuse me, the Seward
36 Peninsula -- Northern Norton Sound Advisory Council.
37 There it is. I had my acronyms out of whack there.

38

39 (Laughter)

40

41 MR. DUNKER: To develop an ACR that was
42 before the Board this past spring to implement a
43 registration caribou permit for caribou hunting on the
44 Seward Peninsula. The big thing there is we provided
45 hunters with long seasons, got rid of the bull closure
46 that for some folks presented a concern and it also
47 established an annual bag limit of 20 caribou per year.
48 More importantly it provided us as managers with the
49 tools necessary to better monitor harvest and also, if
50 it becomes necessary in the future to also restrict

1 harvest and reduce it to a more sustainable level.

2

3

4 With that in mind, the proposals that
5 will be before the Board will attempt to come up with
6 some kind of a regulatory structure that will provide
7 similar tools to managers in 26A and 23. So
8 recommendations from yourselves as representatives of
9 the Council, your communities, all that would be
10 beneficial as the Western Arctic Herd Working Group and
11 the ACs and the Department start to grapple with all
12 the different options available to us in an effort to
13 improve the hunt structure and the reporting of harvest
14 in the area.

14

15

16 Any insight that you guys might have on
17 how you think this RC800 permit is working, if people
18 are hearing about it in your local communities, we did
19 make an effort this past summer to get out to some of
20 the communities that we don't typically visit during
21 November as part of the Tier II outreach to just make
22 ourselves available in the local communities to talk
23 with local people about the regulatory change and the
24 requirements associated with that permit.

24

25

26 The flyer I gave you guys here is
27 something that we put together and have been sending
28 out to our vendors and handing out when we talk with
29 local people about the permit and our hope here is that
30 this will provide folks that may not be as familiar
31 with a registration permit hunt with the information
32 that they need to do it successfully and get the
33 information back to us as managers and then also just a
34 map on the front side there to clarify any confusion
35 that people might have about open seasons and bag
36 limits and things like that.

36

37

38 It was mentioned yesterday in the Board
39 of Game update, so I'll just touch on that again
40 briefly, but the proposals I have listed on this
41 handout here are what I thought might be pertinent to
42 you folks and maybe some proposals that you would wish
43 to submit public comments on. Those comments are due
44 by December 23rd, basically two weeks before the Board
45 meeting, and we would welcome any comments you might
46 have on any of these proposals here.

46

47

48 I guess with that I'll open myself up
49 here. If you guys have any questions, I'll be happy to
50 answer them.

50

1 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
2 have a question on -- and your name is?

3
4 MR. DUNKER: My name is Bill Dunker.

5
6 MR. KATCHEAK: Bill Dunker. You have a
7 lot of good news about your progress. Right now I'm at
8 a disadvantage because I hear a lot of things that
9 ADF&G is doing. Well, I'm at a disadvantage as a
10 reindeer herder/owner. Those four collars I have
11 activated they're off. I have four satellite collars
12 and you said you have many collars. Can you give me
13 one collar so I could monitor my reindeer?

14
15 (Laughter)

16
17 MR. KATCHEAK: Also you seem to be well
18 supplied and well informed while I have no idea what is
19 in my area, how is it affecting the caribou herd or how
20 is it affecting my people, the people of Stebbins, St.
21 Michael and the Yukon and Unalakleet people? Because
22 they're always asking me, I want reindeer and when can
23 you butcher reindeer. I say I don't have facilities, I
24 don't have a way to do it and I don't have no idea
25 where the reindeer are. I have a general idea.
26 They're across St. Michael. But I have four collars
27 out there that are not active unless I pay to
28 reactivate them. Then I'll know where some of the
29 reindeer are.

30
31 It seems to me it's kind of ironic that
32 the State of Alaska Fish and Game has enjoyed a lot of
33 luxury while we as reindeer herders/owners are
34 suffering. The reason why I asked that area south of
35 Unalakleet was because the caribou have quit coming
36 down or haven't been coming down for 20 years or over.
37 Now we're charged to manage our herd. The Stebbins/St.
38 Michael, my herd, we're struggling.

39
40 We have no communication like you have
41 with your muskox. You seem to know how many muskox you
42 have and you want to increase or decrease. So we're
43 like the last person in the food chain. So I would
44 appreciate if your office and State of Alaska activate
45 one collar so I'll know where our Stebbins reindeer, my
46 reindeer herd, St. Michael. I wish you could help me is
47 the bottom line because I'm living a subsistence way of
48 life and there's no way I'm going to butcher muskox up
49 here because they're too far away and we don't have
50 them.

1 It's just ironic that the State of
2 Alaska enjoys the comforts while we're living out there
3 trying to make it.

4
5 So thank you for hearing me out.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess a question is,
10 hearing what Mr. Katcheak says, I think that management
11 of the reindeer are tied in with BIA and not with the
12 State. Is there somebody here with BIA that we could
13 ask on the side.

14
15 Karen.

16
17 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 In your meeting book on Page 116, if you recall, you
19 put the reindeer issue in your annual report last year
20 and there is a response that does cite the level of
21 participation by BIA and BLM in that response from the
22 Board to you on that issue. It starts on Page 116.

23
24 Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
27 clarification, Karen. I just wanted to get that
28 information out there. Anybody else have a question of
29 Bill.

30
31 MS. DAGGETT: Mr. Chair. I have a
32 slight correction. This is Carmen with Fish and Game.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead. Sorry about
35 folks online.

36
37 MS. DAGGETT: The deadline for comments
38 on proposals for the Board of Game this year is
39 actually the 22nd at 5:00 p.m. So don't wait until the
40 23rd because you're going to miss the deadline. That's
41 just my slight correction.

42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Karen, could you
44 please repeat that. I kind of cut her off.

45
46 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
47 She mentioned that the deadline for comment on Board of
48 Game proposals is December 22nd at 5:00 p.m., not the
49 23rd. She just wanted to make sure nobody missed that
50 opportunity.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that
4 information. Ron, I think you had your hand up for
5 Bill.

6

7 MR. KIRK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What
8 I'm going to ask you doesn't pertain to this, but last
9 spring during our meeting in Anchorage ADF&G had made
10 it available for the youth to be involved in our tribal
11 councils and they had set aside \$100 per village for
12 the tribes to have the youth involved. I'm wondering
13 what kind of response you got from that setup, that
14 ADF&G had set up in the spring meeting at Anchorage.

15

16 I brought this issue up before our
17 tribal president before the deadline. The deadline was
18 April 1st. The meeting was in March. The deadline was
19 April 1st. I brought it up to the president. I don't
20 know if he responded to that, but my concern is can you
21 bring this back to your office and have them let the
22 tribal members know if that funding is still available
23 for the youth because it's very important to get our
24 youth involved like Mr. Eningowuk stated earlier. Our
25 youth will be the ones that will be taking our seats
26 once we're gone. I like the idea of ADF&G trying to
27 get the youth involved in our communities.

28

29 I support that very much.

30

31 Thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for
34 comments, Mr. Kirk. Did you have a question, Elmer.

35

36 MR. SEETOT: Not a question, just a
37 clarification. With the registration we do have to get
38 a permit from ADF&G for this year's caribou hunt.

39

40 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair. Yeah,
41 that's correct. All caribou hunting in Unit 22 for
42 Alaska residents will be by registration permit, RC800.
43 Those permits are available at all the local vendors
44 within the communities. They're also available online
45 and then, of course, we've got them here at the office
46 in Nome.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred.

49

50 MR. ENINGOWUK: This is Fred. I got a

1 permit, this RC800, and you're required to have a
2 hunting license and this permit to hunt the caribou and
3 this had just changed recently. We're required to have
4 in our possession part of the ticket. What do I do?
5 It's raining, it's snowing, my ticket got wet, it's
6 glued together. Do I have to apply for another one?
7

8 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair, to
9 Fred. I guess for starters prevention can go a long
10 way. The bag, keep it all dry. In the event you lose
11 your permit or your harvest ticket or whatnot we can
12 always issue you a duplicate and that's something we
13 can do. You know, just give us a call at the office
14 and we'll be more than happy to help you out with that.
15

16 The important part with this permit is
17 the hunt report at the end of the day. Certainly
18 carrying the harvest ticket portion in the field is
19 required per the registration permit and the hunt
20 conditions and whatnot, but we can work with you on any
21 issues like that that come up so long as we can get the
22 hunt report back at the end of the year.
23

24 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay. So I would just
25 need to go to the Fish and Game office and get a permit
26 reissued because I can't even use that ticket right
27 now. You know how paper gets when it gets wet.
28

29 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair. Yeah,
30 that would be no problem. Stop on down or we can
31 always get you another permit through your vendor in
32 Shishmaref.
33

34 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay. Thank you.
35

36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Question on that new
37 estimate. You said that was like in July you folks did
38 a new estimate on the caribou herd?
39

40 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, to the Chair. We
41 conducted a photo census in late June, early July this
42 past year. It was actually one of the earliest
43 successful photo censuses we've had in the history of
44 doing the project on the Western Arctic Herd. I
45 believe we've got plans to attempt to estimate the
46 population again next summer as well. We're on the
47 list.
48

49 CHAIRMAN GREEN: And it's at 201,000?
50

1 MR. DUNKER: That's correct.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What is the low end?
4 We're right at the bottom. Is it 200,000 that
5 triggers? I forgot the number.
6
7 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair. The
8 threshold that I'm talking about below 200,000 is the
9 lower end of the threshold for conservative management
10 recommendations from the Western Arctic Herd Working
11 Group management plan. So, yeah, 200,000 is the lower
12 end of that threshold there.
13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. Thank you. I'd
15 asked somebody yesterday about -- I don't know if
16 you've got enough data compiled, it doesn't sound like
17 it, to suggest what took place in the hunt and how many
18 hunters were non-Federally qualified. You're not going
19 to have any of that data?
20
21 MR. DUNKER: So for folks living out --
22 so there's an exemption in place currently for hunters
23 that live north of the Yukon River that hunt caribou
24 north of the Yukon River in that they do not -- outside
25 of Unit 22 I'm talking. They're not required to pick
26 up a harvest ticket or registration permit.
27
28 We have the hunter registration system
29 in place. So for any non-local hunters or non-resident
30 hunters they would be required to have a general season
31 caribou harvest ticket for caribou hunting in Unit 23.
32 So we don't have that information as of yet because
33 basically that same harvest ticket that folks may have
34 picked up to hunt in Unit 23 would also be valid
35 anywhere else in the state where there is an open
36 caribou season by general season caribou harvest
37 ticket.
38
39 So until all the dust settles from the
40 other caribou hunts in the region we won't have a solid
41 understanding of exactly what participation or overall
42 harvest was in that particular hunt.
43
44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Bill, thanks. I guess
45 the other one, what did the State witness on the
46 concentrated areas on State lands? Did you witness any
47 problems other than the fact some people pulled out and
48 didn't do the hunt?
49
50 MR. DUNKER: I can't really comment on

1 that. Not for any other reason than I'm not entirely
2 in the loop on the ins and outs of that. Our biologist
3 up in Kotzebue, Brandon Saito, he would be a better guy
4 to talk about what they observed in the region this
5 year with the closure of Federal lands to all but
6 Federally qualified subsistence users.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you on that. I
9 see Proposal 28. It looks like that's a Nome area
10 proposal on the elimination of non-resident moose hunt
11 in 22E and 22D remainder. What's the Department's side
12 on that? It doesn't say anything about it.

13

14 MS. DEATHERAGE: That's our proposal.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sorry about that. I'm
17 thinking that we're getting stuff here with the State
18 Board of Game proposals, but it is from us. Okay. I
19 thought there might have been another one out there.
20 Did the State take a position?

21

22 MR. DUNKER: Yeah, we've drafted all of
23 our analysis and recommendations for the proposals.
24 They'll become available to the public in the next few
25 days or so. I can say that due to the allocative
26 nature of that particular proposal our position will be
27 neutral and we'll provide the Board with information
28 regarding harvestable surplus, overall harvest and the
29 population within those areas and allow them to
30 deliberate and decide as they see fit.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: One question on 22C
33 bear. Overall, I think you and I discussed this on
34 the side, we were talking about the average take of
35 bears in all of 22 and it's kind of averaged around
36 100. What did you see in 22C this last season?

37

38 MR. DUNKER: I got clarification on
39 some of that information after we talked. Our three-
40 year average for brown bear harvest throughout Unit 22
41 is 102 bears, so 2015-2016. We harvested 114 bears
42 from Unit 22 and 30 of those animals were harvested
43 within 22C, which is the highest recorded harvest for
44 the unit. The average annual harvest 1998-2015 was 17
45 bears a year and, again, last year we harvested 30.

46

47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Appreciate that
48 information.

49

50 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.

2

3 MR. KATCHEAK: Have you done any
4 population studies on brown bear? We have several
5 probably in Stuart Island, several probably around
6 between St. Michael and Stebbins, and definitely south
7 and east of St. Michael and Stebbins. Do you have a
8 count on those animals?

9

10 MR. DUNKER: Through the Chair. So we
11 participated in the population survey that the National
12 Park Service conducted in the spring of 2015. That
13 survey I believe you got it from the handout that Ken
14 provided. It did not encompass portions of Unit 22A or
15 any part of 22A.

16

17 MR. KIRK: He wasn't here when I
18 covered that issue with Ken.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ron.

21

22 MR. KIRK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
23 have one issue concerning reindeer like Ted. I just
24 got recently elected into the tribal government. We
25 are part owners of the reindeer herd that's in
26 Stebbins/St. Michael, Katcheak Herd. What I want to
27 ask is will the tribe have to pay for a radio collar to
28 find these reindeer because once the snow hits the
29 ground we're going to have people coming up from the
30 Yukon further down, St. Mary's that area, they're going
31 to be going towards our area hunting our reindeer
32 saying they're hunting caribou. The caribou sometimes
33 go as far as Shaktoolik. The caribou doesn't come all
34 the way down. It goes as far as Shaktoolik and that's
35 where it mainly stays.

36

37 So I'm wondering if ADF&G can have
38 radio collars sent to St. Michael Tribal Council and
39 the Stebbins Tribal Council so that we can monitor our
40 reindeer and we'll be aware if anybody from the Yukon
41 is hunting caribou, we know they'll be hunting our
42 reindeer. That's my concern.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I'm going to clarify
47 something here one more time. The reindeer herd has
48 nothing to do with Fish and Game's management. It's
49 caribou. I kind of see your side of the coin there,
50 that people are going to try to participate in a

1 caribou hunt targeting reindeer, but it's still a
2 discussion I'd think that you might want to have with
3 BIA or BLM. Tom, you're not part of that discussion,
4 are you?

5

6 MR. SPARKS: Do you want me to come up?

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sure. If you've got
9 something to add and want to lighten the load on Bill
10 here a little bit that will be fine. Bill, go ahead.

11

12 MR. DUNKER: If I may, just to clarify.
13 So if you're looking at the map for the RC800 caribou
14 registration permit, I believe it was last year, but
15 the southern portion of 22A is now a to-be-announced
16 season for caribou. So as it stands right now that
17 portion of 22A is closed to caribou hunting. That was
18 in an effort to kind of align it with what we do for
19 kind of a reindeer protection area elsewhere on the
20 Seward Peninsula, like 22C, 22D remainder, the western
21 portion of 22E and some other areas that are frequented
22 by reindeer. So in order to prevent those kinds of
23 conflicts we close the season for caribou unless
24 there's an overwhelming opportunity to harvest caribou
25 specifically in an area.

26

27 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So that addresses
28 folks hunting reindeer pretending they're caribou.
29 They're doing something wrong because it's closed.
30 It's a to-be-announced hunt. That being said, I asked
31 for help from Tom on the issue of where this tribal
32 council would find their assistance through the
33 government.

34

35 MR. SPARKS: Well, BLM is involved in
36 the permitting of the ranges on the Seward Peninsula.
37 We haven't permitted the herd down in Stebbins/St.
38 Michael yet, but we have an ongoing dialogue as far as
39 that goes and that's in the new land use planning area
40 by the way, the BSWI land use plan. But I think your
41 best bet through the Reindeer Council. They have a
42 meeting I think scheduled for the 13th and 14th of
43 November and that usually takes place in Nome.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Kawerak Reindeer
46 Herders Association?

47

48 MR. SPARKS: Yes.

49

50 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Say the dates again,

1 please.

2

3

MR. SPARKS: I believe it's the 13th
4 and 14 of November. There's the Reindeer Herders
5 Association and then there's the Reindeer Council too
6 and they usually meet in conjunction with one another,
7 so I would recommend bringing that forward. I know in
8 the past there's been different agencies that have
9 assisted the reindeer herders with collars and I know
10 that's an ongoing issue.

11

12

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Do you have a
13 question, Ron.

14

15

MR. KIRK: Yeah, with ADF&G, looking at
16 your handout over here, you said Unit 22A is closed to
17 caribou hunting, but down here it says Unit 22A
18 remainder five caribou per day, calves may not be
19 taken, July 1 to June 30th season may be announced.

20

21

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, that's a TBA, to
22 be announced. It's like an emergency order. The State
23 has an opportunity to engage if there are caribou in
24 the area. I'm sure, that being said, they're sensitive
25 to the fact that there is reindeer in the area.

26

27

Thank you, Tom.

28

29

Any questions for Bill.

30

31

(No comments)

32

33

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay, Bill. Thank you
34 for sharing your information with us.

35

36

MR. DUNKER: You bet. Thank you very
37 much.

38

39

CHAIRMAN GREEN: We have OSM and that's
40 Ameer Howard. I like to delay the last name just
41 because. You have the floor, Ameer.

42

43

MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
44 Council Members. I wanted to kind of kick off my brief
45 Agency report for Office of Subsistence Management by
46 thanking each and every one of you for making the time
47 to come to the meeting, participate, engage, ask great
48 questions, tackle the issues. It's been a great
49 meeting and I thank you for that.

50

1 I also want to thank everyone in the
2 audience or in our gallery from the agencies, from the
3 public, from the tribes, everyone who participated in
4 the meeting, again asking great questions, great
5 discussion. That's very important to the program and
6 the program wouldn't work without it. So thank you,
7 just to kick off.

8
9 So OSM has been busy. We call it a
10 relentless pace. Since the all-Council meeting we've
11 had a wildlife regulatory meeting for the Federal
12 Subsistence Board where they tackled almost 70 wildlife
13 proposals. We've had a Federal subsistence work
14 session in July. We've had several special actions
15 throughout the spring and summer. We're now into the
16 fall cycle and then coming soon we will have the
17 January fisheries regulatory board meeting in
18 Anchorage. After that we jump right back into the
19 winter/spring Council cycle again beginning the first
20 week of February. So the schedule is ongoing,
21 relentless some say, but we appreciate everyone's
22 participation.

23
24 The Office of Subsistence Management
25 has been undergoing a lot of hiring changes. So on
26 Page 137 of your meeting materials there is.....

27
28 (Power outage)

29
30 MS. DEATHERAGE: For those of you on
31 the phone, we had a technical difficulty and we're back
32 online and ready to go. Thank you.

33
34 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Okay. So, Ameer, you
35 have the floor. Continue your speech.

36
37 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. So
38 again on Page 137 of your meeting materials you'll see
39 a staffing report from OSM. The highlight there, Chuck
40 Ardizzone, Deborah Coble and Melinda Burke have all
41 moved on to other opportunities, so they're no longer
42 with the program.

43
44 Chuck Ardizzone was our Deputy
45 Assistant Regional Director and filling in his shoes
46 since January or since his departure has been Stewart
47 Cogswell. Stewart is our Fisheries Division Chief. So
48 now acting as the Fisheries Division Chief we have
49 Jennifer Hardin, our Anthropology Chief. Acting as our
50 Anthropology Chief is our own Robbin LaVine who is with

1 us today. So we have a lot of folks filling in until
2 we can get through the hiring process to hire the new
3 permanent Deputy ARD.

4

5 For Deborah Coble, she was our Outreach
6 Coordinator, a position that's very important for the
7 program, so we're excited to announce that we have
8 received a search as of last week. It's been a long
9 time in processing. We're hoping to get somebody great
10 in. Hopefully we have some great candidates.

11

12 Then Melinda Burke, her position we
13 have a new Council Coordinator Katya Wessels and she is
14 covering Eastern Interior and then also helping with
15 book production. Is that correct, Karen?

16

17 MS. DEATHERAGE: That is the Western
18 Interior.

19

20 MS. HOWARD: You'll notice we have both
21 Katya and Zach listed in the hiring update. So I'm
22 just going to name off the new arrivals and the
23 divisions that they work for. I'm not going to go into
24 reading each one, but if you do have questions, please
25 feel free to stop and ask.

26

27 So Scott Ayers is one of our new
28 fisheries biologist.

29

30 Gary Decossas is our new fisheries
31 biometrician.

32

33 Srinath Doraiswamy is our new IT Oracle
34 Database administrator.

35

36 Frank Harris is a new fisheries
37 biologist that is probably our newest member of the
38 team. He just joined us a couple weeks ago.

39

40 Megan Klosterman is a new wildlife
41 biologist and she has been outstanding as acting as
42 Wildlife Division Chief because Chris is on leave.

43

44 Dr. Joshua Ream is new to our
45 Anthropology Division. He's a great asset as well.

46

47 Michelle St. Peters is our new Grants
48 Management Specialist, a position that has been vacant
49 for quite some time and she's instrumental in the FRMP,
50 making sure the money goes where it needs to go once

1 all the decisions are made. So we're happy to have
2 Michelle on.

3
4 Khris Santos is our new IT specialist.
5 He helps us make sure things are running and that we're
6 connected.

7
8 Sabrina Schmidt is our new
9 receptionist, administrative assistant and she's been
10 great to work with and has a lot of enthusiasm and
11 will be an asset to the team. She's also responsible
12 for answering the phones and being the point person
13 there, so we're glad to have her.

14
15 Again Zach Stevenson. He's a new
16 Council Coordinator. He covers the Western Interior
17 RAC and also the Northwest Arctic RAC. He has a
18 tremendous amount of experience in Kotzebue and in
19 Northwest Alaska, so he's been fantastic.

20
21 And Jarred Stone is a Pathways student.
22 He's working on his master's degree currently and
23 hopefully when he's done my hope would be that OSM
24 would find a way to keep him if we can. He's been
25 really great.

26
27 And then again, last but not least on
28 the list, is Katya Wessels. She came over from Park
29 Service. She worked for the Beringia program. She's
30 been phenomenal in assisting the Eastern Interior RAC
31 and also with your meeting book materials and the
32 materials that go out for all the Councils and she's
33 also filled in as our outreach coordinator part time
34 since Deb left.

35
36 So, with that, OSM continues to be
37 busy. Again thank you for your time and participation
38 here in Nome. If you have any questions, I'm happy to
39 answer if I can.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Sounds like Fred has a
42 question for you.

43
44 MR. ENINGOWUK: Motion to support the
45 MOU between State Fish and Game and the Federal
46 Subsistence. So I take it that there will be a
47 position as liaison added to this list.

48
49 MS. HOWARD: Currently we do have a
50 State liaison. That is George Pappas and I'm not sure

1 if the responsibilities outlined in that MOU will be
2 assigned to somebody who is already currently on the
3 team or if a whole new position will be created. I
4 think it will depend on the workload. But we can keep
5 that in mind. Again George Pappas is our State liaison
6 working for the program right now.

7

8 MR. ENINGOWUK: Thank you very much.
9 I'm thankful that we do have -- I'm not sure -- it's in
10 the process of being approved, but I'm thankful that we
11 have that MOU and hopefully all the regulations will be
12 in line with State and Federal.

13

14 MS. HOWARD: Thank you, Fred. I think
15 the MOU is a great step forward and will allow us a
16 framework to address all the different issues that come
17 up for our program and the State program.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Any other questions of
22 Anee or comments. Elmer.

23

24 MR. SEETOT: Other than the handbook
25 coordinator, if we do want to switch our flight from
26 today, we would have to contact one of the employees of
27 OSM to verify or to make the travel plan change
28 possible.

29

30 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Seetot, you would
31 have to speak with me about any flight changes.

32

33 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay.

34

35 MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. With your
36 permission, I forgot a very important update. As the
37 Council knows, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence
38 Board, Tim Towarak, retired. He retired on, I believe,
39 September 15th, was his last day as the Chair. In the
40 interim, the Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell in
41 concurrence with the Secretary of Agriculture have
42 appointed Tony Christianson as the interim Chair for
43 the Federal Subsistence Board.

44

45 Tony currently serves as a public
46 member on the Federal Subsistence Board. He'll do a
47 great job. Tony is an asset to the program. He's very
48 engaged. He knows ANILCA. I have no doubt he will do
49 a great job. While he is acting as the Chair
50 currently, the Secretary's Office is undergoing the

1 official process to appoint a permanent Chair.

2

3 Being that we are in an election year
4 and administrations will be changing in January,
5 they've somewhat streamlined the process. They still
6 won't give us an actual timeline on when we could
7 anticipate an announcement of the new Chair, but they
8 assure us there is a streamlined process.

9

10 So those are two very important updates
11 that I forgot to mention at the start of my report.
12 Any questions.

13

14 (No comments)

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: No questions of the
17 Council. Thank you for your report.

18

19 MS. HOWARD: Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We need to work on 16-
22 07 if you want to present it.

23

24 MS. HOWARD: Certainly. Thank you, Mr.
25 Chair. Council Members. On Friday, October 28th, BLM
26 submitted a special action request to the Office of
27 Subsistence Management. I believe Karen passed out a
28 sheet of paper and that is the request we received from
29 BLM. So I'm just going to go over the high points.
30 This was just a few days ago. I'll go over the high
31 points and where we're at in the process.

32

33 BLM is requesting the closure of a cow
34 moose hunt on Federal lands in Unit 22D remainder to
35 take effect December 1st, 2016 to the end of the
36 regulatory year. BLM is concerned about allowing the
37 harvest of cow moose in Unit 22D remainder in relation
38 to the overall population trend since 2011.

39

40 Moose population surveys completed by
41 ADF&G in March 2014 show estimated moose numbers have
42 declined by 14 percent annually between 2011 and 2014.
43 ADF&G closed the antlerless harvest beginning in 2015
44 over concerns of the decline in the population related
45 to the negative impacts of a cow harvest. An
46 antlerless moose harvest is currently open from
47 December 1st to December 31st on Federal lands in Unit
48 22D remainder.

49

50 The continued harvest of cow moose from

1 Unit 22D remainder would likely cause further declines
2 in the population before any proposals to close the
3 harvest of cow moose could be submitted to and
4 considered by the Federal Subsistence Board in their
5 next meeting.

6

7 Again, that is the request from BLM.
8 This request is an emergency special action request and
9 because it came in just prior to the meeting we wanted
10 to update you here and inform you that we had received
11 it. However, typically, when we present a special
12 action request to a Council, we would have a draft
13 analysis for you to review and comment on. Because of
14 the early time in the process the analysis is currently
15 being worked on by staff. However, we thought it was
16 important to bring this to your attention.

17

18 So it would be at the discretion of the
19 Chair and the Council whether you wanted to comment on
20 it, whether the Council wanted to put forth a
21 recommendation that would be added to the analysis that
22 would go to the Federal Subsistence Board for their
23 deliberation. I have spoken with Bruce Seppi from BLM
24 and also Bill Dunker from ADF&G and they are open to
25 answering questions the Council may have.

26

27 So I leave it in your hands, Mr. Chair,
28 on how you would like to proceed.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ameer
31 Howard. Just to speak on that area down there, I used
32 to hunt there a lot and then I kind of backed off
33 because the numbers seemed to me were going down. The
34 presence of moose in that area were starting to decline
35 in my opinion. I've been hunting down there a
36 lifetime.

37

38 Maybe Mr. Dunker could come up here and
39 share some stats. That would help. I know this is an
40 area that folks from Brevig and Teller would target.
41 Agiapuk and Lower Kuzitrin, Duck Slough, that area.
42 Before I'd make any decisions on that we'd need to hear
43 some data, I think.

44

45 Thank you, Bill.

46

47 MR. DUNKER: Mr. Chair. Our most
48 recent population survey from that area was conducted
49 in 2014. At that time we estimated a population of 491
50 moose in 22D remainder specifically. That particular

1 area is done as a part of a larger survey encompassing
2 both 22E and 22D in its entirety.

3

4 CHAIRMAN GREEN: How many?

5

6 MR. DUNKER: 491.

7

8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That includes 22E?

9

10 MR. DUNKER: That's for 22D remainder
11 specifically. That was a 14 percent annual rate of
12 decline since 2011 when the last survey was conducted
13 in that area.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 14 percent. Does that
16 alarm the State?

17

18 MR. DUNKER: It did, yeah. I mean I'm
19 certainly not -- I believe Tony has brought it up
20 before the Council before that we've got concerns about
21 the population in that particular area and certainly a
22 14 percent annual rate of decline is something that
23 concerns us.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So we're talking about
26 cow harvest here. Elmer, you live over there, so I
27 wanted to hear something from you.

28

29 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You
30 can see 22D remainder has some land that goes out to
31 the spit on the western side to the foothills toward
32 the east. It's pretty much wetlands. Bird habitat
33 along with the southern portion of Unit 22D remainder.
34 I don't think browse is available for moose year round.
35 They might just be migrating through there. I know
36 whatever moose eat they're more toward the interior.
37 So that portion I can probably point out in more detail
38 off record. That portion south of 22D remainder or
39 pretty much the southern portion along with that spit
40 offers very little food for the moose.

41

42 Also the river or creek drainages do
43 not provide enough cover or food for that. There is
44 also a reindeer herd that is situated in Unit 22D. The
45 wolf population, I know of whole wolf packs that
46 traverse on the eastern portion of Imuruk Basin because
47 that's flat ground for them just to go down to the
48 reindeer herd. That reindeer herd from Teller has been
49 hit very hard by predators over the past 10 years,
50 especially wolves.

1 So whatever food is available for the
2 wolves, if they're not going to get reindeer, then I
3 would think that they would displace the moose that are
4 in the creek or river drainages of that area. Habitat
5 is not really suitable for moose other than the upper
6 portions of 22D remainder. Like I say most of that is
7 wetlands up to foothills to the east side of Port
8 Clarence Bay.

9

10 It's a good sanctuary for muskox, the
11 spit during the summer, because humans control the gate
12 wherever they're camping and the muskox have been very
13 prevalent over the past years just to escape the wolf
14 predation on these animals. So even though we live
15 side by side with these animals, sometimes we have to
16 take precaution.

17

18 I was camped there about four years ago
19 for subsistence spring hunt and the muskox went back
20 and forth along the spit. No further away from me and
21 you. The tent stakes were there and they were just
22 running around and it got to a point where one of the
23 bull moose was able to gore one of the dogs, so that
24 would just be I would think not really moose habitat
25 western portion of the spit up to the eastern portion
26 of Port Clarence, all the way from Jones Point to
27 Teller.

28

29 I would think that the moose would
30 freak if they were ever chased by wolves. The majority
31 of the animals do reside or stay within the creek area
32 or around the Nome-Teller Road because there's a lot of
33 cover available, a lot of food available for the moose
34 there. I think that's where a majority of the count
35 was in Unit 22D remainder. I rarely see Teller and
36 Brevig residents taking moose from this area other than
37 possibly when there's an opportunity available when
38 they go on the Bering River area to pick berries or
39 just camp out during the late fall.

40

41 But let me tell you that place, Unit
42 22D remainder, is a great migration route for waterfowl
43 and other stuff other than just moose habitat. I
44 rarely see moose around the southern portion and the
45 western portion of Unit 22D remainder because I don't
46 think food is available for them in that area. Other
47 than Nome hunters being able to harvest moose in 22D
48 remainder, I think they're using the road system to
49 access these areas where the moose are.

50

1 Thank you.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
4
5 Bill.
6
7 MR. DUNKER: Just for clarification
8 here, 22D remainder or that portion of 22D is within
9 the American and the Agiapuk River drainage?
10
11 MR. SEETOT: No, sir.
12
13 MR. DUNKER: It sounds like you're
14 describing what is 22D southwest, the portion by
15 Teller.
16
17 MR. SEETOT: Oh, okay. Is that what
18 you're talking about?
19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 22D remainder is
21 southwest. No, no, I'm sorry, it doesn't include it.
22 Excuse me. I'm drifting here. 22D remainder is down
23 there where it crosses over from the mouth of the
24 Kuzitrin into the Imuruk. There's a line across to the
25 east side of Cobblestone. It's never been defined
26 really well on any charts and I always raise the
27 question for Fish and Game to get a magnified map of
28 that area.
29
30 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. I would
31 retract most of my statements on that. It was kind of
32 referring to 22D southwest. However, there's a lot of
33 activity within 22D remainder. That includes all
34 species, caribou, reindeer, moose, that use this area.
35 I'm clear for one thing, that wolf packs have used the
36 eastern portion of Imuruk Basin just to traverse down
37 to the reindeer areas and then within that area.
38
39 I mentioned that I traveled one winter
40 maybe from December to March within 100 mile radius of
41 the Kuzitrin/American/Agiapuk River drainages. We
42 counted over 21 moose kills by wolves just in that one
43 area and that was just only for that period. So our
44 hunters have been very active in trying to keep the
45 wolf population at a minimum so that our animals won't
46 be displaced so we have to travel farther.
47
48 Other than that, 22D remainder is very
49 active use area for people from Teller, Brevig and
50 especially Nome and that's what I kind of go for. The

1 wildlife resources are there for everyone to use as
2 long as you do it in an environmentally safe manner
3 that you don't disrupt the natural cycle of this
4 resource. That's what we kind of advocate for in our
5 area. Just because we're from Teller and Brevig, in
6 some cases you hear of communities restricting use of
7 lands for outside areas, especially Native corporation
8 lands, but we know that these wildlife resources know
9 no boundaries, they go wherever they want to go.

10

11 But I would kind of retract some of my
12 statements earlier because it all referred to Unit 22D
13 southwest and my apologies.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
18 Okay. I kind of followed you on that and I was
19 wondering where you were going, but I appreciate your
20 final comment there.

21

22 The cow harvest numbers. I was worried
23 about displacing hunters to the west of us. So what
24 was the cow harvest numbers.

25

26 MR. DUNKEL: So average annual reported
27 harvest for antlerless moose in 22D remainder is about
28 one animal a year.

29

30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: On this special
31 action, is there a deadline date on it or is it to be
32 put in -- I guess the man that wrote it would speak to
33 the fact.

34

35 MR. SEPPI: Bruce Seppi with BLM.
36 That's actually an OSM question, but it would be for
37 this season and only this season. Also it is only on
38 Federal lands. I wanted to point that out in this
39 discussion. So all that area you were describing
40 weren't Federal lands and antlerless harvest is already
41 closed by State regulations in those areas. So this is
42 only 22D remainder on Federal lands.

43

44 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you.

45

46 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Ted.

49

50 MR. KATCHEAK: A question for Elmer.

1 When those moose were killed by wolves, when was that?

2

3 MR. SEETOT: I would say about 10 years
4 ago that we took a ride around the Kuzitrin, American,
5 Agiapuk River systems and kind of looping. We
6 continued that route because we were in pursuit of
7 wolves that were using that route in order to decrease
8 the wolf population within those areas.

9

10 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Considering it's one
13 cow taken on average, a question of one cow, what can
14 one cow produce average in a lifetime.

15

16 MR. DUNKEL: Well, I think the
17 important thing to keep in mind here is that antlerless
18 can have a significant impact on the population. So
19 one antlerless moose doesn't sound like a lot, but in
20 the long run it has the potential to have pretty
21 negative impacts on the overall trajectory of the
22 population.

23

24 As far as antlerless harvest is
25 concerned, even a modest rate of like 3 percent is
26 substantial when we're talking about antlerless moose
27 harvest and has the possibility to have serious
28 implications for the overall trajectory of that
29 population.

30

31 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks. Okay. So
32 it's up to us to support, oppose or take no action.
33 How does the Council feel? I'm opposing cow hunts.
34 I'm just making a comment here and then I'll go into
35 that, but that's my feeling. Anyway, I guess we've got
36 to go through the list here of anybody online.

37

38 MS. DEATHERAGE: We don't.

39

40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We don't? A mee is
41 going to clarify something here. Bill, thank you.

42

43 MS. HOWARD: Sorry to interrupt, Mr.
44 Chair. I think at this time it would be appropriate
45 for the Council to discuss what your thoughts are and
46 if you are going to have a recommendation, this is the
47 time to do it. Once the recommendation is agreed upon,
48 then we can make a motion and go through that process,
49 but there needs to be some time for the Council to
50 discuss it.

1 You look like you disagree, Karen.

2

3 MS. DEATHERAGE: I don't disagree. I'm
4 just trying to work it out in my mind because this is
5 different. Whatever works for you guys works for me.

6

7 MS. HOWARD: So from a process
8 standpoint, we would want to know what the
9 recommendation is and give the opportunity for the
10 agencies, the public, tribes to comment, and then vote
11 would probably be the cleanest way to adhere to
12 Robert's Rules.

13

14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Council. Fred.

15

16 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, this is Fred. I
17 was looking at the regulations here. How much Federal
18 lands are we talking about in 22D remainder? Just to
19 comment, the cow season anywhere in 22D remainder with
20 the opening of December 1st to December 31st and I
21 don't have a copy of the State regulations and I would
22 like to know what the State regulations are on this
23 topic.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I guess that question
26 would go to you, Bill.

27

28 MR. DUNKER: So the State regulations
29 as they stand right now in 22D remainder for moose
30 hunting. There is a resident season of August 10th to
31 September 14th for one bull and then October 1st to
32 January 31st with a bag limit of one bull. However,
33 only antlered bull moose can be harvested December 1st
34 to January 31st.

35

36 There is also the non-resident hunt in
37 the area with a season of September 1st to September
38 14th that has a bag limit of one bull moose with at
39 least 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow
40 tines on one side. That hunt is administered with a
41 harvest quota. The current quota is three moose and
42 that season gets closed down by emergency order when
43 the harvest quota is met.

44

45 Just to provide some background on the
46 antlerless moose hunt that we had in the State system
47 that has subsequently been closed down. Antlerless
48 harvest in State regulations require annual
49 reauthorization by the Board of Game and the local ACs.
50 I believe it was in 2014 the authorization was put

1 before local ACs and Board of Game and based on the
2 overall declines in the area and the concerns over the
3 continuation of an antlerless harvest in the area Fish
4 and Game staff, the ACs and Board of Game all agreed
5 that season should be eliminated -- or, excuse me, the
6 bag limit for that season should be changed to one
7 antlered bull.

8
9 So the opportunity is still there,
10 particularly on the State side, to harvest a moose
11 during that December time period. However, with a bag
12 limit of one antlered bull it eliminated the
13 opportunity to harvest an antlerless moose at that
14 time.

15
16 MR. ENINGOWUK: So then if I'm correct,
17 there is no antlerless moose opening on the State side.

18
19 MR. DUNKEL: Through the Chair. That's
20 correct. There's no antlerless moose harvest in 22D
21 remainder in State regulations.

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So it looks to me like
24 for the Council if we made a motion to support BLM's
25 special action, it would conform to matching up to what
26 the State is doing. The State is also providing
27 already December 1 to December 31st antlered moose or
28 did I miss something?

29
30 MR. DUNKEL: To the Chair. It's
31 December 1st to January 31st for one antlered bull.

32
33 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So basically there's
34 opportunity provided for subsistence. What we're doing
35 if we support BLM's special action request is we're
36 taking a conservation measure and I don't have a
37 problem with that. Anybody on the Council have any
38 comments.

39
40 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yeah, I have one more
41 question that I asked that wasn't answered. It may not
42 be with the State Fish and Game question, but I was
43 wondering how much Federal land are we talking about in
44 22D remainder.

45
46 MR. SEPPI: Bruce Seppi with BLM. I
47 can't give you an acreage figure there, but there's
48 both BLM and Park Service land there in D remainder.
49 Under these regs both of those lands would be open if
50 this cow hunt remained open.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I see Tom coming back
2 here.

3
4 MR. SPARKS: There's several townships
5 that are involved just north of the Bering Straits
6 Native Corporation ownership, the mouth of Agiapuk
7 River. Each township is roughly 23,000 acres, so it's
8 40,000 plus. It's quite a large block of BLM land.
9 You can see it there just north of the mouth of the
10 river there. Elmer, you're probably familiar with that
11 area. So it's quite large in terms of BLM holding
12 there.

13
14 (Ms. Howard puts up a map)

15
16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That's probably where
17 the hills start, huh?

18
19 MR. SPARKS: No, the mouth there is
20 owned by the Bering Straits Native Corporation. That's
21 why it's not shown as Federal lands. Then there's a
22 strip of State-selected land in between the two yellow
23 chunks there just to the north of Bering Straits'
24 holding. So it's quite a large area.

25
26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: I always get
27 frustrated with the 22D remainder boundaries because
28 they're not defined really clear. Anyway, what is the
29 wishes of the Council on this special action request by
30 BLM? Elmer, I guess you have something to say.

31
32 MR. SEETOT: Yes, I had a comment too.
33 Moose population surveys completed by ADF&G in March
34 2014. It mentions something like that. Can you
35 reaffirm the 14 percent decline since 2014. You've got
36 2015 and a portion of 2016. I would think there's a
37 lot of displacement by fire from the Interior. I would
38 think there's displacement by wolves and other
39 predators, bears. Can you still reaffirm that 14
40 percent decline in the areas of Unit 22D remainder?

41
42 The majority of the land is within the
43 Agiapuk River drainage system. I don't think the
44 majority of hunters do go there other than probably
45 people from this area using jet boats because we seen
46 three jet boats that went up. You can hear those jet
47 boats for a long ways. I don't think moose with their
48 large ears like to hear large noise.

49
50 In fall time or when the ice is

1 breaking up, they won't be found around the river
2 system. They'll be further up on the foothills because
3 load noise scares them and that's where sometimes our
4 comments get screwed around because maybe the majority
5 of you don't know that, you know, freeze-up time they
6 move out of the river system because of loud noises.

7

8 Other stuff like wolf predation and
9 stuff like that moving these animals around. Like I
10 say, lots of things can happen since 2014. Are you
11 still being able to reaffirm the 14 percent decline
12 within remainder of 22D? That's pretty much my main
13 question.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. I
18 guess, Bill, you're going to pick this up.

19

20 MR. DUNKEL: Through the Chair. We
21 don't have any more recent population information for
22 22D remainder. We have every intention to get back up
23 into that area this fall to conduct fall composition
24 surveys and we've got 22E and 22D moose surveys on the
25 docket for the spring of 2018 it looks like right now.

26

27 But I can say, barring any additional
28 population information, we have been receiving reports
29 of hunters that are going in that area and have
30 expressed concerns to us at the Department about what
31 they're seeing in that area. So, with that in mind, I
32 believe that we don't have any reason to suspect that
33 the overall trend hasn't continued, so it is still a
34 concern. Population decline in the area is still a
35 concern to us.

36

37 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill. To
38 be clear, this is not going to remove a subsistence
39 hunt from anybody by taking that one cow away because
40 December 1 through January 31st there is a bull hunt.
41 Brandon.

42

43 MR. AHMASUK: I just had a quick
44 comment. Brandon Ahmasuk, subsistence director at
45 Kawerak. Forgive me if I missed it, but I didn't hear
46 what was the current bull to cow ratio in 22D
47 remainder. Then my comment for Louis about never
48 seeing a detailed map for the 22D moose harvest, not
49 speaking for Fish and Game, but I know they have a map
50 specific for that area. It's very detailed. It

1 outlines what's all in there.

2

3

Thank you.

4

5

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you. That one
6 is on the wall at Fish and Game, but it would help to
7 have it out. That was my intent, sorry, but thank you.
8 And I did have a question about bull and cow ratio too
9 that I didn't raise.

10

11

Thank you for reminding me, Brandon.

12

13

MR. DUNKEL: Through the Chair. Again,
14 we're kind of dealing with some older information here.
15 The most recent composition survey information from 22D
16 remainder that we have is from 2011. At that time we
17 found 35 bulls per 100 cows. We were able to get back
18 in to that area in 2013 to attempt a composition survey
19 again, but due to survey conditions and weather and
20 whatnot we did not achieve an adequate sample size, but
21 the overall indication or the observations that were
22 made at that time kind of confirmed our suspicions that
23 our bull/cow ratios in that area are more than likely
24 declining, falling in line with the overall population
25 declines in area.

26

27

Again, it's old information and we're
28 going to try and get back in there this fall if we get
29 any kind of survey conditions and have a better
30 understanding of what the bull/cow ratio in that area
31 is. Again, we feel that the overall trend is a
32 declining one.

33

34

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Bill. I
35 don't feel that this is a subtraction of subsistence
36 opportunity because the State already covered by
37 allowing the bull from December 1 through January 31st.
38 This cow hunt was December 1 through December 31st, so
39 there's an extra month of opportunity for people to go
40 out and get that bull. I just want to know from
41 Council if anybody cares to make a motion to support.
42 And then we have to ask people online after we finish
43 our discussion.

44

45

MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair. At this time
46 if you would like you can also go through and ask
47 people now if that will help inform the Council on the
48 motion to be made. For further information from
49 possible tribes, the public or anyone on the phone can
50 also add to your motion to be made.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ameer.
2 That's where I was going, so thanks. Online, if
3 anybody with tribes or ANCSA corporations. ADF&G agency
4 comments we've been hearing. Federal agency comments
5 we've been hearing. Native, tribal, village, other.
6 Interagency Staff Committee members. Are there any
7 advisory groups out there like other Regional Councils,
8 Fish and Game Advisory Committee members. Roy was here
9 earlier. Subsistence Resource Commissions. Public
10 comments online or in the room or public testimony to
11 help the Council make a decision.

12
13 (No comments)

14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Nobody. Pretty quiet
16 out there online. I think we've beat the horse in the
17 room.

18
19 MS. DEATHERAGE: The cow.

20
21 (Laughter)

22
23 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So, having said that,
24 I think we need to take some action one way or the
25 other and I want it in the form of a motion from
26 members of the Council. I'd ask for a motion to
27 support. I'm in favor of supporting it. That's just
28 my opinion. We need a positive motion, so I'd ask for
29 that motion.

30
31 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair, Ron Kirk. I so
32 move to support BLM's closure of cow moose in Unit 22D
33 remainder.

34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for that
36 motion, Ron. Keep in mind this is only for this season
37 and it's only one month. Is there a second.

38
39 MR. SEETOT: Second the motion.

40
41 CHAIRMAN GREEN: There's a first and a
42 second on the motion. We've discussed it. Is there
43 any further discussion, any comments.

44
45 (No comments)

46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Call
48 for the question.

49
50 MR. KIRK: Question.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
2 called. All those in favor of supporting Special
3 Action 16-07 say aye.
4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.
6
7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
8 sign.
9
10 (No opposing votes)
11
12 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing no opposition,
13 the motion is favored. I'm done. Okay. That brings
14 us -- Mr. BLM Guy you got your support. Thank you,
15 Bruce and Tom and Bill. We're down to our meeting
16 dates and closing comments.
17
18 MR. KIRK: Did you cover all the ones
19 you skipped around?
20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah.
22
23 MS. DEATHERAGE: Annual report.
24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Annual report. My
26 goodness, my goodness, my goodness. I crossed it off.
27
28 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.
29
30 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.
31
32 MR. KATCHEAK: The proposal I made for
33 caribou, did it pass or approved to be included in the
34 regulation?
35
36 CHAIRMAN GREEN: That 16-03 we voted it
37 down. We were able to do that because we did have a
38 quorum. We should have informed you about that.
39
40 MR. KATCHEAK: So my proposal is done.
41 It's not going to go into effect or it's not going to
42 be able to be considered.
43
44 MS. DEATHERAGE: What proposal is that?
45
46 CHAIRMAN GREEN: What number?
47
48 MR. KATCHEAK: It was that closing 22A
49 remainder for caribou hunt, emergency only.
50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It's already closed.
2 It's up to the State management to announce. TBA means
3 to be announced if there was an opening, but it's
4 closed until they take action. So it's already in
5 effect.

6
7 MR. KATCHEAK: Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You got yours.

10
11 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Katcheak, through
12 the Chair. That was part of Proposal 37 that the
13 Council reviewed. In your meeting books is a
14 delegation of authority letter that gives the land
15 managers permission to call a season on a to-be-
16 announced basis. So that one did pass.

17
18 Thank you.

19
20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So identifying issues
21 for annual report.

22
23 Karen.

24
25 MS. DEATHERAGE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
26 As you know, each year we identify issues that are
27 generally outside the regulatory cycle issues to report
28 to Federal Subsistence Board on things that are of
29 concern to the Council. You can go into your meeting
30 books and see the last annual report and the replies to
31 see what issues you had for last year and you can
32 either reiterate those issues if you don't feel the
33 response from the Board was adequate or you can add
34 issues that you feel the Board needs to know about.
35 That's on Page 116 of your meeting book.

36
37 Mr. Chair. I'm going to go ahead and
38 just read the topics that were presented in the 2015
39 annual report to the Federal Subsistence Board. The
40 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program was one of the
41 issues and the concern of the Council was limited
42 number of Federal opportunities that the Council has to
43 receive funding.

44
45 However, at this meeting you all
46 discussed your priority information needs for the call
47 for the 2018 funding cycle and it looks like you have
48 some really good priority information needs that will
49 hopefully draw in some good proposals. So we think you
50 did a very good job with that and hopefully this issue

1 can be resolved for this round of funding.

2

3

4 The second issue that's been brought up
5 at this meeting as well is the ownership and management
6 of reindeer herds and the concern about not being able
7 to understand how many animals are out there, where
8 they are and who might be responsible. The answer from
9 the Board is that this is a private ownership issue
10 even though both the BLM and the BIA do work. The BLM
11 just to look at habitat and also to permit for reindeer
12 herds on public lands and the BIA to assist with
13 tribes.

13

14

15 There's been a recommendation that, Mr.
16 Katcheak, you contact the BIA and see how they might be
17 able to help you with monitoring that particular herd.
18 So you may or may not want to include that in this
19 year's annual report.

19

20

21 Federalizing the Yukon River. There
22 was an issue, I think you guys were looking at a
23 similar situation as the Kuskokwim River. The
24 challenge there that was pointed out and the response
25 from the Board is that the Yukon River is quite
26 different and multiple jurisdictions, so it might be a
27 challenge, but you could continue to put that in there
28 if you'd like as something that might be looked at in
29 the future.

29

30

31 The Secretary of the Interior did note
32 that the Kuskokwim Management Plan that's in place
33 right now is really a good plan and they hope to see
34 more things like that occur in the future. So it might
35 be something you consider.

35

36

37 Guided hunting of moose in 22E. This
38 issue was brought about because of the concern of the
39 shortages that are in 22D and 22E and the possibility
40 of migration between the herds in those two regions.
41 One of the things that the Council requested was that
42 OSM staff prepare a proposal to the Alaska Board of
43 Game for the upcoming cycle to shut down non-resident
44 hunting. This has been done. It's Proposal 28 and it
45 will be before the Board of Game at their Arctic Region
46 meeting coming up in January, I believe.

46

47

48 The next item you brought up was
49 climate change and baseline studies, that there's a lot
50 of concern that the impacts on salmon in particular
51 with respect to climate change. I think that some of

1 your FRMP priority information needs that you presented
2 might address that because it's looking at some of
3 those issues in areas where no data appear to be
4 available. So that might at least get you started on
5 creating some of that baseline data.

6

7 The last thing that you brought up was
8 the extirpation of chinook salmon. This was brought up
9 by the Council Member from Teller. While we understand
10 there's a concern about chinook salmon in that area,
11 the request was to restore chinook salmon and we don't
12 have the funding to do that. So that issue is pretty
13 much out of our hands as far as formal stocking of
14 fish.

15

16 So those are the issues you had for the
17 2015 annual report.

18

19 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

20

21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.

22

23 MR. KATCHEAK: I'd like to just clarify
24 one thing that you mentioned. I'm a private
25 owner/herder and Stebbins/St. Michael are my partners
26 and they're both nonprofit. So you have to list me as a
27 profit because I have a license by the State of Alaska
28 to operate livestock. So in the future, until I don't
29 renew my business license, then I don't know what to
30 say about that. That's where I'm coming from.

31

32 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted.
33 Anybody have any other comments about our annual
34 report. Is there something missing? Elmer.

35

36 MR. SEETOT: I can comment on this
37 annual report other than on number six, extirpation of
38 chinook salmon. I think that Teller sees the first
39 fish that comes through because they're a straight line
40 course to Grantley Harbor, through Imuruk Basin.
41 Community of Brevig I think catches salmon later than
42 Teller because the community of Teller is near a
43 channel where water is open pretty much year round from
44 outgoing water from Imuruk Basin, but sometime we're
45 pretty much ice enclosed for a long time along our
46 shoreline and I think when the Bering Sea opens up it
47 provides for the chinook salmon to go through the river
48 system first, but it has been very difficult to catch
49 salmon when there's ice on the shoreline.

50

1 I think over the past year we have been
2 able to catch chum salmon or red salmon first before
3 chinook because I'm believing that the chinook had
4 already passed through the time when they were supposed
5 to and then that were encumbered by sea ice still on
6 the shore. That wouldn't be able to verify that the
7 chinook salmon are passing through Port Clarence Bay
8 and that's one of the things that I have seen. Some
9 people have caught chinook salmon -- the first chinook
10 king salmon when they first put out and it's compared
11 to jack kings that come later on in the summer.

12

13 Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer.
16 When it comes to the chinook salmon, I don't disagree
17 with you what you were saying about them because I seen
18 what happened on the Pilgrim River. I mean there used
19 to be runs of 1,000 or so. It takes 400 salmon, which
20 is 200 pairs, to be considered a run if I remember
21 correctly.

22

23 But, having said that, this is a State
24 of Alaska issue because it's inriver and it's not a
25 Federal. That's why I keep homing in on trying to say
26 the Feds need to work with the State on finding what
27 migratory patterns are happening on species of salmon
28 in all of Norton Sound. I finally got that through
29 there.

30 We put that in the FRMP as one of our three choices and
31 hopefully it will get some light shed on it and maybe
32 bring this chinook issue that you bring up to light.

33

34 Karen.

35

36 MS. DEATHERAGE: I would be more than
37 happy to report to the Board that you're pursuing this
38 issue in some way through the FRMP program and also
39 hoping through the MOU that the Federal and State
40 government will work more closely together on the
41 migratory patterns of these fish.

42

43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We voted to support
44 the MOU between Feds and State, this would fall in line
45 in with support of that as a Council. It seemed like
46 there was something else I wanted to add to it, but I
47 can't pull it up now and I don't know where I wrote it
48 down.

49

50 Are there any other comments or

1 anything anybody has about our annual report, adding to
2 it.

3

4 MR. SEETOT: Mr. Chair. What does the
5 Council Coordinator have issues for the Seward
6 Peninsula? Are they written down or something
7 discussed so far at this meeting for the annual report
8 or no significant issue of what we have been discussing
9 about.

10

11 MS. DEATHERAGE: No, I don't know of
12 any significant issues. One of the other
13 recommendations is maybe to just update the Board on
14 your proposal before the Board of Game even though that
15 will be decided on, so it's probably not a good idea.
16 I think this has been a very good meeting. I think you
17 guys have completed a lot of work. I didn't hear any
18 other specific issues that came up that were outside of
19 stuff that you were already working on or that have
20 already been addressed.

21

22 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks for that,
23 Karen. Having heard that, what else do we have to do
24 here today?

25

26 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. What the
27 Council needs to take on next, and it looks like it is
28 the final agenda item other than closing comments, is
29 to confirm your winter 2017 meeting date and location.
30 At the all-Council meeting in Anchorage, the Council
31 moved to accept March 6th through 7th for their next
32 meeting in Nome and so you just need to confirm that on
33 the record and then you need to select your fall 2017
34 meeting date and location. Your Chair has some ideas
35 about how that might be put forth.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Karen. So
40 she mentions the fall meeting. It was going to be my
41 suggestion to have during October 24th and 25th of
42 2017, because of this caribou issue with the Western
43 Arctic Caribou Herd, I would like to find some way to
44 meet with the Northwest group before there's a
45 continuation of the decision of 16-01, which is in
46 place right now through June 30th of 2017. There's an
47 indication that they may want to continue that. Fred
48 raised a question about the pressure on Unit 22.

49

50 I think it's very valuable for us to be

1 at the table with them and have the discussion on how
2 it affects us and how we would relate with them on
3 their issue. So there's the potential of having the
4 meeting in Kotzebue and this Council would travel there
5 or the potential of them coming down and meeting with
6 us. We'd have to propose that, one way or the other.

7

8 So I'm open for suggestion.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: One other point. The
11 Northwest Arctic Council has already voted to meet in
12 Shungnak during that week, but they could reconsider at
13 their winter meeting if OSM approved a joint meeting
14 between the two Councils. I certainly think if this is
15 what the Council wants, then they should propose it. I
16 would also recommend a second choice in case it does
17 not get approved to go ahead and make a second choice
18 of where you'd want to go.

19

20 We're letting all our Councils know,
21 and in particular the Seward Peninsula Council, that
22 there are options for you to meet out in the community
23 because this Council hasn't met out in the community
24 for some years. We've mostly met in Nome. So if you
25 were interested in meeting in Unalakleet or any other
26 community, you're welcome to propose that as well.

27

28 Thank you. Does that make sense or did
29 I confuse everybody more? So basically you can go
30 ahead and make your first choice to meet jointly with
31 the Northwest RAC in Kotzebue. If that turns out it's
32 not approved, you can have a second choice of meeting
33 in another location on your own. I would suggest that
34 you do that in case Kotzebue is not approved as a joint
35 meeting with the other Council.

36

37 Thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thanks, Karen. I'm
40 talking about doing something out of region by meeting
41 with them, but I think it's important for us to be at
42 the table with them when the decision they make can
43 ultimately affect us on how the outcome is. So my
44 thought was Kotzebue and then the other option was
45 either Nome or Unalakleet, the other two options. I'll
46 leave that up to Council for discussion.

47

48 We're getting close to the end of the
49 meeting. This is our final act together here and then
50 our comments. Let's see if we can't get through this.

1 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Go ahead, Ted.

4

5 MR. KATCHEAK: Yes, I'd be in favor of
6 meeting jointly with Northwest mainly because they have
7 caribou get into their region first before ever getting
8 towards Unalakleet, Stebbins, Shaktoolik. Much of
9 those caribou that come down affect all of the Seward
10 Peninsula. I think we'll get a lot of support from
11 Kotzebue that we're going through some of the things
12 that they're going through.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ted. At
17 the all-Council meeting I was able to speak with
18 members of the Arctic Slope Council and Northwest
19 Council at length and they are much in favor of us
20 being involved because it's a shared resource. Again,
21 I leave this to Council to give me direction to give
22 Staff. Somebody needs to make a motion one way or the
23 other.

24

25 Elmer.

26

27 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
28 think the Federal Subsistence Board or U.S. Fish and
29 Wildlife Service tried to accommodate meeting in the
30 villages. I know that Unalakleet was one of them
31 because there was an issue of concern was a problem
32 with the Unalakleet River. We did meet in Unalakleet
33 to try to get input from the community residents that
34 were being affected.

35

36 I think the RAC went to another place
37 during the time I was in here of areas of concern
38 particular to that village, but we did not see very
39 much participation in the villages due to the fact that
40 I think the majority of the people assume that since
41 we're on the Council or any organization that we can
42 take care of business as usual without their input and
43 that's a feeling or a concern that I got from being in
44 some of these Councils where we tried to get
45 participation from affected users.

46

47 I think the communities are putting
48 their trust on the members or the Council members
49 themselves to say their piece and to look after the
50 community concerns. That was my impression on some of

1 the communities. Not all the communities are the same.
2 It's just that only communities were going through that
3 route.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Elmer. The
8 one other thing that needs to be said about that is the
9 fact is they can get online and participate no matter
10 where we're at. So it still gives opportunity for
11 folks in our region to take part say we were meeting
12 with Northwest up in Kotzebue.

13

14 Ron.

15

16 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. I move that we
17 schedule to meet with Northwest in Kotzebue for our
18 fall meeting. I make that into a motion.

19

20 CHAIRMAN GREEN: 2017. There's a
21 motion to support a combination meeting with Northwest.
22 Is there a second.

23

24 MR. ENINGOWUK: I'll second the motion.

25

26 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. A
27 first and a second. The motion is on the table. Any
28 further discussion. Elmer.

29

30 MR. SEETOT: Spring meetings are pretty
31 much dealing with wildlife proposals and then the
32 winter meetings are pretty much fishery proposals, if
33 that's the way I understand it.

34

35 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Seetot, through
36 the Chair. The next cycle will be wildlife proposals
37 and the call for proposals should come out by our
38 winter meeting and then in the fall you'll be presented
39 with the analyses of those proposals, so it might be a
40 good opportunity to discuss any proposals that would
41 affect cross region.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN GREEN: So it would take place
46 -- say if we went to Kotzebue to meet, we would have
47 our own meeting one day and then we would have the
48 joint meeting the following day. I think it's a
49 valuable thing because of the issue with the Western
50 Arctic Caribou Herd. There's a first and a second to

1 the motion. Any other discussion.
2
3 Ted.
4
5 MR. KATCHEAK: Question. Call for the
6 question.
7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The question has been
9 called. All those in favor to support the proposal to
10 meet in Kotzebue with the Northwest say aye.
11
12 IN UNISON: Aye.
13
14 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
15 sign.
16
17 (No opposing votes)
18
19 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
20 passes. We need a plan B. So I would ask that
21 somebody entertain a motion to --Nome could be the
22 location, Unalakleet could be the location. I just
23 need a motion on where you'd want to have that meeting
24 if the joint meeting is declined.
25
26 MR. ENINGOWUK: Can we have a
27 discussion before the motion?
28
29 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You make the motion,
30 then you go into discussion and then somebody would
31 call for the question. We're not going to vote on it
32 until we have a discussion. It's a positive motion
33 that we're asking for. The discussion will realign our
34 thinking one way or the other. So could we have a
35 motion.
36
37 MR. ENINGOWUK: So you want the motion
38 to.....
39
40 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yeah, a motion to
41 support a meeting location, either Nome or Unalakleet.
42
43 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
44 make a motion to pick Nome again to hold our next
45 meeting if the Kotzebue meeting doesn't happen.
46
47 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Mr.
48 Katcheak. Is there a second to that motion.
49
50 MR. SEETOT: Second the motion.

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Elmer seconded. Any
2 further discussion.
3
4 MR. ENINGOWUK: I need this clarified.
5 The motion is to.....
6
7 MR. KATCHEAK: Hold our next meeting.
8
9 MR. KIRK: The fall meeting here if
10 Kotzebue doesn't work.
11
12 MR. ENINGOWUK: Okay. So then there is
13 no discussion on the place of the joint.....
14
15 CHAIRMAN GREEN: We already did that.
16 We discussed it before we voted.
17
18 MR. ENINGOWUK: I mean the place of the
19 meeting.
20
21 CHAIRMAN GREEN: This is for the
22 alternate. We did vote to support the meeting in
23 Kotzebue with Northwest. What we're doing is that in
24 case that proposal doesn't go through with the Federal
25 Board, then we would need an alternate meeting and Ted
26 proposed through motion to meet again in Nome in our
27 fall meeting next fall. We're in discussion now, so
28 that was proper to ask. No problem, Fred.
29
30 Having said that, is there any further
31 discussion with any Council members.
32
33 (No comments)
34
35 CHAIRMAN GREEN: It looks like we're
36 ready to vote, so I'm just going to call for the vote.
37 All those in favor of the motion to hold the meeting in
38 Nome October 24th and 25th providing the proposal for
39 the Northwest meeting falls through say aye.
40
41 IN UNISON: Aye.
42
43 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those against same
44 sign.
45
46 (No opposing votes)
47
48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Hearing none. Motion
49 passes. We have a backup plan. So we're down to
50 comments, right?

1 MS. HOWARD: Did you vote on the winter
2 meeting?

3
4 MS. DEATHERAGE: I don't think they
5 have to motion again because they already did at the
6 last meeting.

7
8 CHAIRMAN GREEN: The winter meeting is
9 March 6th and 7th already. We made that determination
10 the last time. We're voting on the fall meeting of
11 2017 for Kotzebue to have a combined meeting with
12 Northwest. If that doesn't work, we voted to have the
13 meeting in Nome again.

14
15 MR. ENINGOWUK: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Fred, go ahead.

18
19 MR. ENINGOWUK: Yes, I see on the
20 agenda Council recognition. I don't know if I missed
21 something or is that an agenda item?

22
23 MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair.

24
25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Anee Howard.

26
27 MS. HOWARD: Hi. So Council
28 recognition was G on the second page of the original
29 agenda in your book, but I think in Karen's updated
30 agenda that's where she had put honorarium discussion.
31 At least that was my understanding from our planning
32 meeting.

33
34 MS. DEATHERAGE: Mr. Chair. Council
35 recognition is for service awards, but we had already
36 done those service awards at the all-Council meeting,
37 so we wouldn't be doing them this time. We replaced
38 that with Council honorarium. So I think we covered
39 all the agenda items that were on the new agenda that
40 the Council approved. I apologize for that error.

41
42 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Clerical error. So
43 we're at the point of closing comments. Start with
44 you, Elmer.

45
46 MR. SEETOT: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The
47 spring caribou hunt was kind of late in our area due to
48 no snow early in the winter season. The caribou I
49 think ate very good in our area because this is the
50 first time in so many years that caribou have returned

1 to lands that were used before.

2

3 Our ancestors, people before us
4 predicted that the caribou would return to our area.
5 It's not in the manual, it's not taught to biologists
6 or stuff like that, but this is what was said to us
7 through generations. Certain things that have happened
8 it's not recorded with Western science or coordinated
9 with Western science, but what the people that have
10 lived on this land for a long time.

11

12 Climate was pretty dry during the first
13 part of spring breakup. We were expecting a lot of
14 plants and berries, but we did get a limited number of
15 berries. During the past month we have had high water
16 that has been persistent within our area, so this is I
17 would think part of climate change that we're
18 experiencing right now. We didn't see any snow for a
19 long time. We had snow the middle part of October and
20 then it all melted. We're going through the same cycle
21 again.

22

23 Other than that we had a good meeting.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 MR. KATCHEAK: Mr. Chair and fellow
28 Council Members. I was a little disappointed that
29 reindeer herders and subsistence users not gotten any
30 support. If we did, it was very little and it was
31 usually through Kawerak. If we continue on as we are,
32 it would seem to me that I would be one of the last
33 reindeer herders alive. When I'm gone and the herd
34 from Stebbins/St. Michael is gone, then there's no
35 reason to keep reindeer herding.

36

37 The other one that I kind of didn't
38 like was that we are starting to tell everybody that
39 reindeer is a subsistence food. It's both subsistence
40 and commercial. When you look at it, it was a way of
41 life that got introduced to us and we got used to it.
42 Now it's like a burden to the State of Alaska that we
43 have a reindeer herd and they don't have no concern
44 about -- they have all kinds of concerns about the
45 caribou, the muskox, all those other moose.

46

47 You know, I have lived through all that
48 time in life enjoying some of the rules that were given
49 to us, we can subsist hunt. The problem is we have no
50 jobs available in Stebbins like we have here in Nome or

1 in other regions like Unalakleet where they have
2 fishery plants. Here in Nome you have fishery plants.
3 There is no reindeer plant in Alaska with the exception
4 of one mobile plant in Savoonga. So that's where I'm
5 coming from.

6
7
8

Thank you.

9 MR. KIRK: Mr. Chair. I enjoyed this
10 meeting. We did accomplish a lot of stuff in this
11 meeting. I'm still concerned about honorarium because
12 I believe that we should get paid daily, not half now
13 and half a month later. This meeting was very
14 informative to a lot of us and I look forward to trying
15 to meet with the Northwest concerning the caribou herd.

16
17

Thank you.

18
19

CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Ron. Fred.

20
21

MR. ENINGOWUK: Good afternoon. We had
22 a very productive meeting the last couple days. I do
23 believe we need to have climate change as an agenda
24 item because it is affecting our way of life. We have
25 to adapt to climate change to do our subsistence way of
26 living. That is especially spring time when we do our
27 spring hunt. Also it's affecting our berries, what we
28 subsist on off the land.

29
30

Also invasive species invading our
31 land. We have beavers we've never seen in our lands
32 before. Also insects that I don't even know what they
33 are invading our lands. I don't know if they're going
34 to have an effect on our subsistence food that we
35 subsist on. It's kind of disturbing this summer to see
36 invasive insects we've never seen in our lifetime. So
37 that's one issue that needs to be on the table is
38 climate change.

39
40

Otherwise we had a pretty successful
41 spring hunt. We got our oogruks. We didn't get any
42 walrus the first time in I don't know how many years.
43 We've gotten our share of caribou. As you know, we
44 have resident caribou in our area now and I don't know
45 if they're being counted as part of the caribou because
46 they are resident caribou with the Seward Peninsula.

47
48

Otherwise, I thank you and everybody to
49 have this opportunity to have a seat at this table.

50

1 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you, Fred. I
2 think that leaves me. I'm going to make this short and
3 sweet. I'm going to extend -- somehow we need to do
4 this formally, I guess, to try to get the fisheries
5 department here. We've had the game department here or
6 ADF&G. I know there's notifications that go out. If
7 we could write a letter to someone that would encourage
8 that.

9

10 MS. DEATHERAGE: We can do that. We
11 can also put it in your annual report.

12

13 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Yes, that would be
14 fine in the annual report. The other one is there's
15 Sitnasuak which engages with subsistence committee
16 activity soon to start. I think they're an ANCSA corp
17 for profit, but has a committee formulated to take care
18 of subsistence activities and issues. Nome Eskimo is a
19 local tribe. King Island is another local tribe.
20 Solomon is another tribe and so is the Council. These
21 are all on the road system in the Nome area.

22

23 MS. DEATHERAGE: I sent them a notice.

24

25 CHAIRMAN GREEN: You sent them a
26 notice. Okay. I just wanted to make sure we had those
27 invitations extended to those folks.

28

29 Other than that it was a very good
30 meeting. Everybody put their input in there and I
31 appreciate all that. It makes it easier for me to make
32 a decision. I know I have my opinion, but I always
33 like to hear Council members' opinions. I like to hear
34 Staff and their data before I make decisions. There
35 was the issue with the 16-03. There wasn't enough
36 information for me to want to make that change and I
37 stand on information.

38

39 Anyway, safe travels home for
40 everybody, the Staff and Council members. It's
41 snowing. I came here yesterday and it was September.
42 What happened? So I will ask for a motion to adjourn.

43

44 MR. SEETOT: So moved.

45

46 MR. KIRK: Second.

47

48 CHAIRMAN GREEN: All those in favor of
49 closing this meeting say aye.

50

1 IN UNISON: Aye.
2
3 CHAIRMAN GREEN: Adios.
4
5 (Off record)

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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 118 through 194 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the SEWARD PENINSULA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically on the 2nd day of November at Nome, 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 26th day of November 2016.

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